

The Brannel Challenge

Information for Parents and Carers




Be the Best that
You can be

What is the Brannel Challenge

- The Brannel Challenge is a key part of the curriculum at Brannel School.
- An element of our 'Fantastic Futures' strategy, which supports students in preparing for life beyond school.
- The tool used in school to ensure that students are able to have as many worthwhile experiences as possible.





The Brannel Challenge is good for our students because...

- They learn specific skills which are desired by employers
- They have the opportunity to try new experiences and hobbies, things they would not normally be able to do at school and, for some, outside of school
- All of our students are able to be involved, it doesn't just support those who are able to stay after school or attend holiday clubs
- They have the opportunity to work with students from other year groups and outside organisations.
- Students in Year 11 are able to prepare for their final exams



The Key Skills

- **Communication**

Students need to be given the opportunity to extend their communication skills beyond the classroom audience, so that when they enter the workplace they can communicate confidently and coherently in a variety of different situations with colleagues at all levels.

- **Teamwork**

Enabling students to develop teamworking skills, showing them what can be achieved when people work together. It also teaches them patience and tolerance – both important skills in the workplace.

- **Problem-solving**

Students need to be given the opportunity to problem-solve in real-life situations, so that they have the opportunity to fail without criticism, learn from that experience and try again.

- **Creativity**

Creativity can be applied in all areas of work and life, whether that is using creativity to solve a problem, design new processes or develop new ideas. Students need to be given the opportunity to test their creative ideas in a range of different ways through ‘learning by doing’.

- **Resilience**

Students need to experience failure as part of their learning, so that rather than giving up when things do not go to plan, they can then apply that learning in new situations. Through learning about resilience, students can also develop humility, ‘grit’, self-management and tenacity – all important skills in work and life.

Areas of Challenge

Being Creative

Academic
Achievement

Brain Training

Adventure
Skills

Being Active

Volunteering &
Work Experience

Just for Fun!



Challenge Period: Practical Information

- Every Wednesday, period 4
- Students select activities, with the help of their tutor, identifying those which will most help them develop new skills
- To ensure breadth of experience, each area of challenge may only be visited once in an academic year
- Each round of activities runs for 6 school weeks
- These lessons are part of the school day, therefore the same expectations for behaviour and attendance apply
- Student progress in the five skills is tracked and a report will be published to parents/carers at the end of the year



Parent and Carer Involvement

Please help us by:

- Supporting your child in making selections which are challenging and will stretch them. This is often something students will be reluctant to do.
- Model with your child the five skills we are encouraging them to develop. If they see your resilience, problem-solving etc, they will learn some of the strategies you use.
- Please help us with ideas that we can use to broaden our Brannel Challenge offer. We are always keen for volunteers to help us. What interests and skills do you have which will help strengthen our students' skills?



Find out more

- We invite you to come and see what we are doing with the Brannel Challenge and the many ways in which we are developing our students' skills
- Read about our Fantastic Futures strategy

<http://brannel.com/university-careers-advice/>

- What are employers looking for?

<https://www.exeter.ac.uk/ambassadors/HESTEM/resources/General/STEMNET%20Employability%20skills%20guide.pdf>

- Follow us on Facebook to find out what we are doing

<https://www.facebook.com/brannelschool/>