

Braunton Academy

Aspire & Achieve

Braunton Academy Newsletter:

23rd October 2026

Dear Families,

I hope you are having a good week and not getting blown around too much by the weather today. It is great to get to the last day of the longest half term of the year and be able to reflect on the successes. Thank you to everyone who has supported the non-uniform day fund raising today for the Eco Club's 'JUST ONE Tree' campaign. The total raised today is £ 853.69. This is the 4th year we have been involved in this event and the feedback from the charity about the ongoing support has been very positive.

We are aware Class Charts was impacted by the international cyber security issue yesterday. We have been informed that all updates have been completed and that this service should be back up and running fully today.

The clocks will have changed by the time that we return but the nights will continue to darken in the morning. With this in mind please can we ask families to encourage students who cycle to school to increase the level of protection by wearing safety equipment and high visibility coats.

Have a lovely half term. We look forward to welcoming everyone back on Monday 2nd November.

Best wishes,

Mrs F Bowler
Principal

Key Dates for November:

Monday 2nd November:
Start of term

Thursday 5th November:
Year 8 MTAs go home with students

Wednesday 11th November:
Armistice Day

Friday 13th November:
Flu vaccinations for Years 7 to 11.

Whole School Messages

Whole School Messages - Braunton Academy - Aspire and Achieve

Uniform Update
We are delighted to announce that from 1st January 2027, BRAND IT in Barnstaple will be stocking our school uniform. School Threads will also continue to supply uniform giving parents and carers the option of two suppliers.

BRAND IT operate on a face-to-face basis rather than with on-line orders and later this term we will send parents more information about the shop opening hours and order processes. Brand It | Customised Tops | Bideford

Prices for items will be the same across both suppliers.

Canteen Prices and Daily Spend Allowance
We would like to inform you that, in line with the 10% increase across our canteen menu, the daily spend allowance will increase from £5.00 to £5.50 per day.

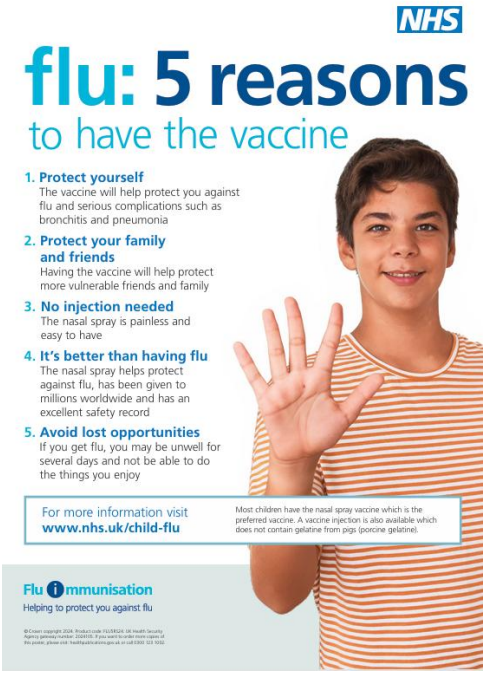
This increase ensures that the daily allowance keeps pace with the revised canteen prices and continues to provide students with an appropriate choice of food during the school day.

Your child's annual nasal flu vaccination

School Age Immunisation Service will be delivering the annual nasal flu vaccination in school for years 7 to 11 on Friday 13th November.

To give consent, please follow the link below.

Flu Vaccination Consent Form



Braunton Repair Café



Medication in School – Prescribed and/Over the Counter (OTC)
Whilst we do have school spares of OTC pain relief medicine, we are asking if parents/carers can provide their own for their child, especially if they require a specific type e.g. liquid or dissolvable tablets. Please bring the medication to Reception, where you will be asked to complete a short medication consent form. Once this is done, the medication will be stored safely in First Aid and can be given to your child if they need it during the school day. If you have any queries, please contact: medical@braunton.academy

Parent Engagement Group
Last year we launched the Braunton Academy Parent Engagement Group giving parents/ carers the opportunity to work with the leadership team to develop the school. Last year a homework audit was carried out from feedback from this group and changes to the policy were made. We also developed the format of this weekly newsletter from collaborative work.

We would love for you to join us for all or even just some of the sessions this year on the following dates. The meetings start at 5.30 pm and finish at 7.00 pm and are held in the Conference Room at the Academy.

Wednesday 9th December 2026
Wednesday 10th February 2027
Wednesday 24th March 2027
Wednesday 26th May 2027
Wednesday 7th July 2027

Trips

Exeter Chiefs – Sunday 13th December 2026. There are eight tickets available; please email trips@braunton.academy if you're interested in your child going and you haven't already made the payment.

Competitions/Fixtures

Thursday 5th November – U16 netball tournament at Park School. Leave school at 1.15pm.

Tuesday 10th November – Netball League matches year 8-10 at Park School. Leave school 2.45pm return approx. 5.30pm

Tuesday 17th November - U16 County netball tournament at Exeter University. Times to be confirmed.

Rugby Fixtures after Half Term:
Wednesday 4th November:
Year 9 AWAY @ West Buckland School – 3pm kick off. Minibus provided.
Back at approximately 5:30pm.

