



Spring 2023



Welcome from Mrs Walker, Interim Head of School

Dear Parent/Carer,

We have had another very busy half term and I hope you will enjoy reading about some of the activities that have taken place in school and the efforts and achievements of our students.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for taking the time to complete the Edurio Parent Experience Survey for Parents and Carers. We now have your feedback and are in the process of putting some of your suggestions into practice. We are currently reviewing our communication systems and in response to your feedback regarding finding it difficult to contact Heads of Year we have created the option for you to be directed to your child's Head of Year when you call the school line. If the Head of Year is teaching or unavailable at the time of your call, please leave a message and in line with our Trust policy they will respond within 48 hours. I hope you will find this first step in our improvements helpful.

In addition, we have listened to your comments about homework and next term will be trialling a new system whereby your child's homework and deadlines will be communicated to you via Edulink. Although the child's planner is the first point of contact regarding the recording of homework we have listened to your comments regarding lack of information and will trial using Edulink next term.

Refurbishment of our toilets continues with one area now complete – please see the photos below showing the new toilets and open space outside the Heads of Year office. During the Easter holidays work will begin on the next phase.

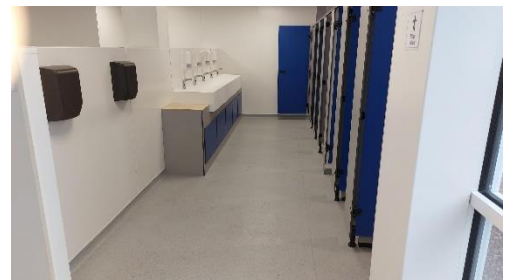
Today we said goodbye to Mr Grimes our Cover Supervisor. Patrick has been a popular and valued member of the Academy for the past 9 years and will be greatly missed by staff and students alike. We wish Patrick a long and enjoyable retirement. We have recruited two new cover supervisors to replace Patrick, Mrs Taylor and Miss White. Next term we will also be welcoming some new staff into the Science and Maths departments. Three experienced teachers will be joining our team Mrs McKeague in Maths and Mr Foley and Mrs Malik in Science.

Finally, I would like to wish you and your families a Happy Easter, I hope you enjoy the break and I look forward to seeing our students on Monday 8th April.

Your faithfully

Cath Walker

Interim Head of School





Textiles Club

We are excited to announce Mrs Grace has kindly started a Textiles Club this half term. The club is on every Wednesday after school for Year 7 and 8. This is a chance to improve your sewing skills using the machine and learn new techniques such as printing.

For the first project students are up cycling their odd socks to create their own sock monkeys.



Leeds Rhinos Netball Trip

On Saturday 9th March we took 25 Brayton netball students over to Huddersfield University to watch Leeds Rhinos Netball in action. The students had a blast witnessing top-tier athleticism, it was experience that left them feeling inspired. As we cheered on the Leeds Rhinos our students were not only spectating but learning and observing key skills, teamwork strategies and resilience displayed by the players on the court. Witnessing the intensity and passion of the game hopefully has inspired our netball students to strive for excellence in their own performance.

We hope that this experience has not only inspired students but has created some unforgettable memories of fun shared with teammates. During halftime, the netball girls took to their feet and boogied to the iconic tune of 'YMCA', with enthusiasm and passion for both the sport and the occasion. We cannot wait to see how this experience translates into their performances on the netball court.

Brayton Ski Trip 2024

During the February half term 54 students embarked on Brayton Academy's first ever ski trip. The trip was a huge success, with students making lots of progress throughout the course of the week.

We were immensely proud of all the students who applied resilience to improve a skill. Many students were complete novices who, by the end of the week, were parallel skiing down red slopes.

Evening activities included competitive quiz nights where the staff showed their true colours and discos with a range of music tastes. The week involved a lot of laughing at hidden talents from both students and staff.

We are currently looking at plans to run another ski trip in the future.

All images and videos from the week can be found on our Twitter page: @braytonacademy1



Reading Buddies at Brayton Begins!

