



BRANSTON

COMMUNITY ACADEMY

Summer Newsletter 2023



Welcome...

Welcome to our summer newsletter, giving a flavour of activities that have been happening across the Academy

This year we have focused our attention on Academy Values – kindness, aspiration, resilience, respect and community. It has been great to see students living their lives through our Academy values and using them as a point of reference at various time during the year. We have been really proud of the many student achievements this year – not just the formal academic ones, but their personal endeavours too.

The Academy site continues to be developed and we are looking forward to a bigger dining room, a repurposed DT/Art space and a fully refurbished sports hall and swimming pool. Plus, some additional drainage works upgrades of course! Hopefully, everything will be completed by November and we can have a period of not having major works on the site.

The end of the summer term always signals an opportunity for staff and students to reflect and take stock after another busy year. Evaluating the opportunities presented and the opportunities taken is always interesting, alongside making plans for the next academic year ahead. I hope that your child has taken up opportunities this year and made the most of their year, both educationally and personally – whether that be in or out of school.

This time of year, also means that a few staff are moving on to pastures new. This summer we say goodbye to two long-standing support staff. Mrs Miechowski is retiring after being with us since 2006 as a cover supervisor, alongside supporting the Performing Arts department with choreography and dance expertise. Mrs Terry has secured a promotion as a Senior Science technician at another school after twenty years of service to our community. From our teaching staff, Mrs Clifton (English) and Mr Owen (DT) are relocating and Miss Southall (PE) has secured a Head of PE post. In addition, Mrs Hackett is leaving the Academy to retire after 34 years of service to the students of Branston Community Academy. Her work within the PE and Performing Arts departments has been transformative. We know that she has inspired many of our young people to pursue professions within education or the performing arts industry or even just to continue enjoying watching or performing in productions after they leave school. It has been an absolute pleasure to work alongside her for 25 of those years – our community will miss her greatly. We hope she enjoys a long and happy retirement.

Finally, I would like to wish all our students and their families a restful summer break. We look forward to seeing you all next year.

Mrs J Turner

Parent and Carer Engagement

It has been fantastic to get back to a full programme of face-to-face events this year. We have enjoyed a superb turnout for our parents' evenings with an average attendance of nearly 80%. This is back in-line with our pre-Covid figures and represented very positive attendance at these consultation evenings. These evenings give parents and carers an opportunity to speak to subject teachers, the SENDCO (Mrs Bayes-Green), pastoral leaders, student support staff and members of the leadership team. Often our Fairtrade student team are present to sell Fairtrade items. Next year all of our parents' evenings will continue to run face-to-face, except for our new tutor meeting for Years 8-11, which will run virtually.

Academy Site Developments

Students have adapted to the restrictions imposed due to the building works taking place at the moment. The upgrades to the site will continue over the summer and will be completed by November in most cases.

The dining room is being extended and having additional water points added as well. Students will also have a covered area where they can queue undercover if required. An additional oven is also being installed to help the canteen staff manage the volume of students using the facilities.

Room 14 in the DT block is being converted to a dual use room for Art and DT to accommodate the rising student numbers and demands for these subjects for GCSE and A'Level.

Finally, the swimming pool and sports hall are undergoing refurbishment, hopefully re-opening in November. The swimming pool and its surround are being completely refreshed. The sports hall will have a new floor laid and an overhaul of the inside. The outside of the whole building will be finished to tie in with the rest of the Academy – no more rusty corrugated iron!!

Edulink One

We will be changing the way we communicate with you. We will be retiring the SIMS Parent App, and migrating to the Edulink One product (Mobile app and/or website).

This system will be active for you when you receive an email from us, which contains your username and password. This email will go only to those who we have recorded as having 'parental responsibility'.

We are also moving all existing 'paper' based communications to this system, which will be become the only way of viewing this important information. It is therefore essential that you use this service.

Edulink One is a discreet, convenient, secure and reliable method which will enable us to send directly to you, information such as timetables, academic progress reports, achievements and behaviour updates, detentions, seasonal newsletters, emergency closures, examination entries/results and much more. We also use this system to collect your personal information that we need, and also that of your children that are studying here with us. This personal information can be updated whenever you wish, such as if you change your telephone number or address.

