

24th September 2025

Dear families,

When I wrote to families after the Ofsted report was published in April last year, I shared that as the development of provision for SEND students was the key area for development that I would update parents throughout the coming year on the work that we are doing to improve this area.

Targeted support in lessons:

In the report Ofsted recognised that:

'...the school has now established clear and effective procedures to ensure that pupils' needs are met in most areas of the curriculum.' However, they also felt that in some areas, staff did not always adapt the ways they teach the curriculum to address the learning needs of pupils with SEND. This was an area the Academy was already focusing on and had continued to do so since the inspection. This has included full staff inset from SEND specialists on adapting teaching for students with SEND and specific strategies to support students with neurodiversity and ADHD. All departments have continued to adopt the 7 key elements of adaptive teaching in all lessons to support students all student with SEND including Dyslexia and lower literacy levels as well as developing bespoke adaptations related directly to the teaching of their subject specialisms. The delivery of this is monitored by the senior team, Heads of Department and externally by Education Southwest who are our Trust partners.

Our adaptive teaching methods have been reviewed by Devon's SEND advisory team and has been taken away to be shared as good practice with other schools in the area.

New SEND facilities:

With the opening of the new English block in September 2024 we were able to move the SEND department into a new area of the school with greater physical space and the potential to create specialist intervention areas. The school has worked with the students that regularly use this space to redesign this area and over the summer with the support of funding from Devon County Council we have completed a £50,000 renovation of the area. We will be inviting families to view this area in the first of this year's SEND family's engagement evening later this term.

BRAUNTON SCHOOL AND COMMUNITY COLLEGE ACADEMY TRUST

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New SEND interventions:

During the summer term work was done with in the SEND team to provide training and resources to introduce two new intervention packages for students. The first is Fresh start phonics which will support any student with a reading age below their chronological age that is related to gaps in their phonics learning at primary school. We continue to offer IDL reading programmes to all students below their chronological reading age and have seen improve results from their intervention with the average improvement in reading over the year by 13 months.

We have also invested in the Thrive programme this is used for those students who have been identified at needing Social Emotional or Mental Health or Mentoring intervention. The programme allows us to develop bespoke action plans to support their needs through one to one and small group interventions with members of the SEND team. The Academy continues to provide other Communication and Interaction programmes as well as the Social Emotional and Mental Health interventions that have previously been in place.

We have also linked in with Petroc who are providing specialist one day vocational programmes to students in KS4.

Literacy testing and exams access arrangements:

Exam access testing routines are fully established from years 7 to 11. Exam access arrangements for new year 11 have already taken place and are ready to be approved and signed off by the external assessor. Year 10 arrangements will be formally assessed in the coming weeks. We have appointed Mrs Young to a new role which includes all Literacy and exam access arrangements support. If you have any questions about your child's access arrangements, please contact her directly l.young@braunton.academy.

Transition:

Since starting at the Academy in March our SENDCo Mrs Harding has reviewed the SEND transition arrangements and implemented new systems for support. Mrs Harding has regular contacts with all the SENDCo's at our feeder primary schools and starts work

with perspective families of SEND students when they are in Year 5 to ensure there is a well-planned transition in place before they enter Year 6.

In a change to previous years, we have created a permanent Year 6-7 Head of Year, Mrs McLoughlin who is a specialist SEND teacher with previous experience of teaching in the primary school setting. She will oversee all Year 7's first year of transition into the Academy and work closely with the SEND team to support SEND students during the transition process as well as identify any unmet needs for students at an early stage, so that intervention can be put in place.

Communication and referrals:

In the parent voice there were some comments that families of SEND students did not always feel that they had effective avenues for communication with the SEND department and that queries about referrals and unidentified needs was not always responded to quickly.

Since the changes that the Academy implemented just before the inspection, I am pleased to report that the SEND team have met with all parents where there were queries about potential unmet needs and all referral requests have been processed. We have received feedback from several of our families that the new SEND@braunton.academy email address has supported their queries being processed quicker and that they feel they have had effective and positive interactions with the team.

Also, we have recently been trialling a secondary Language Link programme which has resulted in onward referrals to speech and language therapy and CogMed- an executive functioning programme to support the development of executive functioning skills. Boths trials will be helpful in developing further provision in these areas in this academic year.

We are pleased with the progress that has been made in the past six months, and we will continue to prioritise this area thought-out this year. Please look out for the invitation to the SEND engagement afternoon later this term and the SEND support programmes that will be on offer to families.

Yours faithfully,



Mrs Bowler
Principal



Mrs Harding
Assistant Principal - SENDCO