

Parents' Post



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Autumn 1 2025

Thoughts from the Principal's Office

Dear families

Welcome to the first Parents' Post of the year. It has been an amazing first half term with lots to celebrate. It has been lovely to see the recent press articles sharing how well our Year 11 students did in their GCSE results; it is great to see the students and staff recognised for the work they are doing. We have also been extremely impressed with the new Year 7 students who have had a brilliant start to the year.

As always, the first term is a very busy one, with Year 7 'Meet the Tutor' Evening, information events for all our GCSE students, Post-16 Information Evening, and Open Evening. Again, these were extremely well-attended by families, and it was lovely to engage with so many of our wider community.

The sporting season is also in full swing with all year groups participating in extra-curricular clubs and the usual round of competitive matches.

As well as the usual return to school events we have been lucky enough to have had three authors visit us as part of the Appledore Book Festival, a music recital by an international cellist, and rehearsals are fully underway for this year's production which is Julius Caesar. This year's production is slightly different as it is in collaboration with the National Theatre and will include students performing at the Landmark theatre in February.

I hope you enjoy celebrating this term's achievements with the rest of our school community. Enjoy the half term break!

Mrs F Bowler, Principal



Sam K in Year 10 has been accepted onto the 2025/2026 Skateboard GB Talent Pathway - Pipeline.

Fundraising for the Prom

The Year 11 Prom Committee raised over £55 on their cake sale. They are working hard to raise funds to reduce the cost of students' Prom tickets for all of Year 11.

The committee are keen to run a Christmas raffle (online ticket sales) to raise further funds.

If any parents/carers work for businesses that might be able to donate something suitable as a prize please contact finance@braunton.academy

New Staff – Welcome!



Mr Turner
Science and Maths



Mr Vickery
Music, part-time



Ms Couch
Head of English



Mr Gardner
Cover Supervisor



Mr Mackenzie
Cover Supervisor



Mrs Coles
Catering Assistant



Mrs Sherborne
Teaching Assistant

We also offer a warm welcome to Miss Breed - Teaching Assistant, and Ms Logan - Pastoral Support Worker.

Creative Writing Club - Donations from Tesco



A huge thank you from Creative Writing club and the English Department to Tesco in Braunton for donating cakes and stationery for us to use in our Tuesday sessions. Club members are thrilled to have fresh notebooks to record all their plans for competitions and new pens to keep those ideas flowing! The cakes were gratefully received and kept us fuelled for our session.

Special thanks to Mandy Boone who organised the donations and made the collection of them so easy. We really appreciate your support - here are a few thank you notes from our club members.



Welcome to Our New Chair of Trustees

Following the annual business meeting I am sharing an update on changes to the Trust board. Our Chair of Trustees Ms Jules Fry MBE is stepping down to Vice Chair following several very successful years in the role of Chair. Jules remains fully committed to the school and will continue in her role of safeguarding Trustee and lead of the Behaviour and Attitudes committee. I would like to personally thank Jules for her support and time over the past couple of years supporting me and the Academy. She has overseen a time of significant school improvement both in academic success and financial investment.

Our new chair of Trustees is Mr Andrew Chapple. Andrew is a highly experienced finance and business professional with a strong academic and professional background; he is currently employed part time as a Senior Consultant for Gregory Distribution Group. Andrew was brought up locally on the family farm at Marwood, attended Braunton School and Community College, followed by A levels at Petroc, and then attained a Degree in Mathematics at University of Southampton where he gained a first class-honours degree.

After graduation Andrew trained and qualified as a Chartered Accountant with KPMG Peat Marwick McLintock. Following a spell in practice Andrew moved into industry and spent over 20 years at Mole Valley Farmers Group as Company Secretary and Head of Finance. More recently Andrew had been working full time for Gregory Distribution latterly as Group Fleet Director.

Andrew has passion that young people should be given every opportunity to widen and nurture their skills through education to achieve their full potential. To this end he spent several years as a Governor at Petroc with spells as Chairman and Vice Chairman of Governors and Chair of the Audit Committee.

Away from work Andrew enjoys travel, gardening and plays the organ regularly at local churches. He is also a member of the local North Devon branch of Good News for Everyone (formally GideonsUK)



On taking up the role Andrew said "I am passionate that young people should have every opportunity to achieve great things following their education. I would like to pay back in some way the benefits I received and share my skills and experiences. Having been brought up in Marwood and attended Braunton School, I have a natural affinity to the school, similarly to when I was involved for many years at Petroc."

Ms Jules Fry replaces Mr Barrie Eason as Vice Chair as Barrie prepares to leave the Trust Board after 30 years as a school governor and Trustee for Braunton Academy. Barrie will be taking a new role on the Trust Members Board. 30 years of service to the school and community is an incredible achievement and we would all like to extend our heartfelt thanks to Barrie for his dedication to the Academy in these roles

If you would like further information about the Trustees, you can find all their pen portraits of the Trustees section of the school website [Trustees - Braunton Academy - Aspire and Achieve](#).

