



**Braunton  
Academy**

**Aspire &  
Achieve**

## **Braunton Academy Newsletter:**

### **1<sup>st</sup> May 2026**

Dear Families,

We hope you have had an enjoyable week. This week our Year 11 Art students have completed their two-day GCSE Art exam, Mrs Bateman has shared that the students were amazing throughout the two days, so well done to all of them. Next week we start setting the sports hall up ready for the first formal written exam which is Drama next Friday.

Four weeks ago, six of our most able maths students competed in the invitation only UK math challenge which is the equivalent of the English schools sporting completions. Mr England informs me that this equates to 0.001% of students in England that get this prestigious invitation. We received the result and we would like to congratulate Archie on a Gold award which is the highest level possible, Jackson and Judah gained silver awards and Rosie achieved the Bronze.

There was further writing success this week with Shore in Year 8 having a 100-word, flash-fiction piece printed in Stranger Sagas, our third instalment of Young Writer books and Flo in Year 9 has received a certificate for her 'Highly Commended' creative piece, 'Blue', that was submitted to 'The Page is Printed' for the Tacchi Morris Arts Centre in Taunton.

#### Key Dates for May:

4<sup>th</sup> May- Bank  
Holiday (NO  
SCHOOL THIS DAY)

7<sup>th</sup> May – Year 10  
Parents Evening

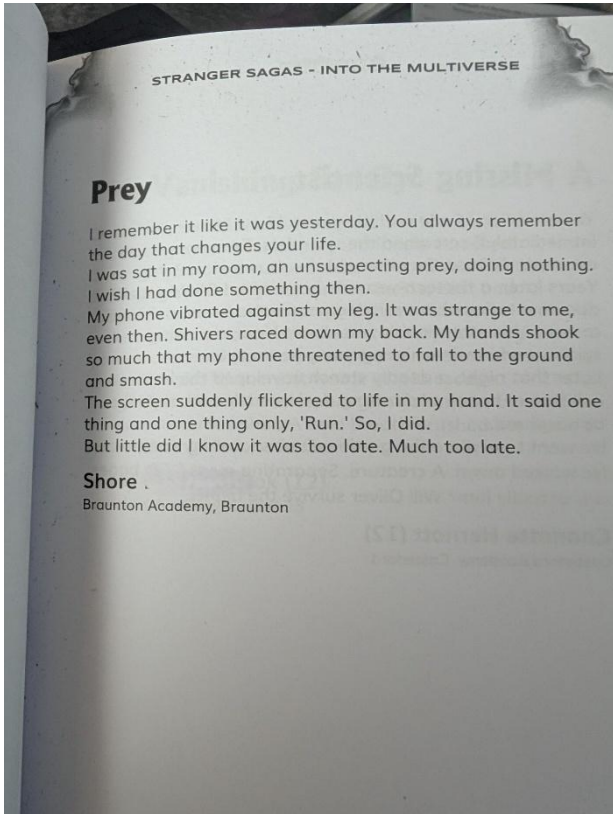
8<sup>th</sup> May - GCSE  
Exams Start

11<sup>th</sup> May- HPV  
Vaccinations

16<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup> May-  
DofE Practise Walks

W/C 18<sup>th</sup> May- Year  
10 Work Experience  
Week

Monday 25<sup>th</sup> May to  
Friday 29<sup>th</sup> May-  
HALF TERM



In sports news the under 13 and under 15 girls football teams were both crowned Devon Champions this week, well done to both teams.

A final reminder to year 10 parents that it is Parent's Evening on Thursday, we look forward to seeing you all then.

We hope you all enjoy the Bank holiday weekend.

Best wishes,

**Mrs F Bowler,**  
**Principal**





## Whole School Messages

### Medication in School

We are noticing an increase in children coming to first aid requesting pain relief. Whilst we do have school spares, 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 form for non-prescribed medication. 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.

### Year 5 Taster Day

We are pleased to be offering Year 5 students from our local primaries the opportunity to attend an exciting Taster Day on **Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> July 2026**. Letters have been sent to our local primaries, however if you would like your Year 5 child to attend, please register using the link on our website.

