Braunton Academy

Aspire & Achieve

# Braunton Academy Newsletter:

## 27th February 2026

Dear families,

We have had a lovely first week back especially as we've seen some sunshine during social times for the first time since September!

It has been another busy week, we have had a trip to see the National Theatre at the 'Old Vic' in Bristol. In sport our Year 11 Rugby team were crowned Devon Plate Winners after beating Exeter School in the final and the U13 Girls Football team were crowned North Devon Champions and will travel to Newton Abbott later in the year to play in the Devon Finals.

Last night the under 15s Girls netball won the North Devon Championship. In news from the English department two of our students Beau in Year 7 and Chloe in Year 11 have won the first round of the rotary creative writing competition and Shore in Year 8 is having one of her stories published in the 'Stranger Sagas' next anthology release. Well done to everyone that has represented the Academy this week.

Year 9 have also been very busy, with sessions in school talking to year 10 students about the GCSE courses they are studying and attending pathways evening with their parents last night. Year 11 GCSE Food and Nutrition students have produced wonderful culinary creations for their practical exams.

Key Dates for March:

5th March - World Book Day

17th March- House Competition Pancake Races

18th March- Coffee and Chat at Wrafton Hall

25th March- Easter Egg Decorating Competition

26th March- Year 8 Parents Evening (4:00pm-7:00pm)

30th March- PE House Competitions (All Week)

Yesterday I was in London to present on our smartphone policy at the 'Children's Mental Health in the Digital World Conference' it was an honour to be asked to participate and very interesting to hear the other talks from international scientists, doctors and students completing their PHD research in this fields about the latest finding. Some of the research findings are very concerning particularly on the current impact of digital technology on children below primary age and what it will mean for their long-term development. We will share some of this research over the coming weeks with practical guides for parents to support you managing your child's use of digital technology.

In anticipation of the commons debate on smartphones and social media in schools we are being approached by local and national organisations to support other schools in this journey and share the impact more widely. It is still early days in terms of this policy; it will take a couple of years to fully understand the full impact it will have on our students health and wellbeing as well as their academic success. However, now that the policy has been in place for six months the Senior Team and Trustees are starting our first review of the policy. As part of this review there is a questionnaire for families complete. Please click this link Parent Survey: Smartphone-Free School Policy – Fill in form to access the survey.

The senior team have also been busy this week digesting the changes being proposed in the white paper for education. As you will have seen in the media, the most significant changes relate to the provision for SEND students. It has been pleasing to read that any changes will be staggered and those students currently awarded EHCPs will remain in place. It is very early days of this process with the consultation just opening but we will look to update parents of some of the key changes that are being suggested at the SEND information meeting on 17th March 2026. I would like to assure parents that any changes to SEND provision that do come from the white paper will be worked through in partnership with you to ensure that we continue to offer effective provision for your child.

Yours sincerely

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

# Whole School Messages

**TikTok and Class Charts**

It has been brought to our attention that there is a growing trend of children giving random strangers on TikTok their ClassCharts login details, and then that stranger is going into ClassCharts and displaying everything as a Tiktok feed for anyone to see. Please can you talk to your children about how dangerous this can be, as it gives the strangers access to their full names, dates of birth etc. Thank you for your help with this.