We have a 'noticeboard' area within Edulink One that has documents that you should find useful such as:

- Our Online Shop
- Our Biometrics Information
- Answers to frequently asked questions
- PE and DT policies and information
- Pre-loved uniform information



We use the Edulink One system to collect and update your personal information, so we don't have to deal with paper-based forms. Please check and update your 'account information' as necessary, for yourself and any children as soon as you can. We especially need you to check and update any medical information and consent as discussed next.

We rely on Edulink One to request an update for your consent for our fingerprint biometrics system we use for cashless catering. Prior to updating the biometric consent options, it is important that you look at the following documents on our website and also in the Edulink Noticeboard:

How We Use Pupil's Biometric Information -
<https://tinyurl.com/BranstonBio1>

Biometric Fingertip Recognition Explained - <https://tinyurl.com/BranstonBio2>



We also need you to update your consent for using photographs/videos of your children for school displays and publications and in our social feeds from time to time. We have lots of engagement with our community through our Academy Facebook page, and we love sharing some of the amazing work that goes on in the Academy such as in Food, Art and Science lessons, and also in our wider extra-curricular activities such as PE events, Duke of Edinburgh expeditions, and in the warmer months our 'Walk and Talk' wellbeing activities.

Please know that all of your personal information and consent choices can be updated or changed via the app or website as you wish.

When you receive an invitation email from us, you will then be able to access EduLink One on the web at <https://www.edulinkone.com/#!/login?code=bca>

You can download the app for your mobile device using the links below. Our school ID for the app is BCA.

Android: https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.overnetdata.edulinkone&hl=en_GB

iOS: <https://itunes.apple.com/gb/app/edulink-one/id1188809029?mt=8>

Amazon Fire: <https://www.amazon.co.uk/Overnet-Data-Ltd-EduLink-One/dp/B07K6MP8KG/>

We thank you in advance for using this service. If you use the mobile app, please have notifications turned on, so you don't miss any important updates or announcements from us.

Regards

David Holford

Head of Digital Developments

Uniform Revival

We have been busy setting up and organising our recycled uniform scheme this year. It has been really popular and we are delighted that the scheme will impact our carbon footprint as clothing is reused rather than sent to landfill. It is also a great way to replace uniform in a cost-effective way.



Families have been very generous with their donations and Branston staff have been busy ensuring everything is washed before it goes out for the next student to use. If you are already sending in prewashed items, it would be great to pop a note into the bag so that we can reduce our carbon footprint even more by not re-washing it.

Additional items, like coats, have been really welcomed by families in particular. We are also happy to receive clean trainers, football boots and shin pads if they are in good condition.

Requests for uniform items can be taken at any time and we accept cash or card. Staff will also be available at the parents' evenings for anyone that is looking for

Trouser Shorts

A few students have taken up the opportunity to wear the Academy trouser shorts during the prolonged good weather. These can continue to be worn until October half term if any student wishes to do so.

Academy Ties

Parents and carers are reminded that students wear the same colour tie for their entire time with us. The tie should be worn with the Branston badge showing at all times.

The colours for 23/24 are:

Year 7, Year 8, Year 9, Year 10, Year 11

PLEASE ENSURE THAT ALL CLOTHING IS NAMED – THIS ENSURES THAT LOST ITEMS CAN BE RETURNED DIRECTLY TO STUDENTS.

The Performing Arts department has been busy

Clare, from **Paper Birds theatre company**, ran a workshop for all KS4 and 5 students in May. They explored physicality and storytelling and learned how to use verbatim theatre principles to devise their own work. Students were engaged throughout and produced some lovely ideas.

KS3 Drama club recently performed two shows of the Pantomime Aladdin. Zach Woods was a delightfully evil Abanazer, whilst Joe Hobson as Aladdin and Emily Delderfield as Princess Jasmine led a fabulous ensemble cast in a riot of laughs, dances and fun. Lighting, sound and stage crew jobs were filled completely with KS3 students. Well done to all involved. It was a great success.

