

Parents' Post

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Summer 1 2024

Thoughts from the Principal's Office

Dear families,

Welcome to the Summer term edition of the Parents' Post. The sun is shining, Tweedie's field is open, and the summer extra-curricular programme is in full swing. At the same time our Year 11 students are hard at work during this intense period of the examinations; they have been highly-professional throughout the process. Thank you to all the Year 11 families for their support at this time. Year 10 students are out of school this week enjoying their work experience opportunities, and we look forward to sharing their experiences with you in the final edition next half term. We hope you enjoy this edition of the Parents' Post - everyone at the Academy wishes you a fun half term, enjoy the good weather.

Mrs F Bowler, Principal

Senior Prefect Team 2024-25

I am pleased to introduce the new Senior Prefect Team for the 24/25 academic year. As a team they strongly value inclusivity, kindness, and positivity; these will always be at the root of the decisions they make.

I'm Emily, and I'm a Principal Student. My aspirations for the future include being an economist, but during my time as a Principal Student I hope to create opportunities at lunch times for groups of like-minded students. I was in Year 7 too once and know just how intimidating it can seem for students, which is why I think these clubs are a good idea, as they will be an opportunity for new students to bond and create new friendships.



I'm Charlie, and I can't wait to bring all my ideas to my new role. I am striving to fulfil my dream of becoming an engineer. Loving the outdoors, one of my top priorities as Senior Prefect is to increase green spaces around the Academy, which I believe will drastically improve academic attainment and student wellbeing.



My name is Issi, a Deputy Senior Prefect. I am in the U17 Lionesses, and so I am very passionate about football and hope to make it professional one day. Due to my footballing successes, I know just how hard it can be for a young girl making her way through sport, and so in the next year, I am going to endeavour to introduce as many sporting opportunities for girls as I can.



I'm Tom. I'm the other Deputy Principal Student and the leader of Student Induction. As head of Student Induction, my role is to make sure that new students coming into the school have a smooth and comfortable transition wherever they come from, and don't feel left behind academically or in other ways. In the coming twelve months, I want to focus on supporting students if they have any worries or concerns, alongside promoting kindness in the Braunton community.



KS3 Computer Programming

Otis, Millie and Agatha in Year 7 have created a game of Rock Paper Scissors as part of their programming lessons.

The BBC Micro:bit is a great way to introduce our students to practical programming; it is a computer with a variety of inputs and a simple LED display. While primary schools used the Micro:bit with block code, we are using it to introduce our students to the Python programming language. We learnt about coding strings, integers, setting up our own image, creating a lists and picking a random element from a list.

It is a fun and practical first step into more robust programs. Our Year 7 and 9 have designed a toothbrush timer to make sure that younger children are brushing their teeth for long enough. I was really impressed by the creativity showed by numerous students and there were so many different solutions provided.

If you would like to borrow a Micro:bit, please let Mrs Duthuit know. Otherwise, you can purchase a version 2 online for less than £20. The version 2 has extra features that we do not have in school.



FIRST Lego League Tournament

Two teams attended the FIRST LEGO League North Devon and North Cornwall regional competition in Bude. After working incredibly hard using every possible lunchtime, the students won trophies for best in the Robot Games, the Teams Team award and for upholding the Core Values at the tournament. Both teams are still working incredibly hard to prepare for next year with the hope of making it to the National competition.



Football Experience Trip



46 of our students travelled to London this weekend for a Tottenham Hotspur experience.

On day one of the trip the students visited the Natural History Museum, Buckingham Palace and Convent Garden.

Day two they had a behind the scenes tour of the Emirates Stadium and watched the football match between Tottenham Hotspur and Arsenal, with Tottenham winning 2-3.

The weekend proved to be a fantastic experience for everybody and an experience to remember.



Incredible fossil find!

Year 10 student Ruby, and Justin her Dad made an incredible discovery while fossil-hunting at Blue Anchor, Somerset in 2020. The following report has been taken from the BBC News website:

Scientists have identified what was probably the largest marine reptile ever to swim in the seas - a creature longer than two, nose-to-nose buses.

