



**Braunton
Academy**

**Aspire &
Achieve**

Braunton Academy Newsletter:

24th April 2026

Dear Families,

I hope you all had a good Easter holiday; students have returned to school in good spirits this week and we have been particularly impressed with Year 11 students now that the examination period has started. Students studying MFL have sat their speaking exams this week, all the Year 11 Art students are completing their two-day exam next week and then straight after the bank holiday the formal written exam series starts. We understand it is a stressful time for both students and parents. The exam series is long, and it is a marathon not a sprint, students should now be fully engaged in after school revision classes, revision at home and positive relaxation focussed on their mental health, healthy eating and good sleep routines to support them through this period. As usual any Year 11 parent that wants to discuss anything about their child's wellbeing during this intense period of time, please continue to contact the Year 11 pastoral matters email address.

This week I have had the pleasure, along with Mr Chapple our Chair of Trustees, Mrs Woodhead and Mr O'Brien, to interview thirteen of our Year 10 students for the roles of Principal students. It was a fantastic day and all the students that made it through the selection process to interview were outstanding. It is always the most difficult decision of the year, and all thirteen students should be immensely proud of how they performed in the interview and for their amazing successes and dedication to the school over the past 4 years. I am delighted to

Key Dates for April:

W/C 27th April - Art Exams

27th April- Year 11 English Walking, Talking Mock

28th April - North Devon College Taster Day

29th April – Coffee and Chat with YSMART

Key Dates for May:

4th May- Bank Holiday (NO SCHOOL THIS DAY)

7th May – Year 10 Parents Evening

8th May - GCSE Exams Start

announce that our new Principal students are: Harry Cresswell and Marnie Hellmund and our new Vice Principal students are: Mahi Bailey and Jaydine Afriyie. We look forward to working with them over the next twelve months. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank Ryley, Eva, Poppy and Harry for their work and support in these roles for the past twelve months, they have represented the Academy splendidly in these roles.

There have been some literary successes this week with six of our students having had their work printed in "Ghost Stories: Midnight Madness". Congratulations to Clodagh, Hetty, Coco, Amelie, Sylvia and Daisy. It is lovely to see them representing the school in print.

In the last week of school before the break, we had more sporting success with the Year 8 Netball team winning the North Devon Cup and the Year 8 Rugby team being unbeaten all season!



In the last week of term, the Expressive Arts department welcomed Artists from James Wilton Dance Company into school to work with students and then hosted a professional dance performance to the community in the evening, thank you to parents that supported this event.



Looking ahead Year 10 parents evening takes place on Thursday 7th May, you can now book appointments. Please follow the guidance in the Year 10 section of the newsletter.

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'F. Bowler'.

**Mrs F Bowler,
Principal**



Whole School Messages

Stagecoach Bus APP - weekly ticket issues

Since September, we have been working with Stagecoach to find a solution for the cost impact for those students who have to buy their own bus tickets (not County Council issued tickets) due to being unable to use a smartphone APP - which provides savings to the user.

Hopefully, from September 2027, Stagecoach will be implementing scanning equipment in their buses to enable weekly QR-Codes (which can be printed without the need for a smartphone) but we wanted to offer parents an interim solution from May half term 2026 until August 2027.

We are exploring offering a Braunton Academy plastic card /bus pass for students who have to use the public bus.

These would need to be paid for by parents, ½ termly in advance, at a weekly rate of £23.55 and then multiplied up by the number of weeks in the half term. The cost would be the same whether travelling from Ilfracombe or Barnstaple. The passes would be reissued each half term to students - so you can opt out or in on a half termly basis.

The cards will only be issued for a full half term / full week ticket. For example, summer term 2 would be 7 weeks (possibly 8 weeks we are seeing is we can adjust the last 2 days on Week 8) - total cost approx. £188.40 - we would be unable to offer part weeks but we could arrange instalment plans via parentmail if that helped families to spread the cost.

We would like to see what interest there is in this scheme. If you think this is something you would like to access please could you email khayler@braunton.academy by Friday 1st May stating:

Name of student:

Year group:

Route/bus used:



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 16th 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.

Y11 PROM PAYMENT DEADLINE REMINDER

This year's Year 11 prom will be held at **The Barnstaple Hotel**, Braunton Road, Barnstaple, Devon, EX31 1LE on **Friday, 26th June 2026**, from **6.30 pm to 11.00 pm**.

Ticket Information:

Cost: £32.50 per ticket

Payment Deadline: Full payment must be made on ParentMail by **9.00 am on Friday 1st May 2026**. Please note that the cost of the ticket is non-refundable, and no further tickets will be sold after this date.



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>

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.

[Events - Bicton College](#)



Coffee and Chat Morning

Parents and carers are warmly invited to our **Coffee and Chat** session with **YSMART** on **Wednesday 29th April, from 9.00am to 10.30am**, held at **Wrafton Hall, Braunton**. There's no need to book — just pop in, enjoy a cuppa, and join the conversation. YSMART is a Devon drug and alcohol service and will be on hand to answer questions about substances, risks, warning signs, and how best to support your child. We hope you can join us for this informal and supportive session.

