

# Parents' Post

[www.braunton.academy](http://www.braunton.academy)

Spring 1 2022

## Thoughts from the Principal's Office

Dear Parents/Carers,

As you are aware it has been a very challenging half term for everyone at the Academy due to the impact of the pandemic. What is wonderful, and a testament to the character of our community, is that in the midst of significant staff and student absence we still have so much good news and extracurricular activities to celebrate. I hope you enjoy this edition of the Academy's newsletter.



U13 Cricket Winners - see Page 6

### Braunton Co-operative Learning Trust

Work has continued to develop our links with the primary schools within the partnership. This has included Braunton Academy hosting a Maths morning where all of the Maths leads from the primary schools came and observed Year 7 and eight Maths lessons. This has allowed us to discuss transition and look at any particular mathematical skills we can work on together to better support students progression from key stage two to three. The event was a great success and a similar visit is being planned with the Science department for next half term. Other events are now being run with students from the Braunton Partnership experiencing sporting activities at the Academy and a Junior Music Festival planned for later in the year. Through the Braunton Partnership we have started to provide some events for parents starting with the internet safety webinar this week. The session has been recorded so that parents who missed it will be able to watch this event. The link will be sent out in a separate communication in the next couple of days.

### Farewell to Colleagues

This half term we are bidding a fond farewell to Mrs Davenport, our Designated Safeguarding Officer. Mrs Davenport has worked at the Academy since 2008, first starting by supporting the pastoral leaders before taking on the role in safeguarding, as well as leading the School

Council and House competitions. Through Mrs Davenport's role she has had a positive impact on numerous students and their wider families. Safeguarding is a challenging but a very rewarding role and we thank her for her dedication to our community over the past 14 years. She will be very much missed by all here however we all wish her well in her next chapter of life which is to include some travel around Europe!

### The Academy's New Safeguarding Team

After half term Mrs Woodhead, our Assistant Headteacher, takes on the role as Designated Safeguarding Lead and Miss Barrett starts her new role as Deputy Safeguarding Officer. Please do not hesitate to contact either of them if you have a concern about your child's welfare.

Wishing you all a restful half term break.

Mrs F Bowler, Principal



Mrs E Woodhead



Miss J Barrett

## Anyone for Cricket?

This term in GCSE Food Preparation and Nutrition students have been looking at protein alternatives - not Quorn Entomophagy: creepy crawlies! Insect protein is becoming one of the fastest growing protein industries in the world due to the environmentally friendly and highly nutritious protein source that it produces. It has no saturated fat and is high in iron and fibre. Students have had the opportunity to taste some lightly toasted mealworms and crickets from 'The Crunchy Critter' food company. Some students were very reluctant to taste them, and others chomped on them like they were crisps. Students were also asked to describe the taste texture and mouthfeel, and some said that they tasted like popcorn, nuts and seeds. We had a few reluctant students who are vegetarians and did not want to try, but we were unsure whether to continue with a debate whether the insects had feelings. Maybe the science department can help!



Mrs Dicker made some chocolate chip cookies using cricket flour. It was very dark in colour and also felt similar to cornflour when mixing the dough. Students could not really notice a difference in the flavour and were much more enthusiastic to taste the cookies rather than the crickets. I don't think we will be filling up the flour tubs yet with cricket flour, as at £90 a kilo it is a very pricey nutritional alternative.

## We Have Another Winner!

Perran competed at the South West regional final of the 'Future Chef' competition and successfully won the contest. The competition was held at Bridgewater College in Taunton and he competed against students from Cornwall, Somerset, Avon and Dorset. Perran won a knife set, fully-personalised chef whites, a commemorative plate for himself plus one for the school which is on display at Student Reception. He now goes on to compete in the national final at Westminster Catering College in London where many chefs, such as Jamie Oliver, have been trained. Perran is continuing to work at the Seacliff Restaurant at the Sandy Cove Hotel under the guidance of his mentor and head chef, Carla Jones. He has also been offered an apprenticeship to start as soon as he leaves school. It is amazing how Perran has found something that he has a natural aptitude for and is giving it his all. We wish him the very best of luck.



## Live Music is back!

Congratulations to the following students who continue to wow crowds all across the southwest and beyond!

Region: Luke, Will and Rio

Idol Giants: Renie, Charlie and Rio



## Developments in the KS3 English Curriculum

Exciting developments have been happening in the Braunton Academy KS3 English Curriculum this academic year. Starting in the Autumn term, we remapped the English curriculum for years 7, 8 and 9 with a focus on three big ideas.

