

Thoughts from the Principal's Office

Dear families,

The Summer Term is always a hive of activity at Braunton Academy. The Year 11s hard work during their educational experience comes to a frenetic finale as they complete their GCSE examinations. The dedication to their studies and conduct throughout the exam season has been highly impressive. We still have a couple of weeks left, to go but it is lovely to see their enjoyment in being able to celebrate everything they have learnt in the past five years.



Ocean Explorer award for Norah

For the Year 10s they have successfully completed their work experience and we have had lots of compliments from their employers for the way they conducted themselves. A full round up of their experiences will be included in the next edition.

As we get ready to say goodbye to our Year 11, we are also in the process of welcoming our new Year 7 students for September. The Year 7 Transition Team, including myself, are in the process of visiting the primary schools to start the preparation for the Transition Days in the next couple of weeks. The team have been very impressed with the students' eagerness to start their education with the Academy, and we look forward to meeting with their parents again in the next couple of weeks for the Induction Evening and Celebration Assembly.

Expansion update

The planned building work is being prepared for the holidays, the final planning permission is expected to be completed in the next couple of weeks, and we expect the work to start on the first Monday of the summer holidays. The

first activities to take place will be to demolish the old bike sheds and create a new one with space for eighty bikes near the athletics track. We will also be creating two new hard play social spaces for students ready for September. I will write to you before the end of the year when we have the full schedule for the building project.

New Staff

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome Mrs Marshall as our new permanent Maths teacher.

Mrs F Bowler, Principal

English Youth Ballet

Well done to Scarlett for her involvement in the English Youth Ballet production of Swan Lake; she had the opportunity to experience performing to a full theatre, as well as working with professional dancers with this intensive project.

UKMT Junior Event

Fantastic results from the UKMT Junior event, with four students being invited to the prestigious Kangaroo follow-on round in June.

Congratulations to: Archie - Gold - Best in School - Kangaroo Qualification, Elvie - Gold - Best in year - Kangaroo Qualification, Harry - Gold - Kangaroo Qualification, Suki - Gold - Kangaroo Qualification and Daisy - Gold. Lots of students received Silver and Bronze Awards. Come on Maths!



Robot Warriors

Seven plucky Year 7s took up the challenge to programme, trial and then battle with robots - to be precise, the small but perfectly formed Eddison Robot. Students received a set of four different challenges from our Robot Guru Rob Scarr, who was running the North Devon Robotics challenge. Rob is a retired engineer who now volunteers with the Institute of Engineering and Technology to bring more STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering & Maths) into schools. He came and spoke to our band of budding robot warriors and also lent the school several of the robots to prepare us for challenge day.

Students had had a little experience using robots way back in the distant days of Year 6 with their previous schools, and to start with were a little rusty. However, all committed to spending a number of lunchtimes practicing, remembering, programming and testing until we hit the point where we were ready for battle. After trekking the vast distance to the big place known as Petroc (our hosts for the event), the students were all set for battle!

The challenges included a race track, a bean can slalom, a catapult throw, and finally a remote-controlled balloon burst.

When the dust had settled, and all the scores were counted (all very close) we found ourselves in third place. The students represented themselves and Braunton Academy well against some worthy adversaries.

We hope to be involved in many more STEM events in the future, and thank Rob and the IET very much for organising and hosting the event. We didn't win, but we had a lot of fun doing battle! Huge thanks to Alfie, Jacob, Harriett, Ariel, Noemi, Dylan and Mahi.



Ocean Explorers

A number of our Year 8 students have been working with Plastic Free North Devon on their 'Ocean Explorer' programme. Our students have had an amazing time helping manage gorse at Morteohoe, identifying rook pool species at Lee Bay, investigating plastic waste at Croyde Bay, plus collecting and identifying rays' eggs to provide data for international marine projects. All our students have been inspired, motivated and enthused to appreciate and understand coastal environments and habitats in much more detail, and they all met specialists who shared their career route into their field of expertise. Thank you to PFND for such an incredible opportunity for our school to be involved with, and well done to all our students.

This was followed by a presentation evening at Torrington, where Norah won an award in the shape of a bat house, for her work.



International School: Amigos – Sponsorship Making it Real...

Our international work continues with 18 Year 10 and 11 students selected to represent the Academy on next summer's Uganda Trip. The hard work for this fantastic group of dedicated students now starts as they attempt to fundraise monies to help them meet their targets to fund their trip. This trip will allow all of them to engage further with the work that Amigos does with disadvantaged individuals in Uganda. Part of the work they will do whilst in Uganda will be working with trainees at Kira Farm and they will meet with the trainee that we as a school currently sponsor through our previous fundraising work carried out. This trainee is currently called Daniel Okello and he is hoping to benefit from the investment Amigos put into him by learning skills and a trade by attending Kira so that when he returns to his village, he can then train others whilst earning an income from his work. This sustainable practice is at the forefront of the work Amigos do.



Daniel is 19, and is a shy, smart young man with a pensive look about him. The combination of past crises and the pending uncertain future keep playing in his mind as he speaks. You can almost see the brakes in his mind moving. There is a hesitancy when he talks about himself and his life experience as if worried that he might say a wrong thing to get him into trouble. It will take a while to settle in an environment that allows him to open up about his life back home. Daniel has grown up in a family of seven with both his father and mother with his siblings - two girls and two boys. Life at home has been far from ideal. His father does nothing at home except drinking and socialising while ignoring his responsibilities. The children have been forced to mature fast to ensure they contribute to the wellbeing of the home. They each go out looking for jobs to contribute to the family budget. When it comes to paying school fees, they

rotate the opportunity to attend school among each other, so that in turn everyone gets a chance to go to school some years.

Coronation Project

Year 9 students have been busy this term creating some very realistic-looking cakes and ice creams, made out of clay. I'm sure King Charles would be impressed with our coronation display!



Trip to Team Bath

Braunton Academy students travelled to Bath to watch the Super League match against Celtic Dragons. An exciting game to watch, with Team Bath trailing for the first 3 quarters; they eventually came from behind to win the game. An excellent outing, with an excellent group of girls.



National Gymnastics Final

Rosie is once again competing at the Level 2 National Gymnastics finals in Stoke which is a huge honour and a prestigious event in the sport of gymnastics. She will be competing against the very best in Great Britain and future Olympians no doubt. She will be competing on floor, vault and beam throughout the weekend.

To get to this stage, Rosie recently competed at the regional gymnastics finals, finishing 4th place overall and in doing so, qualified to represent the South-West of England and a place at the National finals. They finished 4th last time, so are targeting a team medal this time around.



Barnstaple Won the Under 15's Rugby Plate

Oscar and Charlie represented Devon U15's Vs Cornwall in rugby. Oscar played at scrum half and Charlie at inside centre, with Devon losing 7 tries to 4 at Bodmin Rugby Club.

Swimming Success

Lola came 2nd at the Southwest Regionals 50 fly recently.

