

INSPIRE

Snapshots from Brannel School



Issue 11 / Spring Term 2023

What a fantastic term it has been, so much has happened! It's hard to believe that only 12 school weeks have passed since the Christmas holidays. I've been so impressed with the mature manner with which Year 11 undertook their mock exams.

They've worked hard and as we approach the end of term, many staff and students are feeling pretty tired!

At Easter, I'm reminded of the song so many of us sang at Primary School at this time of year - Little Donkey. The fantastic Shrek production, including our very own and very talkative donkey, also reminded me! I often tell my classes that his was a fine example of what to do when feeling exhausted, just keep plodding on! Not particularly cutting edge research but a gentle reminder that quiet hard work will always pay off in the long run.

Two weeks ago today, it was World Sleep Day, with one of the key messages to us all was that 'sleep is a pillar of human health'. With two secondary school-aged children of my own, I'm aware of how staying up late is appealing to them, just as it was to me! It was a gentle nudge for us to sit down as a family, review our situation and have a conversation about the importance of healthy sleep patterns for us all. One of the facts that jumped out at me was: 'if you haven't slept, your ability to learn new things could drop by up to 40%.' Combine this with the feeling of wellbeing we all experience after a good night's sleep. I can recommend the World Sleep Day website, which has some really helpful guidance as well as Teen Sleep Hub. I hope all of our students have time to recuperate during the two-week break and enjoy whatever they choose to do in their leisure time. For our year 11s, don't forget Easter School is running throughout the holidays to support your revision.

Pask Lowen

Mr Liles, Headteacher





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Brannel Netballers Visit the University of Bath

In March, Our PE Department took 45 netballers on a trip to the University of Bath. Students took part in a sport skills session and toured the incredible sports facilities the university has to offer. The trip also included tickets to watch Team Bath v Surrey Storm and Brannel School was selected as 'Team of the Week' by Sky Sports Mix. The netballers did extremely well on live TV!

The girls also had the chance to take part in a special coaching session by one of the Team Bath players. It was a trip packed with activities but the students thoroughly enjoyed it and represented the school impeccably.



Girls Footballers Progress in the Schools Cup

Our Girls Football Team are progressing well in the Cornwall Schools' Cup and are through to the quarter finals.



Brannel Speaks Competition

Year 7 students have been practising their public speaking during Brannel Challenge for our annual Brannel Speaks Competition. Studies have shown that taking part in public speaking projects can increase students' confidence and communication skills.

Each student prepared a speech with the final being judged by Mrs Carbis and governor and former Deputy Head, Mr Lane.

PHSE Day

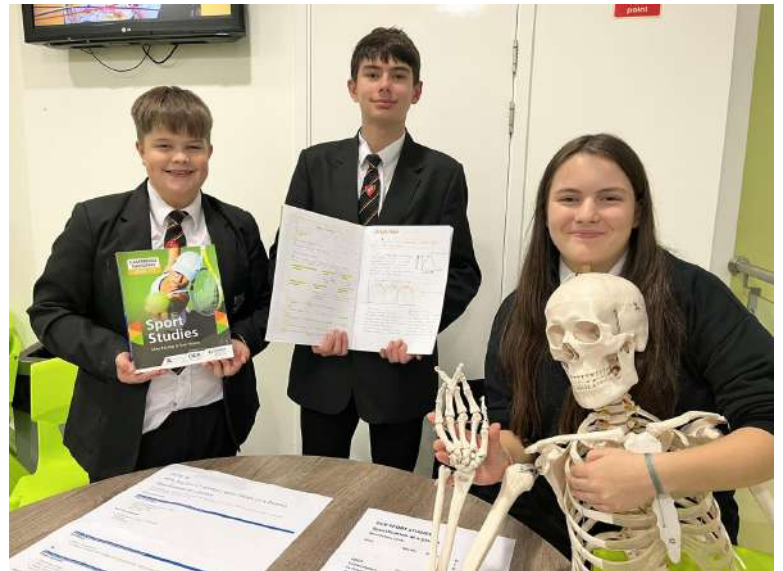
In February, students took part in PSHE Day. This is an opportunity to learn about a range of topics not normally covered in other curriculum subjects.

PSHE provision at Brannel School has been based on the recommendations of the PSHE Association and aims to develop skills and attributes such as resilience, self-esteem, risk-management, teamworking and critical thinking.

There are three core themes: health and wellbeing, relationships and living in the wider world (including economic wellbeing and aspects of careers education).



Learn more about our PSHE Curriculum at www.brannel.com



Year 9 Options Evening

In January, we held our Year 9 Options Evening to help students decide which option subjects to choose. What better way to find out about the subjects than from talking to students who are currently studying them? Year 10 and 11 students were on hand throughout the evening to offer advice and information.



Dylan to Represent Cornwall

Year 11 student, Dylan, came second in the Cornwall Schools' Cross Country Championships and ran fantastically in very tough conditions. Dylan gained a county vest and will now represent Cornwall in future races.