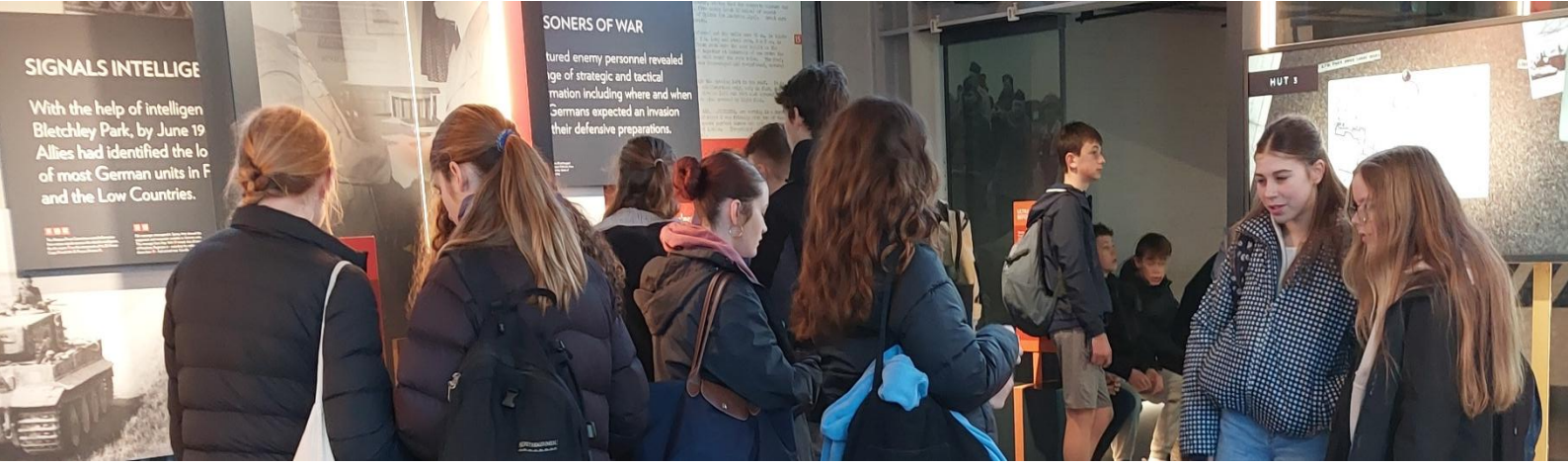
**EasyFundraising App**

We're excited to share that parents, carers, and our wider community can now support Braunton Academy at no extra cost simply by using the **EasyFundraising app**. Every time you shop online with participating retailers, a small donation is generated for the school — helping us fund opportunities, resources, and experiences for our students. It's quick to set up and completely free to use. If you'd like to get involved, you can join our EasyFundraising page here: Braunton Academy Fundraising | Easyfundraising

**Smartphone Free Policy Feedback**

We are currently gathering parent and carer feedback on our **Smartphone-Free School Policy**, and we would really value your thoughts. This short survey is an opportunity to share your views on how the policy is working, its impact on learning and wellbeing, and any suggestions you may have as we continue to refine our approach. Your feedback plays an important role in shaping decisions that support our students' success. You can complete the survey here:

Parent Survey: Smartphone-Free School Policy – Fill in form




**Medication in School**

If parents or carers would like their child to have medication available in school, this can be arranged. 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.

**Westcountry Dental & Implant Centre, Barnstaple – New NHS Patients**

Westcountry
Dental and Implant Centre

ARE TAKING ON

NEW NHS PATIENTS

To Register your children
please contact us on:
01271 345006
Westcountry.dental@nhs.net

# Competitions

**The Cyber Explorers Cup** is a fun, interactive competition for ages 11 to 14 years, designed to spark curiosity, build confidence and teach essential online safety skills.

Teams will race to solve cyber security challenges and compete to win up to £2000 in tech vouchers for their school. The competition will run from 16 to 20th March.

The deadline to enter a team is Friday 6th March. Please register your interest with Mrs Duthuit

## Easter Egg Decorating Competition

Parent Mail is open for entries to our annual Easter Egg decorating competition. Tickets are £4.00 per student, and the poster provides more information.

Date – Wednesday 25th March 2026 during period 6 – the event will finish at 15.15
Venue – Isaac Hall – please come straight to the hall after Period 5 and register at the event

- You will have 30 mins to decorate/dress your egg
- Eggs are the medium sized eggs - roughly 14cm high and 30cm at the widest diameter
- Each student will be given one egg
- Themes are either Spring or Pop singer/bands
- Please bring with you everything you need to decorate your egg
- Prizes for each house will be awarded
- All students are welcome to enter

# Clubs and Activities

**All clubs and activities are now on the website.**

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

# PE Fixtures

### Rugby

**Training times:**

Year 7, 8 and 9 – Wednesday after school (when there is no game in the week)

Year 10 – Thursday after school (when there is no game in the week)

| Date | Year(s) | Venue | Opposition | Staff | Comp | Result |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Tues 10th Feb | 7 & 8 | Ilfracombe | Ilfracombe | LO, DL | ND | |
| Weds 11th Feb | 10 | Braunton | Ilfracombe | LO | ND | |
| Tues 3rd March | 8, 9, 10 | WBS | | LO, DL, OG | Nd 7s | |
| Weds 4th March | 10 | Braunton | Uffculme | LO | Devon Plate | |
| Tues 10th March | 7 | Park School | Waterfall tournament | KP | | |
| Tues 10th March | 11 | West Buckland | ND 7s | LO, OM | ND 7s | |
| Thurs 12th March | 8 | Park School | Waterfall tournament | DL, LO | | |
| Thurs 19th March | 8, 9, 10 | West Buckland | ND 7s | LO, OM, +1 | ND 7s | |

