

Parents' Post

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Spring 2: 2022

Thoughts from the Principal's Office

Dear Parents/Carers,

As this term is coming to an end we will be taking the opportunity to celebrate with you the school enrichment opportunities that have taken place this term by publishing 'The Post'. It is wonderful that during such challenging times our staff and parents have continued to work together to provide opportunities to support character development of our students. Extra curricular opportunities are an essential part in developing students' transferable skills and do have a positive impact on their performance in exams. Considering the continued challenges created by the pandemic it is a testament to the commitment of our community that such amazing opportunities are still continuing. I hope you enjoy celebrating the students' and staff achievements in this edition.

Braunton Co-operative Learning Trust

Unfortunately, the level of staff absence due to Covid has greatly hampered the amount of work the Trust has been able to complete this half term. There were a number of events that had to be cancelled due to a lack of capacity in the schools. Luckily, we were still able to relaunch the Junior Music Festival with students from all five feeder primary schools attending the event at the Academy at the end of the term. It was a very enjoyable event and we look forward to doing more of these enrichment activities in the coming months.

I wrote to parents separately earlier in the term to inform you that the Academy had agreed to accept an additional 30 students in September 2022 as currently there are considerably more students in the Braunton primary schools in Years 3-6 than the Academy has places for. We are currently in discussions with Devon County Council to look at opportunities of building work that would allow the Academy to accept the additional places required until September 2026.



KS3 Students' Artwork

Although no final decision has yet been made, the discussions are progressing positively and what is being discussed would provide the Academy with opportunities to develop areas of the site that will enhance the learning experience for students in future years. I hope to be able to write to families with a further update next term.

Farewell to Colleagues

This term we are saying a fond farewell to a much-valued member of the Teaching Assistant Team, Mrs Chilver, who will be retiring at Easter after seven years at the Academy. Over the years, many students have benefitted from her caring approach and encouraging nature. Sheila will be greatly missed by the ALN Team, staff and students. We wish her all the very best in her new adventures.

New appointments

We would like to take this opportunity to introduce Miss Vanstone who is joining the Academy as one of our student support workers. She will be working within the Inclusion Department supporting students and families where inclusion support has been identified.

Mrs F Bowler, Principal

Music Department News

Aisha, Caitlin and Renie - stars of the future! These GCSE Music students performed outstanding 15-minute sets as part of the #bamlivelounge hosted by the Broomhill Estate and curated by local singer/songwriter Smalltown Jones. Our students were selected for this event after submitting a short reel on Instagram as part of a competition.



Look out for these stars at future events. All three will certainly be performing in our upcoming Summer Concert.

Over 250 students from Georgeham, Kingsacre, Caen, Marwood and Southmead schools gathered in a very well-ventilated Isaac Hall to sing their hearts out and celebrate together. It was the first event of its kind since 2019 and everyone was thrilled to come together and make music again.

The students sang songs celebrating Maths and numeracy, while the whole event finished with a glorious finale of the Lava Song, which was accompanied by Year 7 students and Marwood's Music Club on ukulele. This was a culmination of cross-curricular work in primary schools, and music transition work by Braunton Academy's Year 7 Music Leaders.

Debbie Kent from Devon Music Education Hub was there to support and compere the event.

Music Exam Grades Passed this term:

Isla - Grade 3 Piano
Ruby - Grade 7 Singing
Louis - Grade 1 Guitar: Rock and Pop
Scarlett - Grade 2 Singing
Lexie - Grade 1 Singing: Merit
Isaac - Grade 3 Singing

If you would like your child to begin instrumental or singing lessons with one of our fantastic peripatetic teachers please email Mr Street: mstreet@braunton.academy



Year 7s Plant Trees for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee

Year 7 students had an opportunity to plant a tree to commemorate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee and also to celebrate each leaving year 11 students' time at Braunton Academy.

Every afternoon, a different year 7 tutor group was accompanied by their tutors and marshals from the Rotary Club of Braunton and Caen to an area of The Tarka Trail where they planted a tree. The trees were a variety of saplings including birch and hazel. The weather was glorious and the students really enjoyed the experience. Rotarians commented on the excellent behaviour of all Braunton Academy students.

