

Thoughts from the Principal's Office

Dear Parents/Carers,

I am writing to you at the end of a very busy and successful term. I would like to start by thanking all of the parents, students and colleagues for their ongoing support and understanding at the end of what has been another challenging term due to increased cases of covid. The Academy really appreciates your ongoing support and understanding as we try to manage the day to day running at the school which for most of this half term has taken place with reduced capacity. I cannot thank my colleagues enough for their relentless commitment to the Academy and the community we serve to deliver a continued high quality provision. After a couple of challenging months, it is fantastic to be able to focus on the positive and celebrate with you the achievements from our students and staff this half term. I trust you will enjoy this edition of the newsletter. The Academy wishes you all a happy and safe winter holiday.

Sharing our success

Due to our fantastic results in the summer there has been a lot of attention on Braunton Academy in the local area and I have been asked to talk at a number of events over the past term about the reasons for our success. We have also welcomed some school leaders, members of the Local Authority and most recently Selaine Saxby our local MP to the Academy to see the work that the staff have done over the past couple of years in developing the curriculum and in particular the personal development skills to ensure that our students become independent learners. All the feedback we received has said what a wonderful school environment they have observed and how eloquent our students have been in explaining how they learn at the Academy. It is brilliant to



see the commitment of our staff and students being recognised across the county.

Armistice Service

The Academy once again took part in the annual remembrance day commemorations. Our Senior Students Ed and Evie read the Epitaph and the Kohima this year. Charlie performed the Last Post and Reveille as part of the service. We joined students from Southmead, Caen and Kingsacre in laying a cross of remembrance for each of the local men that were lost in the war.

Farewell to Colleagues

This half term we are bidding a fond farewell to five members of staff. Mrs Hill retires after 14 years working with students as our Specialist Literacy Teaching Assistant. Mrs Scott is retiring from teaching having worked part time in our maths department for the past couple of years. We are also saying goodbye to Mrs Beagley, Mrs Scott and Miss Price as they move on to new roles away from the Academy. We wish them all the best for the future. I will update families around new appointments at the start of next term.

Mrs Fay Bowler, Principal

Braunton Co-operative Learning Trust

The cooperative is still working closely to support all students in the Braunton catchment area be successful at every stage of their education. This term we have met to review the impact of our collaboration last year, where we saw positive improvements for all schools. We were also able to demonstrate improved transition arrangements and greater cross phase partnership at a subject curriculum level. This year we have identified the following areas for partnership work.

- To improve attendance across all schools following the pandemic
- To further develop students writing abilities, this skill has been most significantly hit across both phases during the pandemic
- Continue to increase opportunities for community events and enrichment opportunities
- Continue to share good practice at a senior leadership and governance level

Over the next two terms I will update you on the work that takes place.

One of the key actions for the Academy in supporting the Braunton Partnership is the work towards the expansion of our school to support the number of students in the catchment area. I shared the findings of the consultation with you earlier in the term. The application for the change is currently with the Department of Education awaiting approval. The building plans are close to reaching stage 3 of the process and then will move to formal consultation as part of the planning permission process. There will be a consultation evening at the Academy at the end of January where families and local residents can study the formal plans and make further comments as part of the planning permission process.

English Department News

The English department have been talking about how English features in the future lives of our students. Over the coming year, we are going to be discussing how our subject fits into the wider world, in particular, apprenticeships, literature as a subject to study at A-Level, employment, speaking and listening skills in the wider world, the utility of language skills, e.g. emails, websites, etc and English courses at aspirational universities.

In this post we wanted to touch upon how English skills fit in with apprenticeships. You might think that English isn't all that relevant in this pathway. But you would be wrong. The need for good English skills from writing to speaking and listening are essential in the apprenticeship setting. For example, you may be asked to prepare and write a report; clarity, good spelling and punctuation will be skills you'll be glad you worked on here at Braunton Academy and you may look back and feel grateful for all of those SPAG lessons you had.

