



ACADEMY NEWS WINTER TERM



Welcome from Mr Carney, Principal

Dear Parent/Carer,

As we enter the Christmas holidays we have the opportunity to look back and reflect on the term just passed. As always, our staff and students have achieved wonderful things. From the fantastic exam results in August, through to our recent Inspection experience and including the many, many things students have achieved in between those times - Brayton Academy continues to go from strength to strength.

As I often say, a fantastic school is usually the result of a fantastic partnership between parents and school staff. One of the real privileges of joining Brayton Academy has been seeing that partnership in action and this is shown both through the Academy attendance which has remain above 95% during this half term that is full of sneezes, sniffles and some other more unpleasant bugs, and most recently attendance at the Year 10 parents evening which was almost 90%.

One of the things that was apparent in our Ofsted Parent View feedback recently is that parents and carers want to know what their children are learning in the Academy - and this reflects the strong partnership I spoke about above. This newsletter gives some really useful updates from across a range of subjects and year groups and I would encourage all families to talk to their child about what they have been learning.

Finally, as some of you are aware, Mr Moon, our previous Principal, will be retiring this week. Mr Moon has been a key driver of Brayton Academy's success in recent years and we are excited to welcome him back to the Academy this week to say goodbye to both staff and students. Mr Moon, we wish you the very best in retirement and are grateful for everything you have done for the Brayton and Selby community.

I hope all our families have a fantastic holiday period and look forward to seeing students return on Monday January 6th.

Merry Christmas,

Kind Regards

Mr Carney
Principal

PRINCIPAL

STARS OF THE TERM



Jayden S, Year 7

Jayden continues to demonstrate amazing resilience every day since starting Year 7. He has grown in confidence, and we are extremely proud of how much progress he has made already.

James W, Year 7

James helps staff when any opportunity arises, even helping to put chairs out in the assembly hall at the end of the school day when he sees Mrs Forrest doing them. He is polite and engages with everyone positively.



Uki G, Year 8

Uki consistently demonstrates exceptional effort and a positive attitude. Always performs at the top level in personal development and proudly represents the school in multiple sports.



Lucy F, Year 9

Lucy is an exceptional all-round student. Her dedication, enthusiasm, and positive attitude make her a model pupil and an inspiration to her peers.



Taylor Q, Year 10

Taylor is a joy to have as part of the year group. He consistently puts in hard work and dedication, setting a great example for others. Your efforts don't go unnoticed, Taylor – keep up the fantastic work!



Harry T, Year 11

Harry is voluntarily attending extra prep sessions and demonstrating a newfound maturity in their approach to exams and revision. Actively engaged in student voice, Harry serves as an inspiring example of someone who has transformed their attitude and continues to show fantastic personal growth.

HEAD OF YEAR

STARS OF THE TERM



YEAR 7

Chloe is a constant source of support for her friends, always looking out for others with genuine care and kindness. Her positive outlook and radiant smile brighten every day.



YEAR 8

Ben is a positive and polite member of the year group. He is always punctual, prepared to learn, and demonstrates a strong work ethic in lessons. His attitude and dedication are commendable.



YEAR 9

Daisy exemplifies the highest standards of the Academy in every regard. Her work ethic and commitment to excellence are truly commendable, and she consistently strives to achieve her best in all she does. Well done Daisy, keep it up!

YEAR 10

Rebecca's positive attitude and determination to catch up with GCSE PE after moving schools this term is a true credit to her character. Her effort and resilience are commendable!



YEAR 11

Natasha approaches revision and mock exams with a brilliant attitude, consistently demonstrating commitment and enthusiasm. Not only does Natasha focus on her own success but also actively supports her friends by helping with homework and revision. Well done Natasha, keep up the hardwork!

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS JUMPER DAY



On Thursday, 12th December, Brayton Academy proudly took part in our annual Christmas Jumper Day to support the Save the Children charity.

Adding an extra dose of holiday fun, Mr Carney got into the spirit of the day by wearing a turkey hat that brought plenty of smiles and laughter around the school!

Thanks to all those that participated we managed to raise an impressive £460 for this worthwhile cause. These funds will go towards supporting Save the Children's vital work, helping children across the globe to grow up healthy, educated, and safe.

For more information about Save the Children and their impactful work, please visit their website at www.savethechildren.org.uk.



Save the Children®

RE-LAUNCH OF BRAYTON VOICE



KS3 & KS4 Brayton Voice students, along with the KS3 Chair Charlie A, Vice Chair Peyton M, KS4 Chair Nicolae I, and Vice Chair Joseph.

This term, we proudly re-launched **Brayton Voice**, a dynamic group of 50 students committed to help shape the future of our academy.

