



Thoughts from the Principal's Office

Dear Families

Welcome to the latest edition of the Parents' Post. It has been a fun-packed half term, with lots going on. The weekly Parent Newsletter has had a positive response and we are pleased to be able to share our news with you more quickly.

We hope you will enjoy reading this edition and celebrating student successes with us.

Best wishes,
Mrs Bowler



Visit to Bristol's Old Vic Theatre - page 3

North Devon Robotics Challenge

Our worthy band of robot warriors travelled the epic distance to North Devon College recently. Our mission... to compete in the North Devon Robotics Challenge hosted by Rob Scarr on behalf of the institute of Engineering. The challenge consisted of six different challenges, each one to code and operate one of the little Eddison robots we were using.



We have been meeting once a week since the start of the year in the Design & Technology department to learn how to code these robots. Volunteers from Braunton Rotary Club have joined us each week to support this engineering/coding challenge and they have also lent us the Eddison robots to use. Particular thanks must go to Geoff Triggs and his colleague Ian who have been helping us almost every week.

After facing some stiff competition and frustrating technical problems on the day our team placed 5th overall. Well done to Oscar, Gabriel, Keilana, Rupert, Harry and Zeke for all your hard work. We will continue our club after Easter, so if any year 7 students are interested in joining us, see Ms Britton in school.



Braunton Academy Students Visit the Historic Bristol Old Vic for an Inspiring Day of Theatre

This week, a group of Braunton Academy Drama students enjoyed an unforgettable trip to the Bristol Old Vic, the oldest continuously working theatre in the country. The visit offered our budding playwrights and performers an extraordinary opportunity to explore the history, craft, and creativity behind one of Britain's most iconic theatrical institutions.

The day began with a guided tour of the Bristol Old Vic, during which students discovered the theatre's remarkable past, its Georgian architecture, and its significant role in the development of British theatre. From stepping onto the historic stage to learning about centuries-old backstage practices, students gained a unique insight into what it means to create theatre that stands the test of time.

Following the tour, students took their seats to watch *The Last Picture* by Catherine Dyson, a standout play selected as part of the Royal Shakespeare Company's nationwide "37 Plays" playwriting competition. The performance was utterly brilliant—a beautifully crafted piece that captivated the entire group with its originality, emotional depth, and theatrical flair. For many students, it was a powerful example of just how impactful new writing can be.

This exceptional experience was made possible thanks to the National Theatre, who provided the opportunity as part of Mr Carroll's ongoing 'New Views' writing programme. This prestigious programme supports young writers in developing their voices, their ideas, and their understanding of professional theatre-making. Mr Carroll's Year 10 Drama classes are currently participating, building their skills as emerging playwrights while being exposed to cutting-edge contemporary theatre.

The trip proved inspiring, enriching, and creatively energising—exactly the kind of experience that helps young people see what's possible when stories come to life on stage. We look forward to seeing how this visit influences the students' own writing and performance work in the months ahead.

A brilliant trip to the Bristol Old Vic for Year 10 Drama—historic theatre tour + the incredible *The Last Picture*! Big thanks to the National Theatre's 'New Views' writing programme for making this happen!



Goodbye to Miss Breed

We are saying a fond farewell to Miss Breed as she leaves us to take up her first teaching position at Atlantic Academy.

Miss Breed has been working in the Maths department as our specialist maths teaching assistant and has been an amazing addition to the Maths team.

We wish her every success and happiness in her new post.

Battle of the Bands

We are delighted to share the fantastic news that Mentality, the locally renowned band of Braunton Academy students, Ryley, Fin and Toby, delivered a *brilliant* performance in the final of the Devon County Battle of the Bands Competition. Reaching the final alone is an exceptional achievement, but the professionalism, skill, and creativity they displayed on stage made the whole school incredibly proud.

Adjudicators praised Mentality for their mature musicianship and the way they performed with the cohesion of a group who have spent years honing their craft together. Their original composition particularly impressed the panel. The band thoughtfully refined and developed their piece using feedback from the last competition round—demonstrating not only talent, but a real commitment to growth and artistry.

As finalists, Mentality will now progress into a tailored mentoring and development programme to support the next stage of their musical journey. This may include recording sessions, artist development guidance, and live performance opportunities, working alongside industry partners such as R&K Studios, dBs, MIDI, and BBC Devon.

We could not be prouder of Mentality for representing Braunton Academy with such energy, creativity, and professionalism. Their achievement is a testament to their hard work and passion for music. Congratulations to every member of the band on an outstanding performance!



Annual Easter Egg Competition

We had a fantastic time judging all the brilliant Easter Egg individual and tutor group entries this year. Over 50 students entered the individual event alongside most of our tutor groups.

Thank you to all those who took part and created some amazing creations. There were Easter chicks, feather creations, Egg Sheeran, Easter baskets, David Bowie, Freddie Mercury, and many more!

