

# Parents' Post

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Summer 2 2023

## Thoughts from the Principal's Office

Dear families,

I am delighted to be writing to you at the end of my second year as Principal at the Academy. It is a privilege to have this role and work with such a skilled staff and enthusiastic students that embody our motto 'Aspire and Achieve'. Every year in education is challenging but this one has been one of the most difficult, both professionally and personally with the issues we have had to manage. I would like to take this opportunity to thank our community for the support you have shown me, our staff and students when times have been tough. Whenever I invite visitors into the Academy, they talk about the sense of community they get from everyone at the school it does feel like a very special place to work and that comes from the community ethos that permeates the building. Yet again this edition of the Parents' Post shows is a celebration of the work of our community this term in educational and extra-curricular events. I hope you enjoy this addition of the newsletter. I would like to take this opportunity to wish you a wonderfully relaxing and enjoyable summer.

Best wishes

Fay Bowler, Principal

### Academy Expansion and Building Works

The building contractors are expected on site from Monday 24th July. The initial work over the summer will be to remove the old bike sheds, create increased outdoor space for social times and provide new storage for 80 bikes near the Athletics Track. The work on the 6-classroom extension will begin in September. Here are some of the architectural drawings to give you an idea of the what the finished building will look like.



Issi scores for England! See Page 6



## Staff Goodbyes

It is with a heavy heart that we are saying goodbye to Mr Butler as our Head of Department for Computing. Mr Butler has been here teaching at Braunton Academy since 2015. In those eight years, Mr Butler has been a catalyst for change at the Academy as the subject morphed from ICT into Computing. The students and staff here will miss his expertise, sense of humour and his commitment to the wider community.



Our Business Manager leaves us after 10 years at Braunton Academy. In the last 10 years, Miss Piper has worked tirelessly for the good of the Academy. We have her to thank for navigating Braunton Academy so well through the choppy financial difficulties that all schools have faced over the last few years. We wish Miss Piper all the best with the next chapter in her career in Finance knowing that her new employer is exceptionally lucky to have her.



Sadly, the SEND Department says goodbye to three members of staff at the end of this academic year.

Firstly Mr Whitecross, who has been a valued member of the department for the past three years. He has decided to fulfil his dreaming of travelling, starting in Europe. We wish him all the very best and look forward to hearing about his travel adventures.



Secondly, Mrs Pincombe who has been supporting students with their literacy, along with some music teaching, being an accomplished musician herself, playing the clarinet. Mrs Pincombe is leaving to join Ilfracombe Pre-School as their SENFCO. Again, we wish her all the very best in her new role.



Lastly, Miss King who joined us temporarily this year as a Teaching Assistant. You may also have spotted her as part of the team each morning welcoming students on the school gates. We are sad to see her go but wish her every success in her new role as a Science Technician at Park School.



Mr. Pollard bids us farewell after a whirlwind year of service. Known for his passion for both English and History, as well as all things outdoors, he leaves an indelible mark on the school community. Mr. Pollard's love for surfing and football may be a source of inspiration to him, but there can be no doubt that his energy and vocal enthusiasm for everyone and everything in the classroom have been infectious and an inspiration to everyone within earshot of his room! He will definitely be missed.



## Rocket Powered Learning!

A group of Year 7 students attended a STEM Day at Park School, run by the Wonderstruck Company. Students were nominated by their science teachers, based on their consistent good work and engagement in learning. It was a tough decision, as so many of our science students have demonstrated excellent engagement this year.



The day started with an explosive show by Peter, of Wonderstruck, who demonstrated why learning about science and engineering is so important - and not just about blowing stuff up! Then it was over to the students, to construct rockets from paper, ready to be fired across the playing field by the air-compressor cannon. Some great designs were produced, with the partnership of Cara and Immy winning with a distance of 110m.

Next was constructing fan-powered cars, where modifications were encouraged – how could students best overcome friction and air resistance? Our students did well in the classroom heats, with team Sam, George and George winning, but unfortunately they weren't placed in the Grand Final.

