

Parents' Post



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Thoughts from the Principal's Office

Dear families

Welcome to this half term's Parents' Post. It has been a very busy six weeks with lots of positive news stories from the students in school that we want to share with you.

I hope you enjoy this edition and have a enjoyable half term.

Best wishes,
Mrs Bowler



Mentality Success at Battle of the Bands

Battle of the Bands

A huge congratulations to Mentality for taking part in the Battle of the Bands regional heat at North Devon College, where they succeeded in winning with what has been described as by a host of the event as "a fantastic performance and a brilliantly crafted song", as they performed one of their own original songs. This was an excellent opportunity for bands from schools around North Devon to perform and showcase their talent, with a great variety in different genres being performed between the bands, and they were also fortunate to receive feedback from adjudicators who were professionals from various backgrounds in music and the music industry. This means that Mentality, alongside Cliffhanger from Ilfracombe Academy, will be going forward to the



Countywide final for Battle of the Bands, hosted at Exeter Phoenix next month. Mentality will be taking their original song forward to the county final, taking on board feedback from the adjudicators to refine their song and their performance, so that they're well prepared to make waves at the Exeter Phoenix next month. A huge thank you to the Devon Music Education Hub for organising this opportunity, the adjudicators for their thoughtful feedback, and North Devon College for hosting the event.



Youth Cultural Champions

Just before the Christmas break we had the final Youth Cultural Champions training session with Devon Development Education. The students were able to bring along a friend and share the work they had been doing. Some students presented to the group about their cultural heritage whilst others led games. Through the 'map game', it was interesting to see how many of the group had parents and grandparents who had not been born in Britain. The Youth Cultural Champions then shared their experiences through a thought-provoking session on racism, and how the Academy can promote inclusivity in our community. The morning was then rounded off with a bring and share lunch where students were able to try various foods from around the world.

In the afternoon, the Youth Cultural Champions went over to Southmead Primary School to share their presentations with the Year 4 classes. The primary students were really engaged with our students, listening carefully and asking questions. This was a fantastic way to see the merits of all the hard work that had gone into their presentations.



Eco Club News

Eleven new members of the Braunton Academy Eco Group went on a litter pick around Braunton. We put on our gloves and grabbed our litter pickers for the benefits of the planet. We collected a huge amount of rubbish (nearly 20kg) finding lots of plastic bottles and the most interesting find of the day being a huge metal chain. We organised this as part of Earth Action's 'Community Cleans' campaign. Our next plan is to do a cake sale in order to raise funds to try and adopt an endangered animal. Many thanks for all your support.



The Books that Made Me

In December, 7X2 completed a fabulous project showcasing the books that they feel have 'made' them as young people. They were tasked with coming up with a creative way to showcase the books they have enjoyed being read by others and reading themselves; the books that shaped their time at primary school and the books that have been shared at home. We had everything from dioramas to beautiful illustrations to moveable feats of engineering! We even had a fabulous and very elaborate cake! It was fantastic to see students' fond memories of lions, Gruffalos, Stick Men, wizards and witches, little bears and many famous footballers.



We were very impressed with our students' ingenuity and creativity in celebrating the books that we all know and love and even some that we had never heard of as well. We look forward to running the project again next year.

Thank you to our 7x2 students but also to the parents who lent a hand in crafting and creating at home.

If you would like to see some more images of this year's Books that Made Me, please see our new display in Braunton Library on Chaloners Road.



Students Visit Braunton's Memory Cafe

Mr Liversedge, Mrs Maxey and four Year 8 students attended the Memory Cafe in Braunton. The Memory Cafe is held at the Vivian Moon Community Centre and is for those affected by dementia and their carers. Our students sat with members of the group and chatted to them over a cup of tea and a biscuit, they then watched a presentation called 'Braunton Now and Then'.



Art Projects This Half Term

Year 7 students were studying insects last term. They have been looking at shape/symmetry and perfecting coloured pencil blending as well as watercolour techniques .



Year 9 students have been studying 'Sea Creatures' and have looked at the work of Californian artist Tamara Murphy. They were given the opportunity to self select from a variety of art materials such as inks, pen, coloured pencils and paints to create their own A3 work.