KS3 winner - 8LB with their Easter Bunny - Spring has Sprung

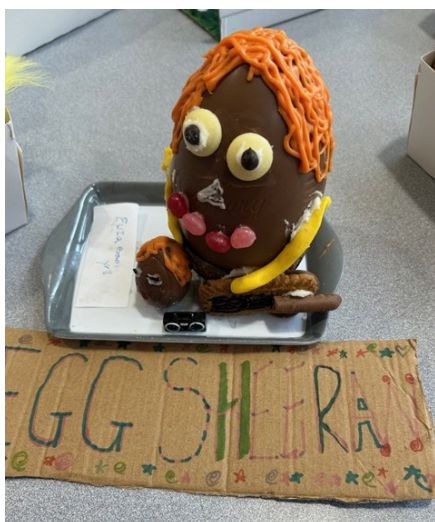
KS3 runner up - 9SP - Freddie Mercury

KS3 winner Zeke - Alien Easter basket

KS3 runners up - Eliza - Egg Sheeran, and Elowyn - Easter Bees

KS4 winner - 11AG - Easter basket

KS4 Winner - Marnie - David Bowie



MFL Speaking Competition

Pilton hosted its annual Routes Into Languages MFL speaking competition recently and like every year we took some competitors as well as three students to perform in foreign language entertainment during the lunch break.

Hetty and Sylvia spent a few lunchtimes practising and honing their presentations, in French and Spanish respectively, while Arthur came after school to work on his speech which combined French with a host of other languages he's learning. It was lovely to support these committed linguists.

Lucy and Layla practiced singing in Korean and Kitty worked on a choreography she performed to a French song sung and played live by other students from Pilton – a real example of inter-school cooperation driven by a shared interest in foreign languages.

The quality of the day's performances was much higher than last year. The KS3 category, which our three competitors performed in, was the biggest and therefore the hardest to win.

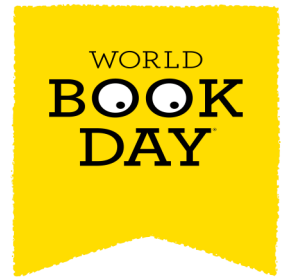
Despite this, Arthur came away with a runner-up trophy and prizes. Hetty and Sylvia spoke brilliantly, with accurate and flowing pronunciation and little to no reliance on their notes, but that wasn't quite enough to beat a few students who leant harder into humour – we know what angle to choose next year!

We did win the lunchtime quiz and enjoyed our prize chocolates, and Lucy, Layla and Kitty also received a prize as a token of our appreciation for them providing entertainment. We're now looking forward to this event in 2027, hopefully with some KS4 entries as well as KS3, and a variety of languages. This was a fun and inspiring day for MFL!



Books, Characters, and Creativity: World Book Day!

We celebrated World Book Day and the Year of Reading here at Braunton Academy. It was a day filled with the unexpected as staff dressed as their favourite book characters. We had everything from the Very Hungry Caterpillar to witches, an atlas and the entire character list of the Wizard of Oz. It was lovely to hear impromptu student conversations about reading and see recognition of some of students' favourite characters.

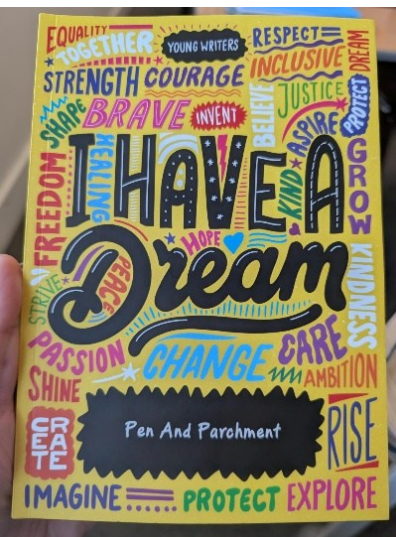


As well as this, Ms Young and Miss Reed organised competitions to celebrate the event. Ms Young arranged a World Book Day Design a T-Shirt competition, which Alex won and for which there were 6 runners up: Destiny, Harry, Peonie, Jessica, Cienna and Orla.

In P6 that week we held a World Book Day quiz organised by Miss Reed. Students had to guess book characters from quotes, enigmatic images and were even challenged to match members of staff with their 'Shelfies'! The champions of the quiz across the year groups were: 11AG, 10KH, 9TMM, 8DY and 7KM.

It was a great day all round and we're already looking forward to the next one!

We are delighted to have received this week our plaque and certificate to celebrate our International School Award we received from the British Council. This is proof of our hard work in securing three more years designated as an outward looking school that has an international dimension in its daily activities. Congratulations to all students and staff who helped evidence our work in securing this award. It continues the international dimension we aspire to instil in all the members of our school community.



