

Parents' Post

www.braunton.academy

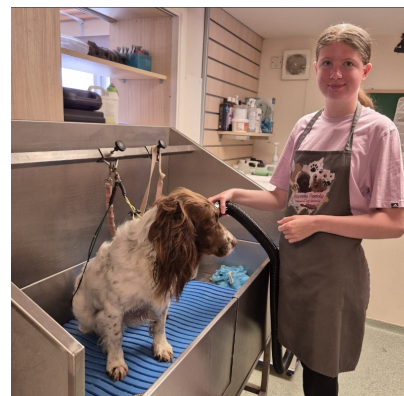
Summer 2 2025

Thoughts from the Principal's Office

Dear Families,

It is my pleasure to welcome you to the final edition of this year's Parents' Post. It has been another fantastic year at the Academy, and we are very proud of the academic and enrichment achievements students continue to engage in at school and in their free time. With the sun having shone so much over the past couple of months it has been the perfect opportunity to get students out and about on enrichment activities; enrichment is very important in developing students' character and the wider social skills needed throughout their lives. We know that families play a large part in supporting these opportunities, and we thank you for your continued support. It was great to see so many of you at Sports Day, enjoying the competitions and the ice-cream! I hope you enjoy this edition of the newsletter and share in the celebrations of our students and staff.

Best wishes,
Mrs Bowler



Year 10 Work Experience Week

Speak Up 2025- Visit to Landmark Theatre

As part of the nation-wide Speak Up programme delivered by the National Theatre the Braunton Speak Up group went to the Landmark Theatre. The afternoon was to familiarise the students with the space in which they would be performing in on 25th June. Schools from across North Devon involved in the programme will be performing pieces created which reflect issues important to them in their schools and communities.

Braunton Academy's Speak Up group have chosen the theme of 'Listening' and are asking questions about if we are really listening to each other in our personal lives and in the wider context of the environment.



Once completed, the work Braunton Academy students create will be combined with a nationwide exhibition that will tour the UK bringing awareness directly to communities about issues facing young people today and how we can help each other to understand and support.

Mr Carroll is incredibly proud of the students involved in the programme for their commitment and of the work that they have created.

We have a new website design!

**All our up-to-date information and photos can be found here:
www.braunton.academy**

Staff Farewells

This summer we are saying a fond farewell to the following staff:

- **Mrs Redwood** who has worked as a Pastoral Support Worker since January.
- **Mrs Marshall** is leaving us after two years at the Academy as a teacher of Maths.
- **Ms Fulton** who has worked in support staff roles for the past two years including, exams, first aid and administration
- **Miss Rockey** has been the school librarian for 12 years and has supported students throughout the day and especially social times engaging students in a love of reading.
- **Mr Norris** has been a Teaching Assistant for the past 13 years supporting a range of students thought his time at the school.
- **Mrs Newton** has been with us for over 24 years, as a Teacher of Science.

We wish them all the very best as they move on in their careers, they will be greatly missed by staff and students.



Mrs Marshall



Miss Rockey



Mr Norris



Mrs Newton

A heartfelt 'thank you' to **Mrs Armstrong** for her incredible dedication and leadership as Head of Year 9. Supporting hundreds of students over the years is no small task, and she's clearly made a lasting impact through her guidance and care.

Wishing her all the best as she continues to flourish in her teaching role - and a warm welcome to Mr O'Brien as he steps into those very important shoes! Here's to continuity, fresh energy, and another chapter of student success.



A big 'thank you' to **Mr Helliwell** for his leadership as Head of English. His commitment and influence on the department will no doubt leave a lasting legacy.

Though he's stepping down, it's wonderful that he'll still be part of the teaching team - it's not goodbye, just a new rhythm! Here's to many more lessons shaped by his expertise, passion for literature, and deep connection with students.

Huge congratulations to **Mrs Britton** for passing her Maths degree. We look forward to her joining the Maths team in September, and she will be having her own Year 7 Tutor Group. Here's to a future full of formulas, fractions, and flourishing students!



Community Garden

The Community Garden is growing fast - volunteers always welcome! Find them on Facebook: Braunton Community Gardens



A welcome break from the challenges of Sports Day - a nice cup of tea and a sit-down.



Summer Concert 2025

It was a joy to witness the incredible creativity and dedication of our students during this year's Summer Concert. With over 40 performers taking part, the evening was a vibrant showcase of musical talent, dramatic flair, and collaborative spirit. From expressive solos to a captivating duologue, the variety of performances reflected the rich artistic culture we continue to nurture at our school.