Reading is another skill you will need. You may be looking at complicated, subject-specific language and you might be asked to decode and understand complicated instructions. Keep your regular reading habits up now and you will reap the benefits later.

Last but not least are the speaking and listening skills we help you develop here at school. You will be asked to speak in a variety of ways in your apprenticeships. You will need to be able to speak clearly, using good standard English and that confidence we helped you build here will help you enormously on your course. We hope that information was helpful to some. In our next post we will look at A Level options.

Merry Christmas All, From The English Department! Ho, ho, ho.....

Holidays During Term Time

Holidays can only be authorised in exceptional circumstances. Unauthorised absences may result in a Penalty Notice referral being sent to the Local Authority, who will then make the final decision about whether a Penalty Notice Fine should be issued.

Should a Penalty Notice be issued as a result of unauthorised absence then one notice will be issued to each parent/carer for each child involved. Currently, each Penalty Notice is for £120, which is reduced to £60 if paid within the first 21 days. If a Penalty Notice goes unpaid after 28 days, then court proceedings will be initiated. **Term dates for this academic year are on the last page of this newsletter.**

Reporting an Absence

Parents can now report student absences on the ParentMail app. This is our preferred method as it leaves the phone lines free in the mornings, and is a quick and efficient way of letting us know your child will not be in school due to having a medical appointment, is off sick, etc.

Braunton Academy Take Part in Local Democracy Engagement

Officers and councillors from North Devon Council visited Braunton Academy where students took part in a fun-filled programme of activities related to the climate. This ties in with COP27, a yearly summit where governments come together to agree steps to limit global temperature rises, and follows on from Local Democracy Week which took place in October of this year.

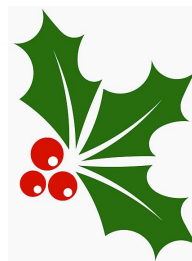
Students were involved in a short presentation introducing North Devon Council, climate change and carbon footprinting, a game illustrating how to calculate your carbon footprint and an interactive session for Q&A, as well as tips on how to reduce your carbon footprint

This programme fits with the Department of Education's national curriculum for Geography at KS3, which states "understand how human and physical processes interact to influence, and change landscapes, environments and the climate; and how human activity relies on effective functioning of natural systems."

Lead member for Climate Change at North Devon Council, Councillor Graham Lofthouse says: "The young people who we met today will be the decision-makers of the future and that's why we felt it was vitally important that the topic we focused on was the climate. With global temperatures rising, it's crucial we take action now. Collectively, people's actions are the only way that we can stop, and then eventually reverse, the overheating of our planet. Democracy is demonstrated best with people power!

Lead member for Environment at North Devon Council, Councillor Netti Pearson, says: "This has been a great opportunity and has allowed us as district councillors and officers to get out there and find out what matters to the young people of North Devon.

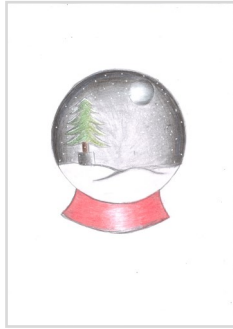
Mrs Moy says: "Engaging young people in local democracy is vital because this is the method by which our students who are passionate about the environment can actually help shape decisions at the local level. Meeting the Councillors and the Sustainability and Climate Officer this afternoon really helped our students feel like they have a voice and that there are local councillors working to protect their future.



Christmas Card Competition

The Art Department ran the annual Christmas Card Competition and we were thrilled with the entries, which showed so much range and creativity.

The two winners received a voucher and ten printed versions of their card, the runners up received five copies of their card and some gold coins, of the chocolate variety. Well done to everyone who took part and Happy Christmas everyone!



No-Stress Book Club

This term has seen the introduction of the new 'No-Stress Book Club' in the Aspire Library.

