

Parents' Post

www.braunton.academy

Autumn 2 2024

Thoughts from the Principal's Office

Dear Parents/Carers

Welcome to the winter edition of the Parents' Post. It has been another busy and enjoyable term, culminating with the fantastic Winter Concert of Wednesday night. Thank you to all the parents and those from the wider community who turned up to celebrate the work of the Expressive Arts department, with a special congratulations to Mr Thomas as it was his first Winter Concert at Braunton Academy. The quality of the performances was extremely high and it was lovely to see the students' long hours of practice paying off in this wonderful celebration.

As always, it has been a busy time especially for the school football, rugby and netball teams. The PE department, under the new leadership of Mr Parkin, continues to celebrate regional success.

We hope you will enjoy reading this edition and celebrating these successes and much more.

Best wishes,
Mrs Bowler



Cyberfirst National Competition



The '**Scholar Star**' is awarded to students in their Year Group with the best Engagement for Learning statistics from their MTA.

They receive a

Bronze Star :1st time of achieving the scholar star in the same academic year.

Silver Star : 2nd time of achieving the scholar star in the same academic year.

Gold Star : 3rd time of achieving the scholar star in the same academic year.

Autumn Term Awards: Year 7

Other Year Groups on the next page...





Year 8 Scholar Stars



Year 9 Scholar Stars



Year 10 Scholar Stars



Well done, hard work always pays off! Mrs Craig



Year 11 Scholar Stars

Staff Leaver: Mr Holmes

Mr Holmes joined the Braunton Academy Design & Technology department back in 2014. He brought with him a much-needed sense of humour and a fresh energy that saw him settle in well. During his time with us he has contributed to a vast range of new projects and resources for our KS3 classes and has been fundamental in setting up the KS4 Engineering course, allowing many more students to gain qualifications which have led them into many different fields in the engineering sector. His dry quick wit and vast making experience has enthused and inspired many students over the years and he has now decided to focus on new adventures away from education.

We will all miss his infectious humour, fabulous storytelling abilities and Design & Technology skills. All of the staff and students wish him all the best for the future.



Remembrance

Our Senior Students Emily, Tom and Charlie, had the privilege of representing Braunton Academy at the annual Armistice Remembrance Service in the village, Charlie, for the third year, performed the trumpet as part of the service. We were joined by representatives from Southmead, Caen and Kingsacre primary schools to pay our respects to the members of our community who lost their lives in World War One. Charlie performed the Last Post and Reveille while Emily and Tom read the Exhortation and the Kohima Epitaph. Back in school all students marked the two minutes' silence with one of our Year 9 students,

Mille, who performed the Last Post for the school community.



Ocean Explorers

Our Ocean Explorers had an incredible experience on this programme offered by Plastic Free North Devon. Students were involved in gorse clearing, beach cleaning, woodland conservation, shark egg identification and recording their results in a global citizen science survey, plus rock-pooling and making amazing artwork using inspiration from the natural world. The group were a credit to the school and really impressed Libby from PFND with their enthusiasm and hard work. Well done all of you.

Staff Leaver: Mrs De Groot

Mrs De Groot is leaving us after 28 years of service to Braunton Academy. Initially employed as a PE Teacher, Mrs De Groot worked her way up to the Senior Leadership Team as SENDCO whilst continuing to teach Religious Studies and Drama. She will be greatly missed by all, although is moving into working with Alternative Education Provisions, so luckily, we will still get work with her. We wish Mrs De Groot the best of luck with her new role.



