



## Welcome from Mrs Walker, Interim Head of School



Dear Parent/Carer,

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for the many ways you support our students with their learning. As you know every school day counts and your support in ensuring students are ready and able to learn is something myself and the staff here at Brayton appreciate.

We have had another very busy half term and I hope you will enjoy reading about the wonderful efforts and achievements of our young people. This newsletter gives you an update on what our students have been involved in both during and after the school day. We have included some information from our Humanities subjects, exam advice from Year 11 and of course details of sporting and other achievements.

I would like to congratulate Kayla, Rose, Noah, Ciara and Gab who are our first Head of Year Stars of the term. These students have been identified by their Head of Year for their positive contributions to school life and their excellent attitudes to learning.

Next term will be equally busy as this one as KS4 students prepare for GCSE Examinations and Year 9 will begin the process of choosing their GCSE Options. I hope you and your families enjoy the half term break and I look forward to seeing our students on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> February.

Your faithfully

Cath Walker

Interim Head of School

# Autumn 2023

## Brayton Voice

We are excited to announce that Brayton Voice our student voice group will be re-launched after half term.

We recognise that it is important to listen to the opinions of our students and give them the opportunity to influence decisions in situations that matter to them.

During the last academic year Brayton Voice students led the Food Bank initiative, met with the Bishop of Selby, met our caterers to discuss menus and were involved in the interviews of several members of staff.

Sessions took place during PD lessons. Along with these projects a number of discussions took place. Students from all year groups are represented and we look forward to new students getting involved next term.





## Sporting Successes

We would like to congratulate Joshua C, in Year 7, for his recent Associated Board of Music exam. Joshua passed his grade 3 cornet exam with a merit! This is a fantastic achievement. This is Joshua's second music exam passed within 12 months! Keep up the hard work!

Lucas S, in 7.9 is a very talented golfer and regularly represents the Oaks Golf Club Junior Team. He has been selected and played a few times for the York Union team against other teams in Yorkshire as well as being selected by the Yorkshire county team for free coaching purposes. We are very hopeful that Lucas will represent the county one day! Fantastic to hear how well you are doing Lucas, keep up the hard work!

Layla M in 7.9 has been busy representing her pony club with her pony Bumble in a show jumping competition at Bishop Burton College. Layla rode a fantastic round and finished 3rd out of over 40 competitors in the 70cm show jumping class.

Layla works very hard in her sport, she trains daily and competes in a variety of disciplines, she regularly represents her pony club at competitions. Well done Layla, keep up the hard work!



## Brayton Ski Trip 2024

We are very excited to host our first ever ski trip over half term. On Saturday 54 students and 7 members of staff set off on their journey for an exhilarating adventure on the snowy slopes of Port Aine!

Not only do we hope our much-anticipated ski trip will be an unforgettable experience filled with excitement, and plenty of fun but also an opportunity to bond with classmates, make new friends, and create memories that will last a lifetime.

We cannot wait to hear all about the memories made once they get back!

## Exams

Following on from a really successful round of mocks in January, preparation is now underway for the summer exams. The full timetable can be found on the Exams page of our website and individual timetables will be sent out around Easter time. These will also be available to view on Edulink.

Please keep in mind, as always, that our June holidays are not in line with the rest of the country, so we will have some exams taking place during the break.

In summer 2025, which is when our current year 10 will sit their final exams, Physics paper 2 (for triple and combined science) is scheduled for the first day of the June holidays and all students will need to be available. Again, the timetable is available on the Exams page of the website. It is currently provisional and yet to be confirmed and I will upload the final timetable once I have it.

If you have any questions regarding exams, please email [exam@braytonacademy.org.uk](mailto:exam@braytonacademy.org.uk)



## Reading Buddies at Brayton Begins!

An exciting opportunity for some of our Year 7 and 10 students has started at Brayton this week. Students from both year groups have been partnered up with each other to support and encourage a love of reading in the school through our new 'Reading Buddy' system!

Not only does this improve confidence in reading out loud for the Year 7's but allows positive relationships to be built across year groups. The buddies meet weekly in the Library for a quiet and calm reading session, a productive way to start any learning day.

## Valentines Science Club

The Valentine's themed Science club involved lots of fun Valentine's filled activities. The pupils were given the opportunity to dissect and investigate the anatomy of the heart. Many pupils discovered the different chambers and tissue that makes up the heart, including testing to see whether muscle or fat will float. They got creative making Science themed Valentines cards with light up circuits. Pupils then went on to develop their analytical skills through adding sherbet hearts to different chemicals to see the reactions. Year 7 and 8 pupils also increased their curiosity when investigating how to create an electromagnet in the shape of a heart and make it spin on the spot. We finished off the afternoon with a Science Valentines themed cupcake, proving yet again that we can combine science learning with fun and even a sweet treat at the end. Look out for exciting Easter themed science events coming soon...

