



Welcome from Mrs Walker, Interim Head of School



Dear Parent/Carer,

I hope you will enjoy reading about our students' achievements, some of the extra-curricular activities they are involved in and our core curriculum subjects of Maths, English, Science and French. We have had a busy term and this newsletter is a celebration of the fantastic efforts of our students both in the class room and beyond.

This term improvement to the Academy site and building has continued. Phase two of the programme to replace the school's roof is now complete, this has included new ceilings and lighting in corridors, the dining hall and main hall. In addition, work has started on Phase 1 of replacing and refurbishing our student toilet facilities, this phase should be completed by the end of January. Outside in the Academy grounds Mr Beaumont and Mr Kinsley have been working with their Resilience teams on landscaping and planting trees.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all parents and carers for their continued support of Brayton Academy and wish you and your families a Happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year

Yours faithfully

Cath Walker

Interim Head of School

Autumn 2023

Brayton Library

The library at Brayton is getting a new lease of life. Recently we have appointed 12 library ambassadors that are changing the way the library is used, and it is going from strength to strength. Two of the year 8 ambassadors have created a chess club that runs on a Thursday after school and have successfully gained over 14 members in the opening few weeks. These two students: run, organise and monitor the behaviour of those attending the club and have established a lovely group of likeminded fellow students. They have also invited staff to attend and compete.

At the same time, we also have a very popular Anime/Manga group run by one ambassador, they meet and discuss popular novels, characters, sketch and watch Anime animation.

The ambassadors have created their own displays, competitions and games to run in the library and have an enthusiastic drive to keep on improving the library.





Sporting Successes

Last February, after Max lost a family friend to ill mental health. He decided to take up a running challenge and run 50km throughout February to raise awareness for mental health and raise funds for MIND. Max set himself a small challenge of raising £100 pounds and within hours he had already doubled this.

During February Max ran, rain, shine and even after a belly full of pancakes on pancake day, no matter what. He raised a massive £1330 for MIND and not only ran 50km went on to do 78km. Max was the top second fundraiser for this challenge. Which was a massive success.

Max also, took part in several radio broadcasts raising awareness of his challenge and the work that MIND do.

In early October, Max was nominated for York Mix Hero Awards- Incredible Child. He was in the top 3 finalists from a massive 123 children. Unfortunately, Max did not win this but he did amazingly to get this far. He showed so much empathy and resilience whilst doing this challenge. Well done Max, we are extremely proud of you. This is an amazing achievement!



Reuben H, Year 7, recently attended the ICO World Championships in Hull and achieved a Gold medal in Intermediate Extreme Musical Forms - making him the 2023 ICO World Champion in his age group. He also won a silver medal in Freestyle forms and a bronze in Creative Forms. Well done Reuben this is a fantastic achievement!

Well done to Mitchell in Year 7, who has competed at the ICO World Championships in Takewondo. Mitchell is now a World Champion Bronze Medalist. Amazing achievement Mitchell!

Congratulations to Katie in Year 7! Katie has only been competitive swimming for just over a year. She has swam at the Yorkshire county championships in Leeds. In which she achieved 2 pbs in both her races. This meant she qualified to swim in the North East Regional championships at Ponds Forge next month in 100m freestyle and 50m butterfly.

At the North East Regional championships at Ponds Forge, Sheffield. She swam in the 50m butterfly race and did really well getting a PB. This weekend she swam at Leeds and got a PB in the individual medley (1 length of each of the 4 strokes) and a gold medal in the 50m butterfly.

In a couple of weeks Katie is going to be swimming at the 2012 Olympic pool in Stratford!

What brilliant achievements you have had so far! We wish you the best of luck at your next competition.



Miss Taylor and Miss Renouf represented their countries during an international fixture at Headingley Stating on 4/11/2023. We are very proud of both teachers and feel very fortunate to have them on the Brayton Academy Team.



