

Thoughts from the Principal's Office

Dear Parents/Carers

Welcome to the winter edition of the Parent Post. It has been another busy and enjoyable term culminating with the fantastic winter concert of Wednesday night. Thank you to all the parents and the wider community who turned up to celebrate the work of the Expressive Arts department.

It has been a very successful term for our sporting stars with Regional Championship wins in football, rugby and climbing as well as some stand-out individual performances for our budding international players.

As part of our International School status, we have seen new links with schools in Norway and our Year 10s have been busy fundraising for the community work as they are going to Uganda later in their year.

We hope you will enjoy reading and celebrating these successes and much more. In this edition.

Best wishes,
Mrs Bowler

Farewell



At the end of this term, we say goodbye to Miss Kennedy who has worked in the English Department for the past two years. We would like to wish her all the best for the future; she has been an active member of the school community and will be missed.



North Devon Schools Cup Winners

The Expansion

We are pleased to report that the build is still on time with 100% of the steel frame completed and the flat roof has been added. The ground floor, first floor structures and both sets of concrete stairs have been installed. The block works and brick works in the quad is almost completed and will be ready for students to use in their social times very soon. We are looking forward to planting up the bedding areas including an herb garden for the Food Technology department.



Remembrance

Our Senior Prefects Finn and Darcey, along with our trumpeter Charlie, had the privilege of representing Braunton Academy at the annual Armistice Remembrance Service in the village. We were joined by representatives from Southmead, Caen and Kingsacre primary schools to pay our respects to the members of our community who lost their lives in World War One. Charlie performed the Last Post and Reveille while Finn and Darcey read the Exhortation and the Kohima Epitaph. We also laid a wreath made by the technology department. Back in school all students marked the two minutes silence with the Last Post performed by Mr Street.



MESME Maths Circles Programme

We are delighted to announce that four students from Year 7 have gained places on the prestigious MESME Maths Circles Programme with EMS (Exeter Maths School). MESME's charitable purpose is to support high-attaining students to achieve mathematical excellence by participating in MESME Maths Circles, so that they go on to have a greater and richer range of future personal, employment and economic choices



In a MESME Maths Circle, a small group of students come together regularly with an experienced, knowledgeable mentor to grapple with intriguing questions, to discover and explore exciting ideas, and to learn to think like advanced mathematicians. Maths Circles develop students' mathematical reasoning and expand their mathematical curiosity, as well as refining their technical knowledge and skills. Students follow a precisely sequenced and carefully structured curriculum.

These students will spend the next five years working online and face-to-face with teachers at the school to develop their maths to a very high level with a view to perhaps moving into A Level in the future

The following students from Braunton Academy have gained places; well done to them all: Maya, Harry, Rosie, and Judah.

Visit to Bray Leino

Students from the Year 10 Enterprise and Marketing class visited local advertising agency Bray Leino as part of the 'Ad unlocked' event. Students found out about the range of careers in marketing and advertising, and used their creativity to design a marketing campaign and produce a video advert.



Fundraising Thanks

Thank you to all those who donated to JUST ONE Tree on our last non-uniform day - students raised **£620.01**! JUST ONE Tree supports established reforestation companies who plant in areas severely affected by mass deforestation such as Kenya, Madagascar, Haiti and Indonesia. In doing so they have the greatest positive effect on limiting global warming whilst simultaneously alleviating extreme poverty within local communities through the provision of training, agricultural education and sustainable incomes.



On the same day, some staff opted to wear pink, raising **£225** for Breast Cancer Now.



Many thanks to all who contributed to these well-deserved charities.

Climate Change Theatre Action Performances

Students from the Year 10 GCSE Drama class performed as part of the worldwide Climate Change Theatre Action Festival. This event was part of an international programme of events with actors and artists from Alaska to New Zealand performing the same scripts as Braunton Academy students to raise awareness of the effects of Climate Change. Students shared the stage with professional actors from Multi Story Theatre Company and Theatre Workhouse to perform scripts from several international playwrights.



The evening was a great success enjoyed by a well-attended audience. The students performed with professionalism and confidence along side more experienced actors and were a credit to themselves and the Expressive Arts Department.

Students also performed at Bridge Chambers in Barnstaple with the same company of actors and this audience was attended by local environmental stakeholders, councillors and the Chair of the Arts Council for Devon. Again, the students were very accomplished and professional in their performances and the audience thoroughly enjoyed a thought-provoking evening about Climate Change and our response to it living in North Devon. Mr Carroll would like to thank Beaford Arts for their significant support of both events and for making it possible for Braunton Academy students to participate in such valuable learning experiences.