Over the past few weeks Year 7 and 10 students have been continuing our new Reading Buddy scheme. Here are some of their thoughts and feelings towards it!

'Reading buddies has helped me start to chat to the Year 10s which is nice as I do not usually see them around school.' – Tobias, 7.4

'My reading buddy is nice and helps me with difficult words' – Lorenzo 7.9



'I like knowing that I have helped the younger students to progress in their reading' – Elizabeth 10.1

'I like being a reading buddy because it is something different to do during form. It is also fun to try new books and talk about them.' – Sophie 10.6

'It helps me to be a better person and make people better readers in the long term' – Luke 10.6

If you are interested in becoming a Reading Buddy let your form tutor know or speak to Miss Wheeler-Holes or Ms Tomaz!

Computer Game Design Project

KS3 Applied Resilience (Computer Game Design) have been involved in a Raspberry Pi Project to send a piece of code to the International Space Station. On board the ISS are a set of Astro Pi computers that have built in sensors and gadgets to run scientific experiments from measuring the temperature to movement, the computers then output information on a 8x8 LED matrix display.

The students were challenged to create a personalised image to remind the astronauts of home, take a reading from the colour and luminosity sensor on the Astro Pi computer and use the sensor reading to set the colour of the background in their personalised image. The images that the students created were absolutely fantastic and lots of effort was put into making them perfect.

Their submissions are due to be run onboard the ISS in May 2024 and personalised certificates with a date, time and location of where the code was displayed will be issued in June 2024.



Transition

We have now completed the Year 6 enrolment and recruitment for the Academic Year 2024/25. We look forward to welcoming a further 233 pupils in July for a transition week before they join Brayton Academy full time in September.

The next few months are incredibly busy, preparing for the big move! Key pastoral staff will visit all 44 feeder primary schools in preparation for the students arriving and an exciting transition week will be planned with a variety of activities to ensure the students know their way around the school, know their teachers and have any worries squashed before the summer break.

This year we hope that a cohort of current Brayton Academy students will support the transition process and act as mentors for the new Year 6 pupils. More information will be provided to students in the near future for those who would like to take part.

Marie Curie Resilience Charity

On Wednesday 20th March Year 8 Resilience charity and baking group have teamed up together to create daffodil inspired cakes and crafts to raise money for Marie Curie.

Charity students have promoted the event in school and the baking students have practiced their skills to create a range of baked goods to sell including brownies, buns and cakes.





STEM Challenge

A group of year 10 students have embarked on an exciting opportunity to enter the government civil service STEM challenge competition which is happening nationally across the country.

They have been tasked with researching and finding ways to tackle the climate crisis, with a focus on the UK. They are working in groups to explore themes around becoming carbon neutral and more sustainable along with finding three viable solutions to reducing the UK's carbon footprint. They have to come up with three potential ideas for more sustainable carbon neutral houses, transport, or journeys into space.

Pupils will use their new found skills in report writing, data analysis and problem solving to create an academic report or poster that will be judged Nationally. Please wish our teams luck and we will keep you posted on the outcome!

Careers Updates

Selby College have attended Year 9, 10 and 11 parents' evenings this half term and have really enjoyed meeting parents and pupils and answering questions about next steps.

All of our Year 10 pupils attended a taster day at New College Pontefract this week and had a fantastic time learning more about what it would be like to study at college and exploring different options for post-16 courses.

Bishop Burton College visited our Year 8 landscaping applied resilience group this half term to talk to them all about land based technical qualifications. Students got to take part in a soil sampling workshop and analysed samples from the raised beds that they have installed this term!

During National Careers Week this half term pupils in Year 7 - 10 got involved in activities in form time that got them thinking about how they could turn their passions into a future career. Across the school their teachers talked about how their subjects link to future careers and further and higher education courses in ways that pupils might not otherwise have thought of.

Year 11 careers guidance appointments have continued this half term. If your child is in year 11 and is worried about their next steps or is unsure of what they want to do, please encourage them to speak to either Miss Eden or Miss Cotterill and they will be prioritised for an appointment.