Members of **Unorthodox dance club** premiered their fabulous Peaky Blinder influenced performance in the Easter Assemblies to all students in the school and have created, rehearsed and polished a new dance for the Summer Show.

A number of year 7 and 8 students were lucky enough to visit Nottingham Theatre this month to see **Annie the musical**. They loved the show and were a credit to the academy with their behaviour and attitude in the theatre.

Excitement is building for the next whole school Musical. The big reveal has caused great enthusiasm...

The **Summer Show** has more exciting acts from some incredibly talented students. A great success and thoroughly enjoyed by parents and other guests.

Well done to all involved.



Yr8 STEM Challenge Day

Bishop Grosseteste University

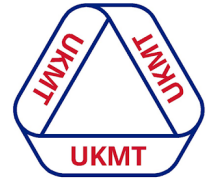


Design Technology and Science departments took a team of Year 8 students to this popular competition. Several Lincolnshire schools were represented, all hoping to make it through to the regional finals. The idea of the day is to raise enthusiasm for STEM subjects and encourage young people to consider studying them at College and University.

Branston students were put into teams with other schools for the various challenges in order to promote team working. All students completed 3 out of 4 challenges on the day: robot programming, model electric car racing, e fit (criminal identification) and a medical diagnostics challenge. Points were awarded to the teams taking part for each of the activities and a winner declared at an award ceremony. Two of our students Hannah Riley and Heidi Pyburn made up 50% of the winning team and go on to the regional finals in January. Many congratulations to these two!



UKMT Maths Challenge

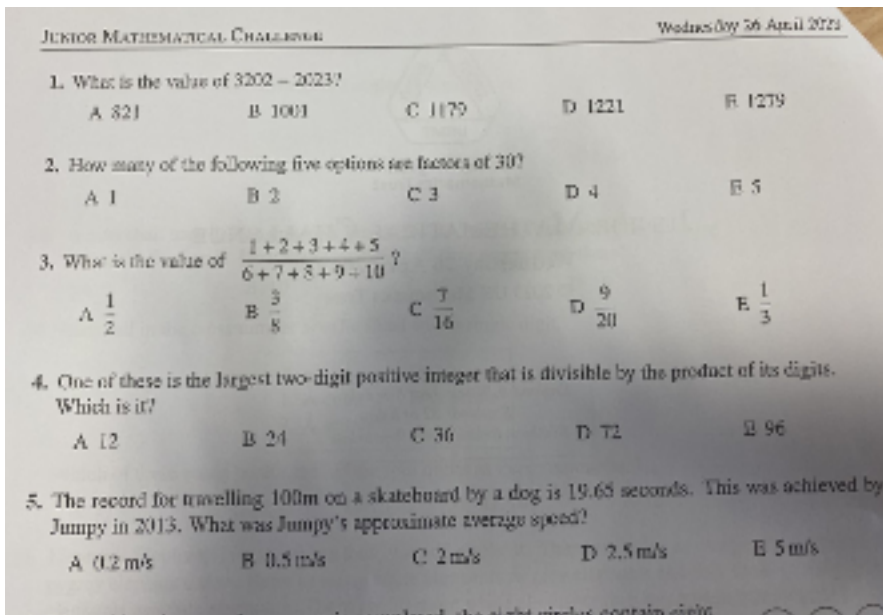


**United Kingdom
Mathematics Trust**

Over the past couple of terms our Gifted and Talented students from Years 8, 9 and 10 have been invited to take part in the annual Maths Challenges. These are papers of problem solving and logical thinking incorporating a wide variety of topics. In February, Years 9 and 10 completed the Intermediate Challenge. Students did this very successfully with six students gaining a silver award and eight a bronze. A particular mention goes to Ike Davids from Year 9 who achieved a gold award and the best score in the school.

The Junior Maths Challenge took place in April with eighteen students from Year 8 taking part. Just like with the Intermediate Challenge students rose to the challenge resulting in three silver awards, six bronze awards and a gold award for Ruby Frost.

Here are some example questions:



Well done to all the students who took part.