## Careers

The careers team is excited to announce that when we return from half term our new Careers Guidance Counsellor will be in school one day per week seeing year 11 pupils in a combination of individual and small group appointments. Miss Whiting is a level 6 qualified careers counsellor and an expert on all things to do with next steps and the world of work. Year 11 pupils will receive appointment slips from their form tutors letting them know when their slot is a few days in advance of the appointment itself. To help pupils get the most out of their appointments it would be helpful if parents and carers can have an initial discussion at home and encourage pupils to note down any questions to take to Miss Whiting so that nothing is forgotten in the appointment. Pupils in year 10 will start to receive appointments later in the academic year.

In other careers news, a group of year 11 pupils attended New College Pontefract this half term to hear from their Achieving Aspirations and Oxbridge Coordinator as well as an admissions tutor from Cambridge University. Students learnt about how to put themselves in the best possible position to make a successful application to Oxbridge, should they choose to take that path. Later this year all pupils in year 10 will be given the opportunity to visit New College Pontefract for a taster day; look out for a letter about that trip after half term.

Finally, staff across all curriculum subjects are preparing for discussions with pupils about how their subject links to careers during National Careers Week next half term. Everyone is looking forward to sharing exciting opportunities with pupils that they might not otherwise have thought of in lessons next half term. Watch this space for an update on how it all went in next half term's newsletter.

Miss Cotterill and Mr Warrington



[info@braytonacademy.org.uk](mailto:info@braytonacademy.org.uk)



## Sport Fixture Results

Date	Sport	Year Group	Result
18 <sup>th</sup> January 2024	Netball	Year 10	Won 29-2 Against Joseph Rowntree's
23 <sup>rd</sup> January 2024	Football	Year 7	Won 4-3 Through to the semi-final of the cup
31 <sup>st</sup> January 2024	Netball	Year 9	Won 12-2 Against Snaith School
31 <sup>st</sup> January 2024	Netball	Year 10	Won 15-2 Against Snaith School
1 <sup>st</sup> February 2024	Football	Year 10	Lost in semi-final of the cup
5 <sup>th</sup> February 2024	Netball	Year 7	Lost to Rodillian Academy A team 4-8 B team 4-5
5 <sup>th</sup> February 2024	Rugby	Year 9	Won 34-25 Against Featherstone Academy



## History

This term there has been lots of learning happening in History and Religious Studies.

Year 7 History students have been learning all about the Norman Conquest and were enjoying the drama of the fight for the throne in 1066. Some students were cheating and reading ahead but we had to make sure that there was a 'no spoilers' rule in some classes. Students performed really well in their assessments by getting to grips with the different claimants' reasons for claiming the throne. Year 7 Religious Studies students have just begun their introduction to Buddhism and will soon be comparing Buddhist views on creation to Christian views on creation. Students have demonstrated curiosity and enthusiasm to find out about cultures outside of Christianity.

Year 9 History students have been studying the First World War and the rise of fascism in Europe in the 1920s and 1930s. We are now moving onto studying the Holocaust. A group of Year 9 students proudly represented our academy at Selby Abbey during the Holocaust Memorial Day Service which was attended by primary and secondary schools across the district. Year 9 students in Religious Studies have just completed an assessment on arguments 'for' and 'against' the existence of God and gave some really interesting insights to this contentious issue. Year 9 students have also been taking part in P4C (Philosophy for Children) sessions to discuss questions such as 'could the universe have come from nothing?' and again have been able to share ideas, actively listen and criticise each other's arguments constructively.

Year 10 and 11 History students continue their GCSE studies. Year 10 have just completed an assessment for their Britain, Health and the People and many are proudly telling their teachers that they have seen improvements and are proud of their achievements since their last assessment.

Year 11 have been working hard on their study of the First World War over the last term and have just completed a series of mock exams. I wish to thank the students who have diligently been attending P7s, interventions and prep sessions in preparation for their mocks. Year 10 and Year 11 Religious Studies students have prepared for and sat their mocks. They have also recently been studying the importance of miracles and revelation to religious belief as well as secular views.

## Geography

Year 7 students are currently working on the topic of Rivers and Flooding. They have learnt about the key features of rivers such as meanders, and will later move onto to look at examples of flooding events.

In Year 8 students are focused on the topic of Power and Conflict. Currently they are learning about the Power of Nature before they will move onto the Power of People.