Piano Exam Results: Autumn 2023

Benjy	Grade 1	Merit
Evie	Grade 2	Merit
Mya	Grade 2	Pass
Mia	Grade 2	Pass
Flo	Grade 3	Pass
Ruby	Grade 3	Pass
Eve	Grade 4	Pass

Other achievements:

Noemi	Pop Music Vocals Leisure Play Grade 3	Distinction
Esme	Music Theatre Grade 3	Merit
Zach	Music Theatre Grade 3	Merit

Chess Club

Over the last six weeks, 42 chess players have been taking part in a competition to find the best chess player at the Academy. Chess is becoming more and more popular, not only for relaxation, but as a way of increasing your brain power, and the club has expanded rapidly with the influx of a number of very keen Year 7 players. The final was hard fought between Judah and Ethan, with Ethan winning and becoming the Braunton Academy Champion for the year. Ethan is going to be hard to beat over the next few years but I am sure students will try! In third place was Brook and fourth was Louis. Congratulations to Rosie and Clodagh, both in Year 7, who have been made Captain and Vice Captain of Girls' Chess. It is their role to encourage the playing of chess amongst the girls in school, and to be an example to others whilst helping Mr England in the running of the Chess Club on Fridays. Well done everyone! A new Chess League will be starting in January so check the large notice board in room 17 when school restarts.



Christmas Dinner Day

It has long been the tradition that the whole school sits down to Christmas Dinner. This was lost for a few years due to the pandemic but has been successfully resurrected this year. There are not many occasions in the year when we get to do something as a whole school, and especially in the dark days of December, so it was lovely to have an event where the school could come together as a whole community. It is a bit of a logistical nightmare to get it all organised, but the catering team led by Mrs Nash and the support staff did an amazing job to organise everything. The students and staff really enjoyed the event.





Quiet no more. We are asking you to challenge any racism you see or hear. Please do not sit silently on the sidelines. Be the change and do not let this move onto the next generation.

We all enjoy black culture. The music, lyrics, heritage, accents, food, fashion, acting, art, humour, sports. You get the picture. You cannot enjoy the culture and not enjoy the people it comes from. Be the change.



Teams Call to Norway

Year 7R Geography had the pleasure of a video Teams meeting today with our new partner school in Norway. The school is based in Overbygd in Northern Norway within the Arctic Circle. The partnership has been set up through the Humanities Department, working with the Marine base at Chivenor who undertake training regularly within the district surrounding Overbygd. In their lessons students have been looking at the geography of Norway and the Arctic Circle, and have sent and received work about what the world looks like outside their windows in both North Devon and Norway! From that students have developed questions they wanted to ask the Norwegian school students who wanted to ask 7R questions too. The questions ranged from topics such as the weather, school, uniforms, lessons, recreation, and environments. It was a really exciting start to the partnership, and more video calls are planned for the future. Watch this space....!



In November, the magnificent Ecoguerillas planted....

10 silver birch, 10 rowan, 10 wild cherry and 8 hawthorn saplings in order to increase biodiversity on the Academy site. We planted them on the empty bank behind the athletics track. Our next idea is to get some wildflower patches planted up! Thank you to the Woodland Trust and Andy Clee for providing the saplings.

Well done everyone involved :D



Christmas Card Winners

Congratulations to Clodagh, Molly and Hetty, all in Year 7 who produced such wonderful designs. They each receive 15 copies of their card to share with family and friends.



GCSE D&T Class go on a Road Trip.... All the Way to Barnstaple.

Despite much pleading by the class, this was *not* a trip to the golden arches or the chicken emporium, but in fact to visit two thriving and long-established businesses that are right on our doorstep.

Our first stop was to see the corrugated card creations of Atlas Packaging. They create card packaging for many of the household brands you will be familiar with, as well as smaller, more unusual packaging requests. They took us through the whole design concept stage, surface design development and finally production, via their impressive factory floor. For health and safety reasons we were not allowed onto the factory floor, but we got a real sense of the scale of their operations as we could view it from the design offices above. We were given the history of their business, and what they produce now with a real focus on the sustainability of the materials they use, by the head of the business Jason, before being shown the design and production stages by two of his senior staff.

Our next stop was just around the corner at North Devon Metal Craft. A long-established, but much smaller scale business, that embraces the new and old ways of engineering. They are the go-to people for handmade car body parts for brands such as Jaguar, Bentley, Triumph, Porsche and Cobra. Their workshop is a feast for anyone who is interested in engineering, stuffed full with car bodies at various stages of build, and the very traditional equipment they still use to get such a high-end finish. What they make is sent all over the world to car enthusiasts. Students were particularly fascinated by the English Wheel, used to form sheet materials into incredible curves for the very classic cars they build and restore. Part of their initial concept work is done using CAD so it was great for students to see how the old and new ways can be equally productive in today's very competitive markets.

We would all like to thank both companies for giving up precious work time to show us around their businesses. It is invaluable for students to see design and technology in action as it really brings the theory we study in school to life. It also shows them there are many opportunities in our local area that could lead to a very fulfilling career.



Christmas Cake Competition

We have had lots of fabulous festive entries for the Christmas Cake Competition this year. The standard was set high again, with so much effort put in by our wonderful students. Here are just three of the amazing cakes entered.



