

YOU ARE DESTINED TO BECOME

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December 2021

Brinsworth Get Talking

A celebration of our voice.
We are always here to support you.

A magazine for Brinsworth Academy students,
written by Brinsworth Academy students.

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Brinsworth Get Talking

This is your magazine and your voice.

Hello Brinsworth Academy, this magazine has been created by the students... for the students. We hope this magazine gives all pupils a voice because you deserve to be heard. Your student leaders across the school have pulled together ideas for this new school magazine, which will be released every term. We will aim to discuss, inform and support our school community with a range of content covering topics from mental health and sexual identity to new school information, such as after school clubs.

We welcome ideas for future articles – please speak to a student leader or contact Ms Sturner sturner@bri.leap-mat.org.uk

So let's get talking... we are excited to hear your voice!



Remembrance



It was an honour for Mr Raynor and ourselves to attend the Remembrance Service in Brinsworth. We had the opportunity to lay a wreath and pay our respects to the fallen.

#WeRemember



5 Rights

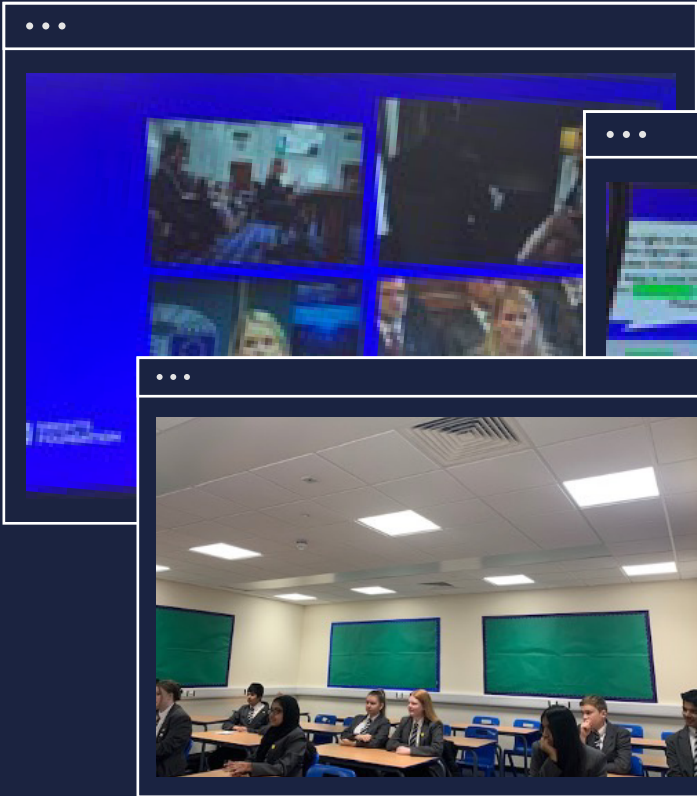
On the 24th November 2021, myself and some other student leaders met with an organisation called 5 Rights, who work on making the internet a better place when online.

During our discussion we talked about what we thought of the internet and if we used it too much. I shared my group's opinions on how to make websites better. These were: to make Facebook better you shouldn't have to see your friends of friends of friends'; and pages, instead you should just see your friends, and the second idea was on TikTok and Facebook there could be a feature where you only see your friends' pages, and videos and pictures from other people your age if you're under 18.

Furthermore, after we were told about 5 Rights, we had to try to fill in text with large online apps, then they asked for a volunteer to answer a question. Feeling confident, I went first and the question was about wanting to be a '_____'. You had to be famous to get money from it, and, knowing the answer, I said YouTuber. This was correct because you needed at least 700,000 subscribers to earn money and you had to be well-known enough to get that many subscribers.

It was a great experience and I am very glad to have been there and met them!

Jack C, Year 7



The Anne Frank Trust

For 3 days, I was working with The Anne Frank Trust and other students from various year groups. We all told our own personal stories, which had a huge impact on me as it made me realise what kind of stereotypical world we live in.

A group of students worked with Naom, Tim (CEO of Anne Frank Trust), Phil (Professional storyteller) and Harry (TMAX Production) to make a video. The video tells all of our experiences of racism, discrimination and other types of hate. It made me realise that not everyone is treated the same because of their attributes, personality, skin, race, ethnicity and many more factors.