The successful event will be followed up with year 7s writing tree poems that will be displayed by the Rotary in Braunton over the Summer.



'Routes into Languages' Competition

Sam, Lachlan and Dan represented the Academy brilliantly in the 'Routes into Languages' speaking competition at Pilton Community College. A large number of students from eight different schools competed across KS3, KS4 and KS5. Students had to give a 2-3 minute presentation in a language of their choice. Languages this year included French, German, Spanish, Italian, Polish and Mandarin. Topics included: Holidays/Hobbies/Family/Favourite Film and students were judged by a panel of professional linguists and were watched by a busy hall of spectators. It was nerve-wracking for the boys, but they made Braunton proud.



Lachlan and Dan spoke excellently, and narrowly missed out on a runners-up prize since theirs was the most competitive field. However, Sam won his category of KS4 near-native speaker against some very tough opposition from the Italian and Polish entries. The boys got a nice goody bag each and as well as Sam's trophy, developed some valuable public speaking skills.

We also received additional acclaim for being the only school to enter German speakers in three different categories.

The Braunton Academy Chess champion for 2022 is...

Stanley, who won a chess medal and was presented with a very nice glass chess set. Runner-up Lachlan was also awarded a medal and a magnetic chess travel set. Well done to them both.

In 3rd place overall was Robyn. In 4th place overall was Pip.

Robyn will be the Captain of the Braunton Academy Chess Club when Lachlan finishes school this summer.



UKMT

We have had some very notable success in the Intermediate UKMT. Stanley and Pip have qualified for the prestigious Maclaurin Olympiad. This event is by invitation only and limited to 600 students worldwide. This will consist of a 2 hour paper.

Furthermore, Edward, Kenzie and Ben have been invited to take part in the next round, the Pink Kangaroo, which is for the Top 5000 students worldwide.

This is the first time that we have had Olympiad qualifiers - a fantastic achievement.



**United Kingdom
Mathematics Trust**

Holidays During Term Time

Our policy on holidays has not changed – 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.

World Book Day at Braunton

We've had a whole host of activities to celebrate World Book Day during the last few weeks. Beforehand, several students in KS3 took part in the t-shirt competition run by the School Library Service. The task was to create a t-shirt based on their favourite book character. Against all the other secondary schools in Devon, one of our very own students won! Iris created her design based on the Mortal Engines book series and received a t-shirt featuring her design, as well as other goodies including books, stationery and a tote bag.

Library Assistants Georgie, Arthur and Ethan also did a fantastic job of running a World Book Day lottery outside the library, where two lucky students each won a Waterstones book voucher. As well as this, tutors conducted their own book discussions in class, students browsed the new books on display in the library and student in Years 7 and 8 racked up a total of 52 Class Charts points for passing their Accelerated Reader quizzes.

Plans for next year are already underway!



House Pancake Race

A victory for Croyde overall after taking all three races into consideration. The staff teams did very well though, winning two of their three races. Thank you to everyone for your support and especially the prefects who organised the students.



Braunton Academy Senior 'Youth Speaks' Team

The Senior Rotary 'Youth Speaks Team' entered the 2022 competition by video due to the cancellation of the live event as a result of Covid. The team, consisting of Izzie as Chair, and Annalise and Jess as the main speakers, debated on the theme of Nurture verses Nature. After months of practice, the team were filmed speaking for 15 minutes on their chosen debate and Annalise also had to answer a question on her viewpoint. On 6th April, we learnt that we had won the Senior 'Youth Speaks' District Competition! We are absolutely delighted! They have impressed with their perseverance, commitment and hard work since before Christmas and have been a delight to work with.



GCSE Drama and Music trip – ‘Blood Brothers’ Aladdin- From Croyde to the Queens.....

Mr Carroll and Mrs Pearce took 22 GCSE Drama and Music students to see ‘Blood Brothers’ by Willy Russell at the Queens Theatre in Barnstaple. This trip was a very long-awaited one, as for some students it was the first live theatre they had seen in over two years!

