

# Inspire



MERRY  
*christmas*

## A Hunger Free Christmas

One of our Brannel School values is Community. Students have been bringing in donations for our local food bank. Every donation makes a difference this Christmas.

## Snapshots from Brannel School

Issue 03 / Autumn Term 2020



# Welcome to Brannel School's Autumn Term Newsletter

We are fast approaching the end of another school year. I think it's fair to say that this has been one of the most challenging years faced both as a community and as a school. Despite the immense challenges of a global pandemic we have kept Brannel School open, our pupils learning and everyone safe. I am exceptionally proud of the maturity shown by the learners and the professionalism of our tremendous staff.

Following the excitement of our return in September, much has been achieved this term. Our new students in Year 7 have settled in well and it's been a joy watching them find their way around the building as we are able to cautiously widen our curriculum. Reading has been a huge focus for us all and I have personally enjoyed spending time with tutor groups sharing the reading of some great novels. Our Year 11 students deserve particular praise for embracing the additional time and offset day which is allowing them to catch up so successfully on time missed during lockdown.

As the term draws to a close, it is with humility and gratitude that I both look back on the term and, with barely restrained anticipation, look forward to the holidays! I am sure that students, parents and carers would like to join with me in thanking all of the staff and governors at Brannel School for their continued tremendous hard work and commitment to the students of the school. Likewise, we the staff, governors and students would like to thank all parents and carers for your support. Last but in no way the least, we the rest of the school community thank our students who are indeed some of the best and most talented young people I have ever had the pleasure of working with.

I wish everyone peace and happiness in all homes and families during this holiday season. Merry Christmas or Season's Greetings to everyone! Enjoy the lights, the mince pies, the biscuits and sweets and, best of all, the time to pause, reflect and spend time with those closest to us. As I said to students at the end of term assembly, look after yourselves and look out for those around you.

**Mr Chris Liles, Headteacher**



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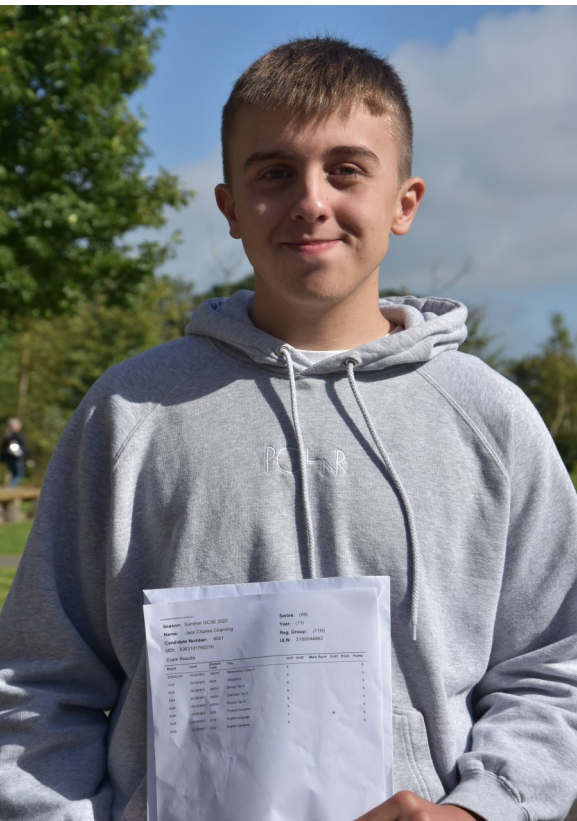
# Academic Excellence



**“Education is the passport to the future, for tomorrow belongs to those who prepare for it today.”**

**- Malcolm X**





## GCSE Results

## Year 11 Results Day

In an uncertain time, with unprecedented changes, we were delighted to provide some certainty for our students by sharing their GCSE results with them in August. The students have worked extremely hard over the last five years, showing great determination and grit.

Mr Liles said "It's often the students who have overcome significant challenges throughout their time at school who impress the most. Our aim is to enable all of our students to be the best they can be, regardless of the barriers they may face. So, to the class of 2020 from all at Brannel School, we want to say well done, your resilience at this turbulent time has been outstanding. You are an amazing and talented group of individuals".

