

Inspire



Snapshots from Brannel School

Issue 02 / Spring Term 2020

Welcome to Brannel School's Spring Term Newsletter

It's certainly been a particularly bumpy start to 2020 across the world with floods, bushfire, storms and cyclones swiftly followed by the coronavirus which is causing heightened anxiety worldwide. It sometimes feels that anxiety is spreading more rapidly than the virus itself, causing unnecessary fear and panic driven by social media.

At times like this we need to take stock and refocus on what really matters to us. As the great writer Maya Angelou said: "You may not control all the events that happen to you, but you can decide not to be reduced by them".

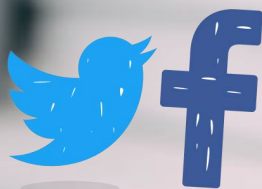
I have been blown away by the response of our school community in this current crisis. We have staff volunteering to keep our doors open each day so key workers on the front line can go to work. Our catering team are providing food each day for those in school.

I've really valued spending time this term talking to students to find out what's important to them. Every Friday I have hot chocolate at breaktime with our Student of the Week who brings a friend along for a chat. I've also been talking with members of our Student Council about changes they want to make to improve our school.

I've been hugely impressed by the efforts of our English department to spread their enthusiasm for literature this term. The PE department have also been busy with a full timetable of clubs and fixtures whilst still managing to find time to organise Sport Relief Day.

And finally, I can only begin to imagine the range of emotions Year 11 students must be feeling at this time. We didn't expect to be saying goodbye so soon. Please know that all of the staff here will continue working hard to ensure you get the grades you deserve and need to take you on to what I know will be amazing futures. Good luck and see you at your prom!

Mr Chris Liles, Headteacher



www.brannel.com



Goodbye, Year 11



"Well done Year 11. Although you might not feel like it now, you have done the school and yourselves proud. You have been a challenge at times over the last two years but you all have been fantastic to teach. All the best going forward."

- Mr Farrer, Head of Year 11



Year 11 Leavers

Well we weren't expecting this!

In the context of the global coronavirus crisis, Brannel School closed its doors on Friday 20th March until further notice. For our Year 11's this means that GCSE exams have been cancelled this year.

The government has announced that GCSEs will be awarded in July based on mock data, individual assessment and prior attainment and that this year's GCSE grades will be indistinguishable from those provided in other years. The distribution of grades will follow a similar pattern to that in other years, so that this year's students do not face a systematic disadvantage as a consequence of these extraordinary circumstances.

Our Year 11's put on a brave face on the last day of term and we gave them a good send off to show how proud we are of them.

"It's been a roller coaster year with occasional lows but many more highs!" said Mr Goodwin, Deputy Head. "After all the hard work that both staff and students have put in, it feels a bit like we've been scuppered at the last hurdle.

I wish you all the best for the future and hope you all get on to the college course you wanted! We will make sure we see you all at the slightly delayed Prom; the dance off is still very much *on!*"

Brannel School is delighted to announce

CASINO ROYALE

Class of '20

2020

Year 11 Leavers' Prom

POSTPONED NOT CANCELLED!!

- red carpet entrance • mocktail reception (shaken not stirred) •
- award winning food • indulgent waffle and gelato bar • DJ, disco & dancing • casino style games • magic mirror photo booth •

Brannel School

Your mission to have fun begins at 007 o'clock



"I really hope that you are not too disappointed at not being able to show what you are capable of. It is a strange end to your Brannel years but I look forward to hearing of your future successes."

- Mr Bright, Head of House



"I have enjoyed getting to know 11R over the past year. Many of you have worked diligently this year and it seems like a sad and very unusual end to your time at Brannel. I am so impressed by how several of you have overcome, or are overcoming, such setbacks and difficulties at a young age - you are an inspiration to me. I wish you great success throughout the rest of your education and beyond."

- Mr Makepeace, Year 11 tutor



"What a year it has been! Although none of us expected it to end this way, it doesn't change the fact that we are all proud of you for the hard work and dedication you have shown. No matter what happens, we know you will go on to do amazing things and you will look back at this time as a moment in history. Good luck, work hard and be kind."

- Mr and Mrs Blizzard, Year 11 tutors



"Some of you will feel cheated of your chance to shine. Trust that your futures are secure, nothing will get in your way. Take the opportunity to learn something new in these next few months: the guitar, chess etc."