The whole experience of working with The Anne Frank Trust was amazing as it made me realise the most important thing in the world is kindness towards one another. It doesn't matter about race, belief, religion, ethnicity, disability or any attribute that a person has: no one should be made to feel that they aren't welcome because of their qualities or something that is out of their control.

Zahra Zaheer, Year 9



“If you hate difference, you’ll be bored to death”

– Toba Beta



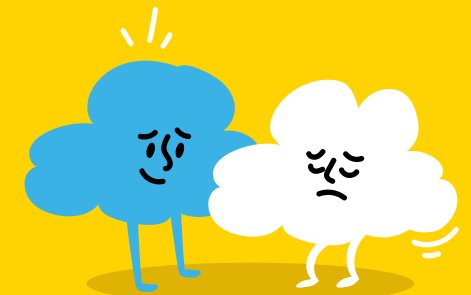
Mental illness



I'll start by saying, there isn't a "correct" way to deal with someone else's mental health; however, there are little things you can do to help. I would also like to say that I am by no means a mental health expert and I am writing this from my own experience dealing with my own mental health and others'.

Mental illness isn't just one concrete thing. There are many different mental illnesses that show in different ways. Most of the time you probably don't even realise it, but a lot of the time when you realise the signs it's extremely obvious. Sometimes it's someone being a little bit quieter than they usually are, bouncing their leg under the table, not being able to answer simple questions or stuttering when they do. If you do notice these little things then I suggest things like:

- Genuinely asking if they're okay
- Being willing to listen to their problems
- Giving them a hug (if they want one)
- Letting them rant
- Not prying too much into their life if they say not to
- Respecting boundaries
- Giving them some space
- Respecting their privacy, but also telling someone if they or someone else is in danger
- Asking if they want to go somewhere with a couple friends to get their mind off it and get them out of the house



In this list I talked about telling someone else about it if it becomes a massive problem, you just do not know what to do and/or someone is in danger. So, who should you tell? There are many people in school you could talk to including: your Head of Year, your Form Teacher or a member of staff you trust.

Remember, if you have a friend who suffers from mental illness it is not your responsibility to make sure they are okay if they begin to make you feel uncomfortable or trigger you in some sort of way. Your mental health is just as important as theirs!

If you yourself are struggling with mental illness and/or experiencing suicidal thoughts the number for ChildLine is 0800 111.

Halima Amjid, Year 7

Why we need to talk about feminism...

The definition of feminism is: a term for those who believe that women and men should be equal and sometimes work for women's rights. It's a very common belief for somebody to think that feminists are all women and that they advocate for men to be inferior to women.

Well, here's why you're wrong.

After the 1892 First International Women's conference, the term 'feminism' was used to describe the belief and advocacy of women's rights and equality; however, I want to zoom in on the phrase 'women's rights'. Ever since the Romans realised women weren't as physically strong as their male partners, there has been a recognisable amount of misogyny. After this, it has built to the point where people were arrested and killed for wanting equal democratic rights. By advocating for mainly women's rights, they are asking for equality because men are seen as superior. Does this

necessarily mean that men are inferior for not getting the same advocacy? No, because they don't need it.

My next sub-category for this topic is the belief that men cannot be feminists. This belief has stemmed from toxic masculinity as well as a toxic society. I believe, as well as many other people, there should be no stigma and hatred towards those who want equality and advocate for said equality. As a society, we should strive to be a welcoming community where people can be

appreciated and accepted; however, by pushing this negative stereotype we are pushing away from what we should strive for. In my definition written in the first paragraph, I write how feminism is a term 'for those', not just 'for women'. By saying men aren't able to be feminists, we build not only a negative stereotype but also, we are changing what feminism is. Feminism is for all of us.

Juwayriya Amjid

Disability

I believe that all people, disabled or not, should be given the same opportunities and treated with the same respect everyone gets. Some people may argue that disabled people can't achieve the same things as people without disabilities but I believe that everyone is equal and should be given the chance to try.

