

Inspire



Snapshots from Brannel School

Issue 04 / Spring Term 2021

Welcome to Brannel School's Spring Term Newsletter

We have reached the end of a term like no other and I wanted to take this opportunity to pass my personal thanks on to our whole community, staff, students, parents and carers, for all the amazing work and support that has gone on this term.

It has been a real privilege to have been in receipt of the many messages from parents and carers thanking the school and its staff for their commitment in rising to the challenges that this term has presented us all with - Lockdown, the move to remote learning and live online teaching, providing over 250 devices to students in their homes, remote pastoral care, juggling work with home learning, returning all students to school, setting up and running a Covid testing centre, designing a curriculum for Year 11 assessment – the list goes on.

We aim to create and inspire students to be independent thinkers whose academic excellence, global perspective, and strength of character prepare them to make a meaningful difference in the world. Our school values of Excellence, Community and Creativity are now prominently displayed at our school entrance to remind students every day.

I hope students and staff alike enjoy a well earned break and that you enjoy reading about the excellence that Brannel students continue to show every day.

Mr Chris Liles, Headteacher

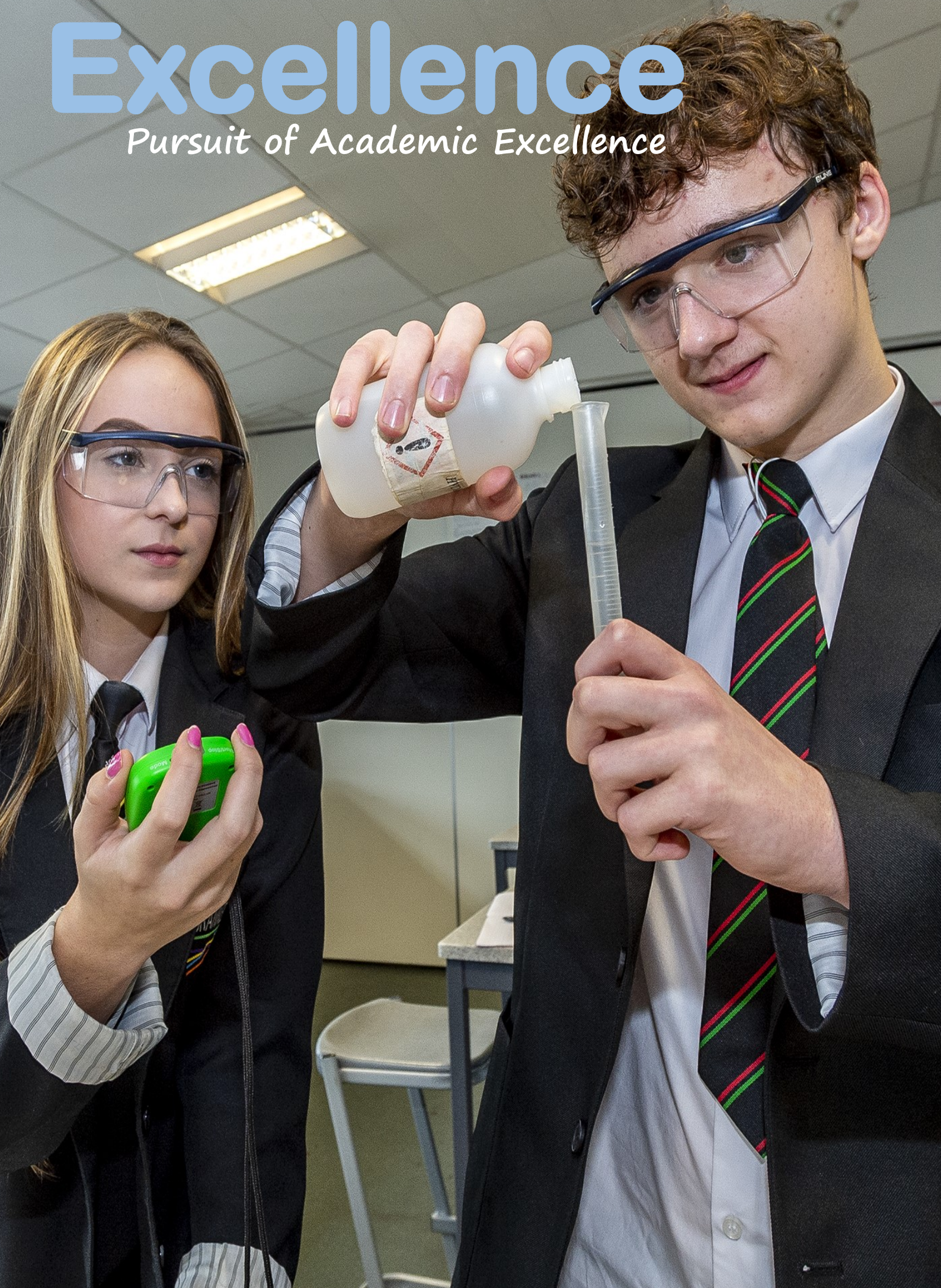
**"Springtime is the land awakening.
The March winds are the morning yawn."**