Gymnasestrada 2023

In July of this year the world Gymnaestrada 2023 was held in Amsterdam. It is a worldwide non-competitive event held every 4 years since 1953 and it attracts more participants than any other gymnastics event, with different countries all over the world representing their cultures through artistic routines.

A student in Year 10, Phoenix Pickles, attended this incredible event in July this year. In a recent interview she told the newsletter that it was "A once in a lifetime experience." During the event, she performed across the span of a few days, doing a group routine multiple times. These routines were intended to showcase the gymnast's artistic ability, skill, and resilience in a non-competitive atmosphere. Phoenix told us that the experience was very challenging and lots of resilience was needed to face a huge audience but that the atmosphere was electric, and to meet like-minded gymnasts and perform beautiful routines meant the initial nerves were all worth it.

With everyone having to be resilient and having to be willing to try hard to ensure the routines turned out perfectly, everyone had to work together and

efficiently. Overall, the event was a huge success. Phoenix also told us how she believes that sports is super important for young people and how everyone should try to incorporate it into their lives. The future possibilities of this event and sports like gymnastics will be amazing, bringing different cultures and styles of sports together in a beautiful and inspiring way for all creative outlets, not just gymnastics.

Researched and written by Phoebe O'Brien and Erin Poulton (Newsletter Club)



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Sport Fixture Results

Date	Sport	Year Group	Result
07/11/2023	Netball (League)	10	13-8 win Player of the match: Chantelle H
21/11/2023	Netball (League)	10	26-15 lost Player of the match: Milly F
22/11/2023	Football (League)	KS4 Girls	4-0 win Player of the match: Katie C and Lexi T
22/11/2023	Netball	Y7	5-2 win Player of the match: Eva R
22/11/2023	Netball	Y8	15-1 win Player of the match: Molly B
29/11/2023	Football (Cup)	Y10 Boys	7-1 win Player of the match: Kaylem P Through to quarter finals
29/11/2023	Netball	Y8	9-0 win Player of the match: Lucy F and Daisy A
29/11/2023	Netball	Y10	13-6 win Player of the match: Milly F and Charlotte I
04/12/2023	Football (League)	Y7	6-3 win
11/12/2023	Netball (League)	Y8	Lost 26-9 Player of the match: Lucy F
11/12/2023	Football (Cup)	Y9 Girls	4-0 win They are now through to the semi-final
12/12/2023	Football (Cup)	Y7 Boys	4-2 win They are now through to the quarter final
13/12/2023	Netball	Y7	A Team - 10-2 win Player of the match: Myla T B Team - lost 6-1 Player of the match: Isla B
13/12/2023	Netball (League)	Y8	15-7 win Player of the match: Jasmine A
13/12/2023	Netball	Y10	23-6 Lost Player of the match: Milly F Have finished 3rd overall in the league.

Maths – Sparx

Our students at Brayton have been upbeat about using Sparx since the beginning of the academic year. They are seeing and enjoying the benefits of the platform. It personalises each child's homework, creating a weekly set of questions tailored to their level of understanding and learning pace. The questions are designed to be achievable whilst offering the stretch that learners need to make optimum levels of progress

Sparx Maths has not only helped students to consistently complete their homework every week but also seen some students complete some independent revision in preparation of the most recent mocks.

A massive congratulations to our top 3 students in each year group who have achieved an amazing amount of XP point since the beginning of the academic year. They will receive certificates, stamps and chocolate for their amazing effort on Sparx Maths.

Student Name	Year Group	Total XP
Mikolaj S	Year 7	13,675
Cayla M	Year 7	11,553
Tilly C-B	Year 7	10,710
Isaac H	Year 8	18,660
Evelyn W	Year 8	17,281
Finn C	Year 8	16,740
Noemi G	Year 9	24,614
Charlie R	Year 9	15,451
Piotr S	Year 9	11,493
Jake S	Year 10	23,881
Summer M	Year 10	15,842
Emmy J	Year 10	14,907
Meg-Lorine	Year 11	25,825
Joshua K	Year 11	11,476
Melissa S	Year 11	10,892

Science

This term has involved the transition through our Key Stage 3 Science Big Ideas curriculum, where pupils have the opportunity to explore the big burning questions in science.