A level Maths Induction

There were plenty of enthusiastic mathematicians who joined us for A level maths induction this year. We spent an hour discovering some of the fundamental concepts of calculus using technology that would have saved Newton and Leibniz many hours of work back in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries.

After a short break we switched our attention to an engineering problem: how to build the tallest tower from spaghetti (uncooked!) and marshmallows. Tom Edgar and Nour Montasser's group worked diligently on a well-designed and complex structure but were beaten at the last minute by a more haphazard but taller construction from Gabbi's group.

Unfortunately, I think some of the groups fell victim to the heat of the day when the marshmallows melted and the towers collapsed.



Year 12 Work Experience



Year 12 Work Experience is embedded into our 6th Form curriculum - the aim being that students have the opportunity to try out their career ideas by completing a work experience placement that links with their future plans.

This proved to be an extremely valuable week with students making the most of the opportunities available to them. Our students are encouraged to find their own placement, and they have once again found some amazing opportunities. We had a range of employers offering work experience to our year 12 students including placements in IT, HR, Education, Retail, Finance/Accountancy, Office Administration, Law, Sports Coaching, Design and Engineering.

Students are encouraged to find their own placement so that it can be in an area of their choice, which links to their intended future career path thus allowing for the most fulfilling experience. Feedback from Students, Employers and Staff that contacted or visited students whilst on placement was, once again, excellent.

The skills learned and developed, during the week, along with the individual experiences will be invaluable to our students when making applications for university, apprenticeships and employment.



Lincolnshire Agricultural Show Schools challenge

We took 5 year 10 students and 3 year 8 Students to compete for the first time in the Lincolnshire Agricultural Show Schools challenge. Year 10 entered the Power of Water challenge, which looked at the different ways flood risks are managed sustainably. Year 8 looked at the History of Farming, which they focussed on the development of machinery.



The students worked really hard in making presentations and displays, and were able to engage with many members of the public and other school children. They also enjoyed some time visiting the Lincolnshire Show attractions.

Mrs Ritchie and Mrs Chamberlain

Rampton High Security Hospital

On Thursday 13th July, the Health and Social Care sixth form group and a small number of year 10 students were treated to a really informative talk from a representative of Rampton High Security Hospital. Whilst she was unable to discuss current patients, she gave some insight to the day-to-day life, facilities and the many career pathways and benefits they offer. One very interesting fact she shared was that those admitted there from the criminal justice system, have their sentence paused during their treatment and have to return to prison to complete it once well enough!

Mrs Bramley

Forensic Science

At the end of their Forensic Science project, Year 8 students were treated to a visit from Lincolnshire police, where two crime scene investigators were able to show them how evidence could be collected from crime scenes. Students were able to have a go at identifying weapon marks and using casting materials to collect evidence, analyse blood samples, and dust and lift fingerprints. It was great to see students working together and engaging with the officers, as well as learning more about what a crime scene investigator does in their role.



**Many thanks,
Mrs Ritchie**

Computing Department

Year 9 -Branstonbury websites

Year 9 students have recently finished their Computing project. They were tasked to create a multipage website to promote the fictitious Branstonbury Music festival. This project allowed them to gain skills creating graphics and multimedia products allowing them to prepare themselves for their Key Stage 4 qualifications.

Here are some examples:



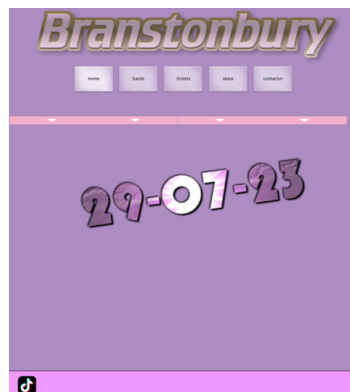
Branden Wilton



Esther Harris



Abbie Hewkin



Freya Bates

Year 11 Prom

What a fantastic night! The Epic Centre was decked out in all its finery with lights and balloons making it sparkle. Then the students arrived, in a myriad of vehicles from supercars to vintage and everything in between with even a few Limousines. Their arrival was amazing but the true spectacle of the evening was the students themselves, stepping out looking truly fantastic, the beautiful dresses and exceptionally smart suits were something to behold. The crowd outside the was the largest we have ever had as was the attendance from this year group which tells its own story about this fabulous bunch who, from the moment they stepped inside, danced the night away in a flurry of activity. The 2023 Prom King (Mel Ojebor) and Queen (Piper Owen) were crowned alongside a variety of other awards amongst the year group and I hope with the photos that were taken the memories will live forever.