Whether stepping onto the stage for the first time or returning as seasoned performers, each student brought something special to the evening. Their commitment to rehearsals and their courage in performing live demonstrated not only artistic skill but also personal growth. These experiences are vital in helping students build confidence and character—core values that lie at the heart of expressive arts.

Behind the scenes, a dedicated team of students played a crucial role in the concert's success. Quentin and Zach ensured performers were well-equipped and ready while managing the sound with precision, and Ryley's lighting design added depth and atmosphere to the performances. These technical contributions were essential and reflect the collaborative nature of the event.

We are deeply grateful to those who donated on the night. Thanks to this and the generosity shown during our previous drama production, *Treasure Island*, we will be able to expand on the lighting and sound equipment to enhance our future events, showing community support directly enriches student experiences. A heartfelt thank you also goes to the staff who volunteered their time and to everyone who helped make the evening so memorable. Students have already begun talking about the upcoming Winter Concert, and many have described this event as an amazing opportunity they truly enjoyed. Performances like these not only celebrate achievement but also inspire others to begin their own journey in the performing arts. This is exactly what expressive arts at our school strives to achieve: nurturing creativity, building character, and encouraging every student to explore their artistic voice. Mr Thomas.



Year 10 GCSE Geography Field Trip

Year 10 students have been visiting Westward Ho! for their GCSE Geography field work. They had a great time and were a credit to all involved working really hard looking at two hypothesis: 1) Is Westward Ho! effectively managed and 2) The environment declines as you move away from the coast.

They did some data collection techniques as well as sketch annotations. In between all the hard work one or two may have enjoyed a Hockings ice cream! Well done to all students who put in so much effort.



Music Exam Successes

Year 7

Arthur, Grade 3 Saxophone

Year 8

Ruby, Grade 4 Piano - Pass

Year 9

Lucy, Grade 2 Piano - Merit

Mya, Grade 3 Piano - Pass

Mia, Grade 3 Piano - Pass

Benjy, Grade 3 Piano - Pass

Archie, Grade 6 Piano - Merit

Edie - LCM Pop Music Vocals - Grade 5 Piano - 86/100 Distinction

Eva - LCM Pop Music Vocals - Grade 2 - 72/100 Pass

Noemi - LCM Pop Music Vocals - Grade 5 - 86/100 Distinction

**Check our new website for
up-to-date school
information**

Discovery Day at Exeter College

Year 10 students attended the Discovery Day, including eight students who visited the Engineering Faculty.

The students participated in three taster sessions: Virtual welding, CAD design, and Pit Stop Challenge.

During the day college staff were available to answer any questions the students had about potential post-16 courses at the college for September 2025.

Picture 1: Sawyer, welding

Picture 2 : Taye removing a wheel on a car



Class of 2025 Prom Celebration – A Night to Remember!

On the evening of Friday 27th June, the Class of 2025 gathered at the elegant Barnstaple Hotel to celebrate their long-awaited prom - a milestone that marked the end of one chapter and the beginning of another.

✦ **Dressed to Impress** The students arrived in dazzling style, decked out in gowns, suits, and smiles that lit up the room. The red carpet entrance was brimming with excitement as students shared stories, laughter, and a few happy tears.

📷 **Dinner and Dancing** Guests enjoyed a delicious carvery in the hotel's beautifully decorated ballroom, followed by a night of dancing. The DJ kept the energy high, spinning everything from classic anthems to the class's favourite hits. Whether students were showcasing slick moves or laughing through awkward shuffles, the dance floor stayed alive all night.

🕒 **Moments That Mattered** Memorable moments included the casino, a photo booth bursting with props and creativity, and a photo wall highlighting the journey of the Class of 2025. Teachers and staff also joined the celebration, showing their support and sharing wishes for the future.

🎓 **Looking Ahead** As the music faded and the evening came to a close, one thing was clear — the Class of 2025 left prom not just with glitter in their hair and sore feet, but with memories that will last a lifetime. To the students moving on to new adventures: your story is just beginning.



Check our
new website
for more
photos!



Year 9 Good and Evil Project

As part of their Year 9 studies on good and evil, students were challenged to explore the meaning of these profound concepts. The standard of work was exceptional, showcasing deep thought and impressive analysis. After careful consideration, the overall winner of the competition was Keeley, whose work stood out for its incredible insight and originality. Please see the school website for all the runners-up work.