Year 7 have finished Big Idea 1, where they explore the idea 'Our solar system is a very small part of one of billions of galaxies in the universe' and are now moving into Big Idea 2, where they will discover that 'Organisms are organised on a cellular basis'. This will involve them using microscopes to investigate plant cells and even their own cheek cells!

Year 8 have completed Big Idea 3, 'How objects affect other objects into discovering how and why living things need energy'. This included several practical investigations on plants, looking at how starch reserves build up in plants exposed to light and chlorophyll chromatography.

Year 9 have covered Big Idea 6 where they have studied the idea that 'All matter in the Universe is made of very small particles'. They are now part way through Big Idea 7, looking at 'How humans depend on the Earth for its resources'. We have looked at how copper is extracted from its ore in a class practical. Pupils have enhanced their practical skills by cracking long chain hydrocarbons into smaller ones and class and learnt how it relates to industry.

Year 10 have been covering Organisation and looking into the digestive system, respiratory system and circulatory system. Year 10 are now focussing on calculations in chemistry and refining their skills in quantitative Chemistry.

Year 11 have been covering the last of the scientific content in Biology paper 2 ready for some revision and support around their mock exams that are scheduled for after Christmas. They have had some bespoke intervention sessions in period 7 looking at command words and exam skills to further build their knowledge and confidence.





The Christmas Science club on Monday 18th hosted an hour of Christmas themed science activities including: making your own Christmas slime, creating a fairy light circuit, investigating static with tinsel, creating your own Christmas crystals and more! All pupils were very enthusiastic and enjoyed taking part, ending with a Christmas themed cupcake to enjoy!

MFL

We have now subscribed to Language Nut! A website where students are able to complete a whole range of homework tasks which are exciting, engaging and challenging.

Language Nut has made a huge impact on student progress, in particular, listening skills. Students receive one weekly Language Nut homework where learning a language becomes fun and interactive.

Parents have informed us how they often hear their child speaking French into their phones and computers. Some parents have said how their child has expressed how enjoyable homework has become! During lesson time, students are eagerly asking for more activities so they can beat other classes within school and each other. Currently 10Y2 are in the lead. But this can all change as the French teachers are due to set homework over the Christmas holidays.

Classes League

1	10Y2 2023-24	2741200
2	10X2 2023-24	1996100
3	8X1 2023-24	1379600
4	7Y3 2023-24	1120000
5	10X1 2023-24	1032500

Once per week, Mrs Kendall hosts **Brayton Bavardos** which is a speaking group 'bavard' meaning chatty in French. Students in Year 10 chat away in French covering numerous topics in a relaxed and engaging session.

Netflix and Nibbles with Miss Claringbold. A voluntary Year 11 group attend weekly to watch 'Lupin' a French series set in Paris.

Every half term, students will have the opportunity to attend **Club Ciné** where students will watch a French film in the hall with one of the MFL team.

Brayton Ciné-Club

Astérix & Obélix
THE MIDDLE KINGDOM

Thursday 21 December
@2.30
Venue: TBC

OPEN YEAR 7 and YEAR 8
Come and enjoy a film in French.
To get a ticket speak to Mme Simbananiye (UT14)



English

This term there has been lots of learning happening in English.

Year Seven have been reading *A Tale Dark and Grimm* by Adam Gidwitz. The story is an interesting retelling of Hansel and Gretel which has had the students hooked. We love the moment when students groan as we get to the end of the chapter and realise they have to wait for next lesson to find out what happens next. We've used the story to further our understanding of how stories work and how archetypes and conventions help to build a story.