Charity Fundraising

Tutor Group 8MS raised £110 for the charity Shelter with their cake sale - thanks for those who baked for them and supported by purchasing!



Winter Concert

This week we hosted the annual Winter Concert in Isaac Hall. This year we were delighted to welcome the Southmead Primary Choir who sung three of their own songs before joining in with the Academy students for the first-half finale. May I take this opportunity to thank Ms Simpson for her hard work with the choir and helping students in our community take those all-important steps into their first musical performances. It's wonderful for these younger children to get used to the stage that we hope they will become regular performers on in years to come.

There was a fantastic array of talent on display from all year groups and we are all very proud of them. Special mention to our year 11 students in what was their final Christmas Concert: Finley, Anna, Holly, Lily, Lola, Reuben, and Amber.

All of these students have taken part in many concerts over the years, and we wish them all the best. We know as musicians they leave Branton Academy with something magical and special that will stay with them all their lives.



Year 8 Boys' Football

The boys were crowned North Devon School Champions for the second year in a row, beating Pilton 3-0 - a tremendous performance.

They maintain their 100% record so far winning 11/11. They now turn their attention to the 2nd round of the Devon County Cup in a few weeks' time versus Teign School.



South West Regional Trampoline Awards

Congratulations to Oli who represented Braunton Academy at the South West Regional Championships in Trampoline. Oli came away with a bronze medal in the double mini trampoline competition and a silver medal in the Trampoline competition. Well done Oli on an impressive medal haul.



Year 11 Boys' Football

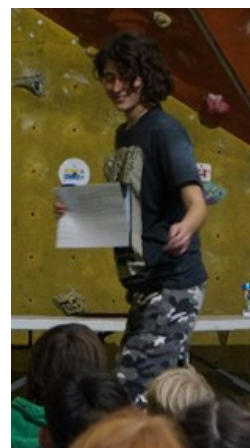
Are once again North Devon Schools Champions! They played a very spirited Chulmleigh side and came out with a well deserved 6-2 win.

A tremendous performance and result. It's been a great five years for them with many victories, medals and trophies.



North Devon schools Climbing Competition

Seventeen students represented the Academy at the annual competition, and were runners-up in a highly-competitive event. Daisy placed 1st which is fantastic.



Exeter Chiefs Trip

We took 30 rugby players to Sandy Park, Exeter to watch the Exeter Chiefs vs Bristol Bears. Students were involved in an initial tour of the playing facilities including the changing room and gym. Following this, all students were involved in a coaching session with Exeter Chief club coaches. Before the game started, students formed a tunnel to welcome the players onto the pitch. They also took part in a pitch walk at half time.

The game itself wasn't fantastic but we did get to see a number of tries, before having an opportunity to take some photos and autographs from players after the game. A great day experiencing high level sport.



Sporting Successes

Having been successful at the recent South West of England emerging talent trial, Leo has been invited to St George's Park, the national training headquarters, for a three-day training camp with the goal of representing England in football.

Joel and Harvey were nominated by their rugby coaches at Barnstaple Rugby Club to attend two training evenings as part of a selection process for the Exeter Chiefs DPP Academy. They were both successful in this process and will now continue building on their rugby skills at the Exeter Chiefs Development Academy.



England U16s Lionesses

Issi once again represented the England U16s in a match against Ireland winning 7-0.

Issi was also given the honour of being Captain, which is a huge achievement for her especially as she has only been part of the national set up for a short time. She also got to meet some current Lionesses like Mary Earps, the national team goalkeeper.



North Devon Schools Rugby Winners!

HUGE Congratulations to our Year 9 Rugby team who won the North Devon Schools Rugby Cup against West Buckland School. They now qualify for the Devon Rugby Cup as North Devon winners.

In a pulsating final held at @bidefordrfdcmens the scoreline ended 12-12 at full time in a highly competitive and even contest throughout. With the game tied and both tries and conversions even, Braunton Academy won the final after scoring the first try in the game, as per RFU rules.

Tyler was announced Player of the Match, but every single player played their part, making their coach and HOY Mr Ovey very happy who had this to say "One of the highest quality matches I have seen at school level". Well done to all the players and coaches on a fantastic win. Thank you to the referee and commiserations to @westbucklandsport who were absolutely fantastic today. Thank you also to Mr Cooke from Great Torrington School for organising the event.



Term Dates for 2024

Please take a moment to read in full the Attendance information on the school website: www.braunton.academy/attendance

Spring Term 2024

Term Starts

Thursday 4th January 2024

Half Term

Monday 12th - Friday 16th February 2024

Term Ends

Thursday 28th March 2024

Summer Term 2024

Term Starts

Monday 15th April 2024

Bank Holiday

Monday 6th May 2024

Half Term

Monday 27th May - Friday 31st May 2024

Term Ends

Wednesday 24th July 2024