Inspiring Voices: Braunton students Recognised for Creative Writing

This term we've had a number of successes in Creative Writing Club!

Amelie in Y7 has been our first student of this year to be printed in a 'Young Writers' anthology, 'I Have a Dream', a copy of which was sent to the school last week and will be available to students in the school library. There have also been entries from Matilda and Florence (Y7) that are in the process of being judged as we speak.

On the theme of Young Writers, a number of other Creative Writing members will also be printed in upcoming anthologies: Shore (Y8), Clodagh, Coco, Hetty, Sylvia (Y9), Daisy and Amelie (Y7). These will be featured in Stranger Sagas and/or Ghost Stories – Midnight Madness collections.

We also entered the annual Taunton Tacchi-Morris Arts Centre 'The Page is Printed' competition in which Flo (Y9) was awarded Highly Commended for her excellent stream of consciousness piece entitled 'Blue'.



As well as this, we're awaiting results from a number of entries to national competitions, namely Never Such Innocence – 'In Someone else's shoes', to which we have submitted four entries from students who wrote a piece on the theme of war, and The Chaucer Heritage Trust's Canterbury Tales poetry/story competition.



Finally, we had a large number of entries to the Rotary Club Young Writer competition. Two students have been selected to continue to the next round - these are Bea (Y7) and Chloe (Y11). Everyone who entered will receive a certificate for their hard work and we were really impressed with the quality of the entries.

Next term we're really excited to be launching an in-school picture book competition for which we have organised a special prize from a local illustrator, Joseph Witchall. The theme for this will be released after the Easter break and students will be tasked with creating an illustrated story book of 24 pages.

Upcoming competitions for next term also include Exeter Quay Word's annual flash fiction competition and Author of Tomorrow's adventure story writing.

If you're interested in being involved in Creative Writing Club, we run The Main Chapter every Tuesday 15:15-16:30 and Drop-in and Draft on Wednesday lunchtimes in Rm 66. Come along to meet like-minded people and join a range of competitions. You never know where your writing may take you!



A massive congratulations to our three athletes who competed in the Inter Counties Cross Country Championships.

U13 Boys - Kush placed 117 out of 311

U15 girls - Carys placed 107 and Amber placed 259 out of 313

A huge well done to our students on competing against the very best in the UK.



Southwest Schools Cross Country Championships, held at the VERY muddy and wet Exhibition Fields, Exeter.

Bea M ran a really strong, consistent race for the Minor girls, coming 40th overall and 4th Devon runner. Unfortunately, the competition ends here for the Minor age group but the future looks great for Bea.

Next up was Carys, coming 53rd overall, and 9th Devon. She has now qualified to represent the South West at English Schools in a few week.

Kush, running at the bottom of the Junior boys age group came 61st overall, and 10th Devon. He has qualified for a place on the reserve list for English Schools, depending on the rest of the team and any injuries or illness. Well done all!



Wakeboarding Camp

Henry S year 9 spent half term at the Great British Wake Camp at Luna Cable Park in Spain. This is an invite-only camp for the country's most promising up and coming wake boarders. This incredible opportunity was earned through consistent podium performances at the last three national championships. Henry spent the last week training alongside the UK's top young riders developing his skill set and understanding of the demands of wakeboarding at an elite level.

Henry will be competing in multiple national and international competitions this year and has the goal of being selected for team GB cable wakeboarding team. The best of luck from all of us at Braunton!





U13 Girls football - Our U13 girls were crowned North Devon Champions last night and will now travel to Newton Abbott for the Devon Schools Semi Finals later in the month after beating Pilton 1-0



Our U15 girls were crowned ND champions this afternoon after beating all schools across North Devon. They now progress to the Devon Cup semi final in a few weeks which will be held at Devon FA Newton Abbott! Well done girls!



Our u15 girls were crowned North Devon Netball Tournament winners after winning every game - an outstanding achievement for our girls!



Year 11 Rugby - Our year 11 rugby team were crowned Devon Plate winners when travelling to Plymouth to compete against the best schools in the county, they beat Exeter School in the final. Well done boys!

Excellent Day at the Gymnastics

Team success

U13 boys 1st, U13 mixed 1st, U13 girls 4th, U15 mixed 1st

Individual success

U15 overall winner Destiny, U15 overall runner up Maya, U13 boys overall

1st Harry

2nd William

3rd Laurence

U13 highest vault score

William

They were all great and did our school proud.





Our year 7 and 8 students were once again crowned North Devon Champions for the Indoor Athletics competition which is held at Kingsley School. The students were outstanding and we can't wait for the athletics season to be upon us after Easter!



Charlotte has retained her National Champion status when she was once again crowned champion! Charlotte is now the 50kg Cadet Champion!



Carys competed in the English Schools' Cross Country event in Liverpool and placed 166th out of 349 runners and placed 3rd in Devon overall!

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.