We currently have over 20 keen members who meet every Friday lunchtime to discuss their current reads, complete some bookish activities and recommend books to each other. The idea of a book club being 'no stress' is that students do not need to all read the same book, but can just turn up each week and share their love of reading without fears of getting behind or not enjoying a chosen read. We may sometimes talk about a monthly theme, otherwise there is just unlimited free choice for discussion! The biscuits at the end of term meeting are also very popular...



Overdue Books

The Academy currently has over 300 overdue books that need to be returned to school. Please can I request your help in encouraging your child to have a hunt in their bedrooms and school bags for any books that they may have.

They are likely to have a protective plastic cover on them, and will either have a 'Devon Library Services', 'Braunton School' or 'Braunton Academy' slip inside.

Hopefully this will mean that we can use our allotted budget for shiny new books rather than replacements!


Thank you for your support - Miss Rockey, Librarian

Facebook Page

For up-to-date information about what's happening at the Academy, please like and follow our Facebook page.



Braunton Academy

 Page · Secondary school

 The official Facebook page for Braunton Academy providing all up to date information and news.

Music Artist in Residence: Ryan Hamilton

This term our Year 10 GCSE Music students have had a fantastic time learning different strategies and approaches to songwriting. They enjoyed two workshop sessions with a professional team of musicians, as well as a panel question and answer session about the music industry.



The Christmas Concert is Back!

The Christmas Concert this week saw an absolutely packed Isaac Hall. There were fantastic performances with over 100 students taking part. Highlights included Year 11 performances from Ezra, Aisha, Caitlin, Renie, Erin, Ella and Grace. Despite illness and awkward weather conditions everyone came together in a wonderful display of festive community spirit and enjoyable music. Well Done Braunton!

The School of Rock

Not only have students been busy practicing for the Christmas concert, they have also been busy rehearsing for our school production of Andrew Lloyd Webber's 'School of Rock'. This will be an exciting show featuring Renie as lead and some fantastic music from a band made of Alumni, students, staff and parents! Not to be missed.



Latest Exam Grade Passes

Renie - grade 7 singing	Grace - grade 7 piano	Edward - initial exam piano
Flo - grade 2 piano	Evie - grade 1 drums	Elvie - grade 1 rock and pop guitar

Great work. Well done Braunton musicians!

Braunton Academy Youth Speaks Competition

September began with new Youth Speaks teams: five teams were created in the senior section and three in the intermediate, and every Tuesday, the teams would meet to write and practise their 15 minute debates. During the week of the 6th December, we held a Braunton Academy senior and intermediate competition during periods 5 and 6 to choose the two teams that would go forward to the North Devon School's competition in January 2023. We listened to debates on a range of topics from Should Shakespeare still be taught in schools to the benefits of cloning and organ donation.

We chose the team consisting of Izzy H as chair, and Izzy R and Flo as the main speakers to represent the school in the intermediate section and couldn't decide between two of the senior teams, so have decided to put two teams through: Freya, Sian and Amelia will debate cloning and Lola-Belle, Miranda and Amelie will debate Shakespeare.

Despite only three teams being chosen to perform in the North Devon competition, we were blown away by the confident and sophisticated performances of all our teams. Our first competition is on Saturday 21st January 2023 so wish us luck!



Latin American Guest Speakers

Year 11 Food Technology students are currently working on their NEA task (coursework task) which is based upon North and South American cuisine. Natali Purdy-Guevara from El Salvador and Nora Espinosa-Corston from Mexico who are both parents of students at Braunton Academy kindly gave up their free time to come into school to talk about traditional food from their home countries. Students were able to listen to them talk about flavours, herbs and spices and were even able to smell and hold products like cassava and plantain not easily found in this country. Natali and Nora shared recipes and ideas with the students which they will later experiment with during their coursework trials after Christmas. This visit has enabled the students to gather primary research and is invaluable for the students to learn first hand about life and food in other parts of the world



Both Nora and Natali have been invited back to watch the students in action after hopefully making some of the recipes that they shared with us. Braunton Academy would like to thank them both for giving up their time, and for preparing and sharing such wonderful resources with us all.