Not only are there more obvious disabilities, but there are also hidden disabilities which can mean

these people get judged before people know why they are acting a certain way. An example of a hidden disability is Autism which can affect an individual in many ways. Autism can cause someone to suffer with their eating, their emotions, from hearing loud noises and many other things. This is an example of how someone can be judged because their disability isn't noticed. This, shockingly, affects lots of people.

In my opinion, I think that a lot more people should be aware of different kinds of disabilities and more unknown ones. This means that more people will be able to understand a bit more about the problems other people go through daily.

I hope more people understanding about disability will prevent people being made fun of and more people getting a wider range of opportunities.

I also think that individuals could be a lot more respectful towards someone with a disability. More awareness will help people with disabilities to be able to achieve more things in life and progress in the future.

Anonymous, Year 10

Erasure

Erasure is a phenomenon that occurs in many places. The kind that this article is about happens within the LGBTQ+ community and outside it as a problem towards LGBTQ+ identities. This erasure occurs around many sexualities and genders. Different types can include bi-erasure, ace-erasure, aro-erasure, demi-gender-erasure and pan-erasure but many more kinds exist. It happens commonly when people have the tendency to ignore, remove, falsify, or re-explain evidence of a sexuality or gender in history, academia, the news media, and other primary sources. In its most extreme form, erasure can include the belief that a sexuality or gender itself does not exist. It can cause extreme harm both mentally and emotionally to those it is targeted at. It may mean a closeted kid or adult who has not recognized their sexuality could see themselves as weird when it is an entirely normal identity.

This issue is familiar for many kinds of people. Even simple misconceptions such as believing that Bi and Pansexual identities are the same causes and furthers erasure. It makes the idea of neither being unique or separate seem correct when that is not entirely correct.

Many kids struggle as it is with gatekeeping from communities and the homophobia in society but the erasure piles on more stress and more issues. Even within the LGBTQ+ community, it is common that some sexualities face erasure. Ace-erasure and aro-erasure are forms of this as a tiny section of the community gatekeeps itself and states that Asexuality and Aromanticism do not exist or are just a confused person.

As someone who faced issues of erasure, I find it important this knowledge is given to others so they can see that it is an issue and it is solvable. Many things may not seem solvable at first but there is always someone or something that can help or explain. As a final phrase of advice: I would say always stay strong and know, no matter what, everyone is valid.

Glossary

Ace – Describes varying levels of sexual attraction, including asexual

Aro – Describes varying levels of romantic feelings, including aromantic.

Bi – Bisexual. Attracted to both men and women

Demi gender – identifying with a gender, but not strongly

Pan – Pansexual. Attracted to two or more genders.

Inequality

In this day and age, there are many topics and situations that are treated as unequal and are believed to be undeserving of equality. For example, people's race, sexuality, religion and views may be looked at in a negative way because they may not seem 'normal'. They are looked at in a different way and are deemed to not be as equal as things that are considered to be 'normal'.

Because of this, the inequality impacts society. It cages people up and controls their views and beliefs. It makes people feel as if they can't be their true selves because they are going to be viewed a certain way. This makes people feel that their so-called unequal views define them and it makes them feel worthless and like their views are disregarded.

As a result, inequality makes a lot of people's lives much harder. In my opinion, I feel as if everyone should be seen as equal. Everyone's opinions, views, race, sexuality and religion and so on matter to them and your views shouldn't hinder their lives. At the end of the day, everyone is human and their feelings matter too!

Anonymous, Year 10

Poverty

Did you know that currently 11 percent of the world's population is facing chronic hunger? It does not seem like a substantial number but for the 900 million people who are starving and in the centre of extreme poverty, it is. This is another injustice in the world, and the reasons for this poverty include war, conflict, corruption, political inequalities and oppression. The list is endless, but the leading factor is accessibility to resources.

This could mean that people might not have health care that is sufficient or no medical support at all. This means that people are more susceptible to disease. They might not have access to a stable trade which provides food, leaving them starving. People living in countries and areas, which suffer from poverty may not have a proper education system or only boys are allowed in some schools. Either way, countries which lack the resources to educate the civilians on basic needs such as health, hygiene and fairness will not develop in comparison to other countries who do teach the necessities of life. In some countries, education costs a lot of money and those who are unfortunate cannot attend and are sent to work from ages as little as eight years old.