Leading Parent Partnership Award

We are pleased to have started the Leading Parent Partnership Award (LPPA) which is designed to develop positive relationships with parents, carers and the community. The areas of development include Transition, Participation of Parents, Communication, Guidance, Induction and Home School Links. We held our first LPPA meeting in June. Communication between home and school was a hot topic and we are looking at reducing the constant stream of information through ParentMail by creating more regular newsletters with information appropriate to year groups. We are also looking at using social media more effectively as well as signposting through our newly designed website. Other topics included homework platforms and the new canteen menu. We also discussed setting up a Braunton Youth and Community Network, with the first meeting for this held on Tuesday 8th July. The aim was to bring together all stakeholders who support our young people in the community to share what is on offer and see what else might be useful. We are hoping to set up some fundraising activities in the new school year too. We would love this group to grow to enable us to work with you to make the Academy effective and supportive for everyone, so please join us on Wednesday 24th September at 5.30 pm for our next meeting.



Leading Parent
Partnership Award

International School

We were delighted to run again this year the design a flag competition in conjunction with the UK polar network. Students were invited to submit a design considering the geography of Antarctica. Our winning design chosen by the UK Polar Network was submitted by Rosie in Year 8 who received a certificate and photo of her flag with a scientist in Antarctica! Well done Rosie - few people have had their work photographed in such a remote location.



Poem was written by Egan in Year 8 as part of his Drama work

My phone

My phone is a
Prison which I trapped myself inside
The door's always open
But I'm afraid of what's outside

My phone is like my enemy
But also like my friend
Sometimes I enjoy the time I spend
On my phone

Sometimes I get angry when people
sit and gloat
About how good their lives are
Whilst on an expensive boat

Paris 2025

Last week, 44 slightly tired students from Years 8 and 9 met at 5.00 am to depart for Paris by coach. We caught an early ferry and had a delicious meal on the boat, then carried on to our hotel by 8.30 pm. The weather was as hot in Paris as it's been in Devon but felt more bearable – douce France treated us well!

After a good night's sleep and tasty breakfast, off we went to the Eiffel Tower! We climbed to the second floor where we wandered around, admiring the views, doing a spot of shopping - yes, there's a shop up there!

There was a quick photo op at the foot of the Iron Lady, then Mr Duthuit found us a perfect picnic spot in the shade, to enjoy the hotel's packed lunches. Mrs Craig supervised the organisation of teams for our upcoming treasure hunt, and off we went again to the Seine and a 'bateau-mouche' that would take us on an 80-minute cruise admiring the beautiful monuments of l'île de la Cité.



The coach then picked us up to head to Montmartre and the Sacré-Coeur, where everyone had half an hour to shop around – staff found a delicious ice cream place whose ice creams were sculpted to look like flowers; they melted fast in the hot sun! We met Chloé at the Sacré-Coeur, who set us up for an exciting treasure hunt that led our five teams all around the gorgeous quartier de Montmartre. It was a challenge, softened somewhat by a crêperie and some cute little parks to fill up water bottles and relax in the shade.

Friday was spent driving back to the UK ready to share memories of a successful trip together!

I'd like to thank our students for living up to the standards of Braunton Academy and giving French people, staff and locals alike, a good impression of Brits. The hotel staff made a point of telling me they had been "adorable", and I'm sure we'll all agree that's a good descriptor to hear about our students!

I'd also like to thank the admin team working in the background with me to organise this trip, and my dream team, Mrs Craig, Mrs Martin and Mrs Mason as well as Mr Duthuit, whose help has been invaluable during this trip.

Thank you everyone and see you again in two years' time for the next edition of the Paris trip!



Speak Up 2025- 'Can You Hear Me?' Landmark Theatre



Braunton Academy Students Take Centre Stage in National Theatre's Speak Up Programme

Date: June 25th

Venue: The Landmark Theatre, Ilfracombe

Braunton Academy students recently took part in a remarkable evening of performance as part of the National Theatre's nationwide *Speak Up* programme. Sharing the stage with students from Ilfracombe and Pilton, our talented young performers captivated a packed audience at the Landmark Theatre.

🌟 A Celebration of Creativity and Voice

The event marked the culmination of months of creative exploration. Students from across North Devon worked collaboratively to explore powerful themes such as **fairness, identity, and what it means to be truly heard**. These ideas were brought to life through a dynamic blend of **drama, movement, design, and voice**, resulting in performances that were both moving and thought-provoking.



Challenging Us to Listen

With the support of North Devon *Speak Up* representative Beth Barrington, Mr. Carroll proudly celebrated the students' achievements. Their performance focused on the importance of **active listening**, encouraging the audience to reflect on how we engage with young people—and how truly listening can transform our relationships with them.