Our first meetings consisted of discussions around how Brayton Voice would work and what the meetings would look like. Students then went on to share ideas. From improving academic resources, trip ideas, completing more charity work and suggestions around break times the group brainstormed a range of thoughtful suggestions.

We have also appointed a Chair and Vice Chair for each Key Stage, voted for by their fellow Brayton Voice students. We would like to congratulate KS3 Chair Charlie A., Vice Chair Peyton M, KS4 Chair Nicolae I, and Vice Chair Joseph on their new roles and look forward to their leadership and contributions.

As we move forward, the focus will be on turning some of these ideas into actionable plans. Our next meetings will involve collaboration with staff and refining suggestions to make a real difference.

This initiative is all about empowering students to play an active role in shaping their school experience. It's an exciting journey, and we're thrilled to see what this group will accomplish.

Have an idea or feedback? Let us know!

Student Voice is here to represent everyone. Look out for updates on our progress in the new year!



LOCAL FOODBANK COLLECTION

Based on feedback from the Brayton Voice, one of the key areas students expressed an interest in was participating in more charity work.

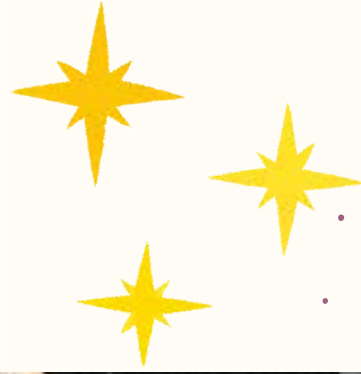
In response, their first project focused on organising a local food bank collection. This initiative allowed students to actively contribute to their community all while helping those in need.

Each form were assigned the task of collecting a box of donations based on the 'Reverse Calendar' created by our local foodbank. This calendar outlined the items most needed in the lead-up to Christmas, emphasising festive goods such as selection boxes, mince pies, and other gift items.

We managed to donate around 20 boxes to the Selby Foodbank. A huge thank you to all those that contributed!



100% ATTENDANCE REWARDS



324 lucky students were treated to a special surprise show on the last day of term with a visit from magician, Magic Matt. This highly entertaining show was put on as a reward for students with 100% attendance this term. With juggling, sleight of hand, balancing and gravity defying stunts galore Magic Matt wowed us all, and even turned some of our own students into magicians right in front of our eyes.

Congratulations to all students with 100% attendance!

SCIENCE

Year 7

Year 7 are coming to the end of Big Idea 1 "Our solar system is a very small part of one of billions of galaxies in the Universe" and are about to start Big Idea 2 "Organisms are organised on a cellular basis and have a finite life span".

Year 8

Year 8 have begun working on Big Idea 5 "Changing the movement of an object requires a net force to be acting on it" They have completed an assessment on Big Ideas 1-4 and now have new QLA slips to be working on for homework.

Year 9

Year 9 have been finishing off Big Idea 7 "Humans depend on the earth for its resources" This topic had lots of opportunities for students to develop their practical skills.



Testing for hydrogen gas



Investigating the reactivity of metals

Year 10

Year 10 have continued to work on paper 1 content, structure and bonding in chemistry, particle model in physics and organisation in biology. These topics also included some required practical work.



Investigating specific heat capacity



Investigating the density of irregular shaped objects

Year 11

Year 11 have received feedback from their mock exams and have started period 7 intervention. Year 11 have been studying biology paper 2 topics and will be moving onto Chemistry paper 2 shortly.



The science department would like to wish everyone a merry Christmas and a happy new year.

What is Ecology?

Ecology is the study of interactions between organisms and their environment.

WHY IS IT IMPORTANT?

Ecology enriches our world and is crucial for human wellbeing and prosperity. It seeks to understand the vital connections between plants and animals and the world around them. It provides new knowledge of the interdependence between people and nature that is vital for food production, maintaining clean air and water, and sustaining biodiversity in a changing climate.



WHAT DOES AN ECOLOGIST DO?

Ecologists are scientists who study natural ecosystems and the organisms that live in them. They work to minimize environmental damage, conserve species, predict the impact of proposed actions on an ecosystem, design more sustainable practices and advise organizations on ecological policies.

As an ecologist you might: analyse data on plants, animals and environmental conditions, research the impact of activities like house building and farming on land and waterways, create and manage wildlife conservation areas and restoration projects.

As a senior/principal ecologist, you can expect to earn in the range of £30,000 to £45,000.



TYPES OF ECOLOGY

There are many specialties within ecology such as marine, microbial, community, ecosystem, vegetation, and statistical ecology. These provide us with information to better understand the world around us.



Examples

Population ecology: Population ecology is the study of the processes that affect the distribution and abundance of animal and plant populations. For example, how many rabbits are in a park and where in the park they are likely to be found.

