

Braunton Academy

Aspire & Achieve

Braunton Academy Newsletter:

13th November 2026

Dear Families,

I hope you have had a lovely week. I would like to start by praising the Year 11 students that have finished their first week of pre-public examinations. They have had some experience at the end of Year 10 but this is the first time they have experienced this level of testing in such a short window of time and they have performed really well. The exams team and invigilators have fed back how well they have managed the demands. There are some who need to be a little more prepared with the equipment for each exam but overall, an amazing effort from everyone. They just need to keep going with the revision and continue to focus into next week.

This week, I took the principal students and representatives of Year 7 to the annual Armistice ceremony in the village. A big thank you to Harry and Marnie for performing their role in the proceeding, performing the readings before and after the two-minute silence. Also, a big thank you to Mrs Legge that joined us in the village to play the last post. For those in school, they had the privilege of hearing Millie, in Year 11, perform the last post as part of the minutes silence in school. She did an excellent job! With Millie being in Year 11, we are now looking for any up-and-coming brass player to take her place next year.

In sporting news this week, the Year 11 rugby team recently competed in their final ever rugby tournament as Braunton Academy students. Facing schools from across North Devon, the boys performed superbly and finished 3rd overall. This marks the end of an excellent chapter for this group, and we would

Key Dates for November:

Year 11 PPEs:

Monday 16th November:
Computer Science (am)
DT (pm)
Tuesday 17th November:
Physics (am)
Geography (am)
Wednesday 18th November:
French Listening (am)
Music (pm)
Thursday 19th November:
Creative iMedia (am)
Maths (pm)
Friday 20th November:
History (am)
Food (pm)

Friday 27th November:
Occasional Day- School Closed

like to thank all of the layers for their commitment, dedication and contribution to the PE department over the years.

Meanwhile, our Year 10 boys football team secured and impressive 2-0 victory over Great Torrington school in the North Devon plate semi-final. This has earned them a place in the final where they will face Chulmleigh in a few weeks' time. Congratulations to the boys on another outstanding performance.

Looking ahead, our U14 girls' football team will compete in the 4th round of the National Cup on the 25th of November against Plymstock, whilst our Year 11 boys' football team will contest the North Devon cup final on 25th November at Mill Road. There is a 7:00pm kick-off and spectators are very welcome to come along and support the team as they look to finish their school football journey with silverware.

Also, as you will be aware, there has been a global outage of Microsoft today which has impacted on our school emails, hence the limited photos included in the newsletter today. We are hopeful that normal communication will resume on Monday and thank you for your patience today.

Finally, as we move further into November, I just want to remind parents that the school is shut for the annual occasional day on Friday 27th November.

The school will also be shut to students the following Friday 4th December as it is a training inset day for all staff.

Have a lovely weekend.

Best wishes,



Mrs F Bowler, Principal

Whole School Messages

Whole School Messages - Braunton Academy - Aspire and Achieve

Admissions policy for 2028-29: Annual Consultation
Along with all other schools and academies in Devon, we are consulting on an admission policy for 2028-29. The Local Authority is also consulting on its arrangements – the admissions schemes through which you can apply. You are invited to look at the proposed new policies and to have your say on them.

Our proposed policy is on our admission page of our website along with our determined policies for 2026 and 2027, and you can see all policies at http://devon.cc/schoolpolicy
Further information is here: www.devon.gov.uk/admissionarrangements
The consultation runs between 13th November 2026 and 16th January 2027.

Medication in School – Prescribed and/Over the Counter (OTC)
Whilst we do have school spares of OTC pain relief medicine, we are asking if parents/carers can provide their own for their child, especially if they require a specific type e.g. liquid or dissolvable tablets. Please bring the medication to Reception, where you will be asked to complete a short medication consent form. Once this is done, the medication will be stored safely in First Aid and can be given to your child if they need it during the school day. If you have any queries, please contact:
medical@braunton.academy

Parent Engagement Group
Last year we launched the Braunton Academy Parent Engagement Group giving parents/ carers the opportunity to work with the leadership team to develop the school. Last year a homework audit was carried out from feedback from this group and changes to the policy were made. We also developed the format of this weekly newsletter from collaborative work.

We would love for you to join us for all or even just some of the sessions this year on the following dates. The meetings start at 5.30 pm and finish at 7.00 pm and are held in the Conference Room at the Academy.

