

Parents' Post

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Summer 2 2022

Thoughts from the Principal's Office

Dear Parents/Carers

This is the last Parents' Post of the year to you and I would like to start by thanking all parents, students and staff for the warm welcome and support that I have received from you during my first year at the Academy. In applying for the role of Principal at the Academy I did a lot of research on the school and the local area. Relocating back to Devon from Manchester was a conscious decision for me and my family to become part of an active and vibrant local community.

My experiences this year as part of the Braunton Community have been highly enriching and one that I look forward to continuing to participate in through my role as Principal over the coming years. The students I work with on a daily basis are a remarkable group of young people, they care about their community, they respect each other and their community. This is a testament to the families and community that they belong to. It makes me very proud to represent them as Principal of the Academy.

Due to staff shortages we were unable to send the Parents' Post out before the end of term; however this has meant that we are also able to update you on the fantastic results for the Class of 2022. I am sure after reading their successes you will join me in thanking all of the Braunton staff for their support this year in providing such a high quality educational and enrichment offer to our students.

Mrs Fay Bowler, Principal



GCSE Success for the Class of 2022



Aspiration and Achievement at Braunton Academy

Year 11s at Braunton Academy have been celebrating today after one of the most successful GCSE results in the Academy's history. Following recent challenges over the last couple of years, the students have excelled as a cohort. These results are the culmination of five years of study since joining the Academy.

Overall there are 93 grade 9s, the highest grade possible. This is a phenomenal achievement and shows the incredible work ethic and resilience of so many of our students. 30 of those top grades have come from the sciences, which is cause for celebration. This year's results have shown strength across all subjects. In a year where GCSE results have dropped nationally compared to 2021, Braunton Academy has seen further improvements in most key performance measures.

Commenting on students' successes, Fay Bowler, Principal at Braunton Academy said: *"These achievements speak for themselves and are testament to the resilience, determination and ambition of our Year 11 students, despite the challenges faced due to the pandemic over the last few years. Our*

Year 11s have been a pleasure to teach and will take immense pride in their success today.

This is not just a credit to students but to our incredible staff team. Their commitment to the students has been unwavering and has helped so many to thrive and excel and I would like to thank everyone involved."

The last full set of national externally marked GCSE exams took place in 2019 and this year's results have seen improvements across the board. Our Year 11s have shown what it takes to be successful and are true role models to our younger year groups who are just as ambitious for their own futures and will no doubt look to emulate their successes.

Head Boy, Jay Tittle achieved nine top grade 9s and one grade 8. He said: *"I'm so happy. All that work paid off. I was fine all summer long but very nervous this morning. Now I will go on to study Geography, Biology and Economics at Millfield School in Somerset."*

The students' pride today is well deserved and one that is shared with staff and the local community. We wish all our Year 11s the best of luck as they move on to the next stage of their lives and look forward to celebrating their ongoing success.

Goodbyes

This year we are saying goodbye to a number of colleagues. Miss Garman and Miss Saunders are moving on from their cover supervising roles having secured substantive teaching posts for September. Other support staff, Mrs Delicata and Mr Mathers are leaving to start their teaching careers having secured teaching courses in RE and Design and Technology; both are returning to us for a short time in September for their first placements.

We also say goodbye to Mrs Caddy who has worked as a teacher of English at the Academy for thirteen years. Mrs Caddy has decided that the time is right to start the initial steps towards retirement by step back from her teaching. However, she remains highly committed to working with young people in our community and is moving to a support role at another local school. My colleagues and I would like to take this opportunity to thank her for her 21 years service to education during her teaching career. As part of the Academy she has not only been an active member of the English team but has also been a champion for staff and students' mental health and wellbeing having developed the mindfulness programme delivered to Year 7 students.

During the summer holiday we have also said goodbye to Mr Milton who has moved on to a new role outside of education. Mr Milton has been a significant figure in the school for 18 years and someone that the majority of our parents and students have come to know fondly in his role as our Attendance Officer. He will be greatly missed by the whole community.

I am sure that families will join with me in thanking them for their contribution to our community, their dedication to our students and wish them all the best in their future.

Bastille day at Southmead

Six students (Zaiph, Scarlett, Amélie, Tiriyon, Cosmo and Dylan) accompanied Mr Duthuit to Southmead Primary School on 14th July to celebrate a special day in the French calendar, Bastille Day! Four classes in Years 5 and year 6 were taking part in a variety of games, all lead by our Year 9 students.