In 2020, our Separate Science and Combined Science GCSE grades were all above national at the highest grades (7-9), with 5% of all grades being 9s or equivalent. We also achieved above national for the highest grades (7-9) in Maths, Computing, History, Drama, and PE. GCSE grades in Art and Photography were above national for grades 8-9. This puts the performance of our students who achieved the highest grades above national, with our Science results being in the top 5% nationally for progress.





## Literacy

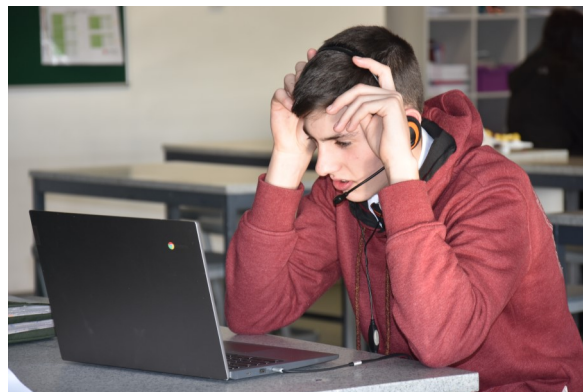
### Shared Reading

The shared reading initiative introduced this term has helped more students read more often and for longer.

Just as exercise helps your body stay healthy, reading is an exercise that helps keep your brain fit. Twice a week, students have an extended tutor time to take part in shared reading. Students are reading a book together in their tutor groups.

Mrs Hocking, Assistant Head said: "There's something special about sharing a story with someone: following the journey of a characters together and imagining whole new worlds. We wanted to bring that experience to our students through reading a story with them, not because it is on the curriculum or they will be assessed on it, but to promote reading for pleasure.

We also wanted students to recognise that reading isn't just something that they do in an English classroom, with their English teacher. So by extending tutor time, tutors have been able to share a story with their tutees and we've also been able to have guest readings from Heads of Year and Senior Leaders. Each student has their own copy of the book, so that they follow along as they are read to and some of the students have been involved in reading to their class too."



### Year 11 Mentoring Programme

### Online Tutoring

Year 11 students were given the opportunity to receive additional tutoring in English, Maths and Science, in a first of its kind at Brannel.

During Brannel Challenge, students attended virtual meetings and tutoring sessions via Microsoft Teams with student teachers at Bolton University.

Brannel students were able to set their own targets and the university tailored the sessions to help meet the individual needs of our students.

The pilot project has inspired Brannel to explore future online opportunities to enhance our students' learning.



## English

### Skyla becomes a published writer

Congratulations to Skyla, whose piece of creative writing has been published by Young Writers. The book arrived at school in October so she could finally see her writing in print.





## Animal Care

### Chicken Run @ the Eco Patch

In September we welcomed six rescue chickens to their new home in the stable block of our Eco Patch.

When they arrived the chickens were a little on the thin side and missing feathers, but they are settling in well and already laying eggs.

Members of our school Facebook page suggested names for our flock, so our Animal Care students are enjoying getting to know: Lindsay LoHen, Eggwina Curry, Amelia Egghart, Miss Money Henny, Doris Lay and Sophia LeHen.

Miss Frew, who teaches Animal Care and has taken a lead role in designing our Eco Patch, happily took on the role of Mother Hen.







## Animal Care

### Hands-on Experience on the Farm

Year 11 students studying Animal Care had the opportunity to gain essential hands-on experience of handling goats, pigs, horses and cows at a local farm. The Animal Care course combines practical and theoretical elements. Students 'udderly' enjoyed the trip and are looking forward to having the opportunity to put their skills into practice.

The group visited Tregerles Farm, Mitchell, over two days as part of their course assessment.



## Maths

### Careers in Maths

Relating learning to the real world is important to us. Students need to understand why what they're learning is useful and how it leads to them achieving their goals.

At the end of their scheme of work about Probability, Year 8 students heard from Dominic Ryeland.