All the students participated with enthusiasm, and represented the Academy brilliantly. It was a pleasure to take them, even if they did make me go up on the stage! Mrs Newton



## UK Maths Trust (UKMT)

Archie and Harry have recently been awarded a Merit in the kangaroo qualifying round of the Junior UKMT. This is a huge achievement, and literally puts them in the top 1% in Maths. Only 500 students worldwide achieve this every year, so this is a massive achievement for both boys.

## Eco Club News

Litter pick in local area by our year 7 Eco Club members.



## The Rainbow Flag Award

Braunton Academy has been working towards achieving The Rainbow Flag Award this year. This award will help us to ensure that our school environment is LGBT+ positive. This includes training pastoral and teaching staff, developing the diversity and inclusivity of our curriculum and ensuring that pastoral support and effective policies are in place. It also involves listening to our students' views and making sure that our parents and governors support our journey. We have already passed three of the six sections, and are hoping to complete the award in the Autumn term. If you have any questions about The Rainbow Flag Award, or Braunton's commitment to LGBT+ positivity, please contact Mrs Halpin: [shalpin@braunton.academy](mailto:shalpin@braunton.academy)

PROUDLY WORKING TOWARDS



## Music Department News

In June, several of our musicians got to jam with jazz superstar Emma Rawicz. Braunton students joined Devon Youth Jazz Orchestra Ambassadors, trumpeter Sam Massey and saxophonist Emma Rawicz for a workshop on jazz improvisation. It was an inspiring session, and it didn't take long for all our musicians to learn a Canonball Adderly standard. After they learned the tune they took turns playing conversational improvisations, followed by their very own solos.

The students will be performing a piece inspired by the session in the Summer Concert.



Year 10 GCSE Music students took part in a Devon 'Battle of the Bands' competition at The Factory, Petroc. Students chose to perform an original song written by Ruben and Amber. It was a fantastic performance, blending hip-hop and modern R n B style sounds. Well done to all the students who took part, and what a great opportunity to perform on a professional stage in front of a packed crowd.



Braunton Alumni Finn McAuley played an incredible debut set at Glastonbury this year, with his band Candar. Finn also continues to support the local Braunton music community by playing at our North Devon Sinfonia Christmas Concert last year. An absolute gentlemen and superb role model for all our young musicians out there! We can't wait to hear more about his journey in music.



## Summer Concert 2023

This year's Summer Concert was a fantastic evening, demonstrating a wonderfully- broad spectrum of talent across the school. Year 7 students showed real courage and skill. For many Year 7s it was their first performance in front of a large crowd, including their peers. Year 8 students showed great teamwork performing in the choir and a variety of smaller items. There was exceptional quality from Year 9 this year, with many demonstrating the work they had been doing in class. Year 10 were outstanding, and really showed how much they had learnt and grown as musicians in their first year of the GCSE course. Special mention should be given to our three Year 11 students who came back to perform: Ezra, Renie and Grace. It was wonderful to have them back after finishing their GCSEs, and brilliant to hear them in their last school performance. Merry Springate's Community Choir sang some lovely numbers, and they will be recruiting more singers in the Autumn so watch this space!





### **Trip to The Wimbledon Championships**

Students had a fantastic day at Wimbledon this year; they were treated to a great 1st match between Keys and Andreeva, where the 16 year old Mirra fought gallantly, but just missed out to the experienced American. Next was an amazing 5-setter between Tsitsipas and Eubanks, where the stands were full with excitement and admiration for the players. Chris Eubanks defied the odds and won the match, where he was met with a standing ovation.

The second day of the trip saw us off to Tottenham Hotspurs stadium, with a tour from a guide clearly passionate about his club. Students were able to experience areas of the club not usually seen, and walk out on to the pitch. A fantastic trip with a great group of students.