Rainbow Flag Club

Our Rainbow Flag club has been running for some time now but we felt it was time to strengthen diversity within the Academy. We decided to do this through completing the Intercom Trust Rainbow Flag Award over the next year. Although this is an LGBT award, we are working to ensure that diversity in other ways is also highlighted across the Academy e.g. different social and ethnic backgrounds, different genders, religions etc. This term we have had anti bullying assemblies, a safeguarding assembly about child on child abuse awareness and the launch of the Rainbow Flag Award itself. These have raised the importance of acceptance of others from a wide range of backgrounds. We had training from the Kooth organisation with Years 9 and 10, encouraging support of each other and knowing where to access external support. This session was then followed by staff training to enable staff to feel more confident in dealing with homophobic behaviour and supporting our LGBT students. A student questionnaire showed that 69.7% feel that "students accept each other for who they are" with a further 23.6% saying "most students accept each other for who they are". This is encouraging but we hope to raise this even closer to 100% of students feeling all other students accept them. We hope to put a plan into place for the new year using the ideas from the student questionnaire to make the Academy more inclusive particularly in terms of multicultural awareness.

PROUDLY WORKING TOWARDS



Chess Competition Results

KS3 Winner: Tom
Runner up: Ethan

KS4 winner: Robyn
Runner up: Aiden



'Where to Begin' - Beaford Arts

November was a busy month for the Expressive Arts Department which saw the return of live theatre performances to Braunton Academy. In conjunction with our Year 11 GCSE Drama students and supported by Beaford Arts, Multi Story Theatre Company, and Workhouse Theatre, Braunton Academy hosted a performance which addressed the question of significant climate change in North Devon offering us an idea of 'Where to Begin' with this issue.

In a well-attended, thought-provoking and often humorous production, the actors gave the audience a brilliant evening in which multi-generational engagement on this issue was thriving. The interval conversations between younger and older members of the audience with a strong contingent from Plastic Free North Devon made for a vibrant return to theatre performance in Isaac Hall.

Audience response to the performance was very enthusiastic as seen in this email 'review' -

'Where to Begin' was a brilliant performance which highlighted this important topic of climate change and how it will affect us locally in a really creative way.

'We think it's great Braunton Academy promote the arts in this way, making inspiring theatre affordable and accessible to our community and particularly our children'.

We hope that this is the first of many such events for Braunton Academy and we look forward to making some more announcements of similar events in the New Year.



U16 Netball

Congratulations to the U16 netball team, who won the North Devon Netball tournament, regaining the U16 title for Braunton Academy. The girls played brilliantly, winning every match and qualified for the next round in Exeter.



Year 7 Boys' Football

Please congratulate the Year 7 boys who won the North Devon Schools' Football final. They beat Park School 3-0 with goals from Ashton, Danny and Harry.

They were absolutely superb throughout the game and finish the season with a 100% win record.



Year 11 Boys' Football

Our Year 11s unfortunately lost 5-2 in the North Devon Schools' Football final against Park School. They were superb, never gave up, showing resilience throughout and in terrible weather conditions. We had wind, rain, hail and lightning.

See below: how it started in 2018 and how it finished in 2022.



Year 9 and 10 Boys' Football

Our Year 9 and 10 football teams who were magnificent competing in the North Devon Schools' Football finals. The Year 9 team drew 1-1 in normal time so had to play another 10 minutes of extra time where nothing separated the two teams. We therefore went to the dreaded penalty shoot out where after five penalties each, we were still level. After another five sudden death penalties each, we eventually won 6-5 on penalties against a resilient Pilton School team. You can imagine the wild celebrations which made up for the tears from those that had missed their penalty before. Amazing. The Year 10 team were hit with a number of injuries and illnesses which depleted their team to nine players which wasn't ideal. They played superbly but eventually lost 3-1 against a very strong Park School team. It was probably a fair result, but for 80 minutes nothing really separated them; they just had an extra bit of quality in front of goal which we missed. Valiant effort, bundles of character and huge team spirit.