 **BRAUNTON ACADEMY**
ASPIRE & ACHIEVE

COFFEE AND CHAT

No need to book- just pop in, grab a cuppa and join the conversation!

9:00am-10:30am

Wednesday 29th April -
YSMART

YSMART is a Devon Drug and Alcohol service who can answer your questions about types of drugs, risks, signs and how to support your child.

Contact Us

01271 812221
www.braunton.academy

 **Wrafton Hall**
Braunton EX33 2DE



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 th April	7,8,9,10	Pilton, Ilfracombe	Ilfracombe	5.30pm
Tuesday 5 th May	7,8,9,10	Chulmleigh Park	Braunton	5.30pm
Tuesday 12 th May	7,8,9,10	Reserve date for rearranged matches		5.30pm
Tuesday 19 th May	9	Pilton, Ilfracombe, Chulmleigh Park GTS	Braunton	TBC
Tuesday 9 th June	7,8,9,10	GTS South Molton	South Molton	5.45pm
Tuesday 16 th June	10	Mixed Tournament TBC	GTS	5.30pm

Athletics

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





Young People within the Service community come together in the safety of the RN Forum

Launching on Tuesday 14 April, during the Month of the Military Child, RN FPS Staff and Young People have been building an area which provides a bespoke space for all things to do with those aged 13 – 19.

Not only providing up to date and relevant information, the RN Forum Youth Group will offer the chance to engage with others within the RN Community away from external social media channels, providing peer-to-peer support, exchanging of ideas, debating the support available or new initiatives, taking part in online activities and making new friends.

Relocating as a young person can be daunting and upsetting, leaving your friends behind and having to make new friends. Being part of this group, you may make friends in the new area prior to moving.





Careers Update

Bicton College Open & Taster Days

Bicton College's last Open Day of this academic year takes place on Saturday 25th April. For anyone considering studying with them, it's a great opportunity to explore Bicton with friends and family. This event usually takes place in the main house; however, due to ongoing renovations, it will be held in the central quad. The Open Day will run from 10am to 1pm.

Bicton also have their final Taster Day of the academic year on Wednesday 27th May, running from 10am to 2pm. This event is designed for students to try out one of their courses and get a feel for student life.

For further information, follow the link :- [Events - Bicton College](#)

Year 11 News

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:

29.4.26 - Mrs Young – Lady Macbeth

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



Year 10 News

Year 10 Parents Evening

Year 10 Parents' Evening will go live for bookings on Friday 24th April at 6pm. Please book via [SchoolCloud - Braunton Academy](#). The Parents' Evening is on Thursday 7th May.

Rounders match Tuesday 28th at Ilfracombe, team sheet is on the board, no rounders club Tuesday, it will be on Thursday instead.

After school on **Wednesdays** will now be **athletics club**, all students are welcome.

Year 9 News

Rounders match Tuesday 28th at Ilfracombe, team sheet is on the board, no rounders club Tuesday, it will be on Thursday instead.

After school on **Wednesdays** will now be **athletics club**, all students are welcome.

Year 8 News

Rounders match Tuesday 28th at Ilfracombe, team sheet is on the board, no rounders club Tuesday, it will be on Thursday instead.

After school on **Wednesdays** will now be **athletics club**, all students are welcome.

Year 7 News







Rounders match Tuesday 28th at Ilfracombe, team sheet is on the board, no rounders club Tuesday, it will be on Thursday instead.

After school on **Wednesdays** will now be **athletics club**, all students are welcome.

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 A MENU

	Monday –	Tuesday –	Wednesday –	Thursday –	Friday –
Main Meal 	Macaroni cheese topped with bacon served with peas, garlic bread	Exmoor beef lasagne with garlic bread salad & coleslaw	Roast gammon served with roast potatoes, Yorkshire puddings seasonal veg & gravy	Chicken curry served with rice naan bread & veg	Breaded white fish served with hash brown bites peas & tartar sauce
Veggie	Macaroni cheese with broccoli served with garlic bread	Quorn lasagne with garlic bread, salad & coleslaw	Veggie cottage pie served with Yorkshire pudding, seasonal veg & gravy	Cauliflower & butternut squash curry served with naan bread	Homemade fish pie topped with cheesy mash served with crusty bread
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 & Dinner	Pasta Bolognese Veggie Bolognese	Cheesy pasta <u>bake</u> with garlic bread	Pasta Bolognese Veggie Bolognese	Chilli rice & nachos Veggie chilli & rice	Chorizo pasta bake Veggie pasta bake
Grab & go Break	Hot BLT wrap with hash brown Veggie option	Spicy wedges topped with bacon & cheese	Hoisin duck wrap 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 