Year 7 Boys Football Update

Our Year 7 football boys successfully got to attend two semi-finals since starting with us (one in the league and one in the North Yorkshire Cup).

The first semi-final was lost agonisingly on penalties to Fulford and this week we unfortunately lost 3-2 to St John Fisher.

It has been a very successful year for the boys who were led by skipper Billy W. They showed great team togetherness and resilience on the journey to the semi-final, we are extremely proud of how they have carried themselves throughout.

With the same attitude and commitment shown, the boys can certainly lift silverware next year!





Sport Fixture Results

Sport	Result	
Year 9 Rugby vs Featherstone Academy	Brayton 33-25 Featherstone	<p>A great result for the lads on the back of some fearless defence and outstanding individual brilliance.</p> <p>Man of the Match – Ryan J</p>
Year 9 Rugby vs Selby High	Brayton Blues 12- 20 Selby High Brayton Greens 36 - 8 Selby High Brayton Blues 10 - 25 Brayton Greens	<p>Brayton split our academy team into 2 - Brayton Blues and Brayton Greens.</p> <p>We played 2 games against Selby High using Rugby League rules before Brayton played themselves using Rugby Union rules.</p>
Year 7 Rugby vs BBG Academy	Brayton 5 - 25 BBG Academy	<p>First run out for our Y7, in a fast paced and physical encounter. After a strong first half (5-5) we unfortunately ran out of steam against a big set of students.</p> <p>Man of the Match - Reuben W</p>
Year 8 Rugby vs BBG Academy	Brayton 40 – 20 BBG Academy	<p>After a slow start that saw the lads go in 30-10 down at half time, ended much stronger with a hatrick from Sebastian Ward.</p> <p>Man of the Match - Sebastian W</p>
York City Knights Rugby League Tournament	Year 7 Brayton 12 - 12 Selby Brayton 0 - 20 Sherburn Year 8 Brayton 12- 0 Selby Brayton 4 - 24 Sherburn	<p>We were very impressed to see our students adapt from Rugby Union to Rugby League. The boys represented Brayton Academy with such pride and positivity. They are a credit to the school.</p>
U14's Ilkley Grammar 7's Festival Brayton headed over to the scenic moors of Ilkley to compete in the 2024 Ilkley 7's.	Game 1 vs Bingley Grammar 10 - 10 (D) Game 2 vs BBG Academy 0-30 (L) Game 3 vs Ilkley Grammar 15-5 (L) Plate Semi Final - Vs Harrogate Grammar 12-15 (L)	<p>The lads were absolutely outstanding and held their own against some very talented rugby schools.</p>



York RLFC Girls Tournament

On Tuesday the 19th of March the Year 7 & 8 Girls took part in the first York RLFC Foundation Girls 9's Tournament of the year.

With a lack of experience within the team, the girls were excited to go and be involved in their first competitive contact games. All the girls put in huge amounts of effort and lots of resilience was on show.

The first game they competed in was against York High which was a 20-0 win with tries from Lucy F, Mia S (x2) and Gab V (x2). The girls then played two small sided games against Archbishop Holgate's School where the Year 7 team got beat 8-0 and the Year 8s lost 24-16 with tries from Lucy F (x2) and Gab V (x2). Overall, a very successful evening promoting women's sport in the York and Selby area. We were very proud of our girls.



We would love to hear, share and celebrate what our students are doing outside of Academy life via the news letter.

Please share your child's achievements whether that is sport, music, drama, charity work or anything of special recognition with us via info@braytonacademy.org.uk.

Please include some information and a picture if possible. We look forward to hearing from you!

Music

It's all happening down in the music department! New peripatetic tuition is being offered in electric and acoustic guitar, bass guitar, drums and piano. A singing teacher is also lined up for if there is enough student interest. If this is something your son/daughter is interested in please see Mrs Graham or Ms Tomaz for a letter.

Music lessons across key stage three is also seeing students getting to grips with playing as ensembles and learning the practical skills required to be part of a band. This is particularly in the Year 9 pre-option lesson where students are planning, organising and rehearsing for an end of year show in-front of a live audience. We are excited to show parents/carers what they have been working on.