Telling the moving story of a pair of twins separated at birth, growing up in different worlds, later reuniting but in devastating circumstances, this production perfectly navigated Willy Russell’s exploration of class in two Liverpool families over three decades. Energised, humorous and moving in equal measure students greatly enjoyed the afternoon watching an exceptionally talented ensemble cast and full pit orchestra musicians deliver a memorable return to the theatre for Braunton Academy students.



Scholarship Success For Braunton Academy Drama Student

After a rigorous process, GCSE Drama student Somer has gained a Drama scholarship at West Buckland College for 2023. Working hard on her application, Somer had to submit an academic essay on the Russian theatre director Stanislavski and then prepare two detailed and contrasting audition pieces to be performed on the application day. Mr Carroll, who had been working with Somer in preparation for her application and audition, said, “I couldn’t be happier for Somer to have gained this scholarship to West Buckland school. She has worked incredibly hard for this opportunity and it is well deserved”. The Expressive Arts department wish Somer every success in her forthcoming studies and for a bright career in the Performing Arts.

Three of Braunton’s young stars of the future have recently performed in the Croyde Players production of ‘Aladdin’ held in Croyde Village Hall. Eva, Elsie and Ruben all performed brilliantly with a local cast of actors from the Croyde community and beyond. Mr Carroll who attended the performance said that all three showed “A composure and confidence in front of an audience which was beyond their years” and displayed brilliant comic timing to delight a packed house. Ruben has also been cast from this performance to play the title role of Aladdin in the Queens Theatre main house production of the show later this year. Congratulations Ruben!

Success for Year 10 Drama Students

Renie has also had success in the PQA Drama School Monologue Competition in Exeter. Competing against much older students Renie managed to attain first place in the competition in what was described as a very ‘natural and truthful’ performance. The recording of Renie’s performance will be submitted to a national competition from which five entries are chosen and the winners will attend specialist acting workshop in London. Congratulations Renie on such an excellent achievement!



Jess is another Braunton student improving her performance skills and drama experience. Jess will attend a week-long Easter intensive programme at the prestigious Bird Conservatoire of Dance and Musical Theatre. The course aims to give an insight into what professional training in a performance institution is like as well as focussing on enhancing performance with professional practitioners. We wish Jess every success with this exciting opportunity.



Second Best in the Country!

Massive congratulations to Perran in Year 11 who finished in second place at the Future Chef National final in London. Perran competed against 12 regional winners from all over the UK at The Westminster Catering College and was given an ingredients list to choose from and a task that included jointing a chicken and making a wobbly panna cotta. He rose to the challenge and made poached chicken breast, roasted cauliflower velouté and a sauce vierge. For his dessert he made vanilla panna cotta with a rhubarb and ginger sauce.

The night before he competed he was taken with his mentor to The Berkeley Hotel for a formal five-course dinner and was able to meet with the judges, competition organisers and other competitors.

After the competition had finished, TV chef and restaurateur Jean Christophe Novelli (who was one of the judges) offered Perran an apprenticeship at his restaurant. He has also been offered an apprenticeship by his



mentor at The Sandy Cove Restaurant in Berrynarbor. We will have to wait and see what he decides to do. When I spoke to Perran about the whole experience he said that 'he would thoroughly recommend the Springboard Future Chef competition as it introduces you to many professionals which will help you to advance in your culinary career'.

It has been a massive commitment Perran to be able to take part in this competition alongside revising for his PPEs and also completing his GCSE practical food exam. We wish Perran the best of luck for the future.

Rugby News

Wow, what a rugby season we have had! All years have now finished their seasons, with a number of awards and accolades. Year 7 lost just one game all year, displaying some fantastic skill and effort throughout. Year 8 got better and better throughout the season, culminating in a strong waterfall tournament at Park School. We look forward to their development and attempts at competitive tournament rugby next year. Year 10 have been an absolute credit to themselves and the Academy, playing with great discipline and commitment throughout. Eventually halted in defeat by a very strong South Molton team in the semi final, the boys should be very proud of themselves. And then Year 9... Champions of North Devon, runners up at the ND 7s tournament, runners up in the Devon 15s cup and 5th overall at the Devon 7s event. This team are an absolutely wonderful group to work with and remain unbeaten in state school competition throughout their time at the Academy. I do not have enough superlatives and cannot praise them all highly enough. What a team! I'd also like to thank Mr Duthuit and Mr Liversedge for their time, volunteering to coach these teams since September. Without them, we simply wouldn't be able to offer the opportunities to these boys and no doubt we would not be as successful as a school. Thank you!