This issue may have been considered in meetings and conferences yet there is no immediate action, or it is too small a change. The United Nations have a sustainable plan for 2030, and poverty is on the top of the list. They want to help reduce the numbers of poverty and people living under one dollar a day. As people who are fortunate, we should revolutionise the social system and change the erroneous thoughts we have. Let us reform our society, our world, because we can't have tomorrow if we do not change today.

Zunaira Zaman, Year 10

Islamophobia

Islamophobia is growing more and more in our communities, every day because of stereotypes and a lack of education about the religion. In today's society, Islam is viewed as an "oppressive" religion, that is old fashioned and not "up to date" with modern society. If you know anything about Islam, you would know that both of these stereotypes are completely untrue.

Firstly, Islam is not an oppressive religion and the hijab is not a major sign of oppression. The hijab is something worn by Muslim women to keep modesty and conceal their beauty, only allowing their family and spouses to see them without it. Many Muslim women CHOOSE to wear the hijab for this reason or to show they are Muslim. However, Muslim women who do not wear the hijab are not less of a Muslim than those who do.

Not allowing women to wear the hijab, and discriminating against them IS oppression. It is not allowing an individual to express their religious beliefs and takes away their freedom. Saying that the hijab or niqab is "not needed" in today's society and shouldn't be forced on Muslim women is being disrespectful towards other people's beliefs and is Islamophobia.

Islamophobia is going to keep growing because of these stereotypes. It is important to be educated and open minded. It is important to be respectful towards other beliefs even though you may not agree.

Anonymous, Y10

Social Injustice

Social injustice is the collective term given to unjust actions, an example of this is prejudiced behaviour. This has affected society for centuries and will continue to do so, today and in the future, if the world still lacks the morals needed to share peace.

On the contrary, social justice is the opposite and is the cure to those who suffer from this morally deprived illness.

The world has embedded social injustice within society. It is like a transparent layer, and it is protected

by our views, some of which are influenced by personal and external factors. For instance, if someone grew up in a patriarchal setting, they may have adopted the perception that women are inferior to men. And this issue is not just caused by how people were brought up, it's surrounding us.

This ideology has been sitting with us and we ignore its presence. When we go to a toy store, there is segregation: a divide between the girls and boy's section. When we see the boy's section, we see cars. We see tools. We see future professions which are

appealing to the eyes of the youth. But can we not see that this is contributing towards toxic masculinity at such a youthful age? Toxic masculinity can be harmful for the male body, it can affect the self-esteem that they hold.

Traditional gender roles are like ivy: they limit the tree's growth and they do not allow any room for changes that the tree would make. When we go to the section which is targeted toward girls, we see baby dolls. We see play kitchens. We see hairdressers and make up for kids. We see the indoctrination of

these little girls, who are expected to see fit in with society's needs.

Now it's 2021. It's still the same but gender-neutral games and toys are beginning to increase little by little but more than enough to feed my hope that there is going to be a fair ground for both men and women.