Lewis Grizzard



Excellence

Pursuit of Academic Excellence



Results

Year 11 Music

In an uncertain time, with unprecedented changes, we were delighted to provide some certainty for our Year 11 Music students who received a result for their Music Industry written paper.

Head of Performing Arts, Mrs Hird-Edwards said: "I'm over the moon with the results, our students really deserved these and showed enormous resilience taking the exam as we went into another national lockdown. Well done Year 11 Music!"



MFL

Hispanic Culture Research

As part of building Cultural Capital in language lessons, we are including more opportunities to be creative and independent whilst studying different aspects of Hispanic culture, not just the Spanish language. During lockdown, to coincide with a focus on mental health and 'expressing yourself' (and also to give students a break away from their screens) Mrs Wake's 8y1 class researched a Spanish artist called Joan Miro. Students were quick to suggest that his paintings reminded them of Picasso's work and subsequently found out that Picasso was Miro's mentor and they became lifelong friends. Students were given the task of creating their own Miro-inspired pieces using simple palettes of bold colour and black outlines.

World Book Day

Short Story Writing

As part of World Book Day, students were invited to enter a story writing competition to exercise their creative writing skills. Creative writing helps to enhance communication skills, which in turn, is helpful to both academic and professional life. The three winners of the competition were: Kemeny (Year 8), Jemima (Year 9) and Jessica (Year 10).

The winners will be joining the runners up for a writing workshop with resident author, Mrs Ireland, after the Easter holidays (Runners Up: Molly, Arthur, Natalia, Sky, Willow and Ava).



Literacy

Extreme Reading Challenge

This term, students were challenged to find unusual and out-of-the-ordinary places to read a book. Reading can be enjoyed almost anywhere and it was fantastic to see how creative our students were.

Research shows that reading for pleasure improves children's well being and empathy. It helps them to understand their own identity, and gives them an insight into the world and the views of others. Reading for pleasure can be directly linked to children's success throughout their time at school and even into adulthood.



Careers

Year 10 Careers

Year 10 students have had their annual visit from Careers4u. The sessions aimed to help young people understand the world of work and the options available to them.

The one-to-one interviews are delivered through impartial Careers Information and Advice and Guidance (IAG).



MFL

La Chandeleur Celebrations

During the first week of February, the French classes in KS3 and Year 10 had the opportunity to celebrate 'la Chandeleur' (French pancake day). Students learned about the origins, history and traditions of the festival. Students were able to cook pancakes, create menus and expand their French vocabulary by making collages of kitchen utensils. Some students were very keen to show off their cooking skills by uploading videos of them making their 'galettes' and 'crêpes' in their own homes.





Creativity

Creative Problem Solving



BRANNEL CHALLENGE

Creative STEM Skills

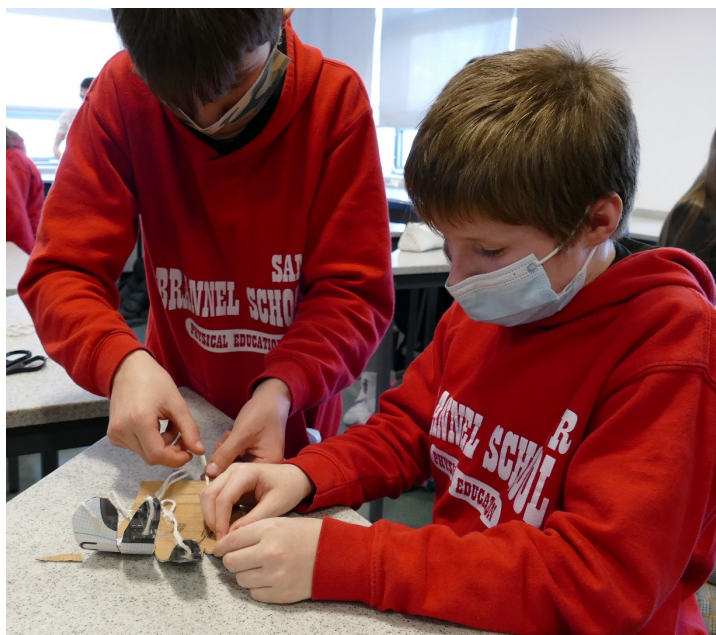
We are living through a period of unprecedented change. Technology is transforming the way that businesses organise themselves and the products and services they offer. We have always needed technological know-how in our economy, but the nature of these changes makes science, technology, engineering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

This term, Year 8 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.