- Mr Ellis-Davies, Year 11 tutor



"Good luck with your futures Year 11. I didn't expect such a quick year! Wishing you all the very best. Come back and see us and share your successes."

- Mrs Byrt, Year 11 tutor





Create

"If you hear a voice within you say 'you cannot paint,' then by all means paint, and that voice will be silenced."

- Vincent van Gogh



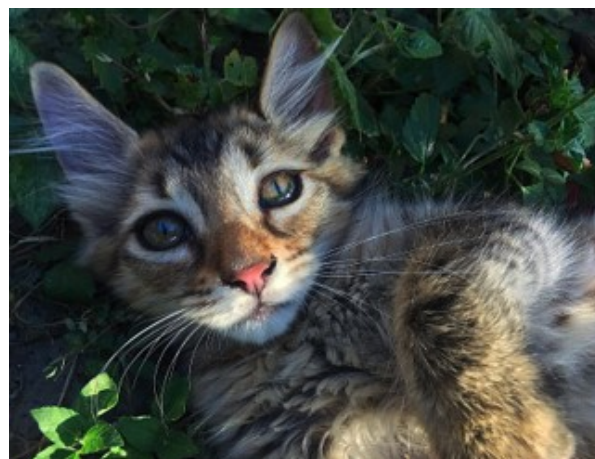
Art, Design & Technology

The Next Generation of Pastry Chefs

Year 8 students are enjoying learning to make a range of sweet and savoury dishes. "We made some amazing cheesecakes," said one student. "The best thing is that I can take mine home for my family to try. I will be making this again. I'm enjoying learning how to make healthy things. It's more fun that just going to the shop to buy stuff."

Head Space!

Growing up is all about finding ways to cope with the stress and pressure of life. Jodi's pencil portrait of her sister with individually painted 3D butterflies coming out of her head really captures what adolescence feels like.

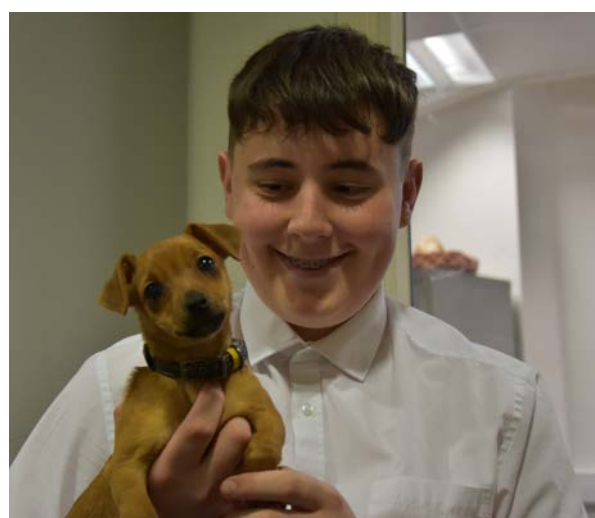


House Competition

#FotoFriday

This term Mr Leo launched 'Foto Friday' (- no, it's not a spelling mistake, it's Spanish!) with the theme of Animals. Students are challenged to take a photograph based on a new theme each week. Each entry receives a house point and a merit.

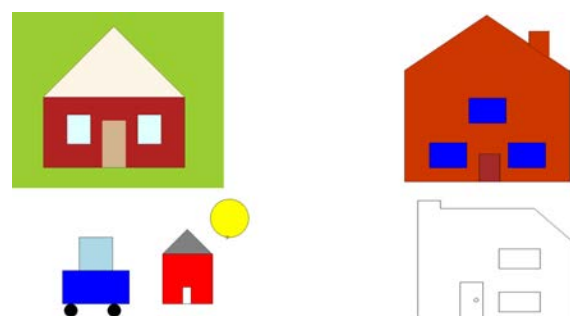
Students are always delighted when we have four-legged visitors for Animal Care lessons. Ivy the Jack Russell puppy was a particular favourite this term.



Computing

Coding Competition

Year 7 were challenged to code an image of a house in Python as a house competition. The winners were Chester, Archie, Taylor and Otto who each received a BBC Microbit as a prize.





English

The Horror! The Horror!