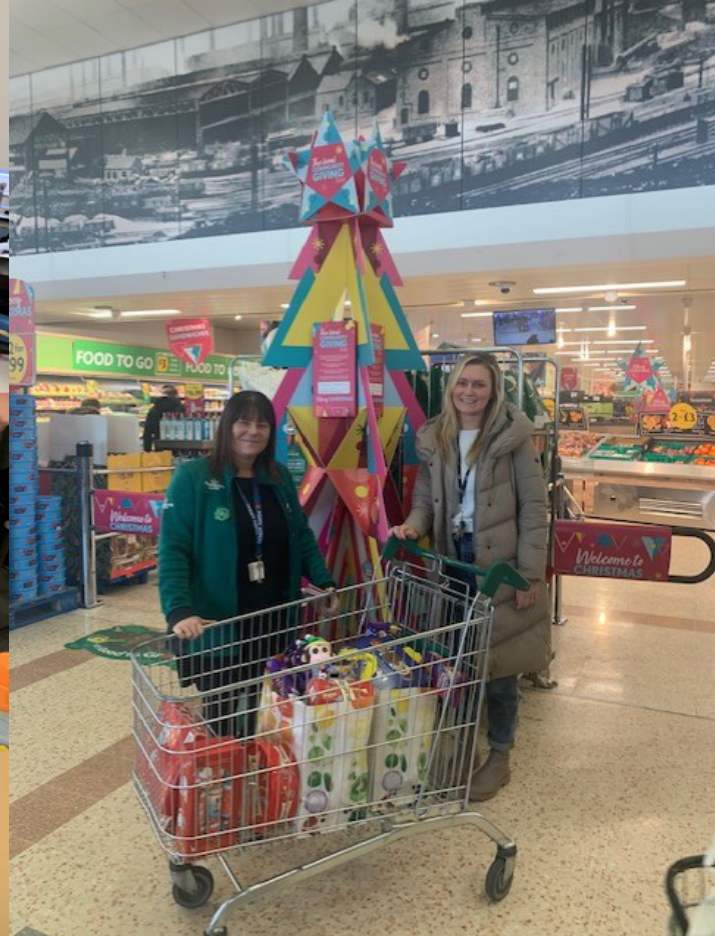
Zunaira Zaman, Y10

Community Work

It has been our pleasure to welcome the Good Companions group from The Centre to have a Christmas Lunch at Brinsworth Academy. Our amazing students served the lunch, provided by Aspens catering, and enjoyed being able to talk with members of our community

#AcademyCommunityTogether #ACT





Brinsworth Alumni

Cori-Leigh Cocking

My time at Brinsworth Academy was brilliant. I ended up leaving Brinsworth in March 2020 due to Covid-19 and, even though I didn't get to sit my final GCSE exams and my final year didn't go to plan, I am still happy with the grades I came out with.

These grades got me onto my desired college course (Animal Management Level 3) and I achieved a distinction overall in my first year! Now I am in the second term of my second year, still feeling happy and confident about my plans for the future.

Not only do I feel I am still achieving excellence in terms of education, I am also achieving excellence outside of college. Currently, I play for 2 women's rugby teams in Sheffield. I play Rugby League and Rugby Union. For Rugby Union in the winter, I play for the Sheffield Tigers Women RUFC and I play #3 which is the position of the Tight Head Prop. As well as this, I am on the Sheffield Tigers Women RUFC 2021/22 season committee where I am social media officer. My main job is to promote our club and persuade people to join our team and help recruit. For rugby league in the Summer, I play for the Sheffield Hawks Ladies RLFC where I also play Tight Head Prop but wear shirt number 10.

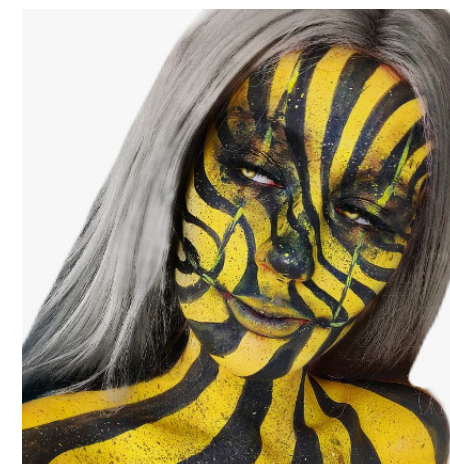
When you put your mind to it, anything can be achieved but none of this could have happened without the support from my teachers, family and friends throughout!

Jessie Roberts

I left Brinsworth Academy in 2020 and am now in my second year at Rotherham College studying Creative Media makeup. So far, I've worked on TV sets and productions.

I also got through to the finals of the World Skills UK Creative Media Makeup competition and currently have the title of being one of the top 8 makeup artists in the UK. I will be competing in the finals next week in Wales! I have also won several competitions within college for my work and achieved an overall Distinction last year on my level 2 course.

Here are a few of my looks attached!



Kirsty Bellamy

I've always known I wanted to work for the NHS and with children; my initial aim was to be a physiotherapist or a paediatric nurse. I gained experience and applied for paediatric nursing. When filling the application out, my form tutor pointed out to me an apprenticeship in clinical health care support on the NHS jobs website. I applied, as a back-up option.