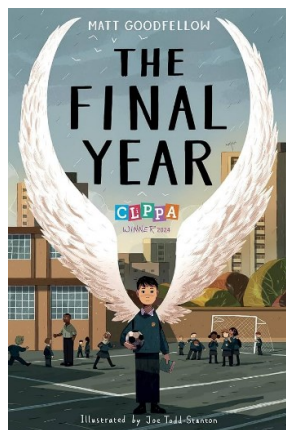
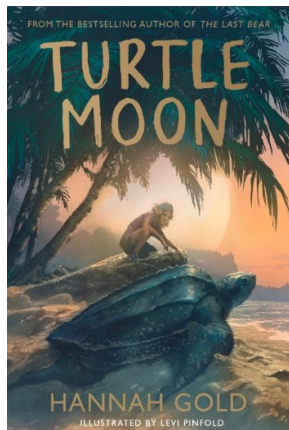
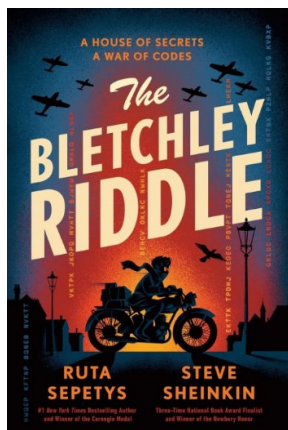
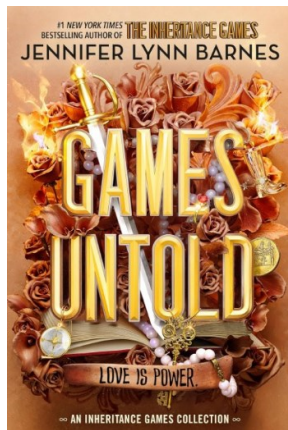
Cyberfirst National Competition

Four Year 8 girls took part in the Cyberfirst National competition organised by GCHQ. India, Flo, Hetty, and Sienna. Mrs Duthuit is so proud of the dedication they showed, turning up every lunchtime and break time for 10 days. This paid off and they came 9th in the South West region. They have a bright future in cyber security. Well done girls! **(Photo on front page)**



Library News

Every term we undertake a book exchange with the School Library Service, where we return outdated, unread or damaged books. This term we have added over 150 new books to our shelves! Here are some of the new titles:

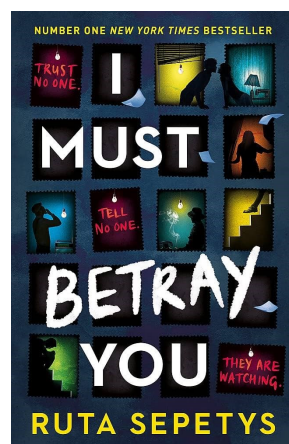


Miss Rockey recommends: *I Must Betray You* by Ruta Sepetys

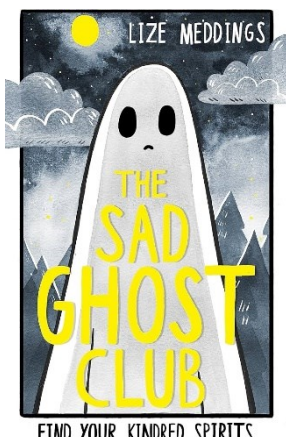
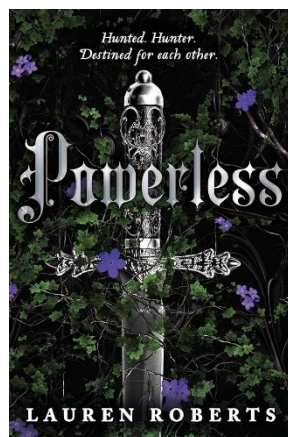
Romania, 1989. Communist regimes are crumbling across Europe. Seventeen-year-old Cristian Florescu dreams of becoming a writer, but Romanians aren't free to dream; they are bound by rules and force.

Amidst the tyrannical dictatorship of Nicolae Ceaușescu in a country governed by isolation and fear, Cristian is blackmailed by the secret police to become an informer. He's left with only two choices: betray everyone and everything he loves—or use his position to creatively undermine the most notoriously evil dictator in Eastern Europe.

Cristian risks everything to unmask the truth behind the regime, give voice to fellow Romanians, and expose to the world what is happening in his country. He eagerly joins the revolution to fight for change when the time arrives. But what is the cost of freedom?