Dominic is an underwriter for an insurance company and uses probability in his job to insure against storms and natural disasters. Although Dominic wasn't able to visit the school he recorded a series of videos explaining how he uses Maths within his job.





## British Council International School Award

Brannel School has been awarded Foundation level of the British Council's prestigious International School Award in recognition of its work to bring the world into the classroom.

The International School Award celebrates the achievements of schools that do exceptional work in international education. Fostering an international dimension in the curriculum is at the heart of the British Council's work with schools, so that young people gain the cultural understanding and skills they need for life and work in today's world.

Brannel's international work includes a cultural exchange trip to New York earlier in the year.

Mr Cooper, Deputy Head said: "We have been working with our two partner schools Woodstock Day School in New York and Kunskapsskolan in Sweden since early 2019, and have embedded a sustainable programme of international learning that we hope will raise the cultural capital and aspirations for all of our young people.

Thanks to the funding from the British Council, last year we were able to run an exchange visit to New York, where our pupils attended an international summit on climate change and youth empowerment. This is such wonderful recognition of the hard work and commitment of our staff, in particular Miss Chapple and Mr Richards, who ran the trip. We are now planning a visit to Sweden in the 2021/22 academic year, where we hope to continue to foster and develop our relationships with the schools in our network."

John Rolfe MBE, Schools Outreach Manager at the British Council, said: "Brannel School's international work has earned the school well-deserved recognition in the form of the British Council International School Award - Foundation Certificate.

We are delighted and proud that Brannel School is committed to developing a whole school approach to embedding and celebrating international work. The school staff dedication is enriching education and supporting globally aware young people and key skills development.



PE

### Showjumping Team

Brannel's Showjumping Team competed in a recent school competition at Pendarves Equestrian Centre.



A close-up photograph of a Rubik's cube resting on a snowy surface. The cube is partially covered in snow, with some faces showing green, yellow, blue, and red. In the background, a pine branch is heavily laden with snow, creating a soft, out-of-focus backdrop. The overall scene is bright and wintry.

# Creative Problem Solving

**“Learn to use your brain power. Critical thinking is  
the key to creative problem solving.”**

**- Richard Branson**





## BRANNEL CHALLENGE

### Creative STEM Skills

We are living through a period of unprecedented change. Technology is transforming the way that businesses organise themselves and the products and services they offer. We have always needed technological know-how in our economy, but the nature of these changes makes science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) skills more vital than ever.

This term, Year 10 students were challenged to complete a series of STEM tasks during Brannel Challenge.

The weekly sessions were designed to encourage them to work together to overcome a problem, to work under pressure and manage their time to complete the challenges.

Students created bridges, bionic arms, transport systems and boats in small teams. They also tried their hand at code-breaking.

Numerous studies indicate that tomorrow's jobs will demand creative problem-solving skills and therefore it is a key priority for Brannel School.







# Serving our Community

"Alone, we can do so little; together we can do so much."

- Helen Keller





Whole School

## Remembrance Day

On 11th November the school fell silent as staff and students held a two-minute silence to remember armed forces members who have died in the line of duty.

Students in cadet branches were invited to wear their uniforms. Mr Liles led a Remembrance Day service, which saw the Head Boy and Girl give poetry readings. A trio of musicians played The Last Post, true to Brannel tradition. Poppy wreaths were laid at memorials in St Stephen and St Austell by Sam and Scarlet (Head Boy and Girl).



Brannel Challenge

## Eco School

Students created some wonderful plastic bag wreaths as part of Brannel Challenge. Year 7 have been learning about recycling with a particular focus on plastics. These Christmas wreaths can be reused every year and have transformed an item we all throw away into festive decorations.



## #HelloYellow

In October, staff dressed in yellow to show their support for young people's mental health. Lockdown has had a devastating effect on children's mental health. Our Pastoral team is available for students to speak to at lunch time drop-in sessions.

YOUNGMINDS



## Anti-Bullying

### Ambassadors Lead Anti-Bully Week

Our team of Anti-Bullying Ambassadors took the lead during Anti-Bullying Week to ensure fellow students know how to get help and support at school. They created a YouTube video to introduce themselves and led a special assembly for new Year 7 students.