Exeter Chiefs Trip

In January, our PE Department organized a trip to Exeter Chiefs. Students took a tour of the stadium, had a coaching session on the Chiefs' very own training ground (rather wet), welcomed the players onto the pitch at the start of the game with a guard of honour, walked around the pitch at half time and then even managed to meet some of the players after the game for a signature and a selfie!



Magistrates for a Day!

A team of students appeared in court this term... as part of a Magistrates' Mock Trial Competition! Students were invited to take on all roles and compete against other schools at Truro Magistrates Court.

The students were praised by the magistrates who were judging the competition and despite not winning, the students should be very proud of themselves.



Creative Writing Competition

You are invited to write a story (up to 500 words) based in, or around, St Austell.

You could write:
a mystery
a fantasy
a quest story
a tragedy
a comedy
Science Fiction
or a poem

Prizes:

Book tokens for each age category
++PLUS++

One overall winner will have their story
Illustrated and printed for the festival
on 17th June 2023

Age Categories:

- 4-6
- 7-11
- 12-16

Please return entries clearly labelled with your name, age and school to your school or St Austell Library.

St Austell Town Council



With support from:



Closing date: 21st April 2023



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DREAMWORKS
THEATRICALS

SHREK

THE MUSICAL JR.



School Production: Shrek the Musical Jr

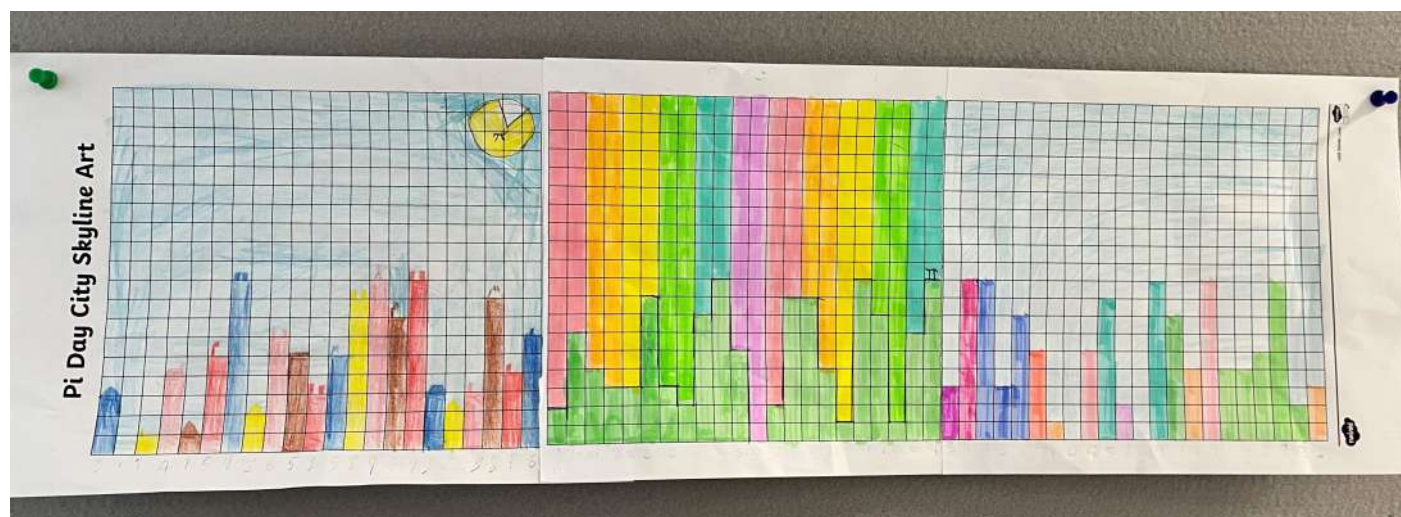
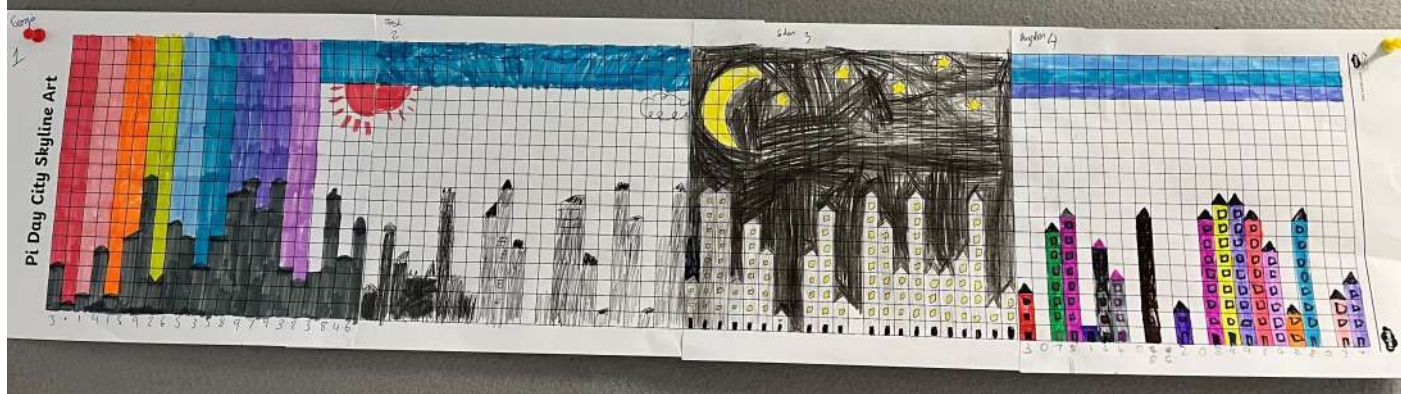
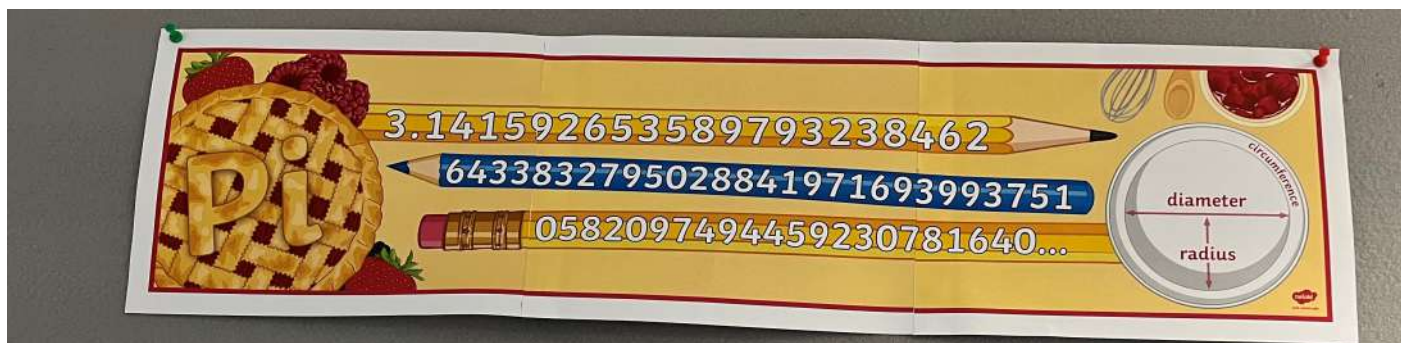
Staff and students have worked hard this term to bring the school production together and performed to packed audiences. Shrek the Musical Jr was brought to life in the Bell Theatre with students involved in all aspects of production, including front of house and backstage.