### Easy Fundraising App

We would like to encourage parents, carers, and members of our wider community to support Braunton Academy by joining **Easy Fundraising**. This free and simple app allows you to raise money for the school every time you shop online, at no extra cost to you. With thousands of retailers taking part, including supermarkets and well-known brands, a small donation is made to the academy with each purchase. Signing up is quick and easy, and every contribution helps support our students and school initiatives. To get started, please visit: <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/brauntonacademy>



### **Announcement from Non-Uniform Day**

Takings for non-uniform day are £520.77 towards the sports display fund!

### **Bicton College, Junior Keeper Days**

Bicton College are offering Junior Keeper Days, where participants can experience a day in the life of a zookeeper with their fantastic animal management team.

Upcoming Keeper Day dates:

- 26th May 2026, 10am – 2pm
- 28th July 2026, 10am – 2pm
- 4th August 2026, 10am – 2pm
- 11th August 2026, 10am – 2pm
- 18th August 2026, 10am – 2pm
- 25th August 2026, 10am – 2pm

The days are aimed at animal lovers aged 10 and above, the day provides practical experience in feeding, cleaning, training and husbandry maintenance across a wide variety of animals, as well as a detailed understanding of the day-to-day operations within a zoo.

Animals include alpacas, rhea, rabbits, Egyptian fruit bats, Burmese python, blue phase iguana, rare breed poultry and sheep.

Please note: This activity is suitable for ages 10 and above. Tickets are strictly limited and must be booked in advance.

For further details, please visit Bicton's Events page – link below.

### **Immunisations**

The immunisation team are due to visit Braunton Academy on **11th May 2026**. Their visit to the school is to give the HPV vaccines to Year 8s, and catch up on anyone in Years 9, 10 and 11 who have missed the vaccine in previous years. You will need to enter the unique code for your child's school. The code is DV138041. Please submit your form by **9am on 8th May 2026** to ensure your child receives their vaccination. How to provide consent: please follow the link and code below.

Link: <https://www.kernowimmunisations.co.uk/Forms/HPV.aspx>



## Matilda Auditions

Auditions for Matilda Jr. are coming! Scripts will be available from the Drama Studio. Auditions will take place after school on Tuesday 5th May in the Drama Hall. You can audition as an individual, in pairs, or in groups of 3 or 4, singing a short section from "Miracle" (the opening song) or a song of your choice.

**AUDITIONS FOR**  
Roald Dahl's  
**Matilda**  
JR.

**AUDITIONS AFTER SCHOOL**  
**TUESDAY 5<sup>TH</sup> OF MAY**  
*In the Drama Hall!*

Audition as an **INDIVIDUAL, PAIR** or in **GROUPS** of 3 or 4!

Sing a short section from "**Miracle**"  
(the opening song)  
**or a song of your choice!**

**PERFORMANCE DATES:**  
**3<sup>rd</sup> - 5<sup>th</sup> of February 2027**  
*Scripts Available from the Drama Studio*



### **Leading Parent Partnership Award**

Many thanks to the 96 families who responded to the Parent Engagement questionnaire, giving us honest feedback about the strengths, improvements and changes at Braunton Academy. This year we have set up a number of new initiatives to engage more with parents and the community. The coffee and chat mornings are held once a month which have provided support for parents with topics such as the Emotional Based School Avoidance, family support, drugs and alcohol, online safety and safety in the community. These have been supported by the Inclusion Team, the Police and YSMART and we look forward to the remaining sessions this year for perspective Year 6 parents and the school nurse. We have run half termly Parent Engagement Group meetings, school tours for current student parents, Afghan support meetings, SEND information evenings as well as the new Braunton Youth Network. Unfortunately, some of the responses from the questionnaire noted that the particular days did not suit some people. Next year, with a different timetable, and different times of free lessons for me, perhaps new people may be able to attend some of the events.

Over 70% of the people who responded to the questionnaire had been in to reception during the day since September. 97% of these people found reception easily and 86% felt that it was a welcoming/ very welcoming place. 100% of respondents said that the staff and reception were helpful/very helpful when they attended. One of the main suggestions to improve reception was having a separate area for students. We are trying to find a solution to this issue, but it is proving tricky in such a small area with staff spaces and meeting rooms being needed.

90% of respondents felt supported with their queries on the phone. Improvements to this area included knowing who the receptionists are and so we will get some staff profiles included in future newsletters. We are also aware that getting through to the main office can be challenging at times and are looking at systems that may help with this problem.

