

# WINTER 2021 NEWSLETTER



**BRANSTON**  
COMMUNITY ACADEMY

## PRINCIPAL'S WELCOME

Another unprecedented term is coming to an end and we hope that the Christmas break will be significantly better than last year!

The return of students in September has presented another set of challenges and, again, Branston staff and students have risen to manage those challenges magnificently. The Y7 students are settling well and I frequently remind myself that their last full year in school was Year 4! Hopefully, this year will proceed without the need for lockdowns or other interruptions.

If anything, Covid has played a more significant role this term whilst we all learn to live with it at close quarters and it becomes a part of our lives in general. Despite this, students have been getting on with a much more normal day and enjoying the wider aspects of school life more freely. Year 11 have recently sat their GCSE mock examinations and were superb in every aspect of their conduct and maturity during that pressurised week. Students from across the Academy were also brilliant in supporting the Academy Open Evening in September too. There has been lots of things going on and some of those are included in this newsletter.

You may have seen some contractors on site recently and I'm pleased to report that we secured a grant for some drainage works on the site – it's not a glamorous project but it is essential! The works will continue until March approximately.

As we head into the festive season I would like to thank you for your on-going support and patience. I hope you have a very enjoyable Christmas break and look forward to continuing working with you in the New Year.

**Have a very Happy Christmas.**

*Mrs J Turner – Principal  
Branston Community Academy*



# FOOD DEPARTMENT

Y11 GCSE Food Preparation and Nutrition students have been working hard to catch up from lost time in the practical rooms last year, practising their food styling and presentation techniques, in preparation for their upcoming practical assessment. This is a key component within their Non-Examined Assessment for the course and the recipe trialling aspect of this is now well underway. With the theme this year being all about 'Celebrations', they are pushing themselves to great lengths to try and secure as many practical marks as possible, using a large range of complex skills. It may be lots of hard work however the students are wowing us with their efforts and outcomes so far, such as making: pavlovas, celebration cakes, homemade jam, pastries, decorated Yule logs, profiteroles, gelatine set cheesecakes and many more.

Well done Year 11, we're looking forward to the 3 hour practical exam in February.

Mrs Lawrence



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# SUBJECT AMBASSADORS

After an incredibly difficult couple of years for subject ambassadors to make a real impact at the Academy I am really pleased that some form of normality has resumed. Over 200 students have been selected as ambassadors for this academic year from years 8-13, don't worry year 7 your time will come!.

All ambassadors have represented the Academy impeccably at Open Evening and some of our older ambassadors at 6th Form Option Evening, as well as several students taking active departmental roles, including creating subject display boards (See right) and becoming 'digital technology champions'.

Over the coming months and years, I see this role developing further and our ambassadors should feel incredibly proud that they have been selected for this opportunity.

Mr Inman

## REMEMBRANCE DAY

Students from all three Branston schools gathered to pay their respects on Remembrance Day in November. After having to miss the event last year, it was lovely to see students from across all of the village schools come together to mark this important occasion. Wreaths were laid and readings shared – a fitting way to remember those who have lost their lives during conflicts.



## LEGALLY BLONDE

The performing arts and music departments rehearsals for Legally Blonde are in full swing and the cast are sounding and looking fantastic. We are looking forward to performing during the week beginning Monday 7th February 2022.



# ART DEPARTMENT

We are immensely proud of our students and the resilience they have shown during this pandemic. Their ability to adjust in what has been a turbulent time in their lives is a credit to them. We want to give them something back, to show how proud we are of them and create a space to give them an opportunity to heal and grow. Our aim is to create a garden of growth. This will be an outside space for all at Branston Academy to use. The garden will provide social, physical, emotional, and spiritual benefits to our students. Our vision is a garden full of green vegetation, flowers and a water element. A place to sit, reflect, talk, heal and grow.

To help raise funds for this project, we have been selected to be a CO-OP Community Champion from Sunday 5th December 2021 to Saturday 5th March 2022.

Please consider nominating Branston Community Academy as your community champion. Every time you shop and use your dividend card a donation will go towards our project. In addition, money is raised from carrier bag sales, collection boxes, event days and colleague fundraising.

Thank you for your support.

Mrs Watson

## OBSCURA CAMERA COMPETITION

Some of our Photography students enjoyed making a camera obscura with Mrs Beach -Wyld, this was part of a competition set by Lincoln University. These cameras were assembled out of Pringle tubes.

We are keeping our fingers crossed that one of our entrees will be successful!



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# ENVIRONMENT THEMED POTS

Last year's Y8 (now in Y9) made animal and environment themed pots out of clay, they then raised £70 for the Mablethorpe Seal Sanctuary and Wildlife Centre, which is a charity my sister works for!