Landscape ecology: A landscape ecologist studies the interactions between aspects of a landscape and the organisms within it. For example, a landscape ecologist may study how the spread of a forest affects the movements of forest dwelling organisms such as deer and birds.

Landscape ecology helps humans by exploring how landscapes evolve from below the Earth's surface to the top of trees, supporting life on earth.

Microbial ecology:

Microbial ecology explores the changes within microbe populations and how this affects other populations, including humans. The study of microbes can help humans by measuring the effects of climate change, land usage, and creating useful products such as antibiotics, food products and chemicals

ECOLOGY TO THE RESCUE!

Though ecological research does not always show an immediate benefit, it may lead to important, and even life-saving, applications. By giving us a better understanding of our environment, ecological data can help solve the social and environmental problems threatening the world today.

For example, in the case of the mysterious hantavirus outbreak in the southwestern United States, which caused over 45 human deaths from 1993-95, the benefits of a long-term ecological research project conducted on rodents were proven immeasurable. While the purpose of this research project was unrelated to disease prevention, having long term data at their fingertips helped scientists quickly determine the cause of the hantavirus outbreak and how to prevent the spread of the virus.

Researched by Year 8 ecology applied resilience students.



WHAT'S HAPPENING IN ENGLISH?



Topics

So far this year students have been delving deep into some fantastic topics in their English classrooms.

Year 7 have been exploring the gruesome fairy tales of A Tale Dark and Grimm! After Christmas they will blast off in their exploration of the popular topic of science-fiction writing, watch out for robots, moving buildings and science phenomena.

Year 8 have continued to delve into The Bone Sparrow, they have thoroughly explored some important topics in relation to the treatment of refugees as well as written letters to the president of Australia about their viewpoints. After Christmas they will delve into Victorian London and the world of Oliver Twist.

Year 9 have been using their voices to express their opinions on climate related problems. They have started building up the skills to create persuasive pieces of writing whilst looking at the likes of Greta Thunberg for some inspiration. After Christmas they should look forward to scrutinising the rules of Animal Farm.

Year 10 have been making their way through the start of Romeo and Juliet and exploring the world of Shakespeare at a GCSE level.

Year 11 have been exploring the theme of gender. They have gone back over their core texts in relation to the theme of gender to allow them to think on a deeper level. They should prepare for their mocks after Christmas and ensure they reserve time to revise.

Want a new reading challenge?

Miss Skaife has put together a reading challenge of 16 books to read before you turn 16. The list ranges from classics such as Mary Shelley's Frankenstein to The Hate U Give by Angie Thomas.

This is suited more towards readers in years 9,10 and 11 so if you are up for a challenge please see Miss Skaife in GT24!

Reminder: Students are required to complete 4 reading and 1 vocabulary task. The completion window for this homework closes at midnight on Sunday. Homework completed on Monday morning will be considered late (it will be counted towards next week's homework). We encourage students to complete one task per night rather than trying to complete all tasks on a Sunday.

Students put on hold should email staff directly using their school email address as soon as possible to request to be taken off hold. We do check holds through the week, including weekends, so if you are put on hold, please log on again later and continue the tasks.

Reading Plus Heroes

This term students have been making excellent progress and putting real effort into their Reading Plus.

So far 8y1 are still topping the reading plus leaderboard with the highest average of reading lessons completed.

Since our last edition they have managed to double their total amount of words read; they now have a phenomenal 3,545,088!

HOLIDAY HOMEWORK

Students should complete 8 reading and 2 vocabulary tasks on Reading Plus.

Students in Year 11 should be completing revision for their upcoming mock examinations.

	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11
Progress	Thomas T	Evie C	Daisy A-A	Mila M	
Effort	Curt M	Alfie H	Keira R-W	Leighton P	Jack B



BOOK TALK With TOMÁZ

SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR

At the beginning of November the book fair visited school. This is an opportunity to raise funds for the school library, as every book purchased at the fair earns money for the school.

We are delighted to say we earned over £400 with this year's fair. Thank you to all the families who supported the event.



BOOKBUZZ

Bookbuzz is a reading programme sponsored by the National Literacy Trust aimed at making sure children have quality reading material in their homes. Research by them suggests that 1 in 14 11 year olds nationwide do not have any books of their own at home. Year Seven participated in this programme this year and all gleefully picked up their new books in assembly on Friday. Happy reading year 7!

Spotlight on:

Each edition we will throw the spotlight on a featured author in the school library. This month the spotlight is on Maurice Gleitzman. The *Once* series is a moving fictionalised series based during WW2. Ever popular in the library, students enjoy adding to their historical knowledge and find the stories and characters engaging.



