1st October 2026

Dear Parents/Carers

Visit to Oxford University, Oxford Natural History Museum, and Bletchley Park – Thursday 11th February and Friday 12th February 2027 – Residential

Your child is being offered the opportunity to participate in a 'Gifted and Talented' visit to Oxford University, Oxford Natural History Museum and Bletchley Park on Thursday 11th February and Friday 12th February 2027. This trip is aimed at those

students looking to achieve grades 6-9 in Maths. We plan to arrive at Oxford University about 10.30 am when we will have lunch and a tour of the University with a Maths focus, including a Maths and student experience workshop. Following this we will visit the Oxford Natural History Museum. We will then be staying overnight at the Easy Hotel in Oxford with the students in twin rooms.

On the second day we visit Bletchley Park, home to the once top-secret codebreaking branch of the government and instrumental in our success in World War 2. Students will have the opportunity to visit the actual buildings, see a genuine Enigma machine and interact with a number of exhibits on site. We will spend five hours at Bletchley and students will take part in a workshop on cyphers and codebreaking along with an immersive WW2 guided tour of Bletchley Park.

We will be leaving Braunton at 6.00 am promptly on Thursday so that we arrive by

10.30 am. We anticipate leaving Bletchley Park at 2.30 pm on Friday to return with a stop at a motorway services for tea. Our estimated return time is 7.30 pm at

Braunton Academy. We have decided that due to the high costs of catering it

would be far cheaper to make this trip self-catering so that students can purchase whatever food they wish. We will make a few stops at Tesco or equivalent where

students can purchase food as they would like perhaps using the meal deals which are usually good value. For this reason, students will need a reasonable amount of cash available (or a bank card as digital payment such as Apple Pay will not be available due to our no smartphone rule) to purchase food during the two days.

Please note: In line with our smartphone-free policy, no smartphones,

smartwatches, or any internet-enabled pocket devices are permitted on any

curriculum or enrichment trips, regardless of timing or whether they occur during the school day. Simple mobile phones (non-smartphones) are permitted for emergency use only. Students must adhere to normal school rules regarding their use. The Trip Leader will collect all simple phones at the end of each day, store them securely overnight, and return them the following morning. Cameras are permitted;

however, they remain the sole responsibility of the student, and the school will not accept any liability for loss, damage, or misuse. Any breach of the smartphone policy during trips will carry the same consequences as it would during the school day.

Payment:

You are required to make a compulsory payment of **£27.50** which covers the board and lodgings element of the trip and a voluntary contribution of **£72.50** which will cover all other costs of the trip.

However, the school will not be able to bear the cost of this trip. It will not be able to take place unless parents who are able to are willing to, contribute a total of £100

per student.

We work closely with all families in receipt of Free School Meals (FSM) to ensure that every child has equitable access to opportunity, during their time at the Academy.

We never want cost to be a barrier preventing members of our school from our culture of belonging or from being able to take part in trips and events that take

place in more than 50% of school time. We provide funding support for eligible FSM students in accordance with our Charging and Remission Policy.

If your child is eligible for Targeted FSM, then this residential trip will only have board and lodgings funded by the Academy - you will need to fund the balance.

Unfortunately, families in receipt of Extended FSM are not eligible for financial support.

Allocation of Places When a Trip Is Oversubscribed:

When the number of applications exceeds the number of available places, we allocate places using a random selection process to ensure every eligible student

has an equal opportunity to attend. This approach is used to maintain fairness and transparency for all families.

During the allocation process, the trip leader will also take the following factors into account:

- Whether a student has already taken part in other school trips, so that opportunities can be shared as evenly as possible.
- Attendance, behaviour and attitude to learning, to ensure the trip is safe, positive and appropriate for all participants.

Attendance, Behaviour and Attitude to Learning:

Student attendance, behaviour, and attitude to learning throughout the school year is vital. If a student's attendance, behaviour, or engagement in learning falls below Braunton Academy's standards and expectations then they may be

removed from the trip at any point and no monies paid up to that point will be refunded.

Permission:

Please complete the Expression of Interest form by 9.00 am on Friday 23rd October. Once your child's place is confirmed payment will need to be made by 9.00 am on Friday 15th January 2027.

If you have any questions regarding this trip, please contact trips@braunton.academy

Yours sincerely

Mr England
Maths Department