The creature lived around 202 million years ago alongside the dinosaurs. Its fossilised jawbone was found in 2016 by a fossil hunter on a beach in Somerset, UK. In 2020 a father and daughter found another similar jawbone. Experts now say the fossils are from two giant ichthyosaur reptiles, which could have been 25m long.

That is bigger than a huge pliosaur whose skull was found embedded in Dorset cliffs and was in the David Attenborough documentary the Giant Sea Monster.

"Based on the size of the jawbones - one of them over a metre long and the other 2m long - we can work out that the entire animal would have been about 25m long, about as long as a blue whale," according to Dr Dean Lomax, a palaeontologist at the University of Bristol. But he says more evidence, like a complete skull and skeleton, is needed to confirm the exact size of the creature because just a few fragments have been found so far.

The giant ichthyosaur died out in a mass extinction and the ichthyosaurs that lived after that never reached the enormous size again, he said.

The first glimpse of the creature came in 2016 when fossil hunter Paul de la Salle was scouring Somerset beaches. He has collected fossils for 25 years after being inspired by famous fossilist Steve Etches. Trawling the beach with his wife Carol, he saw what turned out to be the find of a lifetime - the first known jawbone of this giant, marine reptile. When he talked to Dean Lomax, they suspected they might be on to a major discovery. They published their findings in 2018. But they wanted more evidence to understand just how big the creature had been. "We kept our fingers crossed for more discoveries," says Dean. In 2020, father and daughter Justin and Ruby Reynolds found what Dean was looking for, 10km down the coast at Blue Anchor.

"I was massively impressed - really, really excited. I knew that right at that point we had a second giant jawbone from one of these massive ichthyosaurs just like Paul's," Dean says.

Paul rushed to the beach and helped them uncover more.

"I dug through all the thick mud. After about an hour,

my shovel hit something solid - and this bone came out perfectly preserved," he says.

The team, as well as family members, carried on looking for fragments of the second jaw - the last piece was found in 2022.

The discovery gave them more evidence to estimate its size. Now they have concluded that the huge animal is a new species of ichthyosaur, which they have named *Ichthyotitan severnensis*, or giant fish lizard of the Severn.

Dean co-wrote the latest scientific paper with Ruby Reynolds - one day he says the specimen she found may even be named Ruby.

The specimen Paul found has been in his garage for three years while the team analysed it. Soon it will go on public display at the Bristol Museum and Art Gallery.

"I will be a bit sad to say cheerio. I've come to know it and studied it in such intense detail. But it's also a relief because I won't have to worry about it so much," says Paul.

Dean says the discovery highlights how important amateur fossil collectors are.

"Families and all sorts of people can make amazing discoveries. You don't have to be a world expert. As long as you have that bit of patience and a keen eye, you can make a discovery," he says.



UKMT Success

We have had fantastic success on the UKMT Junior Challenge for Years 7 and 8. Altogether, students won 8 gold, 12 silver, and 17 bronze certificates, making 38 out of the 58 taking part receiving an award.

Furthermore, 1500 invitations are given out worldwide for the Olympiad and Archie has received an invite to take part in June. Four more students passed with such high marks that they have been invited to take part in the next round called the Grey Kangaroo. This invitation only goes to the top 3-4% so a fantastic result! Congratulations to Jackson, Judah, Edward, and Hugo. This is the best KS3 (Year 7/8) result that we have ever had, and I am already getting numerous enquiries from the students as to when they can have another go. Mr England.

Term Dates for 2024-25

2023-24: Term ends: Wednesday 24th July 2024

Autumn Term 2024: Thursday 5th September to Friday 20th December 2024.
Half term: Monday 28th October to Friday 1st November 2024.
Occasional Day: Friday 29th November 2024. School closed to all.

Spring Term 2025: Tuesday 7th January to Friday 4th April 2025.
Half term: Monday 17th to Friday 21st February 2025.

Summer Term 2025: Tuesday 22nd April to Tuesday 22nd July 2025.
Half term: Monday 26th to Friday 30th May 2025.
Bank Holiday: Monday 5th May 2025.