Please ask Year Seven to tell you about what really happened to Hansel and Gretel or to tell you how many types of story there are.

In the new term Year Seven move on to more work on how stories work, this time with a unit based on science fiction.

Year Eight have been studying a unit on *Oliver Twist*. This is an important unit for the students as it leads to further study on Dickens in their GCSE years. Students have developed understanding of Dickens' characterisation, the Victorian era in general and how to analyse a character. Year Eight should be able to tell you about workhouses, about the story of Oliver Twist and be able to tell you who they think is the worst of the characters Oliver meets on his journey and why. We move on to reading a modern play: an adaptation of *Noughts and Crosses* by Malorie Blackman.

Students in Year Nine have been studying persuasive skills in a non-fiction unit themed around the environment. Some students have developed into eco-warriors having learnt of all the sewage dumped in the locality, or the harm done by plastics on the beach. All students have developed their persuasive writing skills and written a persuasive piece about a topic close to their hearts. If your young person has come home this term with better than usual rhetorical and persuasive skills then we know where they got them from.

Ask your Year Nine student to tell you about logos, pathos or ethos. Next term Year Nine will study *Animal Farm* by George Orwell.

In Year 10 students have got off to a flying start in their GCSE. Students have read *An Inspector Calls* and started to read *Romeo and Juliet*. Students have already started to answer GCSE style questions. Course content for English Literature is vast; we encourage students to start revising now so they are not overwhelmed when it comes to the assessments. In Language we have focused most recently on creative writing. We ask the question "How do we want the reader to feel when reading?" and have been creating texts inspired by Gothic texts.

Year Eleven students have been revising ready for their mock examinations after Christmas. All teachers have given students plenty to be doing to prepare themselves for the exams and we remind students to check the website and teams for links to further revision. We do recommend that students give themselves a complete break from work for part of the holiday but should spend a week revising for at least part of each day. Students often fill their time doing things they like or find easy when revising - so they are busy, but not exactly purposeful. We recommend that activities such as making flashcards, answering past paper questions, and using sites like Seneca will be more useful than reading and highlighting old notes.

Reading Plus:

All students in Years Seven to Ten should be doing Reading Plus tasks weekly. Most students are set four reading and one vocabulary challenge per week which should take no more than an hour to complete. Students are welcome to attend homework club at school if they are unable to complete Reading Plus at home.

The current Reading Plus leader board is as follows:



Most average lessons	Year 7 class	7x1
	Year 8 class	8y2
	Year 9 class	9x1
	Year 10 class	10x2
Most progress	Year 7	Tilly B, Leo S, Maisy L
	Year 8	Jasmine A, Sian C, Oliver B
	Year 9	Mila M, Annabel N, Noemi G
	Year 10	Jake S, Emilia F, Megan S

Skellig Book Review – Harrison Eames

This term, the Reading Club read Skellig by David Almond.

The plot of Skellig is really fun. It is about a boy named Michael and his little sister has just fallen ill, however, no one knows why. It becomes exciting when he goes into his shed with his best friend Mina and finds a young man with wings there. Together they then try to find out the mystery of the Skellig.

What was interesting: the man had wings which reminded me of a mythical beast.

What would you have liked changed / didn't enjoy: the book was a little bit hard to get into, but I really liked how it was a realistic fantasy.

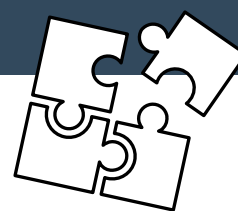
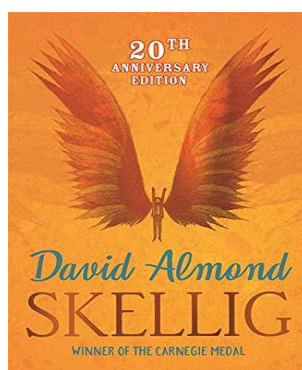
Favourite part: I liked the part where Mina and Michael are in Mina's kitchen and are making sculptures out of clay.