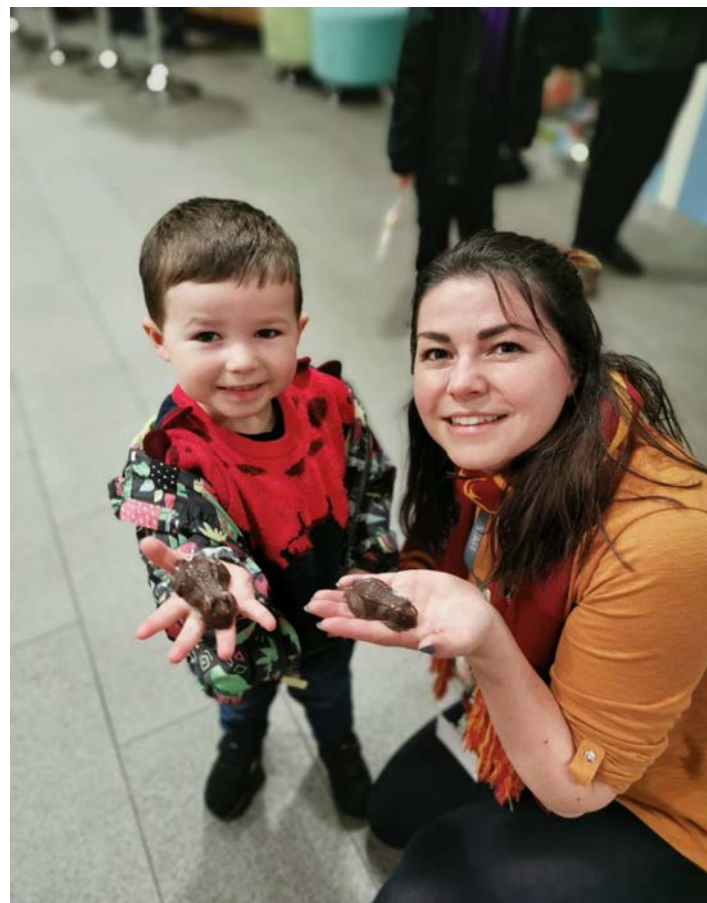
Year 7 students are continuing to learn about Gothic fiction and have produced some impressive homework projects. This term they are studying Edgar Allan Poe's *The Tell-Tale Heart*. One student said, "I really liked how this story explores how getting paranoid over an old man's eye can drive you insane to the point of murder."



English

Twilight Wizarding School

This week there was magic in the air as young wizards descended on Brannel to admire owls from the Screech Owl Sanctuary and practice potion-making, Quidditch and wand-making. They also enjoyed treats of chocolate frogs and butter beer. The evening was a celebration of children and young people's enthusiasm and love for Harry Potter books.





English

An Inspector Calls: Theatre Royal

Year 10 and 11 English students visited Plymouth to watch Stephen Daldry's multi-award winning production of J.B. Priestley's *An Inspector Calls*. This visionary, radical, challenging version of this classic thriller has been seen by more than 5 million people worldwide. "It did make me think," said one student. "I think the message was really about showing how there is a consequence for every action. The Inspector believes we are all interdependent and we all have to look after each other. If we don't learn to do this, something terrible is going to happen and we will all pay for it. That actually made me think of the coronavirus outbreak and how we need to look after others and not just ourselves."



English

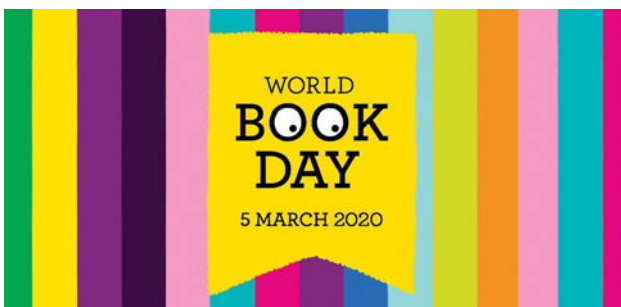
Exploring Shakespeare: Cluster Primary Workshops

We joined together with our cluster primary schools to perform Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. The children explored the story and characters through drama, each focusing on a different section of the play. The workshops were facilitated by Mr Rob Lane, a freelance consultant in arts education, who encouraged the students to use their creativity and imaginations as they explored Shakespeare's characters and the story, lost their fear of Shakespeare, and experienced performing in a way they will never forget. "Even our most reluctant and quiet children were engaged," said one teacher, "which was really lovely to see. They all worked so well together and the final performance was an absolute delight."