Get reading this Christmas



In the library this Wednesday we celebrated the Icelandic tradition of Jolabokaflod - book flood - with a reading group. 77 students and staff joined us for loaded hot chocolate, festive music and books obviously!

Traditionally celebrated on Christmas Eve, what books could your family share this Christmas?



KS1/2 Father Christmas' Fake Beard - Terry Pratchett

With younger children why not share the fantastically funny and different story where Santa causes chaos and the mince pies explode.

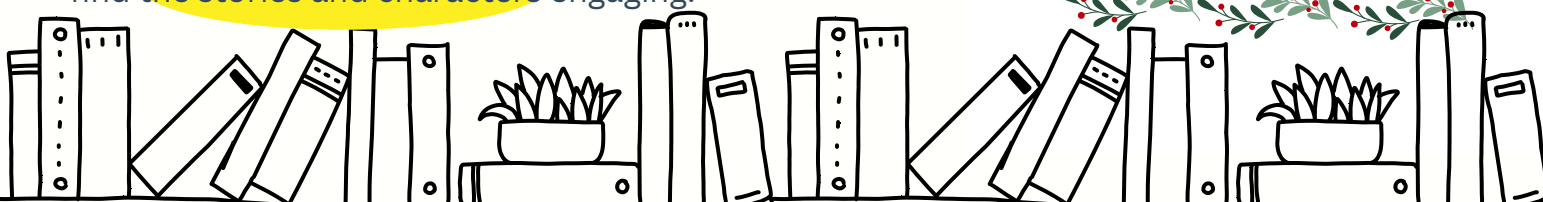
KS3 Santa's Evil Twin - Dean Koontz

Don't be put off by the author's name, this is a wildly entertaining, slightly macabre, retelling of the Christmas classic story *The Night before Christmas*. Just the right amount of silly and frightening, it is sure to become a new family favourite.

KS3 Miracle on Ebenezer Street - Catherine Doyle

This is a stunning modern reimagining of Dickens' classic. George and his dad are swept on a magical adventure through Christmases past, present and future in a tale that reignites their festive spirit and gives them a new life after grief.

KS4 Charles Dickens' A Christmas Carol. This classic tale of greed and redemption is a must for re reading this Christmas. Reading this also helps support revision as a set GCSE text.



MATHEMATICS



Brayton Academy Maths Club is excited to announce the launch of the UK Mathematics Trust annual maths challenges. Pupils in the maths club have already begun working towards the intermediate maths challenge, which will take place in school on the 29th January 2025 but it is not too late to join up and start working towards the challenge as well. Maths club, and the intermediate challenge are open to pupils in year 8 and year 9. **Find us in UT8 on a Thursday 2:30pm until 3:30pm!**

PARALLEL ACADEMY

We are thrilled to announce that three of our Year 7 students have successfully earned places in the prestigious Parallel Academy tutoring programme for highly able young mathematicians! This exclusive programme, renowned for its focus on nurturing exceptional talent in mathematics, selects only the most promising students from across the country.

All three students impressed the academy with their problem-solving abilities, mathematical creativity, and passion for the subject. Their achievement is a testament to their hard work, dedication, and the supportive environment that encourages academic excellence.

Parallel Academy provides advanced tutoring tailored to challenge and inspire students, offering them opportunities to deepen their understanding of mathematical concepts and develop skills beyond the standard curriculum. By participating, our students will work alongside peers who share their enthusiasm for mathematics, further sharpening their abilities and confidence in the subject.

We are incredibly proud of their accomplishment and can't wait to see how this opportunity helps them grow and achieve even greater success in the future. Congratulations to all students on this outstanding achievement!

SPARX MATHS SUPERSTARS

Congratulations to these students for achieving the highest number of XP points.



Congratulations to our incredible students for achieving the highest number of XP points on Sparx Maths! Your hard work, dedication, and enthusiasm for learning have truly shone through. Keep up the fantastic effort—you're setting an amazing example for everyone!

**533,424 QUESTIONS
ANSWERED CORRECTLY SO
FAR THIS YEAR**

**STUDENTS HAVE COMPLETED
8,832 HOURS OF PERSONALISED
LEARNING THIS YEAR**



ART



YEAR 9 ART

Year 9 have had a fantastic time creating bold, Pop Art-inspired mod roc sculptures over the past few weeks. Starting with cardboard designs, they worked meticulously to press mod roc plaster into every detail, ensuring clear shapes once dry. The messy process paid off, and students then used bright acrylic paints and striking patterns to bring their pieces to life and create eye-catching artworks. Well done, Year 9!



APPLIED RESILIENCE – ART & CRAFTS

Year 8 had lots of fun creativity completing their fabric painting using acrylic paints. Each student had the freedom to choose a theme that resonated with their interests. They began by conducting research online to find inspiration, carefully selecting images and ideas that reflected their chosen themes.