This was the first school production since 2019 and it was back with a bang!



Happy Pi Day!

To celebrate Pi Day on 14th March, Year 7 and 8 students created cityscapes using Pi. During their Maths lesson.



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World Book Day 2023



COMMUNITY

A photograph of two young women in school uniforms. The woman in the foreground is wearing a white shirt, a dark tie with a red and green pattern, and white-rimmed sunglasses. She is giving two thumbs up and has a piggyback ride from another woman. The woman being carried is also in a white shirt and is smiling. They are on a grassy field with a school building in the background. Other students are visible in the background, some sitting on the grass. The sky is clear and blue.

Community Healthy Eating Project

As part of a joint project between Brannel School and the MASH Community Hub in St Stephen, Year 8 students are made healthy soup. And served it to members of the community.

The soup was made during Brannel Challenge sessions and served at the Community Hub every Thursday morning at the Brannel Room.

Healthy Eating Ambassadors did an amazing job serving teas and coffees, taking food orders, serving the soup and bread rolls and washing up! They also found time to stock up the food bank supplies that are available at the MASH Community Hub.





Volunteering in the Community

Our Bronze Duke of Edinburgh students have been getting stuck in to their volunteering. As part of the award, they must complete three months of volunteering. So far they've done a litter pick in St Stephen, painted a public toilet block, delivered community newsletters and helped St.Stephen-in-Brannel Parish Council with some grounds maintenance.

Former Student Takes on FA Role

Congratulations to former Brannel student, Chloe Harris, who has recently joined Cornwall FA as a Football Development Officer (women, girls & disability). Whilst at school, Chloe was always passionate about football, so it's great to hear that she's taken this role to help develop and inspire the next generation.



Jake Joins the Royal Navy

It's always great for us to hear about what former students have been doing since leaving Brannel School.

Jake joined the Royal Navy and has recently had his passing out parade.

Jake will now be heading off for His Majesty's Catering Service phase 2 training, with the view to deployment at the end of this year on his first ship.



Recycling for Dartmoor Zoo

In January, we helped to collect 149 plastic chocolate and sweet tubs for recycling. Not only were these tubs recycled and kept out of landfill sites, they helped to fundraise for Dartmoor Zoo and The Life Chance Trust.

Children's Mental Health Week

In January, our Pastoral Team ran a series of activities for students for Children's Mental health Week.

We understand that every child is different and that, for some children, school is not always an easy experience and growing up can be difficult. Children occasionally face social and emotional challenges which can impact on their learning.

This year we've introduced a new student mentoring scheme. Staff are working with a small group of students who need a bit of extra support with school life.



To learn more about our Pastoral Team and Support, visit www.brannel.com

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**Pask Lowen!
Happy Easter
from Brannel School**