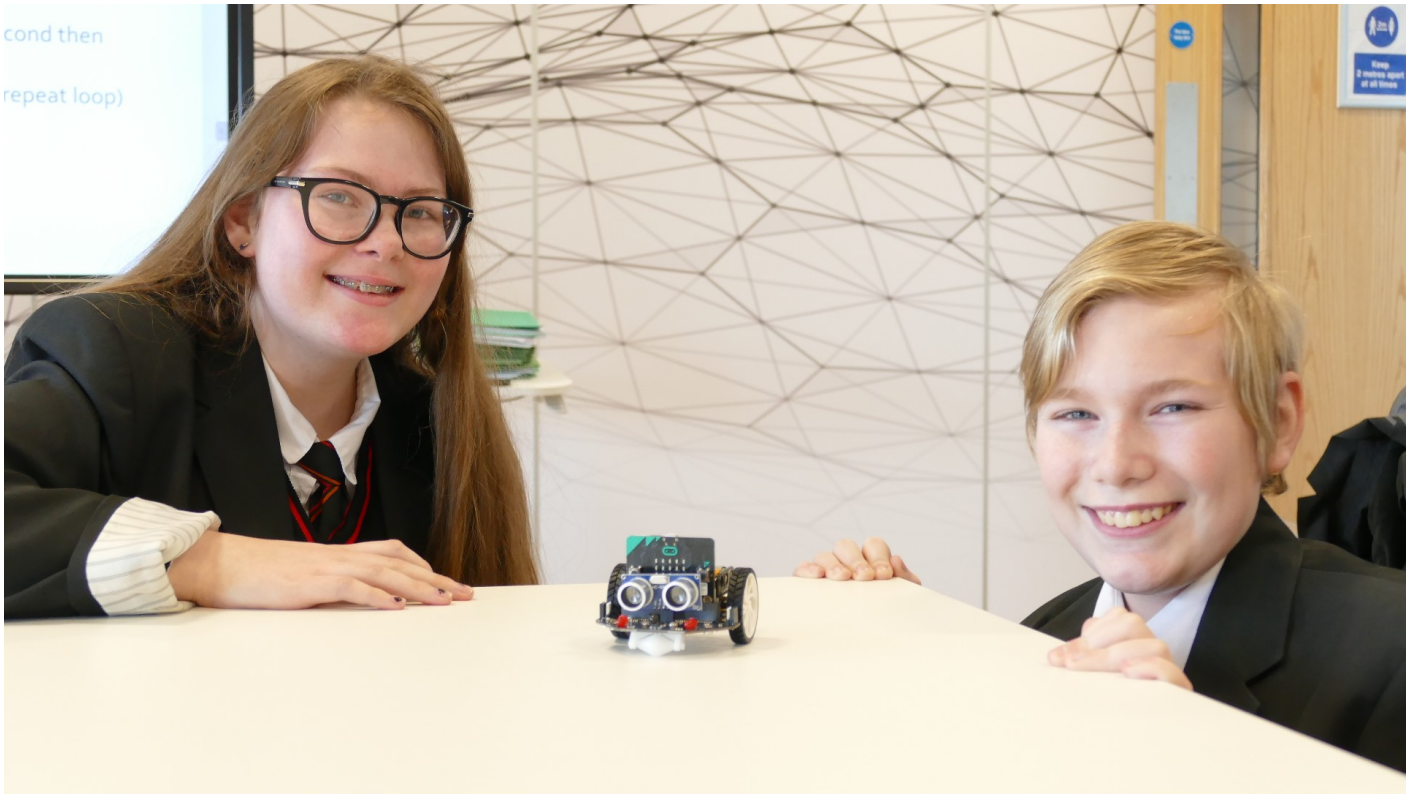
Students created bridges, bionic arms, transport systems and boats in small teams. They also tried their hand at code-breaking.

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



"Science is simply the word we use to describe a method of organising our curiosity."