Also, we are looking for more community Trustees; if you know of anyone in the local community that would have an interest in supporting the Academy please will you let us know.

Expressive Arts News

Braunton Academy Partners with the National Theatre for Prestigious Playwriting Programme

Building on the success of our two-year collaboration with the National Theatre's acclaimed *Speak Up* initiative, Braunton Academy is proud to announce that our GCSE Drama students are now participating in the prestigious *New Views* playwriting programme.

This week, both Year 10 GCSE Drama groups engaged in inspiring workshops led by renowned playwrights Lorna French and Anna Wheatley. These sessions are designed to empower students to craft original plays, giving voice to their ideas and creativity through professional guidance and mentorship.

The writing journey has now begun, and in January, students will submit their scripts for consideration. Selected works will be developed, rehearsed, and performed on stage at the National Theatre in London - a truly exceptional opportunity that places our students at the heart of British theatre.

Braunton Academy is honoured to be working alongside one of the UK's leading cultural institutions, and we look forward to witnessing the work our students will produce.



Expressive Arts Spotlight: Josh Hays Performs Original Monologue on National Theatre Stage

As we close the half term, Braunton Academy is proud to celebrate an extraordinary achievement by Year 11 GCSE Drama student, Josh Hays, who performed his self-written monologue on the main stage of the National Theatre in London this past summer.

Josh's performance marked the closing moment of the National Theatre's three-year *Speak Up* programme - a prestigious initiative aimed at amplifying youth voices through creative expression. To write and deliver an original monologue on one of the country's most iconic stages is a remarkable accomplishment, and a testament to Josh's creativity, courage, and dedication to his craft.

Standing alone on the National Theatre stage, sharing his own words with a live audience, required immense confidence and artistic maturity. Josh's work not only showcased his talent but also represented the spirit of Braunton Academy Drama - bold, expressive,



and deeply authentic.

We are incredibly proud of Josh and his success reminds us of the power of performance and the importance of nurturing young voices.

Braunton Academy Students Prepare to Take the Stage in *Julius Caesar* at the Landmark Theatre

Excitement is building within Braunton Academy's Drama department as our talented students prepare for a powerful performance of *Julius Caesar* at the Landmark Theatre in Ilfracombe on the evening of **Tuesday 12th November**.

This production is part of the **Coram Shakespeare Schools Festival**, the UK's largest youth drama festival, which brings Shakespeare's timeless stories to life in theatres across the country. Being part of this national celebration of creativity and performance is a fantastic opportunity for our students to showcase their talent, teamwork, and passion for theatre.

Rehearsals are well underway, with students fully immersed in the challenge of bringing Shakespeare's political thriller to life. From mastering the language to exploring character and staging, their commitment and energy have been inspiring.

We warmly invite parents, carers, and the wider

community to join us for what promises to be a memorable evening of live theatre. Come and support our students as they take to a professional stage and share their interpretation of one of Shakespeare's most gripping plays. Tickets are available via the Landmark Theatre box office - we hope to see you there!



British Council International School Award success for Braunton Academy

Braunton Academy has been awarded the British Council's prestigious International School Award in recognition of its work to bring the world into the classroom.

The International School Award celebrates the achievements of schools that do exceptional work in international education. Fostering an international dimension in the curriculum is at the heart of the British Council's work with schools so that young people gain the cultural understanding and skills they need for life work in today's world.

Braunton Academy's international work includes working with partner schools in Europe and further afield in countries such as India, Nigeria, Nepal and the USA. Projects that focus upon the local environment and climate change are important elements in the work carried out.

On hearing the news that Braunton Academy had received the award, Nick Langmead, International Schools Coordinator said: "We are delighted to have received this award. It is testament to the hard work of all students, staff and the wider school community in developing our work within our area and the wider world which we are proud to have sustained partnership links with through school partnerships across many countries and continents. This award validates the hugely important work we do in providing our students with a global perspective as they become global citizens of the future."

Scott McDonald, Chief Executive of the British Council, said: 'The school has earned this prestigious award through its inspirational international work and links with schools abroad. The International School Award is a chance for schools to be recognised for their important work in bringing the world into their classrooms. This is especially commendable when schools have been deeply affected by the global pandemic. The desire to build on their international work shines through and it is with utmost pride that we celebrate their achievements. By embedding an international dimension in children's education, these schools are preparing their students for successful lives in the UK or further afield, empowering them to be global citizens, and are creating vital opportunities in an increasingly global economy.'