### **North Devon Swimming Competition 2023**

Twenty-six students attended the North Devon Schools' Competition at the Tarka Leisure Centre. We took three Junior Girls teams and one of each for Junior Boys, Inter Boys and Inter Girls. Our swimmers were amazing, coming in the top three in nearly all events. They looked extremely professional in their BA swimming caps, sponsored by The Rotary Club.

#### Results:

Junior Girls -2nd, Junior Boys -1st, Inter Girls - 1st, and Inter Boys - 2nd. The overall North Devon Schools' Champions were Braunton Academy! Well done everyone.



### Our First Lioness

We are absolutely delighted to report that Issi made her full England international debut recently, playing the full 90 minutes against the Faroe Islands! To top off an amazing day in Sweden, she also managed to score the first goal of the match and assisted the second with England winning 4-0. Issi continues to play well, and scored in her second and third matches, but ultimately the team lost to penalties. We

### Girls' Football Trials

Maicee took part in two Under 12s Girls Football trials in Newton Abbot recently to represent Devon FA. We are thrilled for her, as she has now had confirmation that she has been invited to join the Devon Girls' Football squad for next season. A great opportunity for her and a very well-deserved achievement.



### North Devon School's Surf Competition



[brauntonacademype](#) Amazing surfing today by Braunton Academy at the annual North Devon Schools Surf competition. 🏄🏆

Annie took second 🥈 in the girls open, Lani got through to the semis but just missed out on the final.

In the boys open Reuben took 1st 🥇 and Joel took second 🥈.

The tag team then later won 🥇 their event with an amazing headstand 🏄 by Issy to seal the victory and the icing on the cake was finishing third 🥉 in the environmental award meaning that we won and retained the championships 🏆.

Amazing support and surfing by everyone, well done team 👍

Thank you to [@theilfracombeacademy](#) for hosting and to the sponsors of the event [@dryrobe](#) and [@nalubeads](#). Final thanks also to [@andrew\\_cotty](#) for being there and supporting all the surfers on show. 🙌

Mrs M 🙌

### English Schools' Athletics

Calib represented South West Schools at the English Schools' Athletics Championships in Birmingham recently in the javelin event.

Calib follows in the footsteps of some past and present Braunton student athletes, including Freya, to represent the South West at this prestigious event.





## GB Surf Lifesaving

We congratulate Farli on her first call-up to represent the GB Surf Lifesaving team at this year's European Championships.



## South West Schools' Athletics Championships

### Calib

Age: Junior Boys

Event: Javelin

Distance: 41.06m 4<sup>th</sup>

### Will

Age: Junior Boys

Event: High jump

Height: 1.67m

### Maddie

Age: Junior Girls

Event: 200m

Time: 26.84 Silver



## School Games Gold Mark Award

We are delighted to announce that we have achieved this award for the 2022/23 academic year. The School Games Mark is a Government-led award scheme launched in 2012, facilitated by the Youth Sport Trust to reward schools for their commitment to the development of competition across their school and into the community, and we are delighted to have been recognised for our success.

Our sporting achievements this year include:

56% of all students have accessed Braunton Academy PE and school sports enrichment clubs and competitions. 240 Male students have accessed Braunton Academy PE and school sports enrichment clubs and competitions. 211 Female students have accessed Braunton Academy PE and school sports enrichment clubs and competitions. 145/175 Year 7 students have accessed Braunton Academy PE and school sports enrichment clubs and competitions.

42% of all Pupil Premium students have accessed Braunton Academy PE and school sports enrichment clubs and competitions. 38% of all students with SEND have accessed Braunton Academy PE and school sports enrichment clubs and competitions.

With a total 299/798 young people competing in local inter-school competitions this year, we are extremely proud of our students for their dedication to all aspects of school sport, including those young volunteers, leaders and officials who made our competitions possible.

As part of our application, we were asked to fulfil criteria in the areas of participation, competition, workforce, and clubs, and we are pleased that the hard work of everyone at our school has been rewarded this year.

We look forward to applying once again in 2024!