Wednesday 9th December 2026
Wednesday 10th February 2027
Wednesday 24th March 2027
Wednesday 26th May 2027
Wednesday 7th July 2027

Free DIAS SEND workshops for parent carers

Free DIAS SEND workshops for parent carers are now open for bookings!

DiAS
Devon Information Advice and Support

Making Sense of SEND: About SEND and school

October 14 @ 10:30 am - 11:30 am

Online via Teams

This one-hour workshop explains special educational needs, SEN support in nursery, school and college and how the SEND system works.

Making Sense of EHC plans: Understanding your child's EHC plan

November 16 @ 1:30 pm - 2:30 pm

Online via Teams

This one-hour workshop is about EHC plans, what should be in them and what they are used for. If your child already has an EHC plan, or is about to be issued with one, then this session is for you!

Click these links to book:
Book About SEND and school – Making Sense of SEND: About SEND and school – Teams
Book Understanding your child's EHC plan – Making Sense of EHC plans: Understanding your child's EHC plan – Teams





Devon Family Hubs





Dice Parenting Programme







Trips

Exeter Chiefs – Sunday 13th December 2026. There are still a few tickets available; please email trips@braunton.academy if you're interested in your child going and you haven't already made the payment.

Competitions/Fixtures

Tuesday 17th November - U16 County netball tournament at Exeter University. Times to be confirmed.

Tuesday 1st December – rearranged netball matches from 10th November

Clubs and Activities

Clubs & Activities - Braunton Academy - Aspire and Achieve



Year 11 News

Year 11 Leavers' Prom 2027
We are delighted to confirm that the Year 11 Leavers' Prom will take place on Friday 25th June 2027.

This is always a special occasion and a wonderful opportunity for students to celebrate the end of their GCSE exams and their time at school with their peers.

Further information regarding the venue, timings, tickets, and arrangements will be shared with parents and carers later in the academic year. Please keep an eye on future newsletters and school communications for updates.

PPE Timetable November 2026
Please find below a link to the Year 11 PPE timetable for November 2026.

Year-11-November-2026-PPE-timetable.pdf

North Devon College – School Leavers' Course Guide
This Guide details everything students need to know about college life and the varied study options they have to offer. Please click on the link below for further information:

School Leavers' Course Guide - North Devon College

North Devon College - Key Dates
December Open Event: Tuesday 1st December 2026 - **https://www.ndc.ac.uk/open-events/**
March Open Event: Wednesday 3rd March 2027

North Devon College Update

Please follow the link below to the latest information from North Devon College. This includes information about applying for a course for September 2027,what's new at North Devon College and when their next open event is to help with your post-16 learner journey.

North Devon College Parent/Guardian Update - Post 16 Opportunities

Bideford College Sixth Form Information Evening
Please follow the link below to details of the Bideford College Sixth Form Information Evening to be held on Thursday 26th November from 4.30pm – 7.00 pm.
Bideford College Sixth Form Information Evening



Please follow this link to our Careers webpage for details of all upcoming Open Events:

Careers - Braunton Academy - Aspire and Achieve

U16 Netball County final in Exeter Tuesday 17th November.
No Girls football club Wednesday 25/11 due to fixtures.

Year 10 News

Charter Vets Work Experience
Charter Vets we are keen to support students who are looking to develop a career within the Veterinary Industry. Following the success of their work experience application process last year, they are keen to continue working with the local secondary schools in North Devon, to provide work experience.

As the number of individual student requests are high, they cannot, unfortunately, fulfil all of them.

Charter Vets are asking that interested students complete an application form. A link to the application form can be found below. If you cannot print this yourself, please see Mrs Martin in the Finance Office in the Quad who will print it for you.

Students then need to return the completed application form by the deadline, which is Monday 23rd November 2026, to Mrs Martin. All the application forms received will then be forwarded to the Head Nurse at Charter Vets. Any application forms not received by the school by the deadline will not be considered. Applications will be reviewed by selected staff members at Charter Vets and students shortlisted.

Those students selected for a placement will be notified via the Work Experience Administrator, Mrs Martin, sometime during the week commencing Monday 7th December. Any students contacting Charter Vets on an individual basis outside this arrangement will be referred back to school.

If you have any questions about this process, please speak to Mrs Martin or Mr Parsons.

Work-Experience-Application-Form-Y10-Y11-20180615-1.docx

NHS Work Experience Opportunity 2027
We have received information from the NHS Foundation Trust regarding work experience at North Devon District Hospital, Barnstaple. The work experience week will run from Monday 5th – Friday 9th July 2027.