74% of respondents said that they had noticed improved communication systems, particularly with the newsletter and a reduction in individual messages. This was raised and these changes came about through the Parent Engagement Group and have continued to evolve.



One of the suggestions was that parents would like to be able to search for information on the newsletter but due to the nature of the document being a "read only" document, this function does not seem to be able to be accessed on Parentmail. It was noted that students do not receive the school newsletter, and this was also something that was raised in our principal student interviews last week, so we hope to be able to develop this area through class charts announcements for students.

A number of respondents voiced frustrations around attendance communication. Schools are required by the government to communicate regularly with parents about attendance, so families are informed early and can work with the school to support improvement. This consistent communication is about early help, transparency and partnership, not blame or punishment. Although it is an expectation for students to attend school, for some this is difficult for a variety of reasons. We are trying to recognise good attendance and the systems we use are important for some students more than others but hope that you can ignore recognition emails if it is not needed to support your child, as we need one system for all.

We have acknowledged that parents feel that our 48-hour response policy is not always followed and we are working as a staff body to improve this area. Our new email groups were set up to support this so that someone from a small group of possible respondents could reply but this is an area that we obviously still need to improve further. Within communication we are also aware that issues such as return times from sporting matches and cancelled clubs is not always as accessible as it should be.

82% of respondents have noticed an improved and increased social media presence. Braunton Academy has both Facebook and Instagram accounts where you can follow events, read about student achievements and get signposting for support. Two main themes for improvements on social media were firstly, the request for more student work to be displayed and staff have been asked to send more through to the admin team. The second request was that more non-sporting achievements are publicised through social media. Please can we request that if your child takes part in a significant event, particularly non-sporting activities, please send through a photograph and a

short explanation about what they have achieved in order for it to be included on social media. Please send it through to [media@braunton.academy](mailto:media@braunton.academy).

The final area that was raised by some of the respondents was around not being able to see all of their child's teachers at parents evening. A single teacher may teach a couple of classes, and some even teach every child in the year group, which makes meeting every family individually, impossible. Teachers are also limited by directed working hours, which must cover teaching lessons, planning, marking, safeguarding, meetings, training, duties and pastoral responsibilities. When these hours are divided across teaching and core school responsibilities, there is not enough capacity for individual appointments with every parent, so schools prioritise key meetings, parents' evenings and contact where there is a specific concern. The Parent Engagement Group initiated the new system for Parents Evening appointments at Key Stage three, that each parent could have 5 appointments initially allowing everyone to see at least some and then the system would be opened out for further available slots. This has not been used at Key Stage four where this is less of a problem due to option groups.

Unfortunately, I have been unsuccessful in securing support for a PTFA but one respondent in the questionnaire, who didn't leave their details, has voiced interest. If this is you or you would like to help set up a PTFA, please do not hesitate to contact me so that we can do some fundraising for the Academy.

Many thanks, particularly to those that have supported the newly set up groups, for working with us to improve Braunton Academy. We all want the best outcomes and support the wellbeing of our students, and we gain strength in working together.

Mrs E Woodhead

[ewoodhead@braunton.academy](mailto:ewoodhead@braunton.academy)

### **Braunton Academy Uniform Reminder**

Thank you to all parents and carers for helping us maintain the high standards that make Braunton Academy a focused, respectful, and successful community.

#### **Why Uniform Matters**

**Belonging:** Builds equality and school pride.

**High Standards:** Smart dress supports smart learning.

**Safety:** Ensures students are ready for all lessons and activities.

## Uniform Essentials

- **Shirt & Tie:** White shirt with house-colour striped tie (Croyde, Putsborough, Saunton, Woolacombe).
- **Bottoms:** Plain black trousers, shorts, or pleated skirt — no jeans or cargos.
- **Shoes:** Plain black shoes or trainers (no boots).
- **Jumpers:**
  - Y7–9: Burgundy or grey jumper with logo (grey allowed until Sept 2025).
  - Y10–11: Black blazer with logo — must be worn for assemblies.
- **Hijabs:** Plain navy, black, or cream.
- **Jewellery:** One watch (not smart) and one small stud per ear.
- **Appearance:** No extreme hair, unnatural colours, heavy make-up, or false nails/lashes.
- **Outerwear:** Zip-up jackets only in bad weather — hoodies ☹.

## Working Together

Your support keeps our community smart, safe, and ready to learn. Questions? Please contact the school office.