English

Guess Who I Am?

Books were brought to life on World Book Day. Students were challenged to guess which literary character their teacher was dressed as. They also received book vouchers which they could swap for books at our Big Book Swap.





Challenge

"Nothing in the world is worth having or worth doing unless it means effort, pain, difficulty... I have never in my life envied a human being who led an easy life. I have envied a great many people who led difficult lives and led them well."

- Theodore Roosevelt



PE

County Netball Tournament Achievement

Our Year 7 netball team competed at their first County tournament this term. They demonstrated real resilience and some outstanding team work, playing some excellent netball in really difficult conditions to finish 11th out of 23 teams. "We just kept going," said one student. "We didn't win every game but we did our best and came home proud of ourselves."

Pastoral Support

100-Day Challenge

Students in 8K successfully completed their 100-day challenge for attendance and behaviour. They are learning that the keys to success are: attending school; being punctual for lessons; good behaviour; and maintaining positive relationships and attitudes to learning.



Extra-Curricular

Student Achievement

Riley in Year 9 has qualified to compete for Team England in the World Kick Boxing Championships in Russia this September.

Corran in Year 8 has been awarded Best MMA Fighter at Evolve Health Fitness & Wellbeing.

Dylan in Year 8 qualified to represent Cornwall in the English Schools' Cross Country Championships in March.





PE

Get your Kit on for Sport Relief: 13th March 2020

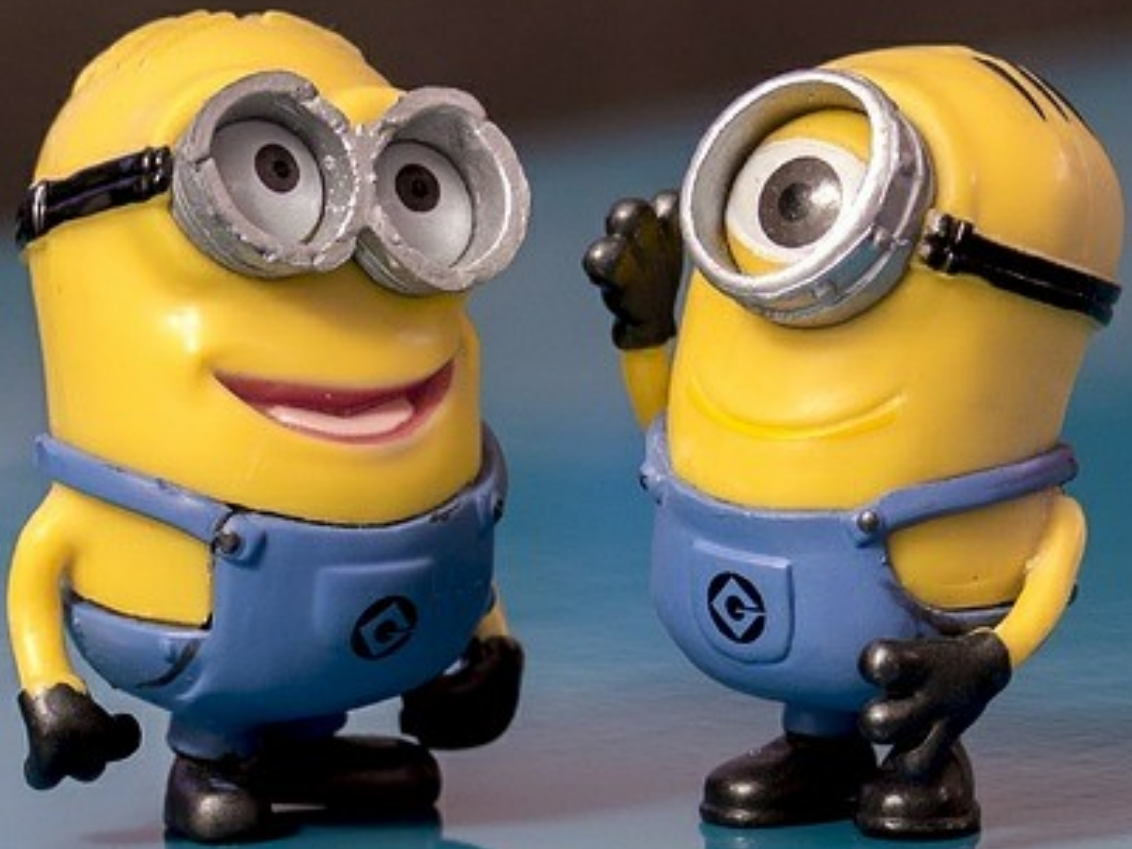
We had a fantastic turn out of staff and students dressed in sports gear for Sport Relief. Leon and Luke were a particular hit with their Sumo Suits.