My rating: ★★ ★

Harrison Eames (Year 7, Reading Club)

Edited by Phoebe O'Brien and Erin Poulton

(Newsletter Club)



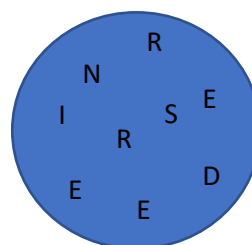
English Puzzle

How many words can you make from the following?
Use the centre letter each time

Can you find a nine letter word hidden?

Submit your entries on the link

<https://forms.office.com/e/Gfrhwhy0>



The winner will be announced in the next newsletter,
good luck!

Christmas Jumper Day

To support Save the Children charity on Thursday 14th December we held our annual Christmas Jumper Day. It was lovely to see students enjoy their Christmas dinner in their festive jumpers.

Students managed to raise a brilliant £310!

Thank you for all your donations. For more information on Save the Children charity please go to www.savethechildren.org.uk.



Save the Children®





Praise/Rewards

Bridge Intervention Pizza Party

A handful of Brayton students from throughout the school have been braving the cold weather and darkness to attend morning and after school interventions within the Bridge. We are really proud of every student who has attended to better their skills and knowledge and to support their education. As a huge thank you, we held a pizza party on the final week of term. It was lovely to enjoy a slice and some fizzy pop with these students before a well deserved Christmas rest.

Pizza Party

As a huge thank you and well done to those amazing students that have not yet received a negative comment since September, we held a pizza party on Wednesday 20th December. These students were given the opportunity to have Domino's pizza for free to say thank you and praise them for their immaculate behaviour, organisation and punctuality.

Praise Assemblies

During the final week of term each morning praise assemblies have taken place. These assemblies are to publicly congratulate individuals chosen by Head of Years and teaching staff. Students chosen are those they felt deserved recognition for making the most amount of progress and having a positive attitude towards learning.

Praise Postcards

We have posted hundreds of praise postcards home to students' to praise them for their efforts in individual subjects. Each member of staff chose two students in every class they teach to receive a postcard.

We would like to congratulate and thank all those who received a praise award. Keep up the hard work!

Attendance matters

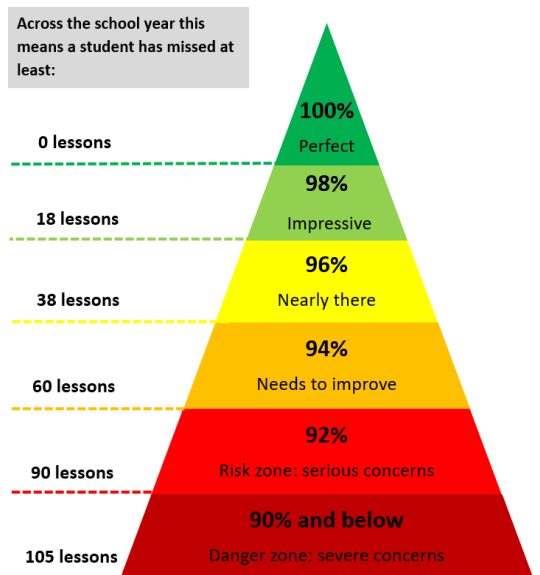
Santa approves of 100% Attendance

There has been a special delivery from Santa this week. He has delivered 283 tasty chocolate bars for all of the students who have achieved 100% attendance from the 30th of August 2023 to 22nd December 2023. A postcard has also been sent home for in case the chocolate bars don't make their way home! Congratulations to all of those students and keep up the excellent attendance habits for 2024.

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:

- 1st - Year 7 with 96.1%
- 2nd - Year 8 with 93.6%
- 3rd - Year 9 with 92.8%
- 4th - Year 10 with 92.5%
- 5th - Year 11 with 91.3%



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.