Tim Minchin



COMPUTING

Micobits

Year 9 students have been learning how to program Microbits. These are pocket-sized computers that can detect motion, emit sound, and play animations amongst other things. Students have been learning how to write programs for the Microbits and use them to control the movements of small robots. Students were challenged to program their Microbits to navigate through a maze of classroom stationery.



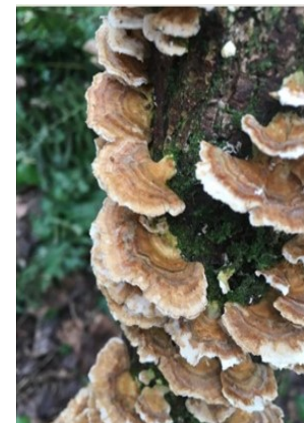
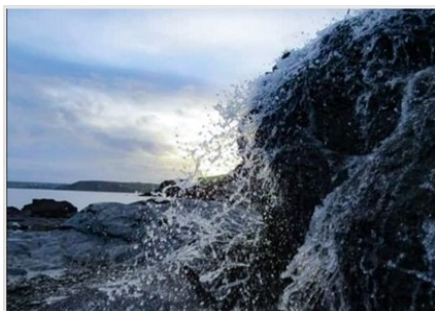
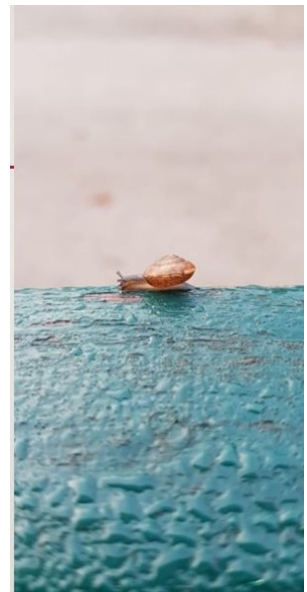
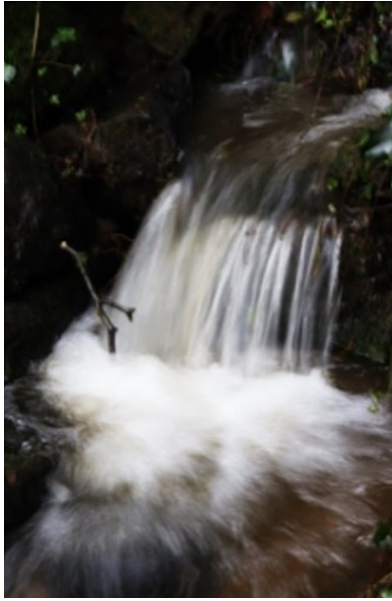
**"You might not think that programmers are artists,
but programming is an extremely creative profession.
It's logic-based creativity."**

John Romero

Science & Photography

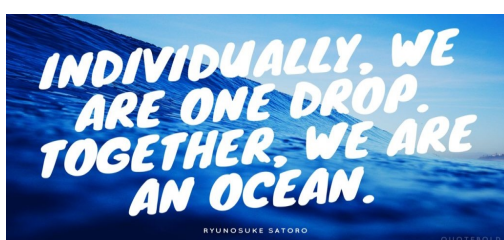
Nature Photography

In February, students were out and about with their cameras. Mr Hickie and Mr Ellis-Davies were overwhelmed with entries for our Science Photographic Competition. The standard was very high, students had clearly taken on board the advice shared at the start of the competition. 12 finalists were announced with Highly Commended awarded to Phoebe for a wonderful abstract image of a snail and Holly for a classic long exposure image of a waterfall. First Prize was a Sony Camera donated by HBH Woolacotts in St. Austell. This was awarded to Holly for a beautifully composed image of a leaf. Second Prize of a superfast memory card went to Cameron for his stunning image of a frog.





Community
Serving Others



Whole School

Lateral Flow Testing

Thanks to Brannel's LFD Covid Testing Team, the in-school testing is now complete. Support staff from Admin, Pastoral, Network Support, Cleaning, English, Science, Exams and PE truly made it a team effort! This term, the school has carried out over 3,200 tests.

We want to thank parents for their support with the testing and appreciate the maturity that students have shown throughout the process.

Alumni Success

Brandon Signs with Plymouth Argyle

Former student, Brandon Pursall, celebrated his 17th birthday by signing his first professional contract for Plymouth Argyle.

Brandon joined the club's academy whilst still at school and Argyle wasted no time in securing Pursall's future on what has been described as a 'long-term' deal.