“Our year 9 did a brilliant job introducing younger children to a variety of French topics such as pets, sports, dates etc. They have a great future as Language teachers !!”
Mr Duthuit

Duke of Edinburgh Silver Award

Over the 16th - 18th of July; Ella, Macy, Maddy, Liberty and Alice completed their assessed Silver Duke of Edinburgh (DofE), expedition run by Saunton Sands Surf Life Saving Club.

Throughout the walk they faced several challenges, on this occasion extreme heat being the greatest challenge, with the walk taking place on the hottest weekend the UK had seen so far. The team had to take into consideration the extreme weather conditions and the ways in which they needed to adapt to their environment. An assessor was present throughout the walk and would surprise the girls for assessment. They needed to think through their every move, demonstrating their capability to work as a team and follow the planned cross-country route with only a compass and a map.

Because of the extreme heat, adaptations were made to the original 68K Silver route. As a team the girls discussed what would make the walk safer; they decided that the course needed more shade so an inland and shorter route was taken which was around 52km. During the planning meetings the girls appointed themselves key roles to achieve their goals.

On completion of the walk, the girls sat down and talked the expedition through with the assessor, receiving very positive feedback. Overall, they enjoyed the challenge and would definitely recommend the DofE experience. It is a great way to meet new people and develop lots of skills for further use in life.



Ocean Hero

Harrie Kerley from the Ocean Hero organisation pedalled to Braunton Academy as part of his cycling tour around the UK. He spoke to students in Key Stage 3 to share his amazing knowledge of oceans, their beauty and awesomeness and to encourage students to protect it and consider future careers in the field of conservation.

Our students had lots of great ideas to share and many signed Harrie's bike to wish him luck with the rest of his journey - he starts in Africa in August. If you would like to follow his progress, search Ocean Hero on social media.



One of the ways we can all support Ocean Hero's work is to use their search engine which removes plastic bottles from the ocean with every search we make. Please go to this website to download the free extension: <https://oceanhero.today/>

Library News

Word Millionaires

This year we have had 57 students read over a million words in Years 7 and 8 as part of the Accelerated Reader programme. The largest number of words being 5,817,736, read by Eben in Year 7. This is a massive achievement, and the students who have hit this milestone will be entered into a draw to win a Kindle.

A huge well done to all those who kept up with their reading and quizzing this year, as a total of 159,621,252 words were read between these two year groups!

Carnegie Shadowing

From March until June this year, 10 students regularly took part in the Carnegie Shadowing Book Club in the Library. This involved reading the eight books shortlisted for the Carnegie Award and copying the judging process ourselves, reading and discussing the books every Friday breaktime (and sometimes eating biscuits too!).



Unfortunately the club didn't get to run to its full capacity this year due to exams taking place in the Library, but the students involved diligently kept on reading and reviewing the books, and developing their analytical thinking skills in the process.

We look forward to starting on next year's shortlist shortly!

Year 7 Rotary Poetry Competition

Just before half term, the Braunton Caen Rotary launched a competition for year 7s at Braunton Academy: they were asked to write a poem about trees inspired by the tree planting event that took place in March and the Queen's Platinum Jubilee and Queen's Canopy. The English teachers of each year 7 class chose the best five poems and from those, the Rotarians picked their three favourites. Both the English teachers and the Rotarians were blown away by the quality of the writing (a few even shed a tear!) The winners of the competition are: 1st place Lilly, 2nd place Eva, and 3rd Place Maddie. Each student received a Waterstones voucher during the Braunton Academy final assembly on the last day of term.

Holiday and Term Dates for 2022-23

Autumn Term

5th September - 16th December 2022*
Half Term: 24th - 28th October 2022
Occasional Day (School closed): Friday 25th November 2022

Spring Term

5th January - 31st March 2023*
Half Term: 13th - 17th February 2023

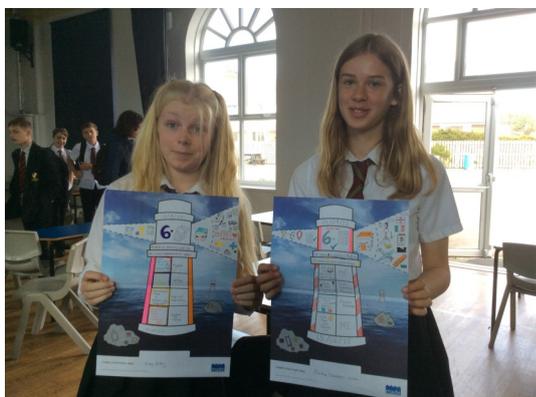
Summer Term

17th April - 21st July 2023*
Half Term: 29th May - 2nd June 2023

On the dates marked *, the school will close at 12.45 pm

Aspirational Workshops

Year 9 and 10 students engaged in aspirational workshops focusing on Self-made Motivation and Goals and Aspirations. Students were taken through a range of activities and given strategies to help them strive to achieve their goals for the future. These workshops were funded by Next Steps South West whose aim is to promote student access to Higher Education.



