

Parents' Post

www.braunton.academy

Autumn 1 2022

Thoughts from the Principal's Office

Dear Families

It is a delight to be writing to you at the end of a very busy and enjoyable first term. This term, for the first time, we have welcomed 180 Year 7 students rather than the usual 150. The year group has settled well into life at secondary school and we are very encouraged by the commitment we have seen to Aspire and Achieve during the first 7 weeks. All other year groups have returned ready to learn and have been highly engaged in lessons and enrichment opportunities. This term has already seen a wide range of events for parents. Open Evening was a great success, with fantastic comments made by parents about the staff and particularly the students that represented the Academy on the night. There have been a number of information evenings and careers events for students in Key Stage 4 and the first Parents Evening. The level of parent attendance and engagement at these events has been brilliant and we would like to thank you for your ongoing commitment to your child's education. I trust you will join me in congratulating the students and thanking the staff for their dedication by providing such a variety of opportunities for students to develop their character through enrichment activities.

School expansion and building development

Over the summer the changing rooms and Technology computer rooms have seen significant updates. This has been part of the development provided by Devon County Council to support the Academy increasing our intake for the next couple of years to support the population bubble in the primary schools. We are at the stage of public consultation with the local community on the proposal to expand the capacity of the Academy. The consultation period continues until 12 pm on Wednesday 9th November 2022. If you wish to contribute to the consultation please email consultation@braunton.academy The design for the 6-classroom block in the area near the Year 11 playground is still in the initial stages but we expect that the planning permission consultation is likely to start in early January. I will write to you again nearer the time with details of the consultation

evening where you will be able to come to the Academy to view the plans and share your thoughts.

Braunton Co-operative Learning Trust

The Braunton Partnership continues to be a key driver to ensure cross-phase collaboration to support all students in the local community. Last year we worked together at Headteacher and Middle Leadership levels to support curriculum development and enrichment. This is due to continue this year with new areas of collaboration being developed around supporting student attendance; there is now a consistent Educational Welfare Officer working with the Academy and all the primary schools so that we can support families better where there are children across phases with barriers to attendance. There are also exciting plans for further curriculum development and cross-phase continued professional development opportunities for members of staff. All of this leads to better provision and outcomes for students living in the Braunton area.

Staffing update

We have been pleased to welcome Mrs Haines and Mr Pollard to the English department this term. Their appointments are due to the increased curriculum time and reduced class sizes we have put in place for this year. They have both expressed how much they are enjoying working with our students at the Academy.

Our Inclusion Team has grown further, with Miss Simpson taking on the role of Attendance Officer and Mr De Groot supporting students accessing the Reflection Room. We have also been joined this term by Miss King, Miss Reed, Mrs Hart and Mrs Bryant in the Additional Learning Needs department who are working in a range of classes to support small groups and individual students.

We welcome them all to our learning community.

Mrs Fay Bowler, Principal

British Council International School Award Success for Braunton Academy

Braunton Academy has been awarded the British Council's prestigious International School Award in recognition of its work to bring the world into the classroom.

The International School Award celebrates the achievements of schools that do exceptional work in international education, so that young people gain the cultural understanding and skills they need for life work in today's world.

Braunton Academy's international work includes working with partner schools in Europe and further afield in countries such as Martinique, Nepal and the USA. Projects that focus upon the local environment and climate change are important elements in the work carried out.

On hearing the news that Braunton Academy had received the award, Mr Langmead, International School Coordinator said: "We are delighted to have received this award. It is testament to the hard work of all students, staff and the wider school community in developing our work within our area and the wider world which we are proud to have sustained partnership links with through school partnerships across many countries and continents. This award validates the hugely important work we do in providing our students with a global perspective as they become global citizens of the future."

Scott McDonald, Chief Executive of the British Council, said: 'The school has earned this prestigious award through its inspirational international work and links with schools abroad. The International School Award is a chance for schools to be recognised for their important work bringing the world into their classrooms. This is especially commendable when schools have been deeply affected by the global pandemic. The desire to build on their international work shines through and it is with upmost pride that we celebrate their achievements.

By embedding an international dimension in children's education, these schools are preparing their students for successful lives in the UK or further afield, empowering them to be global citizens, and are creating vital opportunities in an increasingly global economy.'

The International School Award encourages and supports schools to develop:

- An international ethos embedded throughout the school
- A whole school approach to international work
- Collaborative curriculum-based work with a number of partner schools
- Year-round international activity
- Involvement of the wider community



Litter Pick for World Clean-Up Day

Eco Group students went on a litter pick in the local area for World Clean Up Day on Friday 16th September. The students were amazing and really shocked by the amount of rubbish found - especially in the river. Big thanks to Year 8 students: Daisy, Josh, Ruby, Amber, Norah, Eva, Louis, Alisha and Phoebe and Year 9 student Ethan.



Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award Expedition

Forty-one Year 11s gathered at school, ruck sacks all packed, ready to start their Bronze D of E expedition – a two day trek along local footpaths and a night's camping in sunny North Devon! The first day's long trek started with them all walking down to Crow Point where they were forced to follow a diversion into the Burrows due to the resurfacing of the American Road. This gave them



an opportunity to experience the beautiful SSSI that is the Burrows as well as learning a little history of the area by visiting the old 'mock land craft', originally used to prepare troops for the D-Day invasions in WWII. By the time the groups reached Sandy Lane car park they seemed a little disappointed to realise they had only covered a third of the first day's total distance and there was still many miles to go. Departing from Sandy Lane, the groups then trekked to Saunton Church, up and over Saunton Down to a checkpoint and head count at Croyde Village Hall. After this they headed around Baggy point and along Marine Drive to arrive tired and ready for the night under canvas at Little Roadway Farm.

At the campsite, all groups were required cook a substantial meal to replenish the calories lost from the first day's strenuous exercise.

Having eaten their eagerly-cooked meals in the last of the day's sun, the much colder night time set in and as darkness arrived groups of students could be seen lying on their backs and stargazing into the beautifully clear skies, occasionally seeing several shooting stars and making wishes and plans for the next day.

I can only guess at the wishes made but suspect some were not fulfilled, as on the second day as dawn rose, they realised they had another day's walking on tired feet as they retraced their journey of the previous day to return home. At Saunton Church an offer to the group that they could return to school on the minibus was met with the comments of "No way - we have come this far!" Back at school at the end of the expedition there were many tired faces, all united in their gladness it was over, some hobbling triumphantly on blistered feet and others wistfully looking forward to just a decent meal cooked by someone else, a warm shower and a comfortable bed to call their own.

When asked if they would do it again I was greeted with a resounding "No!" but then after a little while reflecting on their experience and amazing sense of achievement, this was tempered with the additional statement of "well not today, but maybe yes, actually I would".

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the students; they were excellent throughout the two days, and I was proud of them all and their great achievement, and also to thank the staff who supported me in running the expedition: Mr Helliwell, Mrs Scott, Mrs Wareing and Mr Mounfield. Finally, I would also like to extend many thanks to Fullabrook for sponsoring the smart new tents and cooking stoves, without which the expedition would not have been able to go ahead. Mr Liversedge.



Artists Leave the Shire!

Year 10 GCSE Art students embarked on the first art residential in three years. It was a privilege to take our talented Year 10 cohort to St Ives and the Eden project for two days of creativity. After a very early start from school, we arrived at our hostel mid-morning before setting out to visit the Tate and Barbara Hepworth Galleries in St Ives. Students spent several hours in each gallery observing, drawing and generally being absorbed by the incredible artwork on display. For many this was the first time away for several years and the first time seeing some very famous artwork first hand. The evening was spent with some free time to socialise, although many students chose to refine and continue working into the sketches started during the day.

The next day we set off for the Eden Project and arrived in time to have plenty of time to look around. Students are about to start a project called 'Nature', so this was the perfect opportunity to sketch and take photos as research for the forthcoming project.

Quotes from the students: "It has been the best school trip of secondary school, we really enjoyed the independence staff allowed us to have"; "A very interesting and creative experience."; "It was lovely to draw outside in such a calm environment."

All students did Braunton Academy proud with their top-notch attitude, great work ethic and super-efficient time keeping. As such, it made it a really enjoyable experience for both students and staff. A big thanks to Mrs Bateman for all of the organising and Mr DeGroot for joining us to help support our students. Ms Britton.



Reminder for Parents and Students

Student Reception has now moved into the same area of the school as Main Reception. Any lost property handed in will be kept there for students to collect. Please ensure your child's items are clearly named so they can be identified.

If a student forgets an item of uniform or equipment or their lunch, and they think their parent will be able to drop it in to school, they need to go at break or lunch to see if it is in Student Reception. Staff are unable to ring home to parents, and students will not be able to call from school to request forgotten items. If a forgotten item is brought in by parents, it is the responsibility of the student to come and collect the item from Student Reception; staff are unable to deliver to classrooms.

If a student forgets their lunch and it is not brought in, they will need to go to the Finance Office to arrange a loan for the day. Replacement dinner cards can be purchased on ParentMail and these are issued on the Monday following payment. These should be collected from the till in Isaac Hall.

We would also ask that parents only call in to pass on urgent messages to their child during the day as it can be very disruptive to the classroom. Many thanks for your support.

Ex-Student, Max Bridgey, at the funeral of Queen Elizabeth II.

Max was a Braunton Academy student from 2011-2016. Max attended Petroc for a year, then followed this with a BTEC in Engineering, and worked in Plymouth until an opportunity came up for him to join basic training for the RAF - something he had wanted to do since he was a child. Max is now in his second year of training and we wish him every success.