Holidays During Term Time

Our policy on holidays has not changed - holidays can only be authorised in exceptional circumstances. Unauthorised absences may result in a Penalty Notice referral being sent to the Local Authority, who will then make the final decision about whether a Penalty Notice Fine should be issued. **Should a Penalty Notice be issued as a result of unauthorised absence, then one notice will be issued to each parent/carer for each child involved. Currently, each Penalty Notice is for £120, which is reduced to £60 if paid within the first 21 days. If a Penalty Notice goes unpaid after 28 days, then court proceedings will be initiated.**

Jekyll & Hyde – National Theatre Production

In March, Year 10 students and Mr Carroll's GCSE Drama class saw a fantastic reworking of Robert Louis Stevenson's 'Jekyll & Hyde' in Isaac Hall. In a mash-up of Victorian England and the modern day, the story explores how the repression of female voices was as prevalent in the 19th century as it is today. Centring around two new protagonists – Hattie, Jekyll's widow, and Florence, a young blogger in the 21st century – these new narratives confront the power the internet holds to unleash our own inner Hyde. Students were transported effortlessly from the 19th century to the modern era via a dynamic set, atmospheric lighting and some incredible performances from the National theatre's actors. Our students are so fortunate to have seen such thought-provoking and world-class theatre in school, and we look forward to welcoming the National Theatre in up-coming productions.



North Devon District Scout Awards

Beavers, Cubs, Scouts, and Sea Scouts from all sections in North Devon paraded through Barnstaple High Street and then gathered in the Tarka Tennis Centre for the renewal of their Scouting promise and presentation of awards. Congratulations to: Amy, Chelsea, and Hugo who were all awarded their Chief Scout Gold Award. This is the highest award a Scout can earn. To complete it, they need to complete all nine of the Challenge Awards, plus six Activity badges.



Lunchtime Clubs

Both the lunchtime Quiet Club and Christian Union have grown a lot over the past few months. We have a broad range of young people attending both, from lots of different backgrounds and year groups as well. It's encouraging to see all the students engaging with each other.

We have been busy in Quiet Club making a Spring display board for the classroom filled with things we are grateful for (see picture), and we designed our own stickers too. Students wrote encouraging messages for the board and drew great artistic designs.

At Christian Union, we have been focusing on the themes of the week, having discussions and thinking about what we can learn from them.

There have been some great discussions about the environment, mental health, and lots more. Many thanks to ex-student Chloe Livingstone, for continuing to give her time each week to support our students.

Year 8 Studies: Beliefs and Values

As part of their Year 9 studies on good and evil students were asked to consider what is good and evil. The standard of work was exceptional, and the overall winner of this competition was Romilly. Winners of the class competitions were Maddie, Poppy, Marcie, Grace, Scarlett, Jolie, Kiara Helena. All these students' work can be viewed on the website.



Year 10 GCSE Art Trip to St Ives

GCSE Art students recently visited the Eden Project and the Tate and Barbara Hepworth Museum in St Ives. This residential trip allowed students to record 'Nature', their current coursework project, and to see how other artists have responded to their surroundings in the art galleries that we visited.

It was a pleasure to take our students away; they were all responsive to the drawing tasks and it was also a great opportunity for photography. We were blessed with the weather as it was sunny after a long period of rain. The light is fantastic in St Ives - it never disappoints.

Thank you to Mr Ong, one of our wonderful site team members of staff for stepping in to accompany us and to Ms Britton for bringing our second group down to Cornwall. Mrs Bateman.



For some of the students it was their first and probably only trip of their secondary education due to the pandemic.

Here are some quotes from those that came away...

"It was really fun and good to have some freedom to experience St Ives"

"St Ives as a location was a great place to study, it liked to our nature project and is a real area of natural beauty."



Ten Tors 2024

The Saunton Surf Lifesaving team (Tom, Tommy, Charlie, Archie, Jamie, and Oli from Park School) did absolutely brilliantly this weekend, finishing an amazing second in their group of 16 teams.

They hiked 40km across Dartmoor, making it to the furthest camp. 2,400 teenagers took part in the two-day event, and to finish so early is a huge feat of fitness, teamwork and endurance especially in hot weather. Weeks of training and coaching from Charlie's dad Simon and Tom's Dad have paid off and we're extremely proud of the group's achievement.