A Lasting Legacy

The students' creative work—including performance pieces, artwork, and photography—will now be preserved in the **National Theatre's archival collections** and showcased in exhibitions across the country. Their voices will continue to resonate far beyond the stage.



Thank You

Mr Carroll extends his heartfelt thanks to all the students for their **dedication, creativity, and honesty** throughout the project. He also wishes to thank the **parents and carers** whose support was instrumental in making this journey such a success.



VJ Day - 80th Anniversary

To mark the 80th anniversary of VJ Day on Friday 15th August 2025, the Government is encouraging efforts to help young people engage directly with the experiences of the Second World War generation. As the event falls in the summer break, you might like to encourage your children to discover more about VJ Day and use some of the activities available on the [VE Day and VJ Day 80 website](#).

Past Student News: Nathan Rodney-Jones and the Barnstaple Fringe Festival

Former Braunton Academy student, Nathan Rodney-Jones has been making waves in the acting world. Having just completed an English Literature and Creative writing degree where he earned a 1st, he is now going on to study for a Masters in script writing at the University of East Anglia.

I was recently lucky enough to see Nathan at the Barnstaple Fringe Festival in June and this time, rather than performing his poetry, he wrote and acted in his first full-length drag show!

Quoted as taking his inspiration from Gillian Anderson's recent West End performance as Blanche DuBois in *A Streetcar Named Desire*, Nathan plays Sally, a glamorous, big hearted and angry disowned heiress of a wealthy Deep South estate who needs to talk.

Tube Tops and Tribulations of a Falling Woman was a solo drag tragicomedy about the extravagance and vulnerability of an anarchic character which explored loss and the struggle with mental health.

It was awe-inspiring to see a former student taking on this big acting role and we look forward to seeing what Nathan does next! Mrs Young.

Chloe-Anne England has just graduated with a 1st in Mathematics from Warwick University with, she has been informed, one of the highest pass marks they have awarded - 81%. She is now off to Austria to study for her Masters. Her inspiration came from here with Mr O'Brien juggling in a Year 6 Transition lesson many years ago and from Mr Brasier, Mrs Hookes and Mrs Bateman in particular.

A testament to Braunton Academy and the professionalism of its teaching.

The Design & Technology End of Term Fun!

After a year of very hard work creating and making a vast range of projects in the areas of food, textiles, graphics, resistant materials and electronics, we decided to treat the students with a few extra D&T related tasks to round off such a successful year. Two of those activities were the making and launching of rockets, and the making and testing of boomerangs. Other activities included very tasty vegetable cake making (as Head of Department, Ms Britton's duty was to taste some of them) and geodesic dome construction.

Another awesome year in the department. We hope you enjoy the summer holidays, and look forward to lots of new and exciting designing and making in September.



Summer Family Adventures at Arlington Court!

In collaboration with the National Trust join Green Paths this summer at the stunning Arlington Court for unforgettable family sessions packed with outdoor fun, nature exploration, and hands-on experiences the whole family will love!

Dates: July 28th, 30th, 31st & August 1st

Location: Arlington Court, National Trust

- ☐ What to expect:
- ☐ Bushcraft skills
- ☐ Campfire cooking
- ☐ Nature discovery activities
- ☐ Wild crafts and games
- ☐ Time to explore, play and connect in the great outdoors!

Whether you're building a den, lighting a fire, or simply enjoying time together in nature — it's everything you love about Green Paths, in one of the most beautiful National Trust settings.

Spaces are limited — book now to avoid missing out!

Perfect for families with children of all ages.
A great way to spend quality time and make summer memories.

Book your place today and let the adventure begin!

<https://bookwhen.com/greenpaths-education/e/ev-sgyk-20250728100000>



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**National
Trust**

Visit our new website for photos of the work our students did at Arlington Court building a playhouse as part of their Gardening for Good project.

Youth Cultural Champions

We are really pleased to be working with Devon Development Education training some of our students to be Youth Cultural Champions. In the three sessions we have held so far, Students shared their identities and learned about some of the clothing, music, hobbies and food from other cultures. They have been creating and delivering a short presentation on their cultural background, showing artifacts and sharing food. Students will be working with our local primary schools to deliver the presentations and then making plans to embrace and share the multicultural environment further at Braunton Academy.





Year 6 Transition Days – Welcoming the Class of 2030!