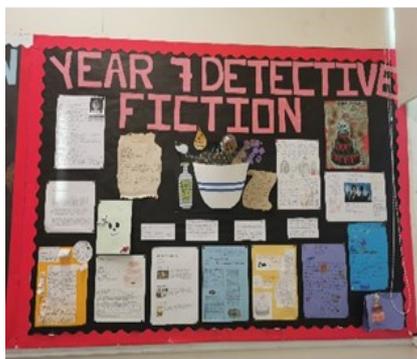
In year 7 the big idea is *In our search for answers, we begin to discover more about ourselves*. We began with a study of the detective genre, where students explored the works of great authors such as Sir Arthur Conan Doyle and Agatha Christie. Alongside this, each class read a discovery fictional story and at the end of the term, students were inspired to write their own fictional detective scenes.

For year 8s, the big idea is *As we face out fears, we begin to understand others better*. The term began with an exploration of the Gothic genre and the works of Neil Gaiman, Dickens and Bram Stoker enraptured students with tales of monsters and vampires. Like year 7s, year 8 students also read a whole fictional text, culminating in them imagining their own gothic scene.

Year 9s took a different path with their big idea being *Developing firm principles gives us the confidence to take a stand on issues that matter*. Students were introduced to extracts from the dystopian texts *Brave New World*, *1984* and *Never Let Me Go* and the fictional writing that developed from this was impressive.

The Spring term continues our focus of the three big ideas, but this time through the medium of Shakespeare and Poetry. Year 7 students are exploring Caliban as both a victim and villain and using their detecting skills while they study poems like *Flannan Isle*. Year 8 students are developing their understanding of the supernatural elements of Shakespeare: the fairies in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*; the three witches in *Macbeth* and the ghost in *Hamlet*, whilst also reading poetry with a gothic flavour. Year 9s continue with tragic plots with the study of *Romeo and Juliet* and the relationships between parents and children. Dystopian poetry is their focus with classics like *Not My Business* and *Belfast Confetti* being read and explored.

And if you think we couldn't squeeze anymore into the curriculum, all three year groups complete SPAG practice every fortnight, year 7s and 8s continue to follow the Accelerated Reader program as they chase that million words, and year 9s complete a weekly reading for meaning practice of 20th and 21st century extracts!



## Year 11 Back on Tour!

Having been set back by COVID last term, Year 11 students were back out in the community this term sharing their love and passion for music. They visited Caen Primary school where they performed some of their GCSE performance pieces and taught some ukulele workshops. The day finished with a large collaborative performance of 'Stand by Me' with Year 4 and Year 5 students.

## UKMT Success

The UKMT Challenges continue to engender a lot of interest amongst students in the Maths Department. Recently, two year 11 students took part in the Senior Kangaroo Event having qualified through the Senior round - an event which is aimed at A-level entrants. Congratulations to Stanley and Pip for their outstanding performances.



United Kingdom  
Mathematics Trust

In February, 70 students took part in the Intermediate Challenge from years 9-11. They all spent an hour completing an intense problem-solving paper hoping to qualify for the next round. After half term we will begin the qualifying stages in school for the Junior event for years 7 and 8 which will take place in April.

Here is an example of the sort of question these top students have to answer:

What is  $2010 + (+2010) + (-2010) - (+2010) - (-2010)$  ?

A 0

B 2010

C 4020

D 6030

E 8040

If you are interested in competing in the UKMT please contact Mr England in the Maths Department.

## Chess Club

The Chess Club is growing by the week. At the moment, Mr England is able to offer chess most lunchtimes in Room 17 and we are seeing other Maths classrooms opened up due to the amount of students attending. There were 62 students attending last Friday!



The Braunton Academy Chess Championship is in progress and as of 4th February we are down to the last 12 students playing for a place in the quarter finals. The rivalry and intensity of play is tremendous with groups of students flocking around the chess notice board to see the championship draw, and even if they're not playing, many students come to watch the matches in progress.

Last term we took three teams to the South West Nationals at Torbay Grammar School and although we did not qualify for the regionals this time, the students gained a creditable seven points and a whole lot of experience.

Chess is a great game, not just because it is fun to play and addictive, but because it develops your brain and improves your reasoning and Mathematics skills. It is very encouraging to see more and more girls also starting to take an interest. We have six Maths classrooms and if we have to open more up for chess then that would be great. Everyone is welcome to come and play, whatever your standard.

## Congratulations to all the students below on getting their grades

Renie: Grade 6 Singing - Distinction

Charlie: Grade 5 Cornet

Dylan: Grade 5 Theory - Distinction

Amy: Grade 5 Theory - Distinction

Grace: Grade 6 Piano - Merit; and Grade 5 Theory - Distinction

Students taking these exams always make excellent progress on their instrument. Instrumental and Theory Grades also help to reinforce the knowledge and understanding needed for the top GCSE music grades.

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](mailto:mstreet@braunton.academy) asap.