This was a great evening enjoyed by all, the staff at BCA would like to wish all the Year 11 leavers of 2023 the best of luck with everything they go on to do and we look forward to welcoming many back into our 6th Form next year.



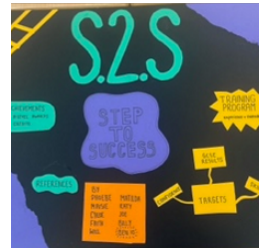
Year 9 Enterprise Day



On Wednesday 5th July 2023 the whole of Year 9 had the opportunity to participated in an Enterprise Day, with a focus on teamwork, career routes and creativity. They started off building a tower using only spaghetti and marshmallows, with an allocated budget to work with. This was a great ice breaker to have the teams working together and to build connections within their groups.

They then had the opportunity to talk to one of the many different business advisors asking them about their careers and the essential skills that future employees may be looking for. The students moved on to complete their own skills audit to identify their strengths against areas of development. The event was organised within the Business Department and the Year 12 BTEC Business students who continued the explain the different routes the students could consider once they had completed their GCSE's. Finally, they went onto the main task that was designing, creating and presenting an App idea for the school to use. This App was for the students in the school to track their career development progress such as educational progress, awards and extra-curricular activities.

We had some excellent ideas with catchy names, for example, 'Edu-Coach' and 'Steps to Success'.



This kind of activity and event could not have been possible without the help of the local supervisors that kindly came in to support us with our event. We appreciate the Business Advisors for their help with the students and for all of their knowledge that they brought with them.

We would like to thank the following businesses:

Lincoln College, Skeet Print LTD, Lincolnshire Police, PepsiCo Walkers, Snack Food LTD, United Lincolnshire Hospitals, City of Lincoln Council, NatWest, BAE Systems, Lincolnshire Fire Brigade, NHS Corporate, Foresters Financial, IBM, Pension Wise, Dynexsemi

THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

Morning Winners -

Table 7 were the winners of the App! – **Tom Kirby from Lincolnshire Fire Brigade** was the Business Advisor for this table.

The students were:

Jack Rosseau
Aston Hardy
Harry Garner
Brandon Wilton
Lilli Fable
Taylor Lowe

Afternoon Winners -

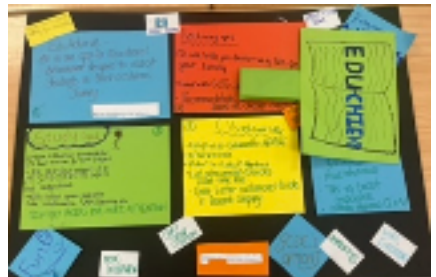
Table 10 were the winners of the App! – **Ben King from Foresters Financial** was the Business Advisor for this table

The students on the table were:

Billy Thompson
Faith Melville
Matilda Briscoe
Katy Smith
Chloe Downes
Phoebe Hubbard
Joseph Gowling
Maisie Noorpuri
William Clements

Congratulations to all winners who showed great effort in competing against other tables and winning the exercise.

Well done to all students involved who showed brilliant gratitude to the business advisors who gave their time up to be involved. Thank You again to everyone involved who kindly gave up their time to form a successful event.



Wellbeing Ambassadors

As we start the new academic year in September, we are delighted to have a number of our Y13 students undertaking the role of Academy Wellbeing Ambassadors. They have undertaken specific training to support younger students with the various challenges and difficulties that can sometimes arise during school life and are looking forward to drawing on their experiences and training to work alongside the whole school community. The team will be assisting with assemblies, charity days and other school events over the coming year.