YOUNG CARERS ACTION DAY

16 MARCH 2021

It's Young Carers Action Day

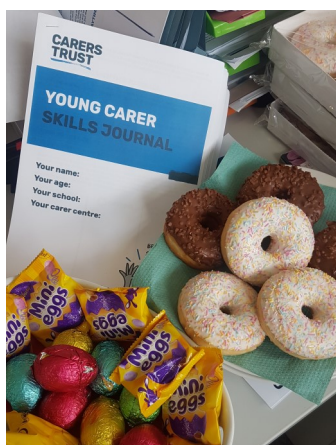
Young Carers

Young Carers' Action Day

For Young Carers' Action Day, we wanted to focus on how the skills our Young Carers have developed and can be used in a positive way for future employment. Young Carers were able to collect a skills journal to help.

Caroline Hunt, Student Welfare Officer, said "We appreciate that Young Carers are a vulnerable group and we feel that they should have the same opportunities as any other student. The skills journals have really helped them to recognise the skills that they already have."

"Caring people make a difference."



Careers

Virtual Vet Talk

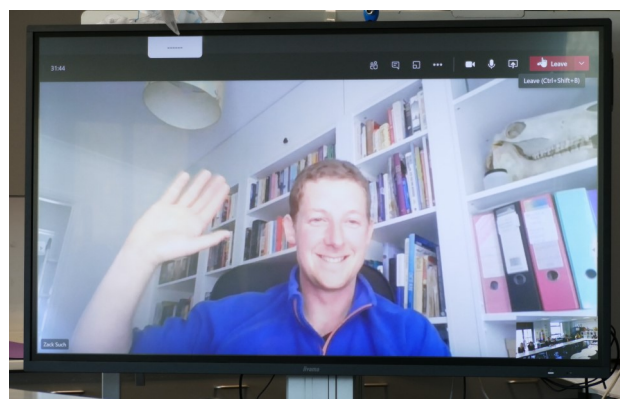
Students interested in pursuing a career as a vet were invited to attend a virtual talk with Zack Such, a vet from Hayle.

Zach is a veterinary surgeon at Rosevean Vets, where he deals with a range of animals of all shapes and sizes. He's even treated a penguin for sunburn!

Zack explained the entry requirements for veterinary college and what made him decide to become a vet.

Students had a lot of questions to ask him and were able to learn more about the day-to-day challenges within the role.

Despite it being a hard job, and having to make difficult decisions sometimes, Zack explained how rewarding it can be.



Pastoral Support

Children's Mental Health Awareness Week

Staff embraced Children's Mental Health Awareness Week by creating a video to share how they relax and express themselves. The video was the brainchild of School Counsellor, Mrs Hearn, who enjoys painting in her spare time. The video is available to watch on the school's YouTube channel.



Fundraising

Red Nose Day 2021

On Friday 19th March, students and staff dressed in red to support Red Nose Day. The school raised a total of £525. A brilliant effort and a great way to raise awareness of such a good cause.



School Recognition

Just to say 'Thank You'

In March we received a lovely surprise delivery of cupcakes from The Victoria Inn, Roche. Its food delivery service, Pub Grub, is celebrating its 1st birthday of take outs and home deliveries. Brannel was nominated by a Year 7 student to receive this generous giveaway.