As part of their exciting journey into secondary school, the Class of 2030 took part in a two-day transition programme on Wednesday 2nd and Thursday 3rd July. The event offered incoming Year 6 students a warm welcome, a taste of life at their new school, and a chance to forge friendships and lasting memories.

🏠 Day 1 – Team Spirit & Tutor Time: The first day saw students immersed in activities with their new tutors, getting to know their peers and learning the ropes of their future school environment. The day concluded on a high note with an Athletics house competition — a test of teamwork, enthusiasm, and school pride. Congratulations to Saunton House for claiming the victory!

📅 Day 2 – A Slice of Secondary School Life: Thursday offered the students a full timetable experience, rotating through lessons in Maths, Science, English, Art, Drama, Geography, and Personal Development. From calculating equations to expressing creativity in the studio, each session showcased the rich and varied curriculum that awaits them in Year 7.

🎉 Celebration Assembly – The Journey Begins: The transition programme ended with a Celebration Assembly attended by many proud parents. The atmosphere was filled with excitement and encouragement as staff, students, and families came together to mark this important milestone.

☀️ With beaming smiles and curious minds, the Class of 2030 has already begun their journey - full of possibilities, growth, and new adventures. We're thrilled to welcome them to our school community!



Carnegie Shadowing Book Club Update

As mentioned in the last Parent's Post, this term, seven of our students have been taking part in the Carnegie Shadowing Book Club, reading the shortlisted books for the Carnegie Award, discussing and judging them. To finish off the shadowing this year, we attended an event at Pilton Community College where our students performed a piece of drama based on one of the shortlisted books, competing against other local schools. For their performance, our students read out scenes from *The First Year* by Matt Goodfellow, and acted them out



on stage. They then got to watch author Tia Fisher as she discussed her book that was shortlisted last year, *Crossing the Line*, and introduced her new book, *Not Going to Plan!* Students engaged so well in the Q&A, and enjoyed purchasing some of the selected stock bought in by Waterstones. Students did a fantastic job representing Braunton Academy and had a great experience interacting with an author. A huge well done to Lucy, India, Flo, Destiny, Tomos, Sofia and Indie! We are already looking forward to seeing next year's shortlist!

Bideford Town Band

Millie received a shield on behalf of Bideford Town Band for coming 2nd out of 18 bands and have qualified for the National finals held in Cheltenham in September, representing the West of England.



UKMT Success

Seven of our students received an invite to take part in the UKMT follow-on round - The Kangaroo event. We are thrilled to report the following successes:

Kush (Year 7) - GOLD - Best in School
Judah (Year 8) - SILVER - Best in Year 8
Edward - SILVER
Jackson, Freddie, and Rosie - BRONZE
Aoife - Certificate of Qualification

School Games Award

We are pleased to announce that we have achieved a Gold Mark for the School Games Award for the third consecutive year.



House Competition: Welly Wanging

Photos - Ruby, Emilee, and Chelsea, all in Year 9, Ruben and Harry both in Year 10 took part, along with Mr Magson and Mr Ovey.

Results:

1st Place - Saunton - 50 points

2nd Place - Woolacombe - 30 points

3rd Place - Croyde - 20 points

4th Place - Putsborough - 0 Points

Ruben was crowned as Top Welly Wanger with a throw of 22.9m.



Equestrian Team

The Academy Equestrian squad have come away with a massive haul of results and prizes from the Schools' Showjumping League Championships.

There were so many placings in all the classes the Academy riders were competing in, including a TEAM FIRST for the 60cm and 70cm classes.

The Academy Equestrian squad consisted of Isla W, Sienna M, Daniel E, Florence A, Hermione V, Mia C, Olive S, and Alice S.

The whole squad have been amazing throughout, showing great horsemanship and support for their fellow team mates.

Hopefully we can enter another strong squad to represent the Academy next year!



Hageland Cup Success

Huge congratulations to Year 8 duo Bobby B & Harry P, who represented Chivenor Development Centre U13s at the Hageland Cup 2025 in Belgium this weekend!

Not only did they compete at the highest level, but they played a key role in securing the tournament win - finishing as overall champions after an incredible unbeaten run! The team won all 7 games, capped off with a dominant 6-0 victory over Dorking FC in the final.

A massive achievement - well done, lads!

North Devon Schools' Surfing Competition

Once again, Braunton retained their title as the best surfers in North Devon.

Results

Boys Open

1st - Reuben M

2nd - Jack S

Girls Open

1st - Annie N

3rd - Lani A

Tag Team Event

1st Braunton

Well done to all who competed!