North Devon Schools' Chess Competition

In July, Branton Academy students took part in a North Devon School Chess competition. Our A and B teams came 6th and 5th respectively out of 12 with only a few points separating the top six teams.

Our Chess Club is very strong with Room 17 being very busy most lunchtimes, with players of all standards developing their skills with Mr England who is on hand to offer advice and tuition. During the last week of term new players in Years 7 and 8 had the opportunity to attend four beginner sessions in Period 6 where they were taught the basics of playing chess with the hope that some of the new players will continue in September.

Branton Academy Chess Team are: Robyn (Captain), Elouise (Vice Captain), Aidan, Bence, Brook, Immy, Dante, Ethan, Louis, Monty and Daniel.



Trip to Bletchley Park

Forty-six Year 9 students had the opportunity to attend Bletchley Park, the home of codebreaking in WW2, and instrumental to our success over Germany. Students had a great time exploring the site with its many exhibits and hands-on activities. They also had a guided tour and took part in a one-hour Ciphers and Code-breaking workshop which tested their deduction and maths skills.

It was a long, 14-hour day but if you ask the students they will probably all say the best part was the three-hour karaoke session down the M4/M5 and the stop at Gordano for a KFC !



Plastic Free North Devon : Trip to Lundy

Five lucky students were able to visit Lundy; here are their stories:

We got the opportunity to go on a once in a lifetime boat trip to Lundy. We went around the island on the boat learning lots of facts about the island such as in the first year, survival for seals has been estimated at only 50% and they typically do not return to their breeding sites until 4 years of age. We stopped at many places around the island to snorkel with seals and see other marine wildlife such as limpets and sand eels. It was a really fun and amazing experience and I would definitely recommend it if you get the opportunity. Darcy and Summer.

My trip to Lundy Island with Plastic Free North Devon was a great experience. I didn't know much about their organisation but I learned that their focus was to try and reduce plastic in the environment where we live.

We went on a diving boat to Lundy. We saw puffins, seals and gannets. We walked around Lundy looking for rubbish and plastic – we didn't find any.

I saw the church my great-grandfather helped build. We went swimming and the water was very clear. We saw dolphins and we sailed back.

We picked a balloon out of the water. I hope to help PFND in the summer holidays. George.



Drama News

Drama Club – Summer Concert Shakespeare

As part of the Summer Concert the Braunton Academy Drama Club presented numerous scenes from Shakespeare's 'Macbeth', 'A Midsummer Night's Dream', 'Hamlet', and what has now become known as the 'refugee speech' from 'The Book of Sir Thomas More'. The students performed with brilliant clarity, energy and intelligence from a number of challenging scenes which we have been rehearsing in Drama Club after school every Tuesday. The students worked collaboratively to design their own costumes, source props and even do their own make-up conjuring the battle from the beginning of 'Macbeth'. Mr Carroll could not have been more proud of the students' commitment during rehearsal and of their performances on the evening and we are very much looking forward to what the Braunton Drama Club will do next!



Year 10 Beaford Arts Workshop and Regional Touring Performance.

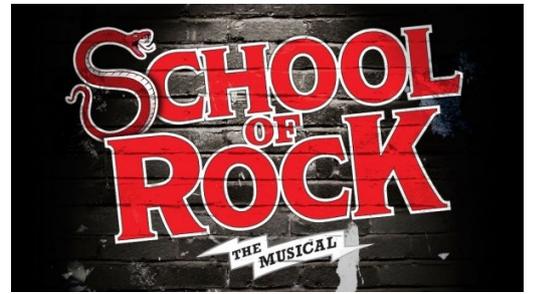
As part of Braunton Academy's commitment to Expressive Arts and in response to the ever-increasing focus upon climate change, GCSE Drama students took part in a devising workshop with local professional theatre companies 'Multi-Story Theatre' and 'Theatre Workhouse'.

As part of the research and development schedule for the show, Theatre Workhouse and Multi Story visited in July and ran a morning workshop session with Year 10 GCSE Drama students around the topic, 'How do we make the north Devon that we want to pass on to future generations?' Their ideas are now going to help feed into the finished performance (working title) 'Where to Begin?'. Commissioned by Beaford Arts, with funding from Arts Council England and the scientific expertise of North Devon Biosphere, Multi Story Theatre, Theatre Workhouse and award-winning writer and dramaturg, Daniel Bye, a devised performance is being developed to open up conversation within rural communities about effective engagement with the climate emergency.