The Award is now available worldwide in countries such as Greece, India, and Nigeria. Over 6,000 International School Awards have been presented to successful schools in the UK since the scheme began in 1999. The International School Award encourages and supports schools to develop:

- An international ethos embedded throughout the school
- A whole school approach to international work
- Collaborative curriculum-based work with international partner schools
- Year-round international activity
- Involvement of the wider community



Visit by Johannes Moser

Braunton Academy was thrilled to host a truly unforgettable musical event, welcoming world-renowned German-Canadian cellist Johannes Moser for a special assembly that captivated students and staff alike. This inspiring occasion was attended by 30 primary school students, all of Year 7, GCSE Music students, and a number of musically engaged students from other year groups, offering a rare opportunity to experience world-class musicianship up close.

Johannes Moser was joined by the excellent pianist, Caroline Clipsham, and together they performed a wide-ranging programme that showcased their extraordinary talent and deep musical insight. Each piece was brought to life not only through their expressive playing but also through engaging commentary that helped students understand the features and stories behind the compositions.

The assembly was expertly presented and led by Patrick Bailey, an associate of the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra, who guided the event with warmth and enthusiasm. Students were encouraged to ask questions throughout, and many took part in a lively interactive segment where they sang and danced alongside Johannes, Caroline, and Patrick - an experience that brought joy and connection through music.

This event was made possible through the generous support of the Devon Music Education Hub and the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra, whose collaboration continues to enrich the musical lives of young people across the region.

The impact of the assembly was clear: students were so inspired that many stayed behind to speak with Johannes, ask further questions, and even collect autographs - a testament to the power of live music and meaningful artistic exchange.

A heartfelt thank you goes out to all those involved in organising this extraordinary event. Your efforts have provided our students with a truly spectacular and memorable musical experience that will resonate for years to come.



Electrifying Performance of *Julius Caesar* Captivates Braunton Academy

Braunton Academy was thrilled to host a powerful and unforgettable performance of *Julius Caesar* by the acclaimed Tangle Theatre Company, thanks to the generous support of Beaford Arts. The event drew a full house, with students, parents, and staff filling the auditorium to witness this bold reimagining of Shakespeare's classic tragedy.

Set in a vibrant African context, the production brought a fresh and electrifying energy to the timeless tale of ambition, betrayal, and political upheaval. The relocation of the story added rich layers of rhythm, colour, and atmosphere, immersing the audience in a world that felt both ancient and immediate.

One of the standout moments of the evening was the haunting presence of the Soothsayer, whose magnetic performance enthralled the audience—especially a group of students seated in the front row. These students, currently in rehearsal for their own staging of *Julius Caesar* at the Landmark Theatre on 12th November as part of the Coram Shakespeare Schools Festival, were visibly inspired by the intensity and nuance of the character.

Mr Carroll, Head of Drama at Braunton Academy, expressed his heartfelt thanks to Beaford Arts for making this brilliant opportunity possible. "It was a privilege to welcome Tangle Theatre Company to our school," he said. "Their production was not only artistically stunning but also deeply engaging for our students, many of whom are preparing to take on these very roles themselves."

The evening was a celebration of live theatre, community, and the enduring power of Shakespeare to speak across cultures and generations. It will no doubt remain a highlight of the academic year for all who attended.





Ava R in Year 7 has been selected for the Devon County Under 12s girls' football team for 2025-26. Ava also represents Braunton FC and Plymouth Argyle. Well done Ava!

Year 8 students Eva and Daisy have both been selected to train with the North Devon Netball Development Centre. Well done girls!

Maya F and Charlotte M competed at the South West Copper Gymnastics competition recently.

Maya F came 5th in the all round U14s category including a 4th place finish on the beam and Charlotte M came 4th in the all round U16s category including 3rd on the bars.

Congratulations to both of you!

Keep updated with training and fixture times/dates, and all the latest sports news involving Braunton Academy: **brauntonacademy**





Well done to our Year 7 football team who are currently unbeaten this year.

They are now through to the English Schools Cup 3rd round and currently sit 1st in their group for the North Devon Schools Cup.



Braunton's first year competing on the national stage. Both Year 10 and 8 competed in round 2 of the national cup where our Year 8s beat Launceston 5-1 and our Year 10s beat St Luke's (Exeter) 4-2. Well done Team Braunton [@schoolsfootball](https://www.instagram.com/schoolsfootball)

Year 11 Football - Our year 11s played their last fixtures for the school at Ilfracombe in the yearly tournament, they managed to come runners up in their group.





U14 Netball success - Our U14 Netball team travelled to Park School to take part in the North Devon tournament last week and came 2nd to a very strong West Buckland! Well done ladies!

Luan DM - Huge congratulations to Luan who has been selected for the Devon County Age Group under 15s squad in cricket for the coming season. He has also just picked up the award for Devon's under 14 Bowler of the Year.



Ollie M has been selected for the Swim England Devon County Development Programme, which is the start of the Swim England Talent Pathway for the top 12 year old swimmers in Devon (he is still only 11!).

Maya F and Amelie B have both been selected for the U15 Devon Netball development pathway for 2025-26. It will be Amelie's 1st season and Maya's 3rd season in the performance pathway. Well done girls!