The Year 9s have also been invited to take part in the summer showcase down at Rodillian Academy – an exciting and nerve-wracking prospect. Lots of hard work and preparation is going into being ready and showing what Brayton Academy music department is all about!

A special mention and a huge well done to Jack B and Harvey W-P. They have made significant progress in the last three months and are now playing fluently and competently. They have spent a lot of time rehearsing in music to really develop their ensemble skills. They hope to perform Artic Monkeys I Bet You Look Good on the Dancefloor and Matalica's Enter Sandman at the two events.



Food Technology

In Resilience, Year 8 Food students have improved their baking skills making a variety of dishes this term.

This includes learning how to create their own puff pastry to make sweet and savoury snacks, Easter inspired brownies and buns, and completed a technical challenge 'bake off' style to create Swiss rolls.



Art

This term has been really exciting for the Art & Design Department. Students in years 7 - 9 now have the opportunity to win the 'Artist Of The Week' award, which recognises hard work, resilience and skill set. This special award also gives students an extra ten stamps which they can put towards their PD numbers; and gives them a shout out on the new Brayton Art Instagram page. There is also the opportunity for Year 7 students to attend Art Club every other Thursday, which saw students being creative with 3D modelling this half term - designing and making their own houses from cardboard and lots of other crafty bits and pieces.

GCSE students have been working extremely hard, with lots of brilliant mock results spurring us on as we work through the externally set assignment. All students should be extremely proud of themselves and how many hours they have put into their portfolios and ESA, a huge well done from the Art & Design Department at Brayton!



Drama Option Subject

The Year 10 GCSE Drama students have been working on their Component Three: Texts in Practice unit of work. This has involved students working with professional scripts by established playwrights, rehearsing and creating two performances which will be assessed in front of a live audience and visiting examiner from the exam board. Students are performing monologues, duologues and group performance pieces from plays such as 'Shakers', 'Bouncers', 'Henna Nights' and 'My Mother Said I Never Should'.. This is the students final practical performance assessment of their overall GCSE. After this the students will be working towards their final written exam which takes place in early May.


Updated CAD/CAM Facilities

This term in Design & Technology we have been refurbished with updated equipment to enhance pupils practical interaction with computer aided design software. New computer facilities were installed to support all year groups with adding computer aided manufactured products into the Design & Technology practical projects. Key stage 3 pupils have been taught 2D design software where they can design their own characters for their projects. GCSE students have been introduced to the professional 3D CAD software, Autodesk Inventor, that will advance their coursework and realization of their final models. This has all been added to the installation of a new, working laser cutter to produce products that can give pupils work a professional look.

What is going on in English?

Reading Plus Heroes

This term students have been making excellent progress and putting real effort into their Reading Plus. The English department would like to give a shout out to the following students:

	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10
Progress	Evelyn W-T	Maisie F	Ethan H	Riley B
Effort	India H	Isabel S	Summer A	Oliver Z

Topics

After Easter most year groups will continue with their current topics which are as follows:

Year 7: The Power of Voice – Poetry

Year 8: The Bone Sparrow – Novel

Year 9: Conventions of Drama

Year 10: Romeo and Juliet – Play

W/C 15.04.24 Year 10 are moving onto A Christmas Carol

Year 11: Guided revision of exam texts and skills

Key Dates

W/C 8.04.23: Year 8 summative assessment

W/C 29.04.24: Year 7 start Taming of the Shrew
Year 9 start their poetry topic

W/C 6.05.24: Year 7 summative assessment
Year 8 start their detective fiction topic

Exam Dates!

English Literature:

Paper 1 – Monday 13th May 2024

Paper 2 – Monday 20th May 2024

English Language:

Paper 1: Thursday 23rd May 2024

Paper 2: Thursday 6th June 2024



Head of Year



Stars of the Term



Year 7

Thomas always shows a positive attitude to learning, outstanding behaviour and willingness to help others.