**BRAUNTON ACADEMY**  
**UNIFORM REMINDER**  
*High Standards, Strong Community!*

IDENTITY & BELONGING Promotes Quality ✓ HIGH STANDARDS Supports Learning ✓ SAFETY "Appropriately!"

**UNIFORM EXPECTATIONS**

YEARS 7–9	YEARS 10 & 11
Burgundy OR Grey Jumper	Black Blazer with Logo Removed
WHITE SHIRT & HOUSE TIE	BOTTOMS & SHOES
Black Trousers / Skirt	PLAIN HIJABS Black, Navy or Cream
NO EXCESSIVE JEWELLERY & NO HOODIES!	NO UNNATURAL HAIRSTYLES! Keep it Neat & Natural

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!**

The poster is a colorful infographic with a red and black border. It features images of school uniforms: a burgundy and grey jumper, a black blazer, a white shirt with a striped tie, black trousers and a pleated skirt, and plain black shoes. It also includes icons for a watch, a stud earring, a hijab, and various hairstyles. Prohibited items like hoodies, excessive jewelry, and unnatural hairstyles are shown with red 'no' symbols.



## Clubs and Activities

All clubs and activities are now on the website.

<https://www.braunton.academy/key-information/whole-school-messages>

### Rounders Fixtures

Date	Year Group(s)	Opponents	Venue	Estimated pick up from Braunton School
Tuesday 28 <sup>th</sup> April	7,8,9,10	Pilton, Ilfracombe	Ilfracombe	5.30pm
Tuesday 5 <sup>th</sup> May	7,8,9,10	Chulmleigh Park	Braunton	5.30pm
Tuesday 12 <sup>th</sup> May	7,8,9,10	Reserve date for <del>rearranged</del> matches		5.30pm
Tuesday 19 <sup>th</sup> May	9	Pilton, Ilfracombe, <del>Chulmleigh</del> Park GTS	Braunton	TBC
Tuesday 9 <sup>th</sup> June	7,8,9,10	GTS <del>South Molton</del>	South <del>Molton</del>	5.45pm
Tuesday 16 <sup>th</sup> June	10	Mixed Tournament TBC	GTS	5.30pm

### Athletics

Date	Year(s)	Venue	Opposition	Pick Up Time	Comp
Wednesday 29 <sup>th</sup> April	7,8,9,10	Braunton (Athletics Track)	ND Schools	6.30pm	ND Schools League
Tuesday 5 <sup>th</sup> May	7,8,9,10	Braunton (Athletics Track)	English Schools	3.45pm	English Schools
Wednesday 13 <sup>th</sup> May	7,8,9,10	Braunton (Athletics Track)	ND Schools	4.00pm	ND Championships
Wednesday 20 <sup>th</sup> May	7,8,9,10	Braunton (Athletics Track)	ND Schools	6.30pm	ND Schools League
Wednesday 10 <sup>th</sup> June	7,8,9,10	Braunton (Athletics Track)	ND Schools	6.30pm	ND Schools League (Finals Night)



## **Forces Families:**

Greenwich Hospital, in partnership with the Naval Children's Charity, is pleased to announce the launch of a new pilot tutoring initiative, designed to support children who have at least one parent, carer or legal guardian currently serving in the Royal Navy, Royal Marines or Royal Fleet Auxiliary. Delivered in collaboration with an independent tutoring provider, the programme will offer high quality, non-means-tested, 1:1 online tutoring support to eligible children.

Our selected partner in this pilot is MVA Tutors, an award-winning independent tutoring agency, with long-standing reputation for delivering personalised and adaptable tutoring tailored to each child's needs and abilities. The pilot will run for an initial 18-month period, helping us understand the demand and long-term benefits to families.

Sign-up is via the NCC website here: [Go Learn: Free One-to-One Online Tutoring for Royal Navy, Royal Marines and Royal Fleet Auxiliary Families – Naval Childrens Charity](#)

# GO LEARN

**FREE ONLINE TUTORING**  
for serving Royal Navy families

Funded by



Managed by



Delivered by





## RMB Chivenor Family Day

Families Day open to Serving Families, MOD Contractors and Civil Service at RMB Chivenor. Scan QR Code for Tickets.