Exeter Chiefs vs London Irish Trip

We took 40 students to watch Exeter Chiefs vs London Irish. As part of the day, students were involved in a tour of the playing facilities, had a coaching session with the Chiefs' community coaches, completed a pitch walk at half time including forming a tunnel for players to enter the pitch for the second half and finally collected some autographs from players after the game. Our students were excellent and had a fantastic time. A great trip, and one we will be sure to do again in future years.



England Volleyball Squad

Harry and Heidi have both qualified for this; Harry details the qualification process here: "320 people applied online and only 70 were selected to go to the trials. We were separated into two groups, and had a bleep test and basic fitness drills with different coaches to record our bodies' ability to keep up a high level of sport after training. 10 were selected from the initial 70 to follow the England Pathway - and I was one!" There are training camps each month and we hope they are selected for international tournaments. Well done!



North Devon Schools Climbing Competition

This year we entered the North Devon Schools' Climbing Competition at The Mill (Rock & Rapid) in North Molton. We had quite a big entry list this year in what is a rapidly growing climbing club.

I am pleased to let you know that Braunton Academy were the overall competition winners with some top placings from the following;

Daisy 1st, Fergus 1st, Stanley 3rd



U16 Netball

This amazing group of girls missed out on the qualifiers by just one goal in the Exeter tournament. They didn't win, but they played some of their best netball and were commended by the umpires for excellent play. Their outstanding team work and sportsmanship were to be admired, never being fazed by what the opposition had to throw at them, and played with a positive attitude throughout. The girls did themselves, their school and especially their coach proud.

The results of the North Devon Netball League this season are: 1st places for the Years 8, 10 and 11 teams, and 2nd place for the Year 9 team. What a fabulous achievement!



SCHOOL NURSE APPOINTMENTS AVAILABLE



For advice on:

- Friendship issues
- Mental health and self-harm
- Sleep issues
- Concerns and worries about home
- Physical health conditions
- Bladder and bowel issues
- Sexual health and C-Card (Condoms)
- Smoking, drugs and alcohol
- Healthy eating and lifestyle
- Body image
- And more....

I am in school every month. If you would like an appointment, please complete a request slip and post it in this box.

APPOINTMENT REQUEST SLIPS AVAILABLE FROM STUDENT RECEPTION



CHAT HEALTH is a texting service open, open 9-5 Monday to Friday, where you can also discuss concerns and worries or request an appointment to see me. The number to text is 07520 631722

Visit www.healthforteens.co.uk for more information

I am in school the following dates:
Wednesday 2 nd November 2022
Thursday 8 th December 2022
Wednesday 11 th January 2023
Wednesday 8 th February 2023
Wednesday 8 th March 2023
Wednesday 12 th April 2023
Wednesday 10 th May 2023
Wednesday 14 th June 2023
Wednesday 12 th July 2023

Braunton Foodbank and Cafe at South Street Church

open Wednesdays
12 til 13:30



A
Warm Welcome
to All



Café open to
everyone!

<https://northerndevon.foodbank.org.uk>
<https://www.warmwelcome.uk>
admin@northerndevon.foodbank.org.uk

Saunton Park Christmas Carols

on the green by
Pixie Dell stores
Thursday 22nd December 6.30pm



Bring some light, lantern or torch
and your voice as we join together
for some festive carols.



Hosted by the Parish Church, led by Revd David
www.brauntonchurch.org

Term Dates for 2023

Spring Term starts on Thursday
5th January 2023 and ends on
Friday 31st March.

Half term is 13th - 17th February
2023.

Summer Term starts on Monday
17th April and ends on Friday
21st July.

Bank holiday is Monday 1st May
and half term is 29th May - 2nd
June.

School will be closed from Friday
21st July and re-opens on
Wednesday 6th September 2023.