Many thanks,

Mrs Gaunt

We'll be wearing odd socks with the Anti-Bullying Alliance and their patrons, Andy and the Odd Socks, on Monday 13th November for Odd Socks Day. Will you?

Odd Socks Day 

**#AntiBullyingWeek
#OddSocksDay**



Food Tech Mock Exam

Y10 have taken part in their mock practical exam this term. The task was to cook 3 high skilled dishes, in 3 hours. This is something that can seem daunting, when we push them to demonstrate the highest level of food preparation and cooking skills in all 3 dishes. The students achieved amazing things and have taken a lot from the opportunity to practice this task in advance of taking part in the actual exam next year. In the very least, they learned not to fear the exam as much as they were doing beforehand, but have a new respect for the work that chef's and catering staff do we eat out! The day went smoothly, helped massively by the new air conditioning units helping us keep our cool, which we were extremely thankful for, especially at this time of year!

Mrs Anderson/Mrs Lawrence



Y7/Y8 Netball Tournament with England Netball



On 5-7th May the Year 7 and 8 Netball teams participated in the PGL Boreatton Parks Netball Tournament which was overseen by England Netball. We had 19 excited and determined students ready to make their presence known on the court.

We had a Y7 team and Y8/7 team, both playing in the Y8 league. The Y7s started confidently in playing in a league for Y8s, led by Katy Adams. The Y8s started strong and were led by Freya Cavill. The students worked well together and adapted to playing in different positions and against team they were not used to. The Y7 team worked well at getting the ball from the defensive line down the court to the GA and GS. They were confident from

the start and comfortably won all of their league games. The Y8's seemed to have tougher league matches but played hard to win all but 1 of their games.

The semi-finals soon approached. The Y7s were pushed hard and needed to remain calm in a number of challenging situations, which they did, meaning we had one of our teams through to the final. But could we make it a BCA final? The Y8s had to play the team they lost against in the semi-final so the pressure was on. The Y8s came out fighting and never gave up in their quest to reach the final. Their teamwork was incredible and they won their semi final; we had our BCA final...

They Y7s had a strong first half, creating great passes and moving down the channels to get to their shooters. At half time the score was Y7 5 - 1 Y8. The Y8s returned to the court with a vengeance. They used their strength and created a strong defence and middle court, causing the Y7s to have to work harder. The second half resulted in Y7 2 - 5 Y8; final score Y7 7 - 6 Y8. BCA 1st and 2nd place!



The final was some of the best netball I have seen these two teams play, and they were both supportive of each other before and after the game. We were all beaming with BCA pride.

Well done to all the girls on not just an incredible performance in Netball but being a pleasure to take on our first PGL Netball tour.

Thank you,

BCA PE.

Y7 Team

Katy Adams *[captain]*

Molly Clifford

Evie Suckling

Lottie Negus-Hill

Sophie Wilson

Faye Skelland

Hollie Foster

Amy Davis-Wilkins

Etta Stancer-Birch

Y8 Team

Freya Cavill *[captain]*

Emily Pegg

Neveah Scarisbrick

Jessica Reed

Elizabeth Chevis

Evelyn Smith

Amelia Smith,

Phoebe Roper

Faith Gouge

Evelyn Sidney

Paris trip: March 15th to 18th 2023



The Languages department took 40 students for our first trip to Paris in March. Spending a full day in central Paris, we visited the Musée Rodin, and then walked through the Tuileries Gardens and Place de la Concorde before spending time shopping and eating on the Champs-Élysées. Our lovely coach driver, Steve, then dropped us at the Eiffel tower, where we decided that the wait for tickets for the lift was far too long so took the stairs instead – over 600 steps for those who made

it to the second floor! Our

second full day was spent at Disneyland Paris, enjoying the rides and attractions, making the most of the time we had before sadly getting rained off not long before the illuminations. On Saturday morning we headed back into central Paris, enjoying a relaxed river cruise to take in sights such as Notre Dame and the Eiffel Tower, before returning home late in the evening.