More news will become available soon about performance dates (in Braunton) and before the show goes on tour throughout the country. We cannot wait to see the ideas from our GCSE Drama students brought to life on stage by professional theatre companies in North Devon!

School of Rock!

The long-awaited return of a whole-school musical is over! 'School of Rock' will be performed by our very talented students in February next year! Mr Carroll and Mr Street auditioned the many excited and energised students in a tough but enjoyable audition process and we are so excited about the cast of talented actors and singers assembled to bring you this fun-filled show. Please keep an eye out on the School Bulletin for the rehearsal schedule and 'Let's get rockin'....!'



"Making Waves" Braunton Learning Cooperative Trust.

Artwork created by our Year 9 students and some from our local primary schools has been on display at Studio Kind. We are very grateful to Studio Kind for curating and hosting this exhibition. It was such a great opportunity to get together work from all of the local schools and see it professionally hung in a gallery situation. A very inspiring collection of work, predominantly based on nature and Jubilee-themed work.

We exhibited some of our mouth-watering Clay Cakes and also showed a selection of our beach inspired sketchbooks and final pieces.

The event was so well-attended at the private view and during the week that we have decided to make this an annual event showcasing our KS1-3 artistic talent from Braunton and surrounding feeder schools that form the Braunton Learning Cooperative Trust. If you missed the exhibition you can still access it on the virtual tour (see link below).

<https://www.studiokind.org.uk/making-waves-virtual-tour>

Piano Exam Results - Summer 2022

Year 7

Ieuan: Grade 1 Pass

Ryley: Grade 2 Pass

Year 8

Evie: Grade Initial Distinction

Eve: Grade 3 Pass

Year 9

Lily: Grade 3 Pass

Holly: Grade 3 Pass

Dylan: Grade 6 Merit

Year 10

Ezra: Grade 4 Merit

Amy: Grade 6 Merit

Year 11

Pip: Grade 4 Pass

To begin learning an instrument with one of our peripatetic music teachers in September please email Mr Street asap with your child's name, instrument and any previous learning experience.

mstreet@braunton.academy

Braunton Learning Community Concert at the Landmark Theatre

'Together' was the title of a fantastic Braunton Learning Community singing festival that took place at the Landmark Theatre on 12th July. This is the first event of its kind in a long time and students absolutely loving singing together.

The concert included special guests the 'Piano Bike Girl' (Chloe Marie Aston) and the Military Wives Choir. Year 7 students from Braunton Academy sung a rendition of the Imagine Dragons track 'Believer' as well as joining in with all the singing.

Thanks goes to all the teachers and staff from each school and all the children for a fantastic performance!



Summer Concert

This was the first Summer Concert to take place since 2019 and the atmosphere in Isaac Hall was electric! The choir were on form with some fantastic renditions of 'The Chain' by Fleetwood Mac and 'Running up That Hill' by Kate Bush. They also enjoyed wearing the all new choir t-shirts, which looked brilliant. The concert included special guest Elfyn Jones, our composer-in-residence, who had worked with our GCSE musicians this term on some music for monologues. The staff choir also made a great comeback with their rendition of the sea shanty 'Wellerman'. The whole concert was set to a wonderful beach-themed backdrop put together by Mrs Bateman and some of her Year 9 art students. The poster was designed by Edie in Year 10. It was an amazing concert and fun time was had by all.



Year 10 Work Experience

Here's a selection of photos of Year 10 students at their work placements; thank you to all those employers who gave them this opportunity:



North Devon Schools' Swimming Gala

Braunton Academy was the only one out of seven schools to enter B Teams alongside our A Teams; and what a result!

Junior Girls - A Team placed first
Junior Boys - A Team placed third
Inter Girls - A Team placed first
Inter Boys - A Team placed first

Junior Girls - B Team placed fourth
Inter Girls - B Team placed second

Overall, Braunton Academy are the North Devon Schools' Champions! A very well-deserved win, and great ambassadors again for the school.



North Devon Schools' Surf Championships

Braunton Academy won the North Devon Schools' Surf Championships against Park, Pilton, Ilfracombe, Bideford and Kingsley Schools. We were especially proud of the win in the new environmental category where the students had to decide on a list of environmental pledges they would sign up to, as well as find as many microplastics as possible on the beach. Emily and Reuben delivered the team's ideas brilliantly. This category was judged by Save Our Winters and Plastic Free North Devon. Now we just need to do them in school!