The staff vs students Dodgeball game saw the staff win 5-0, and together we completed our 100-mile Rowing Challenge. Congratulations to Sam and to Mr Ellis-Davies for the fastest 500m rows.

"Sport Relief inspires everyone to raise life-changing amounts of money and take on some of the world's most pressing problems through the power of sport," said our Head of PE, Mrs Callaway. "While poverty and injustice exist we all need to keep fighting to do more."



Communicate



"The most important thing in communication is hearing what isn't said."

- Peter Drucker



Student Council

What would you want in your Student Rewards Store?

Student Council members Sam and Will met with our Headteacher, Mr Liles, to present ideas for improving our school. One of the ideas they are hoping to implement is a Student Rewards Store. Students will earn rewards for positive behaviour. The Student Council will be consulting across the school on what rewards would be valued by students. Suggestions so far have been a lunch pass which gets you to the front of the lunch queue, a box of cupcakes, a free place on a school trip, and a monthly pass for the school cinema.



Eco Committee

#GBSpringClean #LitterHeroes

Our Eco Committee is taking steps to reduce the amount of litter being dropped at school and in the wider community with an anti-litter poster campaign. Students were invited to enter a competition to design a poster. The campaign is part of the Eco Committee Action Plan this year to introduce more environmentally friendly initiatives across the school. The posters will help to raise awareness of the importance of disposing of litter responsibly and using the recycling bins.

A former student, Thomas Dowrick, returned to Brannel to discuss the climate emergency with our Eco Committee and lead a workshop as part of March's Great British Spring Clean 2020. Our students got involved in the country's biggest mass-action environmental campaign and demonstrated that they love where they live by taking part in a litter pick, joined by local Councillor Mike McLening.

"Together, we can make a massive difference" said one of our Eco Committee members. "All our individual actions can help to transform our community for the better, creating cleaner streets, parks and beaches and protecting our wildlife."



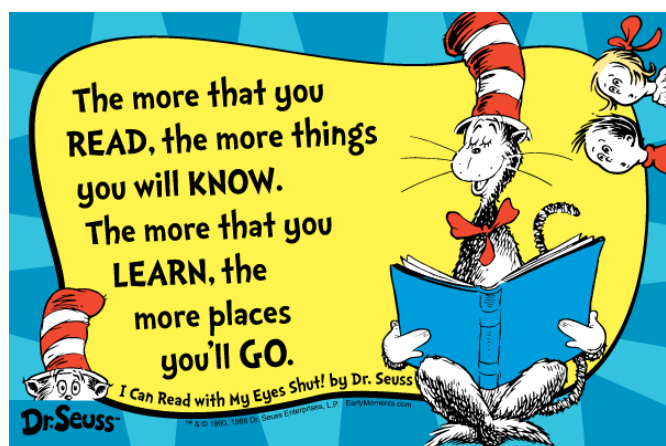


English

Have You found one of our Books?

Our students have been out and about again this term hiding books in unexpected places. Our Share a Story in the Clays project is encouraging literacy across the Clay Community. Research by the National Literacy Trust suggests that:

- ⇒ Children who say they have a book of their own are three times more likely to read above the level expected for their age than their peers who don't own a book (12% vs. 4.2%).
- ⇒ 10-year-olds who enjoy reading have a reading age 1.3 years higher than their peers who do not enjoy reading, rising to 2.1 years for 12-year-olds and 3.3 years for 14-year-olds.
- ⇒ Children who enjoy reading are three times more likely to have good mental wellbeing than children who don't enjoy it.



Competition

Calling all budding writers, story enthusiasts and book worms!