Literacy Project

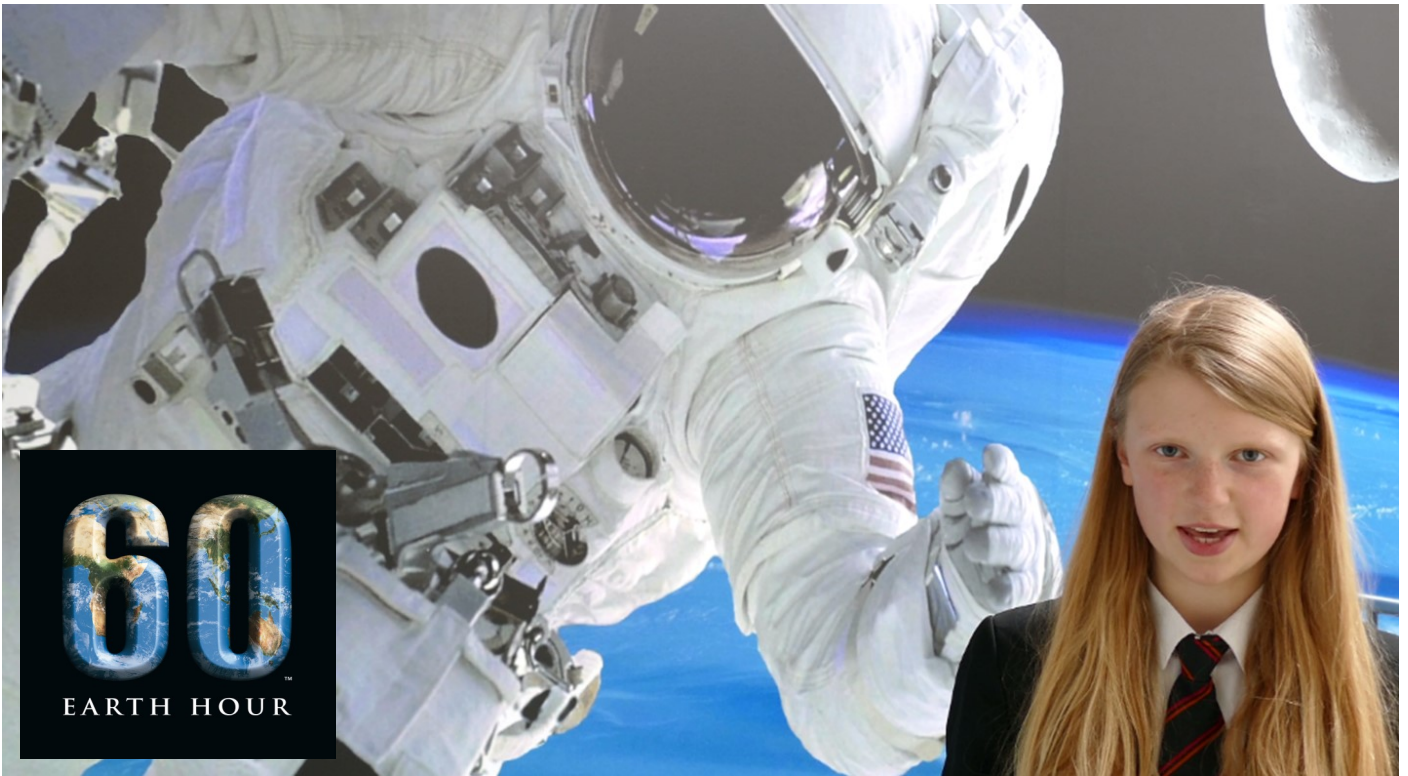
Sharing Stories

Although we have not been able to visit primary schools, some of our Year 7 students have been filming videos of story readings that have then been shared with their former primary schools.

Our Nurture group filmed a story for Nanpean's Reception class, ex-St Dennis students recorded a chapter from David Almond's *Skellig* and students who used to attend Foxhole recorded a reading from Louis Sachar's *Holes*.

This has been a great chance for Year 7s to reconnect with their primary schools, as well as provide role models for younger pupils. These readings were used by the primaries as part of their online provision.





Eco Committee

Earth Hour

Our Eco Ambassadors created an online video to promote Earth Hour. Earth Hour took place on 27th March to encourage people around the world to switch off their lights for one hour, in support of nature and our planet.

Our Eco Committee is currently coming up with ways to reduce waste in school and want to investigate ways to reduce the number of single-use masks thrown away each day.



Volunteering

Duke of Edinburgh Award

Since returning to school our students have been enjoying getting their hands dirty in the spring soil with the return of our after-school Duke of Edinburgh Club. They have been working on creating a horticultural area for our new Eco-Patch.

Students are volunteering their time after-school to get the Stable Block area ready for more animals to arrive.



School Development

Canteen Extension

We are delighted to announce that we are moving ahead with our plans to expand our school canteen. We have appointed Streetspace to build a Zone™ glazed extension by September.

This is to address accommodation pressures as our Year 7 intake continues to increase year-on-year.

Although the school was completely redesigned and rebuilt in 2011, no flexibility was built into the design to future proof for a growing school population. Our existing dining space is currently inadequate for the number of students now in the school.

The Streetspace design team are working closely with us to create spacious dining facilities in a stylish, temperature moderated, glazed extension.



School Development

Eco Patch

Despite delays caused by the weather, three lockdowns and a shortage of steel, our Eco Patch is on course to be completed by May. A crane arrived on site in the new year and we now have a roof.

At the end of the month we are hoping to start furnishing the classroom and landscaping the surrounding area.

Meanwhile, next door in the Stable Block, our chickens and ducks have been sheltering from both the weather... and from Avian Flu!



"Pask Lowen"

Have a Safe and Happy Easter!