### Netball

**Training times:**

Year 7 and 8 – Tuesday after school (when there is no game in the week)

Year 9 and 10 – Thursday after school (when there is no game in the week)

| Date | Year(s) | Venue | Opposition | Comp | Return to Braunton |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Tuesday 24th February | 7,8,9 B | Park | N.Devon Schools | League | 5.45pm |
| Thursday 26th February | 10 | Park | N.Devon Schools | Tournament | 5.45pm |
| Tuesday 10th March | 7 A&B | Park | N.Devon Schools | Tournament | 5.45pm |
| Wednesday 11th March | 8 A&B | Braunton | WBS | Match | 4.30pm |
| Thursday 19th March | 10 A&B | Braunton | WBS | | 4.30pm |
| | | | | | |

## Girls Football

**Training times:**

Year 7, 8, 9 and 10 – Wednesday after school (When there is no game in the week)

| Date | Year(s) | Venue | Opposition | Staff | Comp | Result |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 25/2/26 | U13 DC Tournament 9 a side | Bideford - Return 5.45 | TBC | AS,OM | Devon County tournament | |
| 4/3/26 | U15 DC Tournament 9 a side | Bideford - Return 5.45 | TBC | AS,OM | Devon County tournament | |
| 26/3/26 | U13 and U15 County Semi Final | Newton Abbot | TBC | AS,OM | Devon County | |
| 23/4/26 | U13 and U15 County Final | Newton Abbot | TBC | AS,OM | Devon County | |
| | | | | | | |

# Year 11 News

### Final Year 11 PPE Exams

We are wishing all Year 11 students good luck in their final PPE exams. These exams will begin on Monday 2nd March and take place in the Sports Hall. These are a great opportunity to practice the routines and experience the demands of the real exams beginning in May. Please support your children by ensuring that they have all their equipment ready. Students will be in the Isaac Hall, ready to register at the times stated below. The exams are as follows:

**Monday 2nd March**
8.45 Roll Call in Issac Hall - English Literature Paper 1
12.45 Roll Call in Issac Hall - PE and Health and Social Care

**Tuesday 3rd March**
8.45 Roll Call in Issac Hall - Maths Paper 1
12.45 Roll Call in Issac Hall - Biology Paper 2

**Wednesday 4th March**
8.45 Roll Call in Issac Hall - English Literature Paper 2
12.45 Roll Call in Issac Hall - Maths Paper 2

**Thursday 5th March**
12.45 Roll Call in Issac Hall - Chemistry Paper 2
**Friday 6th March**
8.45 Roll Call in Issac Hall - Geography Paper 2
11.05 Roll Call in Issac Hall - Physics Paper 2

**Wednesday 11th March**
11.05 Roll Call in your normal Computer Science Classroom - Computer Science Paper 2 (On Screen Exam)

# Year 10 News

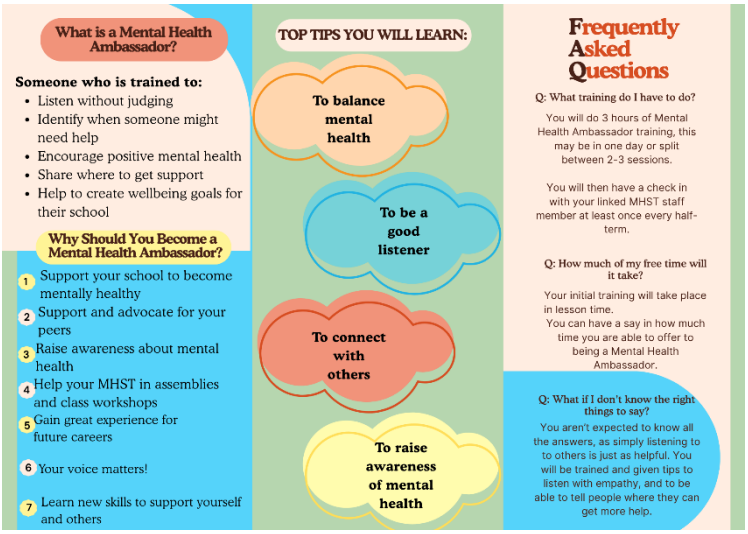
**Gymnastics**
Gymnastics competition practice Thursday5th March 3.15- 4.45pm for those taking part in the competition. A parentmail has been sent home with your child's times and information for the day.