If your child is interested in a career in healthcare, please ask them to email their completed form to Karen McKenzie at karen.mckenzie11@nhs.net by Friday 27th November 2026. There is a link to the application form below. Karen would prefer to receive the application in a Word or PDF format. If your child needs their application to be scanned and sent, please speak to Mrs Martin in the Finance Office in the Quad who will do this for you. We would like students to write their own personal statements, with little or no assistance from AI, as the NHS would prefer to receive a genuine, thought-out application about why your child thinks a place on the programme would benefit them and why they think they are a suitable candidate.

1.-Royal-Devon-Student-application-form-v4-Sep-2024-002.docx

As this programme is always oversubscribed the forms will be shortlisted, so please take time and complete all of the application form before submitting it. Interviews are scheduled to take place in the week commencing Monday 11th January 2027, but the exact date and time will be sent out nearer the time.

If you need any advice on completing the application form, or have any questions about this work experience, please ask your son/daughter to see me or email me at aparsons@braunton.academy

No Football Club Due to Fixtures

Tuesday 1st December - Netball matches at Park, leave school 2.45pm, return to school 5.30pm

No Girls football club Wednesday 25/11 due to fixtures

Year 9 News

No Football Club Due to Fixtures

Tuesday 1st December - Netball matches at Park, leave school 2.45pm, return to school 5.30pm

No Girls football club Wednesday 25/11 due to fixtures

Year 8 News

No Football Club Due to Fixtures

Tuesday 19th November year 8 netball matches against Pilton. Leave school 3.15pm, return to school approx 5pm.

Tuesday 1st December - Netball matches at Park, leave school 2.45pm, return to school 5.30pm

No Girls football club Wednesday 25/11 due to fixtures

Year 7 News

From Thursday 10th December for 6 weeks, each Year 7 Learning Group will have one workshop with the Mental Health Support Team. This is what they will be covering: Resilience & Dealing with Change Workshop

This workshop introduces students to the Mental Health Support Team (MHST). It explores resilience, the value of positive relationships and connections, and helps students understand the difference between things they can and cannot control. Students will also learn about growth mindsets and practical strategies for maintaining their wellbeing during times of change, including the '10 a Day' approach.

No Football Club Due to Fixtures
No netball club Tuesday 17th November or 1st December due to fixtures.
No Girls football club Wednesday 25/11 due to fixtures.

Catering

This is a polite reminder that we are a nut free school. Please ensure your child does not bring nuts or food containing nuts as part of their lunch. Many thanks.

	Monday –	Tuesday –	Wednesday –	Thursday –	Friday –
Main Meal	Chicken stir fry served with noodles & veg	Exmoor beef lasagne with garlic bread salad & coleslaw	Roast chicken served with roast potatoes seasonal veg Yorkshire pudding & gravy	Exmoor pork sausages served with mashed potatoes peas & gravy	Fishcakes served with hash brown bites peas or beans
Veggie	Vegetable stir fry served with noodles & veg	Quorn lasagne with garlic bread salad & coleslaw	Veggie cottage pie served with Yorkshire pudding seasonal veg & gravy	Veggie sausages served with mashed potatoes peas & gravy	Omelette served with hash brown bites peas or beans
Desserts	Tray bakes Fresh fruit Fruit pots	Tray bakes Fresh fruit Fruit pots	Tray bakes Fresh fruit fruit pots	Tray bakes Fresh fruit Fruit pots	Tray bakes Fresh fruit Fruit pots
Grab & go Break &	Pasta Bolognese Veggie Bolognese Veggie option	Chicken pesto pasta with loaded veg Veggie option	Chicken rice & vegetable medley Veggie option	Pasta bolognese Veggie option	Thai green curry with rice & veg Veggie option
Grab & go Break	Cod fish finger bap served with iceberg Lettice & tartar sauce	Halloumi burger roasted peppers mayo sweet chilli sauce	Bagel with cream cheese bacon & chives Veggie option	Breakfast wrap Veggie option	Meat ball sub roll Veggie option
Deli Bar	Freshly made Rolls Wraps Pasta pots /salad	Freshly made Rolls Wraps Pasta pots /salad	Freshly made Rolls Wraps Pasta pots /salad	Freshly made Rolls Wraps Pasta pots /salad	Freshly made Rolls Wraps Pasta pots /salad