## Braunton Academy Winter Concert

What an amazing Winter Concert the Expressive Arts Department pulled off this year! Students worked hard with Mrs Bateman to provide a stunning stage and backdrop. Mr Carroll's Drama students opened the concert with a fantastic rendition of 'A Visit from St Nicholas'. To top it all off, we were thrilled that the whole thing could be professionally filmed by @Lagom Pictures led by Nick Agnew and Jo Kaufman. We were so grateful to their team for helping us at such a busy time of year. As well as the usual Christmas performances, year 11 also performed the famous 'Get Back' and 'Don't Let me Down' Beatles' songs inspired by the release of the 'Get Back' documentary on Disney+.



The video now has well over 1000 views on YouTube. If you haven't already seen it go to the Braunton Academy Records YouTube channel where you will find lots of performances from students over the last few years.



## Elfyn Jones-Braunton Academy's Composer in Residence

Late last year, Braunton Academy was lucky enough to be chosen for a special Devon Music Hub Project 'Composer in Residence'. Elfyn Jones has an extremely impressive CV having worked with groups such as the English National Opera, Welsh National Opera, Opera North and BBC NOW.

Braunton's Year 10 GCSE musicians had five sessions working with Elfyn on some completely original music inspired by two monologues written by Mr Carroll's GCSE Drama students. Sessions explored themes such as ambition, aspiration and self-worth. Students were able to explore sound in ways they had

never done before, including field recordings and extended sessions of group improvisation. The finished work will be uploaded onto the school website and used to accompany the Drama students' GCSE monologue performances. We are also hoping to perform some sections of it live at the Academy's Summer Concert.

## New Braunton Academy Records Release

**f(x) Prologue** by Brandon

Year 11 student Brandon has written an EP of three tracks - a wonderful, moody, ambient mix of modern dance and electronica. Brandon first began making music in his previous school using bandlab and VIP studios. When asked about his music Brandon said:

*"Each track has different inspiration. For Track 1 (Escape the City / Speeding) I drew inspiration from artists like Quadeca, 1 800 PAIN, Glaive and JPEGMAFIA, with each artist offering inspiration for different parts of the track. Track 2 (Unlimited) draws inspiration from Tokyo Machine, with my older tracks also providing inspiration. Finally track 3 (Oxygen) doesn't necessarily draw inspiration from an artist, but rather the feeling of driving at night, with dance music playing quietly in the background. It's really meant to be a song that can be used in a situation like that..."*

*"I make all sorts of music, however I love making dance music. I've been making and releasing music since 2019, and I've slowly gained experience from teaching myself how to make music."*

The new EP will be released on 22/02/22 - a significant day in the music industry as it is the same day Kanye West's drops his new album! From 22nd February you will be able to stream/download Brandon's music from any of the major streaming platforms.



## Indoor Cricket

The Year 9 and 10s played in their first indoor cricket competition at Bideford College. The teams displayed some outstanding cricket, adapting their skills and gaining knowledge of the game throughout the day. Tizzy and Phoebe displayed some excellent bowling and wicket-keeping skills, and Amalie, Mollie and Poppy showed their amazing batting innings. All the girls worked hard and supported each other as a team. Well done to all who took part.



## Indoor Volleyball

Congratulations to Harry, Max and Mack who have been selected to represent South West England in volleyball. The boys were selected to trial for the squad along with over 50 of the region's best volleyball players. They then successfully negotiated an extremely tough selection process, with two separate cuts, and were eventually rewarded with a place in the squad. They will now train for the Regional Indoor Volleyball Championships held in Kettering in May. Congratulations on a terrific and well-deserved achievement; the PE Department and the Academy are very proud of you all. Well done and good luck.

## Year 9 Rugby

The Year 9 rugby team started their season in the final of the North Devon Cup, having qualified despite not playing a game! At Bideford Rugby Club, Braunton faced a Shebbear team who were finishing their school season having played six games previously. Braunton played some excellent and disciplined rugby with some inspiring defence and strong running but ultimately came up short against their well-drilled opponents. The final score was 35-5, but the boys will use this experience to take into their usual upcoming games with Park, Pilton and South Molton. Many thanks to Mr Liversedge, who has invested so much time in bringing this wonderful group of rugby players together.



## Devon Schools' Cross Country

Nineteen Braunton Academy runners travelled to Exeter to compete in the Devon Schools' Cross Country competition. In cold and very muddy conditions, all runners did themselves and the Academy proud. A special mention to Lyra for her 3rd place medal finish in the Minor Girls' Race. Many of the students qualified for the South West event in Chippenham, where they will compete as Devon athletes. Good luck to those who are competing.

## Cross Country Success

Congratulations to Marisa for being selected to represent Devon in Cross Country at the English Schools' Athletics Association Cross Country Championships to be held in March.

Marisa was also the winner of the event in September 2021 as well as finishing in 9th place in January 2022. She then went on to finish in 12th place at the South West Schools' XC event in February 2022, and was the 4th Devon girl enabling Devon to win Team Gold.