Indoor Athletics

The Under-13 Indoor Athletics team finished in 1st place at the North Devon Indoor Athletics Championships. An amazing achievement - and for the fifth year in a row!



Cross Country

Issy, Cassius and Marisa have had some amazing cross country achievements. They have been extremely busy travelling the country to represent Braunton Academy, North Devon and Devon at various cross country events in Exeter, Chippenham, Loughborough and Kent at the English Schools' Championships and Amateur Athletics Inter-Counties events.



What a Day!

The following were all awarded on the same day.

Year 9 Boys' Rugby

Finished 5th at the Devon County Rugby 7s competition after finishing 2nd at the North Devon tournament last week.

Year 10 Girls' Netball

Finished 2nd at the North Devon Schools' Netball tournament, narrowly losing to West Buckland in the final after winning all six of their qualifying matches.

Year 8 Girls' Football

The U13 girls played in the North Devon tournament and won, going through to the next round, which was the County Semi-Finals - the girls came first! They are now through to the County Finals and this is the first time a girls' football team have got this far for many years, so well done girls - you were brilliant.

Year 10 Girls' Football

Finished 3rd at the North Devon Schools' Football tournament which is a brilliant result considering that Year 10 and the team have been severely affected this term by Covid.

A big thank you to the PE team and our extended coaching team of Etienne, Dave, Scott, Cheryl and Kim for giving our students lots of unbelievable sporting experiences and the chance to be so successful.



Bikeability



Bikeability has been running this term with 64 Year 7 and 8 students taking their Level 2 and 3 qualifications. They have covered a wide range of skills including preparing for on-road cycling, starting and finishing an on-road journey, recognising typical hazards such as parked cars and queuing traffic and reacting to hazardous road surfaces.

The instructors have said our students have been a delight and they have enjoyed working with them.

Netball

Congratulations to all the netballers who have been training hard and competing for school this season. The girls have shown determination and have been striving to achieve all year. Their hard work has paid off, with a fantastic set of results across the board.

League results

Year 7 - 1st

Year 8 - 2nd

Year 9 - 2nd

Year 10 - 1st

Tournament results

Year 7 A - 2nd

Year 7 B - 3rd

Year 8 A - 3rd

Year 8 B - 2nd

Year 10 - 2nd



Gliddon and Squire Cross Country League

There were six races, held at Northam Burrows, The Pill, Coxleigh Barton, Westward Ho!, Shebbear and West Buckland. The final results were:

U13 Girls: 1st Isabelle, 6th Lyra, 7th Maddie, 15th Ellie, and 16th Erin.

U13 Boys: 1st Tom, 7th Hugh, and 13th Finlay

U15 Girls: 1st Amber .

U15 Boys: 4th Cassius



Girls' Cricket

We were awarded a very well-deserved 3rd place at the Devon Under -13 Girls' Indoor Cricket Championships hosted by Devon



Cricket. The girls have gone from having never played cricket less than 12 months ago, to 'Chance to Shine' Secondary School of the Year winners and 3rd Best School in Devon for Girls' Indoor Cricket.

Gymnastics

The annual Devon Gymnastic Schools' Competition was held recently with over 300 students across Devon taking part throughout the day, showcasing their gymnastic talent on floor and vault.

Students from Braunton Academy demonstrated their amazing abilities with strength and accuracy, clearly impressing the judges with their achievements.

The U15 mixed team achieved gold and the U13 girls team took bronze. Individually, Izzy and Annalise took 1st and 2nd in the U13/U15 Novice category, with Cosmo, Bella and Jess winning 1st, 2nd and 3rd in the U15 Intermediate group. Well done to all the Braunton competitors, you made us proud.