**FREE ENTRY**

**RMB CHIVENOR**

**FAMILIES DAY**

**AT THE SPORTS PAVILION**

- >BBQ
- >CHILDREN'S RIDES
- >ENTERTAINMENT
- >LIVE MUSIC
- >RAFFLE
- >FREE ICE CREAM
- >REFRESHMENTS
- >EVENT STANDS & STALLS

**THURSDAY**  
**28TH MAY**  
**1200-1700**

**OPEN TO ALL SERVICE FAMILIES, CIVIL SERVICE & MOD CONTRACTORS**

**SCAN QR CODE FOR TICKETS**

 **ROYAL NAVY & ROYAL MARINES CHARITY**

 **ROYAL ENGINEERS ASSOCIATION**

 **THE SAPPER CHARITY**





## Year 11 News

### Re: Attendance for Year 11 and request for Study Leave

#### **Dear Parent/Carer,**

We would like to begin by saying how pleased we are with the focus, maturity and effort shown by Year 11 students since returning after the Easter break. In lessons, students have been engaging well, working purposefully, and demonstrating a clear determination to do their best in the final weeks before their GCSE examinations. Now is the moment when a final push can unlock major gains. At home, you should now be seeing increased levels of focused and active revision, as students consolidate their learning and prepare for upcoming exams. While this is important, we would also encourage students to balance revision with activities that help them to relax and maintain their wellbeing, such as regular sleep, exercise, and time away from screens. A healthy balance will support both performance and resilience during this demanding period.

I would also like to make it absolutely clear that it is a legal requirement for all Year 11 students to attend school full time until **Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2026**, and any absence without authorised medical evidence would be a breach of national attendance regulations. A reminder that medical appointment evidence needs to be emailed to [attendance@braunton.academy](mailto:attendance@braunton.academy) to ensure students are able attend appointments.

Students also need to remain available up to and including **Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> June** which is a National Exam Contingency Day in case any national exams couldn't take place on the published date.

From **Monday 1<sup>st</sup> June**, once the legal attendance period ends, students whose parents have requested study leave (**using the online form linked below**) can be allowed home under certain conditions. This is an agreement that students will only attend lessons where they still have exams in that subject and must obviously attend their formal exams. Deadline for this online form to be completed is by **Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> May**.

It is compulsory that your child still attends these vital lessons in school as some subjects finishing off teaching new content. These sessions are deliberately designed to ensure students are fully prepared and confident going into each

examination. They are not optional, nor are they simply independent revision time. These lessons will include:

- Delivering content that has not been taught yet, in some cases
- Teaching and practising essential exam skills
- Addressing key content and areas where students typically lose marks
- Completing high-impact revision activities that directly improve exam performance
- Providing expert guidance, feedback, and support in each subject based on exam practice

The single most effective action students can take at this stage is to be in school, on time, for every lesson, right up until their examinations are completed. Consistent attendance enables students to benefit fully from specialist teaching, structured revision, and targeted support.

Thank you for your continued support during this vital stage of your child's education. Should you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact the school so that we can work together to support your child. **Click Link - [Attendance for Year 11 and Request for Study Leave 2026 – Fill in form](#)**

Yours sincerely,  
Mrs. Bowler and Mr Twohig

### **Useful Online Revision Resources**

As we approach the GCSE examination period, some subject teachers have shared recommended revision links that students can be directed to at home. These resources, listed below, have been carefully selected by departments to support effective revision and help pupils consolidate key knowledge and skills for their exams. We strongly encourage students to make regular use of these materials, as they are excellent resources that complement classroom learning and independent study.

#### **Maths**

[The GCSE Maths Tutor - YouTube](#)

[Maths Genie - Learn maths for free](#)

[1st Class Maths - Free online GCSE Maths Revision](#)

[Videos and Worksheets – Corbettmaths](#)

#### **Science**

[GCSE Science - BBC Bitesize - SELECT AQA \(trilogy for combined science\)](#)

[Learn smarter with PLUS](#)

[Free Maths & Science Revision and Past Papers for A-Level, GCSE and KS3 |](#)

[Cognito](#)

[Sparx Science - Home](#)



## **English**

PMT - they have everything. Just type in PMT (insert which topic). They have past papers and revision booklets.

[AQA Paper 1 GCSE English Language Past Papers](#)

[AQA Paper 2 GCSE English Language Past Papers](#)

[AQA GCSE English Section B: Power and Conflict Poetry Anthology - PMT](#)

Mr. Salles on YouTube does amazing mini lectures on all the context  
[The ONLY MACBETH REVISION you will EVER NEED for TOP GRADES](#)

Mr. Bruff is also good, he is more for middle ability.