WE WILL ROCK YOU

The performing arts and music departments were very excited to produce the annual school musical We Will Rock You during the week of 6th February 2023. The production involved many staff both past and present in all aspects of the show including making and painting the set, creating the programme, photography, box office, front of house and back stage. Students from years 7-13 were also involved in all aspects of the performance, from backstage to the lighting, sound and the performers.



The iconic songs from Queen took us to the world of Globalsoft run by the Killer Queen and her sidekick Khashoggi who tried to crush the rebellion lead by Brit and Oz. Our audiences saw many notable performances from our exceptionally talented cast rewarding them with standing ovations. We were treated to truly inspiring performances

from many of the fabulous cast, some of whom are now embarking on courses in professional performance. Both crew and cast worked really hard to produce a vibrant, energetic show and should all be very proud of their achievements.

A Hackett



Arkwright Scholarship Success

Congratulations must go to Harry Cowling from Year 12 who has been successful in his application for the prestigious Arkwright Scholarship. This award is given to students from accredited institutions, such as Branston Community Academy, who are aiming to pursue a career in Engineering or similar STEM employment routes. Harry had to compete with a very large cohort of candidates across the country for a very limited number of spaces. His initial application had to be accepted before he could sit the examination which he passed. He then had to convince an external interview panel that he was a suitable candidate; quite a gruelling process! Harry's success earned him a trip to the London awards ceremony last year. The Royal Commission for the Great Exhibition of 1851 have sponsored Harry and he has been linked with a mentor from BAE Systems who will provide ongoing help and advice as Harry navigates a path to his career in engineering. Other benefits include regular enrichment events such as career conferences and a visit to Cambridge University's Chemical Engineering and Biotechnology departments. He will also receive ongoing financial sponsorship to help enrich his studies. Above all he will have secured valuable experience and a meaningful addition to his CV which will bolster his chances of success in the future. Well done Harry!



Mr Halliwell

Design and Technology

Parents' Evening Dates 23/24:

27/09/23 - Y13 Parents' Evening

4/10/23 - Y7 Settling In Evening

5/10/23 - Y8-11 Tutor Meeting (Virtual)

18/10/23 - Y11 Parents' Evening

17/01/24 - Y8 Parents' Evening

31/01/24 - Y10 Parents' Evening

06/03/24 - Y9 Parents' Evening

27/03/24 - Y7 Parents' Evening

01/05/24 - Y12 Parents' Evening



We have some very exciting times ahead of us at Heron's Fitness!

Over the summer period we are giving our Pool and poolside some love and attention. The pool, which has been a staple of Branston life for 50 years is being renovated over the summer. Our members can expect a lovely new tiled pool along with a modernised poolside area.

We are regrettably closed for a brief period at the beginning of the summer holidays - 24th of July to 2nd of August for essential repairs (and a coat or two of paint!) but will otherwise be open all day as usual throughout the rest of the summer break.

We will also be trialling extended opening hours when our pool reopens in Autumn. More information will be available as news develops.

We hope you have a great summer.

The Heron's Team





heron's fitness
At the heart of the Community

SUMMER HOLIDAY OPENING TIMES



GYM AND SWIM



MONDAY - FRIDAY
6:30AM - 9PM

WEEKENDS
GYM 9:00AM - 2:00PM

IMPORTANT DATES
24TH JULY - 2ND AUGUST
GYM CLOSED ALL DAY

OPENING TIMES



ALL MONIES RAISED WILL BE DONATED TO CHARITY
WE ARE LOOKING FOR DONATIONS
OF USED UNIFORM IN GOOD CONDITION
ANY DONATIONS CAN BE BROUGHT TO THE CANTEEN



PE SHORTS
£1.50



RUGBY SHIRT
£1.50



TROUSERS
£1.50



HOODIES
£1.50

UNIFORM
Revival
BCA



SKIRTS
£1.50



POLO SHIRTS
£1.50



BLAZERS
£2.50



PROM DRESSES
PLEASE CONTACT

CONTACT US NOW FOR PURCHASING USED UNIFORM
PPADMIN@BRANSTONCA.LINCS.SCH.UK
OPENING HOURS:
BY APPOINTMENT OR STUDENT COLLECTION