Most popular books taken out of the Library this term:



Feeling Festive in the Library!

After the success of our Halloween Book Quiz last term, we held a Christmas Book Quiz! 28 students and 4 staff members took part, representing our Houses and answering questions on Christmas books and films. It was a very close call, but Saunton stole the crown once more scoring 20.5/22 and winning the Christmas goodie bags! Well done to Austin, Kitty, Emilia, Clodagh, Flo, Bella, Ruby and Mrs Nolan!

**“Twenty is plenty” campaign
Wrafton Road Action Group**

Hello!

We are a group of residents who have come together with the aim of reducing traffic speed and increasing safety for all road users.

You may have seen the eye-catching signs appearing down Wrafton Road near your schools!

These were put up by our group in an attempt to grab peoples attention to what we think is an increasing problem with vehicles nipping down this road trying to get through as quickly as possible.

This is coupled with the fact that Wrafton Road is often used as a cut through when the main road is busy.

We believe this gives us a double whammy of heavy traffic flow combined with higher than safe speeds for this residential area.

We are especially concerned by the amount of young people this impacts on, and think it’s only been a matter of luck that an accident hasn’t happened before now.

We have met with Braunton Parish Council who are fully supportive of our campaign, and have approached DCC who are also open to the possibility of reducing the speed limit along the road.

We would love your support for our petition - please scan the QR code below.

Thanks in advance & best wishes for the festive season!

**Tom, Lizzie, Helen
On behalf of
WRAG**



**Twenty
is plenty**



Parking Notice

We are aware that dropping your child off at school can be a very busy time of day, so please be respectful of where you choose to park near the school. There have been issues recently with parents/carers parking their cars across the driveways of some local residents. What seems like ‘just a minute’ to you, can be frustrating to the person trying to leave their house. Many thanks for your co-operation.

Help! News From Room 28

Proud as we are of all the wonderful dishes produced by Food Tech students, we now find ourselves drowning under a tsunami of plastic tubs, Tupperware and other items which have been left behind. This often includes the lasagnas, curries, chillies, burgers, layered salads etc. which have been made in class, left safely in the fridge and then, sadly, forgotten and abandoned. We feel that you as parents/carers/family have not been able to witness and taste the delicious products your loved ones have made at school, to say nothing of the food we have to chuck out when our fridges are emptied on Friday afternoons.

We would encourage you to ask your young people to come into the food room and reclaim their containers at their earliest opportunity. If you feel this is a job best done by you, feel free to pop in after 3.15 pm (via Reception) and Mrs Oliver will reunite with your things (lids and all!)



Free Courses at Petroc for Adults

Petroc is offering a fantastic range of FREE adult short courses, perfect for anyone looking to explore a new interest or upskill. From 'How to Start Your Own Business' to 'Women in Construction', 'Introduction to Barbering/Hairdressing Skills' to 'Microsoft Office and AI prompting', there's something for everyone! Whether you're ready to dive into a passion or try something completely new, our short courses are designed to fit into your schedule, offering a relaxed and inspiring learning experience. There are even online courses you can take part in from home. Meet new people, learn valuable skills and enjoy.

Getting started is easy, sign-up online, and we will see you on the start date, no forms, no interview, no hassle. Ready to get ahead? Sign up for a free course today!

<https://www.petroc.ac.uk/courses/adult-learning-free-adult-courses/>

Theatre Group Box Clever Wows with their Spectacular Reimagining of A Christmas Carol

Students in Years 10 and 11 were treated to a mind-blowingly engaging one-hour abridged version of A Christmas Carol performed by just three actors and followed by a 30 minute question and answer workshop.