Our year 7s played in their first fixture for the Academy taking on a very strong Pilton side. The boys came out 7-5 winners in what was a great standard of rugby.



Our year 7 girls came runners up in the North Devon finals by goal difference in football!



Year 10 student Amelie B has been scouted for Team Bath in a recent County tournament. Amelie has now been selected as part of the Team Bath athlete development squad and also East Devon training twice a week. Well done Amelie!



U16 North Devon League Winners

Our girls were crowned North Devon League winners after playing in a finals night against Park, Ilfracombe and Chulmleigh. The girls won all three games during the evening! Well done girls!



That's a wrap for our 25/26 Ski Trip to Pila! What an amazing week it was! The students were outstanding and progressed excellently throughout the week. Memories which will last a lifetime. The staff were blown away by your attitude and perseverance throughout the week and we look forward to the new trip for 26/27



Year 7 Footballers Shine on National Stage with Last-16 Cup Run

In one of the most impressive sporting achievements the school has seen in recent years, the Year 7 football team has battled its way into the **last 16 of the English Schools' National Cup**, a competition that began with **over 500 schools** from across the country. Their journey has been nothing short of remarkable. From the opening round, the squad showed a blend of determination, teamwork, and technical quality well beyond their years. Each fixture brought new challenges, yet the team consistently rose to the occasion, producing exceptional performances along the way.

The cup run featured a string of memorable victories, including;

Round 1 (Last 512) Uffculme School 3 - 6 Braunton Academy

Round 2 (Last 256) Braunton Academy 4 - 2Torquay Boys Grammar School

Round 3 (Last 128) Braunton Academy 2 - 1 Wadebridge Community College

Round 4 (Last 64) Hayle Academy 1 - 5 Braunton Academy

Round 5 (Last 32) Millfield School 0 - 1 Braunton Academy

Round 6 - (Last 16) Downend school 3 - 1 Braunton Academy

We had three hard-fought wins away from home and two commanding displays on familiar turf. Whether grinding out narrow results or showcasing free-flowing attacking football, the team demonstrated maturity and resilience that set them apart on the national stage.

Reaching the last 16 places them among the **top 2% of schools in the entire competition**, a statistic that highlights just how exceptional their achievement is. For a squad in their first year of secondary school football, it's a fantastic milestone.

Although the cup run has now come to an end, the players and staff can look back with immense pride. Their performances have set a high bar for future year groups and laid the foundations for what promises to be an exciting sporting future.

For now, the school celebrates a group of young athletes who proved they can compete with the very best in the country, and who have represented their school with distinction every step of the way. What a season (so far) we are all incredibly proud of the journey that you have been on.

Year 7 Team

Harry F, Harry S, Fred L, Fin H, Sonny B, Laurie B, Fin R, Ava R, Luke P, Barney W, Ellis LJ, Excellent A



Why Attendance Matters

Academic Achievement: Students with high attendance rates generally achieve better grades and perform well in exams.

Social Development: Attending school regularly helps students build and maintain friendships, develop social skills, and participate in extra-curricular activities.

Consistency and Routine: Establishing a routine of regular attendance helps students develop good habits that will benefit them throughout their lives. It teaches them responsibility, punctuality, and the importance of commitment.

Support and Resources: Being in school ensures that students have access to the support and resources they need, including teachers, counsellors, and learning materials. This support is crucial for their academic and emotional well-being.

Reporting Absences: To report a student late or absent, please notify us by 8.45 am via the ParentMail app.



Missing school... missing out!

Don't let your child be the one to miss out!

Attendance during one school year	Equivalent number of missed:		
	Days	Weeks	Average lessons
95%	9	2	54
90%	19	4	114
85%	29	6	174
80%	38	8	228
75%	48	10	288
70%	57	11.5	342
65%	67	13.5	402

“We are only a few minutes late” - Does it matter?

Being late for school reduces learning time and does not prepare your child or young person for their future working lives.

- Arrival 5 minutes late every day = 3 days of learning missed each year
- Arrival 15 minutes late every day = 10 days or 2 weeks of learning each year.