Year 8

Daisy went above and beyond with helping arrange our World Book Day event. Daisy spent hours preparing for the event and we couldn't have done it without her. A huge thank you from all of Brayton Academy.



Year 9

Oliver is highly thought of by both staff and peers. He has faced some challenges recently and has met them with an admirable positive attitude and resilience. Well done!



Year 10

Isabel has continued to act on feedback and made excellent progress in her most recent mocks. Isabel always puts 100% effort into everything she does.



Year 11

Alistair always has a positive attitude and is very hard working, he puts 100% into everything he does. Alistair is always polite to staff and his peers.

WORLD BOOK DAY®

Here at Brayton, we decided to celebrate this fabulous event for the whole week. The year 8 library Ambassadors created a fantastic time table of events, to celebrate the love of reading.

The week began with a book **treasure hunt** around the library, weaving in and out of the different areas in the library, breaking down clues to eventually discover the treasure – the classic novel 'Treasure Island'. The winning students from each year achieved 5 stamps.



The fun didn't stop there, there have been some exciting competitions taking place every day in the library– students have been completing various '**love of reading**' quizzes, again students could gain extra stamps for the completion of these.

Our busiest day by far was -**The Brayton Big Book Swap**, had the library swamped with avid readers eager to swap their books for new ones. I would personally like to say a huge thank you to ALL those students that kindly donated and gifted the school their pre-loved books, it was very much appreciated. It was lovely to see so many students sharing in their love for reading.



The events throughout the week have been planned and deployed by our enthusiastic Library Ambassadors. The week culminated in a fantastic **Book Bistro** delivered by Daisy in Year 8. Daisy went away, researched how to create the event, designed the resources needed and spent hours preparing for the event. According to those students attending it was: "Really good, Daisy helped us choose books that I might not have picked before" A huge well done not only to Daisy but to all our Library Ambassadors because without them, these events couldn't take place. Well done to all those involved!



Skiing on the Spanish Slopes

During the February holidays, a group of daring students embarked on a journey to Spain to go skiing. With people of all abilities and knowledge about how to ski, it was a learning opportunity for everyone who went on the trip. Throughout the trip students enjoyed: live rap sessions; stories spread through groups of funny falls and new skills; trying new foods; making new friends and making lots of new memories to share for years to come.



Across the two resorts that the students went to (Port Ainé and Espot), they had to face increasingly difficult runs and conditions. With ice covering parts of runs, everyone had to be extremely resilient to keep going. While many were hesitant, everyone gave it a go and pushed themselves to go down even black runs! Even some of the students who had never been skiing before made it to the red runs in just a week thanks to the incredible instructors and the students persevering through the tough times.



Of course a difficult trip like this doesn't come without its downsides in the form of extremely long bus rides and an impossible amount of chips for every meal! However, everyone worked to make them as good as possible. A special mention to the incredible rap from Mr Nodder, encouraging students to keep going and letting us all have a great laugh. "You might think what are you gonna do, you're on the blue! If you want to stay in bed, but you're going down the red! You might have a sore back, but you are going on the black!" The bus sing along sessions also helped bring up morale even on the long journey of 28 hours to and from Spain. One student said: 'Despite falling over multiple times, I still got up and tried again!' and another added to this sense of pride saying 'I really enjoyed the trip, it was my first time skiing and even though I found it difficult I was resilient and kept trying!'. A huge thank you to the ski staff and teachers who made this such an enjoyable trip.

Written by Phoebe, Year 10.

Year 10 & 11 Intervention

With only 5 school weeks left before the GCSE summer examinations begin, there are multiple intervention sessions taking place during the Easter break for Year 10 and 11. These sessions may be based around revision or used to complete controlled assessments. These are advisory and not compulsory however, we recommend that your students take full advantage of these sessions to ensure the best possible outcomes.

The final P7 timetable has been sent out to students and parents, this is a compulsory lesson running from 14.30pm – 15.30pm.

Additional interventions such as Prep Room and Bridge intervention have been taking place on Tuesdays 14:30-16:30pm. Staff and students have been working incredibly hard to ensure students are fully equipped and are confident in all the skills they will need for their final GCSE examinations.