The travelling theatre company Box Clever performed a modern reimagining of the Victorian novel with Scrooge appearing as a hard-hearted businessman on his mobile phone, Bob, his impoverished female cleaner and The Ghost of Christmas Past as Scrooge's therapist. Not only did our students become immersed in the play (special effects such as echoing ghostly voices built tension and suspense), they also became part of the play. Anyone sat at the front was fair game for being pulled into the acting space with one Year 10 student becoming the parrot and others being called to act as Bob Cratchit's children. At one point the whole audience had to stand up and perform the Macarena! This isn't the first time Box Clever visited Braunton Academy and it certainly won't be the last. Students and teachers alike were mesmerised by the performance and felt a little more Christmassy too!



Eco Club Cake Sale

There are more tigers in captivity in North America than there are left in the wild and so the Eco Club wanted to try and do something to help this situation by adopting a tiger through the WWF. The club members decided to run a cake sale which was such a success that we now have the funds to sponsor two tigers as we raised a huge £232! Thanks to everyone who bought a cake and especially the wonderful eco club members who baked and supplied such amazing cakes. Well done everyone.



Important Notices for Parents/Carers


For parents who need to access their child's UK eVisa: The UK Government is replacing physical immigration documents with eVisas, a digital proof of immigration status. Parents/Carers of children who are not British or Irish citizens, and whose children have either a biometric residence permit (BRP) card expiring on 31st December 2024, or a passport with an indefinite leave to remain ink stamp or vignette sticker, should take action to [access their eVisa now](#), and do so on behalf of their children too.

An eVisa cannot be lost or stolen and can be accessed online by visa holders at any time to prove their rights in the UK. It's free and their immigration status won't be affected.

You can find a range of shareable eVisa communications materials, including factsheets and social media content in the eVisa [partner pack](#).


Braunton Academy Presents

TREASURE ISLAND

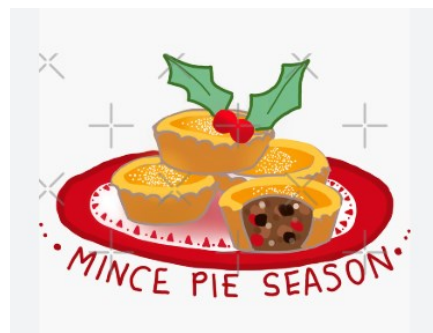


FOR THOSE WHOVE FELT BOTH WOUNDS AND HURTS..YOU NOW ENJOY YOUR JUST DESSERTS!.. YOU'VE FOUND THE BOX, YOU'VE FOLLOWED THE MAP. YOU NEED NOW TO OPE YOUR TRAP...!

7pm on 5th, 6th & 7th Feb 2025.
Doors open 6.30pm.
Adults £6
Children £3
Tickets available on Parentmail or on the door.

 Braunton Academy
Aspire & Achieve

This amateur production of "Treasure Island (Lovers)" is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals Ltd. on behalf of Samuel French Ltd.



Reminder of Term Dates

Spring Term 2025:

Tuesday 7th January - Friday 4th April

Half term: Monday 17th - Friday 21st February

Summer Term 2025:

Tuesday 22nd April - Tuesday 22nd July

Bank Holiday: Monday 5th May

Half term: Monday 26th - Friday 30th May

Autumn Term 2025:

Thursday 4th September - Friday 19th December

Half term: Monday 27th - Friday 31st October

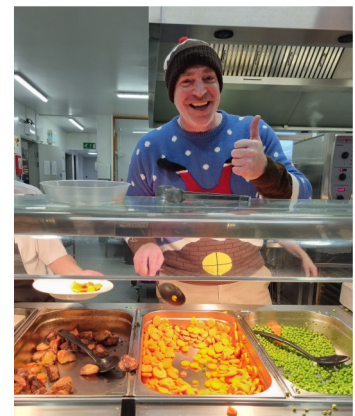
Occasional day (School closed): Friday 28th November

Christmas Dinner 2024



New Catering Supplier for 2025

We will be moving over to a new supplier (Educatering) for all our food within the main school kitchen. Around 90% of all produce is locally sourced within Devon, Cornwall and Somerset, reducing our carbon footprint. A new menu structure is currently being designed with the Student Council and Kitchen Manager; this will be released in the new year. We also have a parent taster session during the Year 7 Parents' Evening on 9th January 2025. We look forward to your feedback.