Once their concepts were solidified, the students demonstrated patience and precision in translating their ideas onto fabric. They took their time to accurately sketch out their designs. The painting process itself became an exercise in experimentation and refinement. Students focused on colour mixing to achieve exactly the shades and tones needed for their designs, learning how to blend and adjust colours to create a their palettes.



The final pieces were vibrant and showcased the hard work and creativity of each student.

Geography



Year 7

This term, Y7s have been learning how to become 'Global Citizens'. They have considered differences between renewable and non-renewable energy, the impact of large food miles, and the potential of insect meals saving the world! We have been impressed by how our Y7 geographers have settled in and the geographical skills they are continuing to develop.

Year 8

Africa, home to 54 countries, is an incredibly diverse continent known for its rich history and natural wonders. This term, our Y8s have been learning about the human and physical geography of the continent, focusing on things like energy, food and water, before looking into the physical geography of Uganda and the importance of tourism.

Year 9

The focus this term has been on Russia, with students learning about the physical geography of the country, including the location, climate and animal adaptations. We also looked into the Chernobyl disaster and how although this happened over the border in Ukraine, students could still connect the importance of this to Russia.

Year 10

After completing our first GCSE topic 'The Living World', students have moved on to a Paper 2 topic - 'Urban Issues and Challenges'. During this topic, students have investigated the opportunities and challenges created by urban growth in Mumbai and urban change in Leeds. Students are continuing to work on their exam technique and are now completing weekly homework retrieval questions to help support their progress.

Year 11

This term sees us completing the 'Natural Hazards' topic. Students have looked at a variety of different natural hazards including earthquakes, tropical storms and extreme weather events in the UK. We are now starting our final topic 'Economic World' where students will look into the different levels of development around the world. We will spend some time looking into the rapid economic development in Nigeria before then focusing on economic changes within the UK. As with Y10, our Y11s are also now receiving weekly retrieval homework.



HISTORY

We have covered lots of different topics and stages in history this half term. We hope you enjoy reading about what our students have been studying...

YEAR 7

Year 7 students have completed their studies of early Britain by looking at the different migrations that took place into Britain before 1066. They studied groups such as the Beakers, Celts, Romans, Anglo Saxon, Vikings and Normans. We have now moved on to study the Norman Conquest in more depth. Students will learn about the Norman victory at Hastings and the methods used by William to secure his position. They will also learn how the Normans changed Britain and how the results of these changes can still be seen today.



YEAR 8

Students in Year 8 have continued to study the effect of the British Empire around the world and how we remember these events. They have studied key events from Irish history from ancient times, through the Tudor period and into the 20th century. Students have now moved on to study the colonisation of the North America before moving on to study events in Australia and India.

YEAR 9

Year 9 have continued their study of the 20th Century. They completed their study of the First World War and evaluated the fairness of the Treaty of Versailles. They have since moved on to study the Rise of Fascism in Europe. They have gained an overview of the differences between democracy and dictatorships before completing a series of lessons explaining how and why Mussolini and Hitler were able to come to power. In addition to their studies a group of students were also selected to represent the school and attend the Armistice Day memorial at Selby cemetery.

YEAR 10

Year 10 have continued to study the Norman Conquest. They have completed lessons focusing on what life was like for people living in Norman England and have now moved on to looking at the role that the church and monasticism played in shaping Norman society. After Christmas students will be moving on to complete an in-depth site study of an historic environment which this year will be focusing on Pevensey Castle.

YEAR 11

Year 11 have continued to study The Inter War Years and Germany 1890 -1945. Students have looked at how the allies treated Germany after the war and the treaties that were imposed on Germany and its allies. Students have continued to build their knowledge of what life was like in Weimar Germany and the problems and challenges the government faced. In the last few weeks, they have moved on to study the reasons why Hitler became popular in the 1930s. Homework and Period 7s have focussed on consolidating previous knowledge of Health and the People and the Normans in preparation for the latest round of mock exams. All students have also been issued with revision materials that they can use over the Christmas period.

WHAT'S
NEW?