['Macbeth' Top Set Analysis \(part 1\)](#)

York Notes

[Sample Answers - An Inspector Calls \(Grades 9–1\)](#)

## **A message from Mrs Couch- Year 11 English Revisions**

Dear Parents/Carers,

My colleagues and I have taken the decision to offer a programme of English Literature and Language revision sessions for our Year 11 students.

These sessions will run after school each week and will be open to all Year 11 students on a completely voluntary basis.

Details as follows:

[6.5.26](#) – Mrs Haines - Unseen Poetry

[6.5.26](#) – Mrs Maughan – A Christmas Carol

[13.5.26](#) – Miss Reed – An Inspector Calls

[20.5.26](#) – Mrs Couch – Language Paper 2

Kind regards

Mrs L Couch, Head of English

[Lcouch@braunton.academy](mailto:Lcouch@braunton.academy)

## **North Devon College May Newsletter**

Please find below a link to the May edition of the North Devon College newsletter.

[May Newsletter 2026](#)



## Year 10 News

### North Devon College Taster Day

Please follow the link below to sign up for the North Devon College Taster Day on Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> July. It is essential all year 10 students sign up for this by Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> May. Also below is a link to further information about the day.

[Taster Day Leaflet](#)

[North-Devon-College-Taster-Day-Information-2026.pdf](#)

### Exeter College Discovery Day

All year 10 students will have received information about this trip through Parentmail. Places are limited so if your child is interested in going, please ensure you have replied by **Tuesday the 5<sup>th</sup> May**.

### Sports News

Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> – English schools Athletics competition, come to school in PE kit

Rounders match at Braunton, change after school and go to Tweedies field

No Rounders club on Tuesday



## **Year 9 News**

### **Sports News**

Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> – English schools Athletics competition, come to school in PE kit  
Rounders match at Braunton, change after school and go to Tweedies field  
No Rounders club on Tuesday

## **Year 8 News**

### **Sports News**

Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> – English schools Athletics competition, come to school in PE kit  
Rounders match at Braunton, change after school and go to Tweedies field  
No Rounders club on Tuesday

## **Year 7 News**

### **Sports News**

Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> – English schools Athletics competition, come to school in PE kit  
Rounders match at Braunton, change after school and go to Tweedies field  
No Rounders club on Tuesday

# 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.

## WEEK B MENU

	<u>Monday –</u>	<u>Tuesday –</u>	<u>Wednesday –</u>	<u>Thursday –</u>	<u>Friday –</u>
<b>Main Meal</b>  	Devon Pork sausages served with mashed potatoes, peas & gravy	Cottage pie served with savoy cabbage, carrots & gravy	Roast Chicken served with roast potatoes, Yorkshire pudding seasonal veg & gravy	Chicken Fajita wraps served with potato wedges & coleslaw	Breaded white fish served with hash brown bites, peas & tartar sauce
<b>Veggie</b>	Quorn sausages served with mashed potatoes, peas & gravy	Cauliflower & broccoli bake Served with savoy cabbage & gravy	Veggie cottage pie served with roast potatoes, Yorkshire pudding veg & gravy	Halloumi & roasted pepper wraps served with potato wedges & coleslaw	Homemade veggie quiche served with hash brown bites & mixed leaf salad
<b>Desserts</b>  	Traybakes Fresh fruit Fruit pots	Traybakes Fresh fruit Fruit pots	Traybakes Fresh fruit fruit pots	Traybakes Fresh fruit Fruit pots	Traybakes Fresh fruit Fruit pots
<b>Grab &amp; go Break &amp; Dinner</b>	Pasta Bolognese Veggie Bolognese	Cheesy pasta <u>bake</u> with garlic bread	Pasta Bolognese Veggie Bolognese	Chilli rice & nachos Veggie chilli & rice	Chorizo pasta <u>bake</u> with garlic bread
<b>Grab &amp; go Break</b>	Hot BLT wrap with hash brown Veggie option	Spicy wedges topped with cheese & bacon	Hoisin duck wrap Veggie option	Breakfast wrap Veggie option	Meat ball sub roll Veggie option
<b>Deli Bar</b>	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  