Braunton School is 85 Years Old

On 6th October 1937, the doors of Braunton Senior School was officially opened to 140 students. The main 'quad' building is the original school building, with additions in the 1970s and 2000s. Many parents/carers/grandparents will have memories of their time at school - we'd love to hear about it! Please email Mrs Nolan: jnolan@braunton.academy

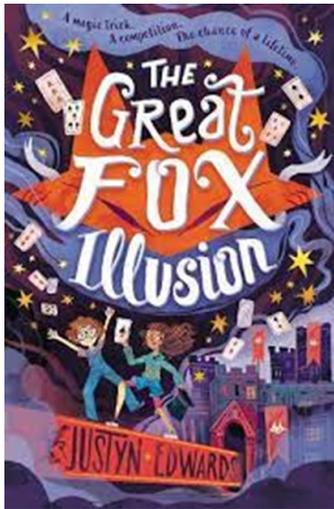


London Marathon

Our Design and Technology technician and part-time teacher Mrs Pearce has completed the London Marathon. We are all very proud of her.



Latest news from the English Department



We've had a busy first half of the Autumn term at the English Department HQ! Students in Years 7 and 8 were treated to a presentation and magic trick performance by Justyn Edwards, author of the best-selling children's book 'The Great Fox Illusion'. Students in Years 10 and 11 saw the travelling theatre company 'The Three Inch Fools' perform Macbeth in school, followed by a question and answer session with the actors. It was a suitably violent affair! We've began working with aspiring public speakers in our 'Youth Speaks' lunchtime club every Tuesday. We were delighted by the level of interest and now have four intermediate teams and five senior teams. Each team now has three weeks to write their 15-minute debates before they go head-to-head in an in-school competition in December. We have an exciting term ahead!

GCSE Drama Trip – 'Othello' – Theatre Royal Plymouth

"Oh, beware, my lord, of jealousy!

It is the green-eyed monster which doth mock
The meat it feeds on."

GCSE Drama students visited the Theatre Royal Plymouth to see an award winning and highly acclaimed touring production of Shakespeare's Othello by leading British theatre company 'Frantic Assembly'. Set in modern times the action of the play was performed with a frenetic pace encompassing a physical theatre style of performance which kept students engrossed throughout the play. With a cast of young and energised actors, Shakespeare's story of manipulation and deceit was given full expression in the Theatre Royal Plymouth with many moments in the play taking the packed audience by surprise. Set in a modern-day gangland this was Shakespeare as told in as 'urban, abrasive and thrilling' a way as possible. The physical theatre approach to the story-telling will provide students valuable insights into their own devising process in the creation of performances for their GCSE Component 2 exam.



beaford in Braunton

exploring our land, lives and future



Where to Begin

Theatre Workhouse & Multi Story

Multi Story is North Devon's longest-established theatre company and Theatre Workhouse is its newest. Two generations join forces to create this brilliant, vivid and hilarious new play which asks, "what if the climate changed in North Devon?". Developed with award-winning theatre-maker Daniel Bye.

Thursday 10 November, 7pm
Braunton Academy (EX33 2BP)
Tickets £6. Book online at beaford.org

*online booking fees apply

Parents/carers of Braunton Academy students can buy tickets via 'Parent Mail'

More info and tickets:
beaford.org



Where to Begin

Please come along and support live performance at Braunton Academy of 'Where to Begin'. Which has been developed in conjunction with Beaford Arts, Multi-Story Theatre Company, Workhouse Theatre Company and Mr Carroll's wonderful Year 11 class.

It asks the question 'What would happen if the climate in North Devon changed drastically?' Braunton GCSE Drama students and students from other North Devon schools have worked with these professionals in an attempt to give theirs and the communities' 'answer' as to how one of the most pressing issues of our time may affect us.

Please come along and support the students' involvement and raise awareness of what we can do as a community (there may also be some laughs in the show as well!) There will be tea, coffee, flapjacks and a post show discussion. Tickets available to buy on ParentMail.

GBR Surf life Saving Championships

During the summer holidays Alice followed up her wins at the Devon County Surf Life Saving Championships with an amazing performance at nationals (GBR Surf life Saving Championships). There were dozens of clubs represented and over 70 girls in the U15 Surf Swim sea race with heats and a final. Alice raced out of her skin and won the Surf (swim) race. We now have a National Champion in our school! (Alice was too bashful to tell us as, I'd imagine, was Liberty) who won a tube rescue team bronze.

Student is the Powerlifting Record Holder

Oscar took part in a Powerlifting competition where he was entered into a category based on his age and weight. He had three attempts at each lift which included: squat, bench press and deadlift, and in doing so broke eight British powerlifting records on each of the lifts across different categories. An incredible achievement!