National Surf Life Saving Pool Championships

There was a significant number of amazing students from Braunton Academy giving it their all to represent their clubs. It was a very long, gruelling day (12 hours in the pool!), and I cannot emphasise enough how fantastic they all were. They have trained extremely hard for this event and their sportsmanship went above and beyond, as they all gave it their all and supported each other throughout this national competition.

I am extremely proud to say that Woolacombe Surf Lifesaving Club won the event and are now the **British National Champions, (both in the pool and on the beach!)**. This is a massive achievement, and what's more is that half of this team is made up from students from Braunton Academy (past and present).

I don't think that any other school in Britain can claim to have this many British National Champions!

Congratulations to: Ellie, Immy, Abbie, Izzy, Farli, Jamie, Issy, Elsie, Charlie, Ryan, Zaiph, Stan, and George. Also, we were proud to have these ex-students competing: Annalise Roome, Ella Jones, Jim Turner, Dennis Psaltis, Maddie Durrant, Libby Wright, and Alice Lapish.

World Pilot Gig Championships

Just after Christmas Mr Liversedge was lucky enough to be selected to row for Ilfracombe Pilot Gig Club at the World Pilot Gig Championships held in the Isles of Scilly over the May bank holiday weekend. Over 400 teams entered the Championships, and after a weekend of hard racing the team paced 24 in the Veterans category. Ilfracombe Pilot Gig Club also had crews in the Men's and Women's Open with the Men's A crew coming 15th out of 128 gigs, Men's B 43 out of 128, Women's A coming 11th out of 132, Women's B 68 out of 132 and Ladies Supervets placed 13th. Cornish pilot gig racing is a rapidly-growing sport, and Ilfracombe also has a highly successful youth section so if you or your youngsters are interested in giving it a go do not hesitate to contact Mr Liversedge for further information.



Donations of School Uniform

We need items of good quality, used school uniform and PE kit in all sizes.

If your child is leaving Year 11 this summer, please consider donating unwanted uniform to us for passing on to other students.

If you are able to help at all, please bring donations in to the Academy Reception during school hours.



North Devon Schools' Show Jumping League



Congratulations to our three school show jumping teams who this weekend competed in the North Devon Schools' Show jumping League.

The team made up of Olive, Hermione, Florence, Isla, Mia, Sienna and Daniel were superb placing 2nd and 3rd in the 60cm height with Sienna coming 2nd in the 50cm and 6th in the 60cm.

Well done to you all.

National Gymnastics Championships



Everyone at Braunton Academy is sending best wishes to Rosie who is representing the South West of England in gymnastics this Sunday at the National Championships.

Rosie is competing in five pieces of equipment; floor, bars, beam, vault and range.

Good luck Rosie and the South West Team. Go smash it!

English Schools' Track & Field Cup



We had a great day today at Exeter Arena, home of Exeter Harriers Athletics' Club, where 58 of our students across 4 teams competed in the first round of the English Schools' Track & Field Cup. The provisional results are:-

Junior boys (years 7 and 8) - 2nd

Junior girls (years 7 and 8) - 1st

Intermediate boys (years 9 and 10) - 1st

Intermediate girls (years 9 and 10) - 1st

3 out of the 4 teams automatically qualify for the regional finals later this term. 1 team will have to wait to see if their points total is high enough to join the other 3 at the finals.

Well done to all who took part. Fantastic results!!

Staff Netball Competition



The PE Departments of Braunton Academy and Great Torrington School combined today in the annual mixed netball competition.

Team PE played 5 and won 5 to earn a place in the final where they won 3-2.

Congratulations to all the PE staff from both schools and thank you to Team Manager, Miss Lane.

Physical Education Department - Instagram Page

Our PE Department have an Instagram page bursting with up-to-the-minute posts about the incredible success our students achieve; we really do have some super-talented students! Go to [brauntonacademype](https://www.instagram.com/brauntonacademype) for the latest updates.