**Netball**
No netball club Thursday 5th March

# Year 9 News

**Mental Health Ambassador Interviews – Years 8 & 9**

The Mental Health Support Team will soon be interviewing Year 8 and 9 students who are interested in becoming **Mental Health Ambassadors**. This is a fantastic opportunity for students who want to support wellbeing across the school and develop their leadership skills.
Please see the attached information for full details. Students wishing to apply must collect an **application form** from **Mrs Swain** in her office or from the **Pastoral Support Workers' room**.

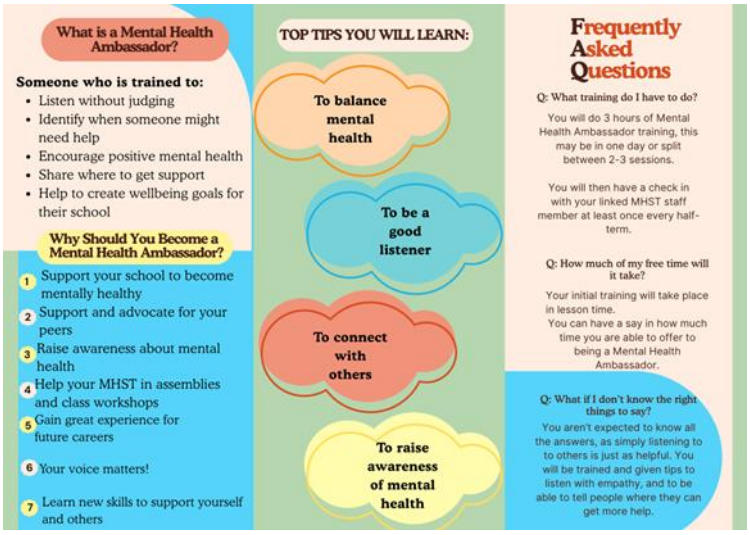


# Year 8 News

**Mental Health Ambassador Interviews – Years 8 & 9**

The Mental Health Support Team will soon be interviewing Year 8 and 9 students who are interested in becoming **Mental Health Ambassadors**. This is a fantastic opportunity for students who want to support wellbeing across the school and develop their leadership skills.

Please see the attached information for full details. Students wishing to apply must collect an **application form** from **Mrs Swain** in her office or from the **Pastoral Support Workers' room**.




**Immunisations**

The immunisation team are due to visit Braunton Academy on **11th May 2026.** 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 Consent To provide consent, please follow the link and code below.

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

**Gymnastics**
Gymnastics competition practice Thursday 5th March 3.15- 4.45pm for those taking part in the competition. A Parentmail has been sent home with your child's times and information for the day.

# Year 7 News

Gymnastics competition practice Thursday5th March 3.15- 4.45pm for those taking part in the competition. A Parentmail has been sent home with your child's times and information for the day.

# 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<br>Fresh fruit<br>Fruit pots | Tray bakes<br>Fresh fruit<br>Fruit pots | Tray bakes<br>Fresh fruit<br>fruit pots | Tray bakes<br>Fresh fruit<br>Fruit pots | Tray bakes<br>Fresh fruit<br>Fruit pots |
| Grab & go Break & Dinner | Pasta Bolognese<br>Veggie Bolognese | Cheesy pasta bake with garlic bread | Pasta Bolognese<br>Veggie Bolognese | Chilli rice & nachos<br>Veggie chilli & rice | Chorizo pasta bake<br>Veggie pasta bake |
| Grab & go Break | Hot BLT wrap with hash brown<br>Veggie option | Spicy wedges topped with bacon & cheese | Hoisin duck wrap<br>Veggie option | Breakfast wrap<br>Veggie option | Meat ball sub roll<br>Veggie option |
| Deli Bar | Freshly made<br>Rolls<br>Wraps<br>Pasta pots /salad | Freshly made<br>Rolls<br>Wraps<br>Pasta pots /salad | Freshly made<br>Rolls<br>Wraps<br>Pasta pots /salad | Freshly made<br>Rolls<br>Wraps<br>Pasta pots /salad | Freshly made<br>Rolls<br>Wraps<br>Pasta pots /salad |