Tuesday 10th November:
Year 11 tournament @ West Buckland School – 2:30-4:30pm.
Minibus provided. Back at approximately 5:15pm.
To Be Confirmed:
Year 10 HOME vs Park/South Molton.

Clubs and Activities

All clubs and activities are now on the website
Clubs & Activities - Braunton Academy - Aspire and Achieve

Year 11 News

PPE Timetable November 2026
Please find below a link to the Year 11 PPE timetable for November 2026.

Year-11-November-2026-PPE-timetable.pdf

Medic Mentor
We have some exciting new opportunities from **Medic Mentor for aspiring healthcare students**. These include new Virtual Work Experience programmes for students interested in **Medicine and Dentistry**.

These programmes give students another way to build their understanding of their chosen profession, gain valuable experience and develop reflections that can support their future university applications.

NEW: Medicine and Dentistry Virtual Work Experience

Students can now access Medic Mentor's new **Medicine and Dentistry Virtual Work Experience** programmes through Medic Mentor and Dental Mentor.

Students just need to register for one of Medic Mentor's upcoming **FREE 'Get Into Medicine' or 'Get Into Dentistry Conferences'.**

Once registered, they will be able to access the relevant Virtual Work Experience programme and begin building their experience alongside the application guidance and opportunities available through Mentorverse.

Get Into Dentistry Conference
Medic Mentor's next **FREE 'Get Into Dentistry Conference'** takes place on **Saturday 17th October.** The conference helps aspiring dentists understand the complete dental application journey, from preparing for the UCAT and choosing dental schools to work experience, UCAS preparation and interviews.

By signing up, students will also be able to access their new **Dentistry Virtual Work Experience** programme.

Register for **FREE** at:
https://dental-mentor.org/get-into-dentistry-conference-sign-up/

Get Into Medicine Conference
Medic Mentor's **FREE 'Get Into Medicine Conference'** provides aspiring doctors and their parents with comprehensive guidance on preparing for medical school.

Upcoming conferences: **Saturday 24th October** and **Sunday 25th October**

Students will learn about medical school applications, UCAT preparation, university choices, work experience, UCAS and personal statements, interviews and the wider opportunities available through Medic Mentor.
Students who sign up will also gain access to their new Medicine Virtual Work Experience programme.

Register for **FREE:**
https://medicmentor.org/get-into_medicine_conference_signup/

Allied Healthcare Virtual Work Experience
For students exploring careers across the wider healthcare professions, Medic Mentor's next Allied Healthcare Virtual Work Experience Programme takes place on **Sunday 1st November.**

Students can explore a wide range of healthcare careers while following patient cases and developing their understanding of multidisciplinary working within healthcare.

The programme is particularly valuable for students who are still deciding which healthcare profession is right for them, as well as those who already have a particular career in mind.

Register here:
https://alliedhealthmentor.org/product/live-virtual-work-experience-programme/

University of Plymouth – Biomedical Science Masterclass

This October, students can experience university-level learning through interactive, subject-specific masterclasses!

As part of Unifrog's Virtual Skills Academy event, the University of Plymouth as excited to be delivering the Biomedical Science Masterclass, 'Making life-saving decisions: identify and treat disease as a biomedical scientist.'

Location: Online
Date: Tuesday 27th October 2026
Time: 12.30 pm – 1.30 pm

You'll develop your diagnostic skills by learning how biomedical scientists decide on the right course of antibiotics for injured patients. Starting with the patient swab, you'll follow its journey from isolating the correct bacteria, all the way through to identifying which are the most appropriate antibiotics.

At the end of the session, you'll be given a case to diagnose yourself! Will you identify the right pathogen, and prescribe the right medication?

Students will receive a certificate for attending, plus enter a £100 voucher prize draw when they join live!

Please contact the University of Plymouth direct for more information.

North Devon College – School Leavers' Course Guide
This Guide details everything students need to know about college life and the varied study options they have to offer. Please click on the link below for further information:

School Leavers' Course Guide - North Devon College

North Devon College - Key Dates
December Open Event: Tuesday 1st December 2026
March Open Event: Wednesday 3rd March 2027

Bideford College Sixth Form Information Evening
Please follow the link below to details of the Bideford College Sixth Form Information Evening to be held on Thursday 26th November from 4.30pm – 7.00 pm.
Bideford College Sixth Form Information Evening

Bicton College - Upcoming Events
Open Day – 24th October from 10am–12pm
Bicton College's first Open Day of the academic year is a great opportunity for students and guardians to explore Bicton, meet their team and discover what college life is really like.

Visitors can:

- Tour their campus and facilities
- Meet their tutors and support teams
- Discover their courses, apprenticeships and degree opportunities
- Ask questions and explore future career options

It's a great first step for anyone considering their next move after school. Events - Bicton College



Please follow this link to our Careers webpage for details of all upcoming Open Events:

Careers - Braunton Academy - Aspire and Achieve

Year 10 News

No Football Club due to fixtures
No netball club Thursday 5th November due to fixtures

Charter Vets Work Experience
Charter Vets we are keen to support students who are looking to develop a career within the Veterinary Industry. Following the success of their work experience application process last year, they are keen to continue working with the local secondary schools in North Devon, to provide work experience.