103 likes
[brauntonacademype](https://www.instagram.com/brauntonacademype) 🏆 Champions 🏆

Congratulations to the Y9 girls Rounders team who competed and won 🏆 the annual North Devon Schools Y9 Rounders Tournament today on home turf. 🏆

#BrauntonAcademy
#brauntonacademype
#aspireandachieve

🌍 Liked by [brauntoncricketclub](https://www.instagram.com/brauntoncricketclub) and 147 others
[brauntonacademype](https://www.instagram.com/brauntonacademype) This is how we do it! 🌟

We have this morning found out that our Athletics teams have ALL qualified for the English Schools Track & Field Cup finals. 🏆🏆🏆🏆

12th June @ Millfield 🏆
Regional A Final
Intermediate Boys (Y9&10)

18th June @ Exeter 🏆
Regional B final
Junior Girls (Y7&8)
Junior Boys (Y7&8)
Intermediate Girls (Y9&10)

A clean sweep for all our teams, well done and congratulations. What an achievement for you all.

Special mention to the Intermediate Boys
This is the 1st time that we have ever made the regional A finals which is an absolutely enormous achievement by the Intermediate Boys team and from a school with just over 800 students. Well done everyone. 🏆 They will now get to compete against some of the biggest and best schools and athletes in the South-West. 🏆



🔒 [brauntonacademyofficial](https://www.instagram.com/brauntonacademyofficial) was invited to be a collaborator but hasn't yet accepted.

📍 🗨️ 📌

84 likes
[brauntonacademype](https://www.instagram.com/brauntonacademype) 🏆 Massive well done to the 16 strong Tennis 🎾 team who competed in the annual U15s @atlanticracquetcentre Summer open today.

We took 4 mixed teams of 4 players with our B team losing in the final to The Park School. Big well done to all who took part and for some, their first time representing @brauntonacademyofficial in sport. 🏆

🙌 Big thank you to Lottie and Marian from @atlanticracquetcentre for organising the event on at a spectacular facility 🏆

U17 Lioness

Congratulations to Issi who represented England U17s Women at the U17 European Championships in Sweden earlier this month.

The young Lionesses played Norway, winning 3-0, Sweden, winning 5-1, France, with Issi making her U17s full debut having previously represented England at U15s where she and her team won 1-0. Having qualified for the semi finals then they went on to beat Poland 2 - 0 before losing in the final against Spain 4-0. As a result of their massive success the team now qualify for the U17s Womens' World Cup.



This was an amazing experience for Issi, everyone at Braunton Academy are so very proud of her and are looking forward to seeing the progress she and her team make in the near future.

- Our courses are designed by expert teachers so you can train to become a teacher with confidence.
- Working with the University of Nottingham to provide the PGCE element (taught in Devon).
- School placements, through our network of schools, provide you with excellent training and practice close to home.
- Seminars and workshops are delivered through a mix of face to face and online sessions, so you can achieve the best work life balance.
- Our training communities celebrate the successes and qualities of trainees from diverse backgrounds and career stages.



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VACANCY FOR EXAM INVIGILATORS

We are looking to appoint a team of enthusiastic and flexible individuals to act as Exam Invigilators. Although the role is mostly seasonal during the summer, exams run throughout the year, providing ongoing opportunities for temporary employment.

**Please note, the summer exams begin on
Thursday 9th May 2024 and end on Wednesday 19th June 2024.**

Ideally candidates will need to be able to commit to several hours a week throughout the summer season. However, please specify on the application form any dates that you are not available.

Full training will be provided in preparation for the next set of exams.

Pay scale: **J.E. Grade B3 - £11.79 per hour**

For further details, please search under the 'Work With Us' section of the Academy website www.braunton.academy and fill out an application form and send back to recruitment@braunton.academy

Please note, we do not accept CVs

Safeguarding: Braunton Academy is committed to safeguarding the welfare of its students, therefore an online check of publicly available information will be completed to assess shortlisted candidates' suitability to work with children. The successful applicant will also be subject to an enhanced Disclosure and Barring Service check (DBS) and full identity and qualification checks. Please refer to the Child Protection Policy on our Academy website <https://www.braunton.academy/policies>