On A-level results day, I was a wreck. I hadn't got the results I'd worked and hoped for. Looking back now, I had overcome so much. I missed a lot of time at sixth form due to my health declining, needing surgeries and lots of hospital appointments. I'm happy with what I achieved and how the letters on a page haven't limited me in my career.

I got accepted onto the apprenticeship and I'm very fortunate to still be working in the Ear Care and Audiology department now. During my apprenticeship I got to experience a mixture of roles and realised that audiology was my passion. I was later accepted onto a foundation degree at Anglia Ruskin University (Cambridge) and also went onto do the BSc Top up in Hearing Sciences. I'm now a band 5 audiologist, and am working towards being a paediatric specialist. I wouldn't change my job for the world and I wouldn't be where I am without the support and motivation from my teachers at Brinsworth.

Libby Dutton

I finished sixth form in June 2017 after starting at Brinsworth in 2010.

I went to the University of Liverpool to study veterinary medicine in 2017, and I will graduate next June. I have gained experience all over the UK, from visiting pigs in Kildare, Ireland to joining the world-renowned Newmarket Equine Hospital treating race horses. I have a job lined up in Doncaster when I graduate as an Ambulatory Equine veterinary surgeon. I couldn't have got to where I am today without Brinsworth academy and I owe all the teachers a great big thank you!

Here are some photos of my time at university.



Nathan Cole

I left Brinsworth in 1998 having studied A levels in History, Music and English Literature. I had a great time at the school and was taught by some marvellous teachers. The Head of Music, the late, great Mr Malpass was a particular inspiration, but there were many who helped me to succeed (and put up with me!) across all departments in the school, notably in History, which was the degree I was to go on to take (a shout out to Mr Jenkins!).

I threw myself into the wider life of the school and particularly enjoyed my involvement in music, drama and even volunteering in the library! I made some good friends along the way and then left to study for my undergraduate degree at Nottingham. I received a lot of encouragement from the school to apply for Oxford and I did, but I wasn't successful. You can't always succeed when you set high goals! After my undergraduate degree though, I became a postgraduate at Cambridge and finally determined to enter the teaching profession.

I think teaching is a marvellous profession, where you get to work with young people and make a real difference. I have worked in great schools, but since 2014 I have been Head of a school in London which was recently named The Sunday Times London School of the Decade. My favourite time is still the time I spend in the History classroom.

I was the first from my family to go to university and I owe a lot to Brinsworth. I had a good time, but I was also encouraged to aim high and work

hard. I shall always be grateful to those who made my current success possible and in my day to day work take inspiration from many who taught me all those years ago. If you aim high and work hard (whilst anticipating that there will be bumps in the road along the way) you will achieve things you never thought were possible and that make you feel proud of yourself. Good luck!

Matthew Butcher

I was at Brinsworth from 2007 to 2013. I enjoyed my time at Brinsworth and the academy set me on a great path for achieving excellence. Since Brinsworth, I secured a place at Coventry University where I studied for 4 years, achieving a Bachelor's of Science in Business Information Technology. After my degree, I took a break from education and went to work in Croatia as a Travel Rep for 8 months.

On returning to the UK, I re-joined education and achieved a Master of Science degree in Information

Technology Management from Sheffield Hallam University. This Master's degree enabled me to gain a place on a 2-year graduate scheme where I moved far away from Rotherham and was pushed out of my comfort zone working as an IT Business Analyst for one of the world's largest high street banks. After 2 years concluded I was one of the lucky candidates to be offered a permanent role in the organisation and I have since progressed onto becoming a Technical Analyst within the Credit Risk Department.

My current role consists of leading a global team in designing and building IT Systems that use 21st Century technologies including Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Machine Learning (ML) to assist the organisation in understanding a customer's ability to afford financial products.

In September 2021, I started a 3rd Degree, this time part time in Business and Management at Cranfield University alongside my full time position which will make me a Senior IT Project Manager.

When I first joined Brinsworth I was a shy, young individual. Brinsworth taught me how to be confident, how to believe in myself and how to achieve excellence, both in education and in the workplace. I have a lot to thank the team of teachers at Brinsworth for, including making me the adult I am today.



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