Year 9 students have been learning about Coasts. This includes coastal processes, coastal landforms as well as how the coasts can be managed.

Year 10 students have made a great start to their GCSE and are also studying the Coasts topic which is part of their Paper 1 exam.

Finally, Year 11 have been working on the Changing Economic World topic for Paper 2 of their exam.

## Sociology

The students have been busy working on their stratification topic in sociology where they are learning all about life chances and inequality. They have enjoyed researching studies on poverty and looking at different perspectives on the causes. After half term we will be busy covering to our final topic of education before the final exams begin in May.





# Head of Year

## Stars of the Term



### Year 7

Kayla is a kind, hardworking and a very positive asset to the school community especially through netball. Kayla is always respectful and a joy have as part of the year group.



### Year 8

Rose is a very mature and conscientious student. Rose has become a valued member of the library Ambassadors this year, volunteering in her own time to take on tasks and jobs to keep the library going from strength to strength. Rose has also supported new starters in her year group.



### Year 9

Noah is friendly, polite and mature. He has been working consistently in all subjects and has a great attitude to learning.



### Year 10

Ciara always puts in 100% effort in lessons, she asks lots of questions and always completes her homework on time. Ciara is determined to do well in her GCSE's next year and is working really hard already in preparation.



### Year 11

Gab is always polite and kind to all staff and students. He is a joy to have at Brayton Academy. Gab is working extremely hard to prepare for his GCSE summer exams.

## Year 11 Give Their Advice!

The Year 11s have just finished their final set of mock exams and are eagerly awaiting their results. Similarly, Year 10 are in the same boat with their Option subject; their first taste of GCSEs.

As we enter the approach to exam season, we thought we would compile some top tips. The following advice has been given by Year 11 to Year 10, who speak with experience, wisdom, and hindsight:

Their first piece of advice is to start revising as soon as possible. This means you will avoid feeling overwhelmed, as you can do 'little and often'. More importantly for the Year 11s it seems, is it will help you avoid being put in period 7s and interventions. The better you do in Year 10 and the more on top of it you can be, the more likely you will have your own free time next year.

Another key piece of advice is to keep your attendance up.

Several Year 11 students showed regret at their low attendance earlier in KS4, stating they find things much more difficult now with big gaps in their knowledge and having to learn things from scratch themselves. They said it didn't seem like a big deal at the time, but now they're realising just how much they missed.



Ultimately, their advice could be underpinned by this: don't burn yourself out. Don't cram last minute, don't let all your work build up, and keep on top of your homework as well as your own revision. Equally, if you plan your time wisely, you will still have plenty of opportunity to relax, engage in hobbies you enjoy, and have free time, and this is also important as going into exams calm and relaxed is crucial!

Written and researched by The Newsletter Club

**Prologue**

**Chorus**

Two households, both alike in dignity  
In fair Verona where we lay our scene,  
From ancient grudge break to new mutiny,  
Where civil blood makes civil hands unclean.  
5 From forth the fatal loins of these two foes  
A pair of star-crossed lovers take their life;  
Whose misadventured piteous overthrows  
Doth with their death bury their parents' strife.  
The fearful passage of their death-marked love  
10 And the continuance of their parents' rage,  
Which, but their children's end, naught could remove,  
Is now the two hours' traffic of our stage;  
The which if you with patient ears attend,  
What here shall miss, our toil shall strive to mend.

- prologue = a short speech given to introduce the plot
- lines 1-4 = gives background on the long-standing feuds between the Montagues, two prominent families of Verona who cannot meet without fighting and the feud again.
- lines 5-8 = Romeo & Juliet (the two lovers) are introduced and they are doomed to die because of the feud.



## Attendance matters

Attendance at school is a priority for us. We want to give all our student's the best start in life, and we know that education and support from school can help to do this.

Current Year Group Leaders for Attendance are as follows:

1<sup>st</sup> - Year 7

2<sup>nd</sup> - Year 8

3<sup>rd</sup> - Year 9

4<sup>th</sup> - Year 10

5<sup>th</sup> - Year 11

Form Group Leader Board:

Year 7 - 7.7 and 7.8

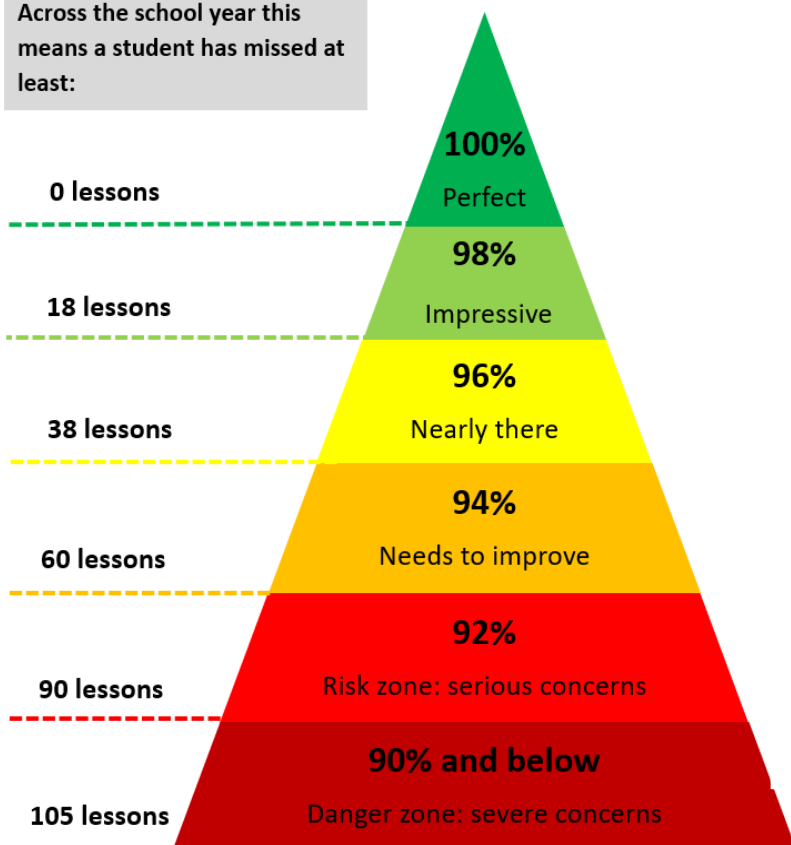
Year 8 - 8.4 and 8.5

Year 9 - 9.5

Year 10 - 10.6

Year 11 - 11.2

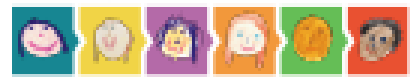
Across the school year this means a student has missed at least:



Description	Threshold Attendance	Actual Attendance	Whole Days Absent	Learning Lost (Lessons) Across the school year actual lessons lost
Perfect	100%	190 Days	0	0
	99%	188 Days	2	12
Excellent	98%	186 Days	4	24
	97%	184 Days	6	36
Impressive	96%	182.5 Days	7.5	45
	95%	180.5 Days	9.5	57
Nearly There	94%	178.5 Days	11.5	69
	93%	176.5 Days	13.5	81
Needs to improve	92%	174.5 Days	15.5	93
	91%	173 Days	17	102
Risk zone: serious concerns	90%	171 Days	19	114
	89%	169 Days	21	126
Danger zone: severe concerns	88%	167 Days	23	138
	87%	165.5 Days	25	150
	86%	163.5 Days	26.5	159
	85%	161.5 Days	28.5	171

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.





# Solihull Approach

presents

Two online courses exclusively for teenagers!

**Understanding your brain  
(for teenagers only!)**

**NEW**

**and**

**Understanding your feelings\*  
(for teenagers only!)**

*\*Includes the emotional effects of the COVID-19 pandemic*

[inourplace.co.uk](http://inourplace.co.uk)

**FIND OUT MORE...**

**Do you live in North Yorkshire?**

1. Visit [www.inourplace.co.uk](http://www.inourplace.co.uk)
2. Enter Access Code
3. Begin learning

Access Code:  
**NYFAMILIES**



# Pop Up Inspire Youth Mobile Youth Club

Find us in **SELBY:**

**Thursday 15th February 2024,  
11.30–2pm @ Barwic Parade, YO8 8DL  
3–5pm @ Selby Leisure Centre, YO8 4BL**

Offering various arts, crafts, games, PS5,  
sports and other activities alongside  
information, support, a safe space, (and  
much more!) for young people provided  
by qualified youth workers

All welcome  
aged 8–14  
free to attend



Refreshments  
included for all  
attending,  
see you there!

**NO BOOKING NEEDED – JUST TURN UP**



[www.inspireyouth.uk](http://www.inspireyouth.uk)

**INSPIRE  
YOUTH  
YORKSHIRE**

For more information contact  
[info@inspireyouth.uk](mailto:info@inspireyouth.uk)  
**07547 287892**



# FOOTBALL AND MULTI-SPORTS

Monday 12th February 2024

10.00 – 12.00

12.30 – 2.30

**FREE OF CHARGE**  
**8 YEARS +**

Skills, games and agility,  
speed and reaction drills.

**BOOK NOW**  
**01757 213758**



SELBY  
LEISURE  
CENTRE

**FEBRUARY**  
**HALF-TERM**