Could you write an original story for children under five in Cornwall? There are no set rules around style or format, it just needs to be 500 words or less. The rest is entirely up to you!

The closing date is 22nd May 2020.

- **First prize** – your story will be turned into a Facebook live bedtime story and you'll get a £100 book voucher
- **Second prize** – an illustration of your lead character and a £50 book voucher
- **Third prize** – £35 in book vouchers

Submissions should be sent by email to realheroesread@cornwall.gov.uk or by post to:

School Effectiveness Cornwall, 3 West, County Hall Truro, TR1 3AY

cornwall.gov.uk/realheroesread for more information



Aspire



"The most talented, thought-provoking, game-changing people are never normal."

- Richard Branson

天空の城
ラピュタ



Careers Education

Finding out what Cornwall College has to offer

Year 10 students attended 16-18 course sessions at campuses across the Cornwall College Group. Sessions included acting, art & design, catering & hospitality, construction, dance, engineering, hairdressing beauty & nails, IT, games design, media, and motor vehicle.

Those students looking to work in zoology, animal management, marine conservation or surf science spent the day at the College's Newquay campus - the Durrell Centre for Wildlife Education. One of our students said, "I know that I really want to do Animal Care when I leave Brannel. I can do this at Newquay which, for me, means this is actually possible. I never thought I could do my dream course without travelling miles every day."

More info: www.cornwall.ac.uk



Careers Education

Can I see myself at Oxford University?

A group of students visited Oxford University as part of the Oxford Pathways Programme, which is coordinated by the University. Interactive sessions with university students and lunch served in a college dining hall were designed to provide a taste of what it would really be like to study there. "It was inspiring," one of our students commented. "Oxford is possibly the best university in the world but I'd never really thought about it before. It still feels very traditional, but we met a really diverse group of students. People still think it's full of posh snobs but I think the entry criterion really is intelligence. That's a bit daunting, but I might think about applying now I've been there."

More info: www.pathways.ox.ac.uk

Careers Education

Your One Stop Shop for Careers Guidance

We are encouraging every student to access their free Careerpilot account. The website offers one-stop, impartial careers information about all pathways, jobs, courses, providers and qualifications. The site includes a Parent Zone which is designed to help parents to help their child with career choices.

More info: www.careerpilot.org.uk

Careerpilot

What do you want to know?

Information to help parents and carers support young people in making the right decision about study and work





Brannell Challenge

Interested in a STEM career? Think about joining the Armed Forces

Year 10 students took part in problem solving workshops run by The British Army Rifles and Engineers. They were encouraged to think about the STEM skills required for a career in the Armed Forces. "I really like technology," said one student. "I've never thought about joining the Army, though. This made me think about how technologically advanced today's Army is. I'd definitely think about technology jobs like communications and intelligence analysis where you get to use high-tech equipment. I want to find out more about specialist roles in cyber and electronic warfare."



Careers Education

Barbican Theatre: Why Would You?

The Barbican Theatre Company presented a thought-provoking stage production to Year 10. 'Why Would You?' features three relatable characters, each with their own unique concerns and motivations. Our audience followed their journey through the education system, and were able to compare the staged scenarios with their own personal circumstances. Themes covered included perceptions of peers and influencers, qualification levels, funding and accommodation for higher education.



Computing

Getting Inspired by VR and the Digital Games Industry

This term, Year 9 pupils have enjoyed the topic of Virtual Reality where they have created their own 3D environments, coded objects and then experienced the virtual world in VR. Year 10 iMedia students visited Falmouth University to take part in a Game Development workshop that links with the Creating Digital Games unit of the iMedia course. "This was fantastic," said one student. "I want to build my own games. This showed me one way to get into the industry." Falmouth University's Games Academy is one of the largest dedicated game development studio spaces of any UK university.



More info: www.falmouth.ac.uk/departments/games-academy

Careers Education

Year 10 Careers Interviews

This term every Year 10 student had an interview with an impartial careers adviser from Careers4u. The aim is to inspire and guide each student about the options available to them based on the career pathways they are each considering. Careers4u are based in Cornwall and tailor their information and advice around the opportunities within Cornwall – whilst still being mindful of the national picture and the world of work in general.