Sports Day 2025

What a day of sporting performances from our students again this year! A massive thank you to all parents and supporters who came along to watch! A huge thank you to those staff and parents who laced up their trainers and competed in a race!

Results as follows:

1st place: Putsborough

2nd place: Croyde

3rd place: Woolacombe

4th place: Saunton

Records which were broken this year

Year 7: Kush B - 1500m = 5.02m

Year 8: Perrin M - 200m = 25.4s & High Jump = 1.63m

Year 9: Quentin S - 100m = 10.6s, Dylan T - 300m = 38.6s,

Amelie B - 100m = 12.1s & High Jump - 1.49m

Year 10: Albie R - High Jump - 1.70m, Tyler J - Shot = 12.39m &

Discus = 36.19, Maddie DH - 200m = 24.86s & 300m = 42.7s



**Check our new
website for more
photos!**



Oceanfest Volleyball Tournament

Well done to our 12 students who represented the academy at the Oceanfest Volleyball tournament! A great day out topped with winners' medals for Ben and Fergus as KS4 winners
Mila, Evie and Nadia won the KS3 division 3 competition



That's a wrap for the 24/25 athletics season!

We have once again excelled in all competitions placing Braunton on the map at both county level and regional.

Results through the season

North Devon Championship

Boys - 8, 9 and 10

Girls - 8, 9 and 10

North Devon Athletics League

Boys - Years 9 and 10

Girls - Years 8 and 10

English Schools B Finals

Junior Girls (7&8)

Inter Girls (9&10)

Inter Boys (9&10)

For all up-to-date sports news, follow @brauntonacademype on Instagram!



Rounders Success!

Congratulations to the Year 9 rounders team who came 2nd at the North Devon Rounders Tournament. An excellent performance from all!



North Devon Surf Champions

Once again, Braunton retained their title as the best surfers in North Devon.

Results

Boys Open: 1st - Reuben M, 2nd - Jack S

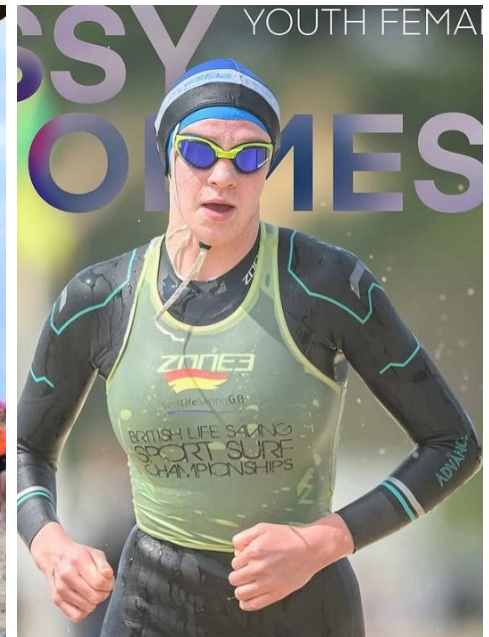
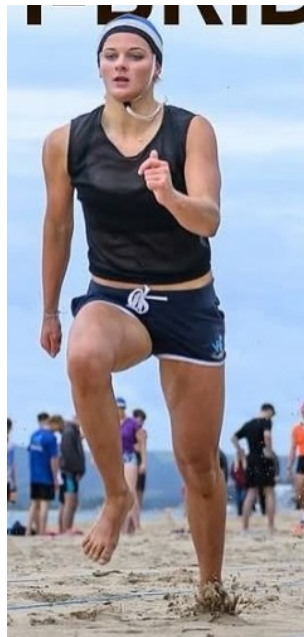
Girls Open: 1st - Annie N, 3rd - Lani A

Tag Team Event: 1st Braunton

Well done to all who competed!

GB Surf Lifesaving

Huge congratulations to current student Issy H and former student Farli AB who have both been selected to represent GB in surf life saving and will compete in Poland in August!



Term Dates for 2025-26

Autumn Term 2025:	Thursday 4th September to Friday 19th December 2025 Half term: Monday 27th October to Friday 31st October 2025 Occasional Day: Friday 28th November 2025. School closed to all.
Spring Term 2026:	Tuesday 6th January to Friday 2nd April 2026 Half term: Monday 16th to Friday 20th February 2026
Summer Term 2026:	Tuesday 20th April to Tuesday 21st July 2026 Half term: Monday 25th to Friday 29th May 2026 Bank Holiday: Monday 4th May 2026

Please refer to the website for our full Attendance Policy.

We wish you all a great summer and look forward to you joining us again in September.