Archie and Dylan came 2nd and 3rd in the Boys' Open - the win was taken by ex-student Malakai, with Robin and Ella both surfing brilliantly in their heats but didn't make it to the finals. The Tag event was brilliant fun with amazing team spirit from Fred, Reuben, Tallulah, Siyanda and Ziggy, plus an awesome headstand on the board by Emily to seal the win! Well done everyone.



Atlantic Games 2022 - Surfing

The Devon surf team came first in the surfing competition of the Atlantic Games 2022 held in Portugal, and came third overall in the Games. This was an amazing result for such a small team which had many current and former Braunton Academy students in it. Beau Bromham (team coach and ex-student) was really proud of how hard the team trained and competed to turn in such a great result.

Team were: Current students: Archie, Ziggy, Dylan, Fred and Reuben. Ex-students: Eva, Beau, Malakai, Alex and Noah.

Junior Beach Lifeguard Course

Students in Years 7, 8 and 9 enjoyed a fantastic day out at Putsborough Beach in the last week of term where they took part in the Junior Beach Lifeguard course run by Nick Thorn.

Students learned the following;

1. Basic first aid- recovery position.
2. Confidence in the water - diving under waves, wading, body surfing
3. Introductory board rescue and paddling technique.
4. Basic lifeguard knowledge.
5. Basic lifeguard techniques.

Everyone had an amazing day and we look forward to doing this again in the summer of 2023.



North Devon Schools' Athletics League

Mr Frickeleton had the pleasure of handing out medals and trophies following the completion of the league. All North Devon schools, including private schools, compete in this event over three different nights and the results are as follows:

Year 7 Girls - 1st Place & Champions
Year 7 Boys - 1st Place & Champions
Year 8 Girls - Runners Up
Year 8 Boys - 1st Place & Champions

Year 9 Girls - 1st Place & Champions
Year 9 Boys - 1st Place & Champions
Year 10 Girls - 1st Place & Champions
Year 10 Boys - 1st Place & Champions

See below the rest of our results this Year to congratulate the students on a fine season.

North Devon Championships Minor Girls - 1st Place Champions
North Devon Championships Minor Boys- 1st Place Champions
North Devon Championships Junior Girls - 1st Place Champions
North Devon Championships Junior Boys - Runners Up
North Devon Championships Intermediate Girls - 1st Place Champions
North Devon Championships Intermediate Boys - 1st Place Champions

English Schools Track and Field cup Round 1 Junior Girls - 1st Place Champions
English Schools Track and Field cup Round 1 Junior Boys - 1st Place Champions
English Schools Track and Field cup Round 1 Intermediate Girls - 1st Place Champions
English Schools Track and Field cup Round 1 Intermediate Boys - 1st Place Champions

English Schools Track and Field cup Regional B Final Junior Girls - Runners up
English Schools Track and Field cup Regional B Junior Boys - 1st Place
English Schools Track and Field cup Regional B Intermediate Girls - 3rd Place
English Schools Track and Field cup Regional B Intermediate Boys - Runners up

English Schools' Track and Field Cup Regional B Final

Please congratulate all our athletes who represented the Academy so very well once again at the Regional B Finals on Tuesday.

Junior Girls (Years 7 and 8) = 3rd
Junior Boys ((Years 7 and 8) = 1st
Intermediate Girls (Years 9 and 10) = 3rd
Intermediate Boys (Years 9 and 10) = 2nd

To put this into perspective, the regional finals cover the following counties; Cornwall, Devon, Avon, Somerset, Dorset, Wiltshire, Hampshire, Berkshire and the Channel Islands.

The top 8 schools from Round 1 in all the above counties went into the regional A finals, we won the Devon round last time and qualified for the B final which consists of the top 8-16 teams in this region. This is a huge achievement for our students considering the size of the region we compete in.

What is also amazing is that all 4 of our teams qualified for the finals, most schools only had 1 some had 2, 4 is on a different level with most of the other schools being huge or big private schools.



English Schools' Athletics Championships - South West Schools

Congratulations to Charlie and Freya who represented South West Schools at the English Schools' Athletics Championships in Manchester.

Freya competed in the 1500m heats and ran a huge PB of 2.34:18m qualifying as 5th fastest from a field of 45 athletes split over 3 heats, which meant that she qualified for the final. Freya then ran another PB with a time of 4.36:48m finishing 6th.

Charlie competed in the Javelin finals throwing a huge 40.16m which was far enough to take overall 11th.

This is a huge achievement; both representing the South West on a national scale, against the very best athletes in England and competing no doubt against future Olympians. If they continue to train hard and stay focused one day it could be them.