As the number of individual student requests are high, they cannot, unfortunately, fulfil all of them.

Charter Vets are asking that interested students complete an application form. A link to the application form can be found below. If you cannot print this yourself, please see Mrs Martin in the Finance Office in the Quad who will print it for you.

Students then need to return the completed application form by the deadline, which is Monday 23rd November 2026, to Mrs Martin. All the application forms received will then be forwarded to the Head Nurse at Charter Vets.

Any application forms not received by the school by the deadline will not be considered.

Applications will be reviewed by selected staff members at Charter Vets and students shortlisted.

Those students selected for a placement will be notified via the Work Experience Administrator, Mrs Martin, sometime during the week commencing Monday 7th December.

Any students contacting Charter Vets on an individual basis outside this arrangement will be referred back to school.

If you have any questions about this process, please speak to Mrs Martin or Mr Parsons.

Work-Experience-Application-Form-Y10-Y11-20180615-1.docx

NHS Work Experience Opportunity 2027
We have received information from the NHS Foundation Trust regarding work experience at North Devon District Hospital, Barnstaple. The work experience week will run from Monday 5th – Friday 9th July 2027.

If your child is interested in a career in healthcare, please ask them to email their completed form to Karen McKenzie at karen.mckenzie11@nhs.net by Friday 27th November 2026. There is a link to the application form below. Karen would prefer to receive the application in a Word or PDF format. If your child needs their application to be scanned and sent, please speak to Mrs Martin in the Finance Office in the Quad who will do this for you. We would like students to write their own personal statements, with little or no assistance from AI, as the NHS would prefer to receive a genuine, thought-out application about why your child thinks a place on the programme would benefit them and why they think they are a suitable candidate.

1.-Royal-Devon-Student-application-form-v4-Sep-2024-002.docx

As this programme is always oversubscribed the forms will be shortlisted, so please take time and complete all of the application form before submitting it. Interviews are scheduled to take place in the week commencing Monday 11th January 2027 but the exact date and time will be sent out nearer the time.

If you need any advice on completing the application form, or have any questions about this work experience, please ask your son/daughter to see me or email me at aparsons@braunton.academy

Bicton College - Upcoming Events
Open Day – 24th October from10am–12pm
Bicton College Taster Day – 26th October

Bicton College's first Taster Day of the year is aimed at students aged 14–16 who want to try out one of theirr courses.

Students get to experience a real college day, take part in course activities, and get a genuine feel for what studying at Bicton could be like — helping them make a confident decision before applying.

Whether they're curious about college or already have a career in mind, Bicton College's events are a great chance to come along, get involved and experience Bicton for themselves.



Year 9 News

No Football Club due to fixtures
No Netball Club Thursday 5th November due to fixtures

Year 8 News

No Football Club Due to Fixtures
No Netball Club Tuesday 10th November to fixtures

Year 7 News

No Football Club Due to Fixtures
No Netball Club Tuesday 10th November to fixtures

Catering

This is a polite reminder that we are a nut free school. Please ensure your child does not bring nuts or food containing nuts as part of their lunch. Many thanks.

Main Meal	Chicken stir fry served with noodles & veg	Exmoor beef lasagne with garlic bread, salad & coleslaw	Roast chicken served with roast potatoes, seasonal veg, Yorkshire pudding & gravy	Exmoor pork sausages served with mashed potatoes, peas & gravy	Fishcakes served with hash brown bites, peas or beans
Veggie	Vegetable stir fry served with noodles & veg	Quorn lasagne with garlic bread, salad & coleslaw	Veggie cottage pie served with Yorkshire pudding, seasonal veg & gravy	Veggie sausages served with mashed potatoes, peas & gravy	Omelette served with hash brown bites, peas or beans
Desserts	Tray bakes Fresh fruit Fruit pots	Tray bakes Fresh fruit Fruit pots	Tray bakes Fresh fruit Fruit pots	Tray bakes Fresh fruit Fruit pots	Tray bakes Fresh fruit Fruit pots
Grab & go Break &	Pasta Bolognese Veggie Bolognese Veggie option	Chicken pesto pasta with loaded veg Veggie option	Chicken rice & vegetable medley Veggie option	Pasta bolognese Veggie option	Thai green curry with rice & veg Veggie option
Grab & go Break	Cod fish finger bap served with iceberg lettuce & tartar sauce	Halloumi burger, roasted peppers, mayo, sweet chilli sauce	Bagel with cream cheese bacon & chives Veggie option	Breakfast wrap Veggie option	Meat ball sub roll Veggie option
Deli Bar	Freshly made rolls Wraps Pasta pots /salad	Freshly made rolls Wraps Pasta pots /salad	Freshly made rolls Wraps Pasta pots /salad	Freshly made rolls Wraps Pasta pots /salad	Freshly made rolls Wraps Pasta pots /salad