Careers update

DECEMBER
EDITION

- Students in year 9 have been visited by a wide range of employers this half term during their applied resilience lessons. Some groups took part in an Inspiring STEM (science, technology, engineering and maths) workshop where they learnt about careers in STEM and got the opportunity to quiz visitors who currently work in the sector. Others had a visit from the British Army where they took part in the Elite Skills Academy activities run by people currently serving in the army and the final group took part in a Fashion Fusion activity where they learnt about how the fashion industry designs garments including selecting materials and putting them together. Pupils had the opportunity to make their own designs and even took part in a fashion show at the end of the day!
- New College Pontefract delivered an assembly to year 11 students all about what life is like at the college and the application process. There is still time to apply for New College if you are interested-remember that you can apply for more than one college now and make your decision later if you're not sure at the moment where you want to go.
- Year 11 students who are interested in pursuing an apprenticeship either at college or afterwards took part in apprenticeship workshops this half term where they learnt more about the different routes available and who they might be suitable for.
- Our careers fair for year 10 and 11 pupils is taking place on Thursday 13th February. There are still a few places available if you or the organisation you work for would like to come and speak to pupils about what it's like to work at your business. Our pupils really love engaging with local employers and it promises to be an enjoyable morning for all involved. Please email bra-careers@braytonacademy.org.uk if you would like to be involved.



SPORTS

NEWS



Celebrating a Fantastic Term of Sporting Achievements!

This term has been packed with incredible sportsmanship, teamwork, and determination across all year groups. From debut fixtures to outstanding victories and a growing dance club, our students have truly made us proud. Here's a look back at some of the highlights:

Cross-Country Courage

Our cross-country team showcased immense resilience at this term's event. Despite a challenging course, 31 students participated with determination. **Standouts:** Charlie C and Fin C (Year 7) have advanced to the next round after stellar performances.

Unstoppable Spirit: A special mention to Maiya H (Year 8), who completed half the course with just one shoe—a true display of perseverance!

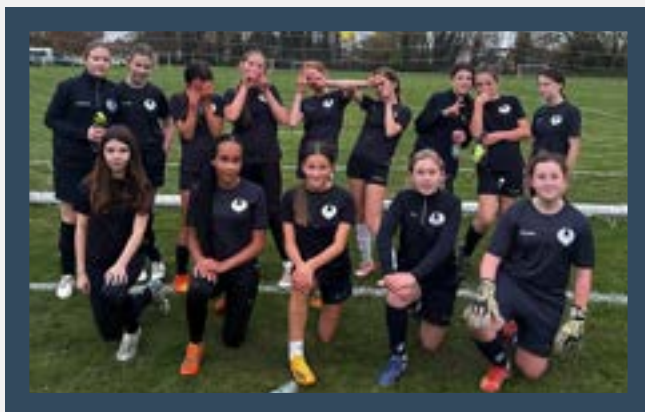


Football Success

Year 8 Girls: A huge congratulations to the Year 8 girls' football team, who secured a fantastic win in the first round of the cup against Queen Ethelburga's. Violet G scored twice, while Maiya H netted a hat-trick in a memorable 5-goal victory.

Year 8 Boys: The Year 8 boys' football team faced a tough match against St John's, narrowly losing 2-1 in a hard-fought game. The team displayed great effort and determination throughout.

Upcoming Fixtures: Both boys' and girls' football teams are gearing up for more fixtures later in the term—good luck to all!



RUGBY ACTION

The Year 7 boys' rugby team had an excellent start to their season, winning their debut match against Selby with a hard-fought 2 tries to 1 victory. A fantastic effort from the whole team!

Sports news continues on the next page...



Netball Highlights

Year 11: The Year 11 netball teams shone in their matches against Selby, with the A team taking a commanding 10-2 win and the B team winning 8-4. Milly F was named player of the match for her exceptional play.

Year 10: In a nail-biting league game, the Year 10 netball team triumphed over tough opponents with a 6-5 victory. It was a hard-fought battle with excellent performances all around.

Year 9: The Year 9 netball team played a fantastic game against Tadcaster, narrowly missing out on victory. Despite the loss, the team showed tremendous resilience and teamwork throughout.

Year 7: The Year 7 netballers have had a fantastic introduction to competitive play.

- In their first-ever fixture, they drew 4-4 against Rodillian, with Sophia earning player of the match honors.
- Their second match against Sherburn saw a valiant effort in a 7-4 loss—great teamwork all around!



DANCE CLUB GROWTH

Dance club has flourished this term, with attendance increasing week by week. The routines are looking amazing, and the enthusiasm from all involved is infectious. Keep up the great work!

LOOKING AHEAD

The remainder of the term promises more exciting fixtures across various sports, including:

- Girls' Football
- Y8 Netball

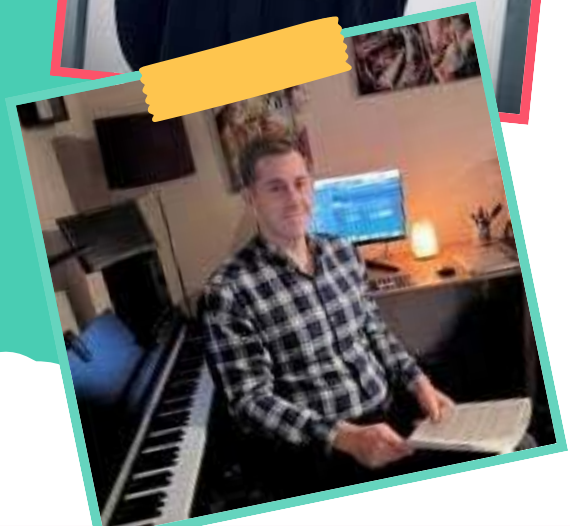
Thank you to all students, staff, and parents for your continued support and enthusiasm. Let's keep the energy high as we head into the next part of the school year! Here's to more successes, milestones, and memories on and off the field!