Amber, one of the Ambassadors, said "People who bully others are more likely to have experienced difficulties in their lives. We need everyone to come together and unite against bullying."

The Anti-Bullying Ambassadors attended specialised training with the Diana Award to be able to offer peer support. Creating a safe and positive environment is a key part of tackling bullying.



## School Council

### Candy Cane Delivery Service

Mrs Elford and the Student Council have helped to spread a little festive cheer around the school by organising a candy cane delivery service. Staff and students were able to send a candy cane to someone at Brannel School to say thank you or simply wish them a 'Merry Christmas.' All money raised went towards Student Council projects.





## Duke of Edinburgh

### Volunteer Fundraiser

Year 10 student, Natalia, has been working really hard to fundraise for Clay County Cat Care, where she has been volunteering as part of her Duke of Edinburgh Bronze award. Natalia and her family organised a virtual raffle, which raised £240. Natalia loves animals and wanted to help the cat shelter raise vital funds to keep the charity going.



"Life's most persistent and urgent question is, What are you doing for others?"  
- Martin Luther King, Jr

## Eco Committee

### Eco Ambassadors Connect with U.S. and Sweden

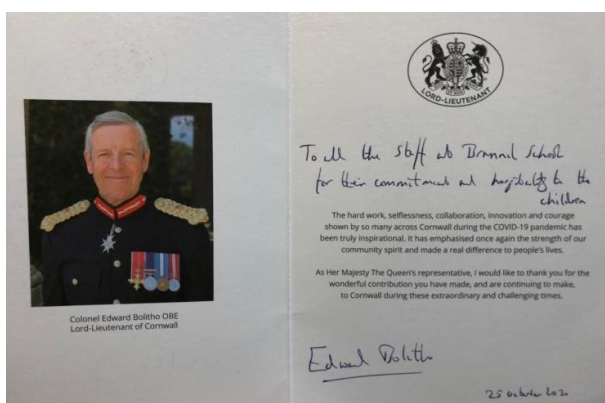
Year 11 Eco Ambassadors caught up with schools in America and Sweden via Zoom, nine months on from their cultural exchange trip to New York. It was interesting for our students to hear how other schools are getting on with their climate action plans, as well as share ideas with them all.



## Charity Run

### Volunteer Fundraiser

This term, Morgan in Year 8 spent a Saturday completing a 5K sponsored run on our 3G pitch. He raised an amazing £1,000! This money will go to Royal Brompton & Harefield Hospitals Charity, which has helped Morgan's family in the past. We are so proud of Morgan's empathy and effort on behalf of others.



## Lockdown

### Brannel is Recognised for Lockdown Efforts

Brannel School received a card from the Lord Lieutenant of Cornwall, thanking all staff for their commitment to the students during the school closure. The COVID-19 pandemic has created unprecedented challenges to everyone but we were very pleased to be able to open our doors again in September and welcome students back to school.





## Supporting the Community

### Food Bank Christmas Collection



During December, students very generously brought in donations for the Food Bank. This Christmas, after a very rocky year, we felt it was more important than ever that we supported our local branch of Food Bank in St Stephen.

Food, toiletries and Christmas items were collected, with Cain from Retew House managing to bring in 69 items for donation! We are always so impressed with the generosity of families and want to thank everyone who donated to this cause.



## Building Development

### Eco Patch

Construction work has now begun on the Eco Patch. 'The Eco Patch', as it has been named, will inject new life into learning outdoors. The building, designed by Penryn-based architects Marraum, has been designed with a sustainable ethos in mind in both materiality and form. There will be timber decking around the new buildings and raised beds for planting. Despite delays caused by the Covid-19 lockdown, we are still hopeful that the Eco Patch will be completed in February 2021.







# Save the Children **CHRISTMAS JUMPER DAY**

**Make the world better with a sweater!**

We held our Christmas Jumper Day on Friday 11th December to  
fundraise for Save the Children. We raised a total of £270.00.







"Nadelik Lowen"

Have a Safe and Merry Christmas!