Alumni Network News

30 Under 30: Winners of 2020

In March the winners for this year's Cornwall's 30 Under 30 were revealed. The annual awards celebrate Cornwall's brightest young business talent and are organised by Cornwall Chamber of Commerce. Two of our Brannel alumni were winners this year:

Jordan Barkway (Bluefruit Software). Upon leaving school, Jordan took a Level 4 apprenticeship with Bluefruit Software. She completed this last year and is now junior software developer for the company.

Harley Jolley (Devon and Cornwall Police). Having a learning disability has not stopped Harley from landing his dream job with the police force where he works two days per week in the evidence store.

MyTutor online support

Raising Confidence, Raising Results

This term, a selected group of students have been matched with a tutor for extra help preparing for their GCSE exams. Through the MyTutor programme, personalised lessons are delivered to each student online at home by a tutor who is currently an undergraduate at University. The tutors are great at engaging with young people because - not long ago - they were facing the same challenges.



Alumni Network News

#TidalTuesday: Do you want to see the world as part of your job?

One focus for National Careers Week this term was 'Careers at Sea'. One of our alumni members, Aiden Le Masurier, left Brannel to study sport at college and university. He then worked on some of the biggest cruise ships in the world. His story was used to inspire our students to broaden their career horizons.

International Day of Women and Girls in Science

This term we celebrated some of our alumni who are pursuing careers in Science. Stephanie Matthews is currently in the final year of her Biomedical Science degree. Her advice to prospective women scientists is to "believe in yourself and believe that what you do matters for science and for society. If I can do it, you can do it too."



Connect

"I am a part of all that I have met."

- Alfred Lord Tennyson





Kunskapsskolan Education Partnership (KED)

New York State: Sustainability Summit

A group of our students were lucky enough to take part in the Youth Empowerment Sustainability Summit at the Ashokan Center in upstate New York. They joined 120 students from 22 schools from the Hudson Valley, New York City, and KED Network partners from Sweden and England. Over the course of the three day summit, students learned from scientists, climate experts and advocates in hands-on workshops, seminars and info sessions culminating in the development of a YESS! Action Plan for each team to implement in their home school. The goal was to convene, engage, connect and empower young people from around the world for action on climate change.



Extracurricular

5th March: St Piran's Day

Our catering team did us proud this year as we celebrated St Piran's Day. We were treated to a traditional menu of Cornish pasties and homemade scones with jam and Cornish clotted cream (on top of the jam, of course!).

Saint Piran's Day is celebrated as the national day of Cornwall. Saint Piran - famed for his discovery of the precious metal tin - is the patron saint of tin-miners. Saint Piran's Day was originally observed as a 'tinner's holiday' by the tin-miners of Cornwall. The flag of Saint Piran is also the Cornish flag. It shows a white cross on a black background and is said to depict the saint's discovery of tin - 'the white metal' flowing from the black Cornish rocks.





Student Council

Valentine's Cupid Delivery Service

Our Student Council raised money for a good cause by setting up a pop-up business selling Valentine's Day cards. Before Valentine's Day they bought a selection of cards and set up a sales stall. On February 14th our cupids put a smile on lots of faces by hand delivering the pre-ordered cards to teachers and students.

Eco Committee

We're Sponsoring Animal!

Year 7 raised £108 to sponsor three animals through the World Wildlife Fund (WWF). The WWF helps endangered animals by working on immediate threats to animal conservation and saving the environment in which the animals live.



Staff Wellbeing

Star of the Week

Mrs Lenny was one of our Stars of the Week this term. Mrs Lenny is part of our Student Support Team. Our new Ready to Learn room was introduced this term as part of our new behaviour management policy. Ready to Learn is managed by Mrs Lenny with great patience and calm... and she is always ready with a smile! It's a small thing, but we hope that being recognised as a Star of the Week goes some way to helping our school staff feel valued, supported and invested in.



Camps International

Fundraising for Peru Expedition

This term, students planning an expedition of a lifetime to Peru continued their efforts to raise funds for the trip. They organised a Bake Sale in school and a Quiz and Raffle Evening for the community. They contacted some local companies who were happy to provide some generous raffle prizes. These included a bottle of Tarquin's Gin, fish and chips voucher for St Stephen's chip shop, and an electric toothbrush from a local dentist.

And finally... “Pask Lowen”

(Have an egg-cellent Cornish Easter!)