PERFORMING ARTS

News

Meet our **peri** teachers

I'm Chris Mulligan and I love teaching guitar, bass and drums. I have been teaching for over 15 years and I have had the privilege of helping hundreds of students learn songs for performances all the way to GCSE. I work with the students' own interests in music to come up with exercises and lessons to help them discover their instrument and get them playing songs they love.



If you are interested in having music lessons at school please see your music teacher for more details.

I'm Mr Gamble, and I've been a professional piano player for over twenty years. I used to be with a touring tribute band, a member of a band at a holiday park, and alongside my teaching I'm currently working as a musical director and musician in theatre shows around Yorkshire. I can offer piano and keyboard lessons in a variety of genres.



Year 7

Year 7 have made an excellent start to their music and drama studies.

In music students are learning the basics of keyboard skills and learning to play simple pieces.

In drama students are perfecting their performance techniques and experimenting with devising drama using freeze frames, mime and improvisation.

Students will rotate onto the other performing art after the Christmas break.

Year 8

This year group are coming to the end of a great unit about film music.

Students have learnt to play a number of film music scores including Star Wars and Harry Potter. As we conclude this topic students are composing their own film music, including devising leitmotifs to represent particular characters.

Next term students will move on to band breakout.

Year 9

There are pre option groups for both music and drama. In music students are polishing their practical skills and working on pieces for a performance.

In drama students have a good grounding in practical performance skills.

We are delighted that after Christmas our drama group will be working in partnership with the Royal Shakespeare Company on a production of *The Tempest*.

GCSE NEWS

Year 10 drama are working really hard on their first NEA component. After Christmas they will have mock examinations as well as their first GCSE practical assessment. Students should be revising *Blood Brothers* over the break ready for the examinations.

Year 11 music students have just completed their first practical module for their course. We were treated to some very professional sounding performances from the group.



RESILIENCE

NEWSPAPER WRITING

SPOTLIGHT ON STUDENT VOICES: NEWS BY OUR ASPIRING JOURNALISTS!

WE ARE THRILLED TO INTRODUCE TWO SPECIAL FEATURES IN THIS EDITION OF OUR SCHOOL NEWSLETTER: ARTICLES WRITTEN ENTIRELY BY OUR TALENTED STUDENT JOURNALISTS.

Christmas Playlist 2024

Mariah Carey announces Christmas season with an iconic 'its timeeee' on the first of November at midnight.

Pondering relentlessly because you don't know what Christmas song to listen to? Go through this list and find the most perfect and trendy song for you!

First off is Santa Tell Me by Ariana Grande, it was released by Republic Records on November 24, 2014. Commercially, 'Santa Tell Me' Has reached top 10 in countries such as Australia, Austria, Canada, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Greece etc.

Second is Jingle Bell Rock. An American Christmas song released by Bobby Helms in 1957, it is an old classic and still listened worldwide today. It has received frequent airplay in the United States ever since.

The third best is 'Its beginning to look a lot like Christmas' was a Christmas song written in 1951 by Meredith Wilson. This song has been recorded by many artists but is a massive hit for Perry Como.

Another popular hit is 'We Wish You a Merry Christmas' which was written by an English Conductor in Bristol, Arthur Warrel. He performed the music at a concert in December 6, 1935. His composition was published by Oxford University Press the same year under the title "a merry Christmas: west country traditional song."

The next one is "Last Christmas". Last Christmas is a song by a pop duo wham! Written and produced by George Michael. It was released on 3rd December 1984 via CBS records. The song has been covered by many artists since its original release and is known worldwide, including: [Billie Piper](#), Taylor Swift and [Ariana Grande](#).

By Orla Dolan
Sub-editor of The Brayton Times



ASTRONOMY

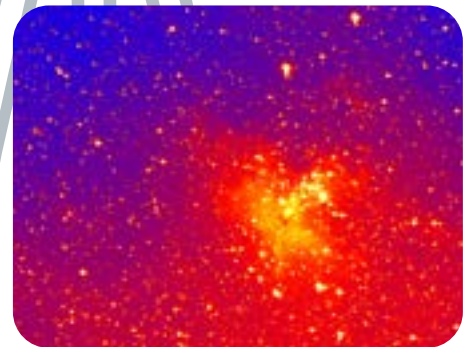
It has been another astonishing month for the astronomy resilience group! After showing resilience to learn how to use NASA's JS94L software (as used by astronomers....) the results have come thick and fast.