Leadership Coaching Day

We invited Joe Sparks from Outlier Coaching to come in and work with our Senior Prefects for the day in a Leadership Coaching day. It was a really inspiring day for our students as Joe normally works with adults in a Coaching Leadership capacity. Instead of taking payment, Joe asked us to make a donation to a charity NGO Ghana which he is Trustee of and this is what our donation went towards.



GCSE Art Trip to the Eden Project

Our Year 10 Art students recently visited St. Ives and the Eden Project as a basis for their first coursework project themed around Nature.

On day one we spent a few hours looking around the biodomes taking photographs and sketching plants. Our coach then dropped us off in St. Ives to the Cohort Hostel in the middle of town. We were treated to a talk by a St. Ives tour guide, who was able to explain the history of the town as a place enjoyed by so many artists over the years. This was an excellent start for our students to get to know some of the key pieces of work that would be seeing the next day. On Day two we split into two working groups and both visited the Barbara Hepworth Museum and Sculpture Garden and the Tate Gallery. Students had some time briefly to explore and enjoy St. Ives at lunchtime before heading home again.



It was a jam-packed visit, which enabled our students to see work in real life and to gather lots of imagery as resources for their current project.

This is our annual residential Art trip that will be running next year for our current Year 9 art students who have chosen GCSE Art.

Winter Concert

We battled the cold, wet and traffic jams to enjoy the festive delights of the Winter Concert. Students from all years showed such expertise in their playing and singing skills, and wowed the audience with some traditional, as well as more recent, Christmas songs.

We were treated to bands playing original music, cover versions of pop songs as well as more traditional pieces, including some carols.

The concert included a beautiful piece sung by the Braunton Community Choir, created by Merry Springate, which included some members of our staff and students. Thanks to Tim Parker for his hard work preparing guitar students, and to Mrs Hookes for her work with the string quartet.

So much hard work goes in to creating a performance concert, from the students practising, peripatetic staff, Mr Thomas and Mr Carroll making the running order and performances slick, timely and professional. It is a real team effort to pull off such a successful evening; thank you to all the admin team and site team and the staff that helped on the night making drinks and selling tickets.

Lastly thank you to our wonderful musicians who always wow me with their confidence and brilliance. For me the concert always is the start of Christmas.

Merry Christmas everyone, and thank you for making such a wonderful annual event.

Mrs Bateman



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 extracurricular activities.

Consistency and Routine: Establishing a routine of regular attendance helps students develop good habits that will benefit them throughout their lives. It teaches 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, counselors, and learning materials. This support is crucial for their academic and emotional well-being.

Reporting Absences:

To report an absence due to illness or other unavoidable reasons, please notify us before 8.45 am on the day of the absence on the ParentMail app: Absence/Child's name/Add/Reason and duration of absence.

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.

Attendance Ladder



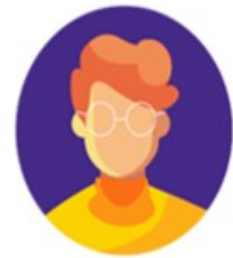
Every student. Every day.

What can I do to help?



As a parent or carer you can help by:

- ensuring your child understands the importance of excellent attendance and punctuality
- taking an interest in their education – asking about school work and encourage them to get involved in school activities
- discussing any problems they may have at school and inform their Student Support Officer to pass on concerns quickly
- not allowing them take time off school for minor ailments – particularly those which would not prevent you from going to work
- arranging appointments after school hours, at weekends or during school holidays will help to prevent disruption to your child's education and to the school
- being open and willing to work with us to improve your child's attendance



As a student, you can improve your attendance by:

- speaking to a trusted adult about the reasons why you might not want to come to school
- trying hard every morning to get up and get to school, unless you are really unwell
- getting an early night, feeling tired on a morning can make getting to school harder
- make sure you get to school on time every day

**School Admission Arrangements & Education
Transport Policy & Admission Relevant Areas**



**You are invited to review the proposed
2026-27 admission arrangements for
state-funded schools in Devon**
and the home-to-school transport policy for
Devon County Council for 2026-29 at
www.devon.gov.uk/admissionarrangements**

****including several academies in the neighbouring LA
areas of Bournemouth, Christchurch & Poole, Cornwall,
Dorset, Plymouth, Somerset and Torbay**

Workstation Checks

We are implementing new procedures across our IT suites to minimise some low-level damage that has been occurring recently.

From the start of Spring Term, students will be asked to check their workstations before using them and report defects to their teacher. This will initially ensure we can complete any necessary repairs promptly so that the maximum number of PCs are available for use by students. It will also allow us to determine when and who may have caused any damage to the workstation.

If, after investigation, we are able to attribute this to a specific student, then we will be asking for any damage to be paid for.



Year 10 reach the North Devon Rugby Cup Final

Our Year 10s took on Kingsley in the semi final this afternoon in what was an excellent display of rugby with Braunton winning 33-22. Well done boys!

North Devon Football Champions

Year 7 claimed the North Devon crown by scoring with the last kick of the game in what was an incredibly tight and well-contested final against Ilfracombe! Well done boys!



North Devon Netball Champions

Braunton had outstanding of results with our Year 8s, 9s and 10s being crowned North Devon Netball Champions. Well done girls!

Year 8 Netball league winner
 Year 9 Netball league winners
 Year 10 Netball league Winner
 Year 11 Netball league 3rd place



Devon County Squad: Netball

Congratulations to Maya and Isla on their selection to the squad this season. Both girls now travel to Exeter every week to train.

Devon County Cross Country Championships

Big congratulations to Year 7 student Kush who ran in the Devon County Cross Country Championships. Kush placed 3rd in the U13 event which has meant he has earned a place in the Devon team who will compete in the inter counties championship in March.



Exeter Chiefs News

Huge congratulations to Harry in year 10 who has earned a place in the Exeter Chiefs U15s central squad starting after Christmas! All that hard work is paying off, Harry.

U14 Netball Team

Well done to the U14 Netball team who travelled to Exeter to compete in the netball county finals. They finished 8th in Devon. Congratulations!

Climbing Competition

Well done to Team Braunton who placed 3rd at the inter-school climbing competition with a special shoutout to Mahi and Kush in placing 1st and 3rd in the boys Year 7-9 category!



Karate News

Huge congratulations to Alfie who recently competed in the World Karate Championships! Over 2000 competitors from different countries took part, and Alfie managed to place 5th in his category just missing out on the Bronze medal! Well done Alfie!!



Manchester City Academy

Otis in Year 8 was selected from a group of boys from Devon and Somerset to train with Manchester City Academy and compete in multiple games against local team in Manchester. What an amazing experience! Well done Otis!



Year 11 Rugby

Our Year 11's did themselves proud in their final school rugby tournament having played 4, winning 3 and losing 1! Well done boys!



Swimming Success

A massive well done to Issy who competed at South West Regional Winter Championships in 800m. Amazing swimming with consistent splits gaining just under 8s pb - well done Issy!



England Cap for Issi

Huge congratulations to Year 11 student, Issi, who this week was offered a full boarding scholarship with Clifton College and also officially signed with Puma! Also pictured here is Issi being presented with her first official England cap from Rachel Daly at Wembley Stadium.



North Devon Rugby Champions

Our u15 team have been crowned North Devon champions after a 24-5 win against Chulmleigh! Well done boys!

Issi continues to push forward with her football career and we cannot wait to see what the future holds for her! Well done!

From everyone at Braunton Academy, we wish you a very Merry Christmas - see you all in 2025!