Attendance matters

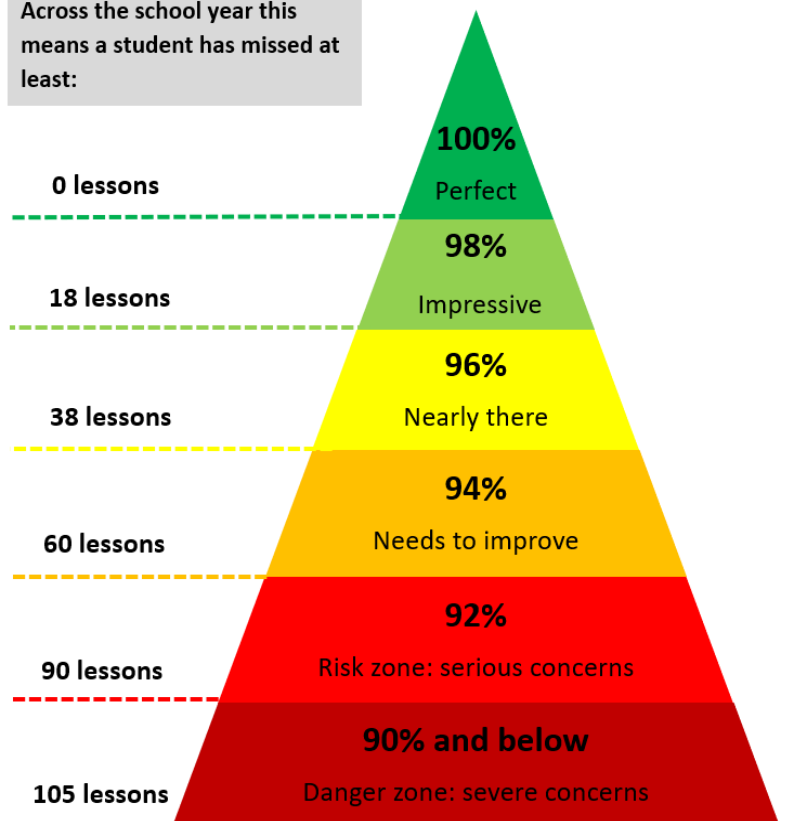
Brayton wins National Attendance Reward

A big well done to all students at Brayton Academy who have contributed to the Academy winning a National School Attendance Reward for the Autumn Term. This means that Brayton's Attendance was in the Top 25% of similar FFT Secondary Schools in England.

The Easter Bunny has arrived Early

179 students were presented with an Easter gift during the PD lesson this week, due to having 100% attendance since 30th August to the last week of term. Again, another well done to all students who have continued to have excellent attendance!

Across the school year this means a student has missed at least:



To report a child's absence please call 01757 293243 before 9:00am on the first and every day of absence. The absence is open from 7:00am.

LEEDS RHINOS

£30

NETBALL

1 DAY EASTER CAMPS

	JUNIOR (AGE 7-10)	SENIOR (AGE 11-15)
BARNSLEY COLLEGE	TUES 2ND APRIL	TUES 2ND APRIL
THE MOUNT SCHOOL, YORK	WEDS 3RD APRIL	THURS 4TH APRIL

ON SALE NOW [TICKETS.RHINOSNETBALL.CO.UK](https://tickets.rhinosnetball.co.uk)

LEEDS RHINOS

£60

NETBALL

2 DAY EASTER CAMP

THE GRAMMAR SCHOOL AT LEEDS
MON 8TH - TUES 9TH APRIL
JUNIORS & SENIORS

ON SALE NOW [TICKETS.RHINOSNETBALL.CO.UK](https://tickets.rhinosnetball.co.uk)

DOUBLE HEADER



YORK VALKYRIE V ST HELENS | 12PM
YORK KNIGHTS V BRADFORD BULLS | 3PM
SUN 21ST APRIL | LNER COMMUNITY STADIUM

£5 OFF ALL TICKETS!
OFFER CODE AT CHECKOUT
BRAY214