The first special mention goes to Benjamin, who took almost 100 photos of Jupiter, before he could pinpoint some of the moons based on their movement. He used false colours, along with skilfully controlling for brightness limits to enable the moons to be visible; you would normally expect to find a project like this being done by people taking degrees in astrophysics!



Julian's Andromeda galaxy photo is so good that it would make a great poster to hang on your wall. He used Harvard University's remote telescope and his resilience was rewarded with a picture of a galaxy from 2.5 million light years away.

Other students concentrated on nebula, benefitting from our link-up with NASA to use their Arizona telescope. Ciara's Eagle Nebula has a real sense of these huge clouds of gas forming into stars.



As does Harry's Lagoon nebula



Each month, a senior member of Brayton Academy staff chooses a single photo to win the coveted "Photo of the month" award. This month Assistant Principal Mr. Parish selected Daniel's work on the Whirlpool Galaxy. Starting with a faint photo he took of this galaxy which is 31 million light years away (left), Daniel showed his software skills to adjust a digital image (right) to show not only the graceful spiral arms, but also the central cloud of dust that hides a powerful black hole.

STOP PRESS!

As we went to press with this edition of the newsletter, we were starting to get the first results from using a remote telescope in Spain that Liverpool John Moores University arranged for us. Watch out for some photos of the planets in the next edition of this newsletter.

CAKE DECORATING CLUB



Year 7 have shown incredible creativity and enthusiasm while learning new skills this term. They've learnt the preparation and use of modelling paste, rice paper, and buttercream, applying these techniques to create an assortment of edible cake decorations. From gnomes and elegant roses to festive gingerbread characters and Santas, they've made it all. It's been a fun and rewarding experience for everyone involved—well done, Year 7!

**JOIN CAKE
DECORATING CLUB
ON WEDNESDAYS
WITH MISS WARREN!**

ATTEND TODAY

ACHIEVE TOMORROW!

Following the publication of the DFE performance tables and FFT Attendance Awards Brayton Academy are pleased to be in the top five secondary schools in North Yorkshire, placing 5th out of 42 in both measures.

Huge congratulations to the 348 students who have had 100% attendance since the start of the academic year. Parents/carers - Thank you for your continued support and please congratulate your child. Praise slips can be found in their planners.

We are also pleased to inform that Brayton Academy has won an FFT National Attendance Award for 2023/2024. The awards are an acknowledgement of the hard work and dedication of staff, pupils, parents and carers in achieving excellent attendance. Let's aim for the same again this year!



National School Attendance Award

2023/24 Academic Year



Brayton Academy

Top 10% of all FFT Secondary Schools in England

MAXIMISE YOUR POTENTIAL
Attend School Everyday
Students across the RMAT at this level of attendance have historically achieved:

- Significantly above national average progress
- Above national average progress
- National average progress
- Below national average progress
- Significantly below national average progress
- Very significantly below national average progress

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









EXTRA CURRICULAR TIMETABLE



ALL CLUBS RUN AFTER SCHOOL 14:30 TILL 15:30

	YEAR 7	YEAR 8	YEAR 9	YEAR 10	YEAR 11
MONDAY	Netball Science Club Knitting & Crochet Boys Rugby Basketball Games Workshop Drama Club	Netball Science Club Knitting & Crochet Boys Rugby Basketball Games Workshop Drama Club	Science Club Knitting & Crochet Basketball Games Workshop Drama Club	Study Support Science Club Games Workshop	
TUESDAY	 ROCK BAND CHOIR				
WEDNESDAY	Cake Decorating Homework Club Craft Club Girls Football Girls Rugby Badminton	Homework Club Craft Club Girls Football Girls Rugby Badminton	Homework Club Girls Football Girls Rugby Badminton	Homework Club Girls Football Girls Rugby Drama Club	Homework Club Girls Rugby Drama Club
THURSDAY	Library Club Chess Club Anime Club Reading Club Art Club - Fortnightly Boys Football Dance	Library Club Chess Club Anime Club Reading Club Boys Football Dance	Library Club Chess Club Anime Club Reading Club Netball Boys Rugby Dance UK Maths Challenge	Library Club Chess Club Anime Club Boys Rugby Netball Dance General Fitness Training Club	Netball Dance Chess Club Anime Club General Fitness Training Club
FRIDAY	 BRAYTON UNION SOCIETY (HUMANITIES DEBATE CLUB) ECO-SCHOOL GROUP				