North Devon Schools' 70cm Show Jumping Champion

Daniel became the North Devon Schools' 70cm Show Jumping Champion!

He competed throughout the summer and represented Braunton Academy as an individual. He jumped 70cm and 80cm in each round and came 1st overall in the 70cm and 2nd overall in the 80cm. Congratulations, Daniel - a new British record-holder!



Stephens' Shield Cross Country Success

Braunton Academy has, once again, retained the winner's shield - the fourth year in a row! Year 7, 8 and 9 Boys' and Girls' teams all came first, and the combined Years 10 and 11 Girls' team came first, and the Boys' came second.



Under 17s Indoor Volleyball

Heidi represented England in Denmark at the NEVZA under 17s Indoor Volleyball Championships and the team finished in 4th place - well done!



Facebook Page

For up-to-date information about what's happening at the Academy, please like and follow our Facebook page.



Braunton Academy

Page · Secondary school

The official Facebook page for Braunton Academy providing all up to date information and news.

SCHOOL NURSE APPOINTMENTS AVAILABLE



For advice on:

- Friendship issues
- Mental health and self-harm
- Sleep issues
- Concerns and worries about home
- Physical health conditions
- Bladder and bowel issues
- Sexual health and C-Card (Condoms)
- Smoking, drugs and alcohol
- Healthy eating and lifestyle
- Body image
- And more....

I am in school every month. If you would like an appointment, please complete a request slip and post it in this box.

APPOINTMENT REQUEST SLIPS AVAILABLE FROM STUDENT RECEPTION



CHAT HEALTH is a texting service open, open 9-5 Monday to Friday, where you can also discuss concerns and worries or request an appointment to see me. The number to text is 07520 631722

Visit www.healthforteens.co.uk for more information

I am in school the following dates:
Wednesday 2 nd November 2022
Thursday 8 th December 2022
Wednesday 11 th January 2023
Wednesday 8 th February 2023
Wednesday 8 th March 2023
Wednesday 12 th April 2023
Wednesday 10 th May 2023
Wednesday 14 th June 2023
Wednesday 12 th July 2023

6 SINGING SESSIONS FOR ADULTS



BRAUNTON ACADEMY

ISAAC HALL

7 - 8:30PM

First Session -
Thursday 3rd November.

Open to Parents, Carers, Grandparents,
Teachers and all other school staff.

Come and join a short term singing group & learn a few Christmas Songs to perform alongside the children, at the Academy Christmas Concert.

It is a very relaxed environment and no experience needed - Just turn up!

For further information contact
Merry Springgate -
(merryspringgate@yahoo.co.uk) or
Di West -
(di_west@btinternet.com)



NORTH DEVON'S ONLY DESIGNATED INSIDE PARKOUR HUB!!

WHAT WE OFFER AT URBAN SPORTS CENTRE

PARKOUR

PARKOUR IS THE SPORT EVERYONE IS TALKING ABOUT! DOES YOUR CHILD JUMP AND CLIMB EVERYTHING? THEN THIS IS PERFECT FOR THEM! PARKOUR IS GREAT FOR IMPROVING YOUR STRENGTH, BALANCE, CONFIDENCE, COORDINATION AND EVEN YOUR MINDSET! ALSO GREAT TO KEEP YOUR FITNESS UP WITH ALL THE FUN!

NERF WARS

WE PUT ON REGULAR NERF WARS THAT GO UP TO 4 HOURS LONG OF A VARIATION OF MINI GAMES AND CHALLENGES. WE SUPPLY ALL THE TACTICAL GEAR AND GUNS AND BULLETS, BUT ALLOW YOU TO BRING YOUR OWN CHOICE OF NERF GUNS!!

BIRTHDAY PARTIES!

WE OFFER PARKOUR OR NERF PARTIES AT OUR VENUE. PARKOUR - LEARNING THE BASIC MOVEMENTS OF VAULTS / JUMPS / CLIMBING AND FUN CHALLENGES! NERF - BUILDING BASES AND A VARIATION OF TEAM GAMES BATTLEING EACH OTHER!



CAROL ANNE NETBALL CLUB

COME AND JOIN US!

U12s - Tuesday 6:45-8:00pm
@ Park School, Barnstaple

We are always looking for new junior members to join our friendly, supportive and competitive club. We welcome players of all abilities and experience levels. Playing netball is a great way to make new friends and have fun playing sport!



Email: carolannejuniors@gmail.com

Website:

<https://carolannenetballclub.co.uk>



CONTACT US TO BOOK A FREE TASTER SESSION

LOCATION

UNIT 5, EXMOOR HOUSE
CHIVENOR BUSINESS
PARK, EX314AY



MOBILE - 07456643732
URBAN SPORTS CENTRE