Every year during pup season, the Sanctuary rescue injured seals (and other wildlife), rehabilitate them and eventually release them back into the wild. They ask the public to name their rescued seals - last year it was Pokemon themed! The sanctuary sent a video requesting a name for one of their rescued pups, which the students decided on Snorlax. Snorlax was rehabilitated and released in January this year.

As a thank you, the sanctuary has donated a cuddly seal mascot. And are going to display some of the unclaimed pots in their shop window.

Mrs Beach-Wyld

## GCSE ART GRAPHICS 'THE DEEP' TRIP

Tuesday 9th November the GCSE Art Graphics group of 18 year 10's went to The Deep aquarium in Hull. The students are currently working on an Ocean themed project, so this location fits perfectly! The students had a fun time observing the sea creatures, drawing and taking hundreds of photographs to help their coursework.



# THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH AWARD

It's been a busy year for Duke of Edinburgh in school, despite the restrictions. We've seen over 30 students complete their walking expeditions, a change of staff, and recruited our new cohort ready for next year...

In an effort to catch up expeditions missed due to COVID, towards the end of the summer term we took 2 groups of Silver students away to Walesby and Tealby near Market Rasen for a wet and windy training weekend and Clumber park for their qualifying weekend. Thankfully when it came to their qualifying, the weather eased and we had a dryer weekend near Clumber park. Our assessor team had great fun going round and round the park in circles waiting to catch the two groups who were going round the park in different directions, who decided that?! As the qualifying weekend was on the Euro's final night, we weren't mean enough to make them miss it, so at the end of day 2 we sat on our camp site huddled under an event shelter in the rain watching the Euro's final, COME ON ENGLAND...though sadly it didn't pay off! Congratulations to the 10 students who completed their Silver walking expedition, see you at Gold!

At October half term we are very excited to have Jason Bradbury from the gadget show to come and present some of our Bronze awards to some of our successful last year's Bronze students. As well as the certificates Jason also handed out badges to our new DofE champions. This was a real treat for both the staff and students who got to meet him, we'll have to ask him again I think.

The Autumn term has been very busy with year 10s. We've had a record number of students complete their bronze expedition, 24 students in four groups (groups can only be between 4-7 students). Another COVID catch up season, we took out current year 10s on two weekends walking, one around the Branston area for their training in October and for their qualifying we went across to Walesby and Tealby near Market Rasen in early November. Out of the four groups on the first day 2 got lost and 2 made it to the finish on time, thankfully not too lost...! However, the second day was much better with a few handy pointers and tips from the assessors as all 4 groups made it to the end on time and in good spirits, I think the amount of sweets they ate helped with that. Well done everyone, amazing efforts, see you all at Silver.



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As it's that time of year again we've just recruited our brand new 2021-2022 cohort of Bronze students, all shiny faced and excited to start their adventure. 28 students enrolled and ready to get started on their DofE journey, we're really hoping for a much more 'normal' year this time with camping back on the cards permanently.

Well done to everyone who's completed their expedition in the last year fantastic efforts from everyone. Here's to another successful and record breaking year next year!

Mr Subden and Miss Slesser



# PGL TRIP

On a cold and windy October day, during half term, 100 students and 10 staff went to PGL at Caythorpe. It was fabulous that we were able to enjoy these kind of activities again! The resilience and perseverance of students was tested – they responded with determination and commitment.

Climbing up the high wire, students had to overcome a number of things... not only maybe a fear of heights but also the need to manage to navigate tyres, cargo nets and rope ladders – these things are not easy when you are several metres off the ground and it is blowing a gale! The support of students to their peers was humbling, as you could see them encouraging one another through the activity.

Sensory trail – this had to be the funniest activity, as students were blindfolded and led through a wooded areas, having to overcome a range of obstacles on the way. It required teamwork and clarity of instructions as they followed each other. The instructors had lots of fun on the way too – their imaginations going wild as students were told of the spiders and grass snakes which could be found in this wood. All of this was untrue but the lack of sight heightened the students' other senses – they also had to trust what the instructor was saying and ensure they followed the leader of the group.

The giant swing ... this is exactly what it sounds like. Students helped to hoist their team mates up high before the rope was pulled and they dropped. This was lots of fun and everyone took part.

Finally, the last activity was raft building. Teamwork was a must as the groups built rafts which they then tested on the small lake. Getting wet was definitely possible and for some groups, inevitable. This was more than just raft building though – it was about communication and supporting each other.

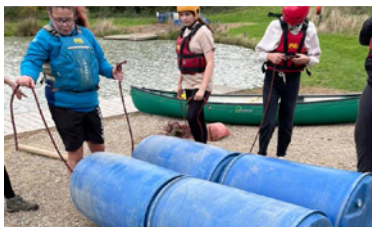
It was a thoroughly enjoyable day was had by all!



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# BCA CHARITIES

Students and their families at Branston have been exceptionally generous with their support across a range of charities this term:

## Children in Need - Yellow Ribbons - Christmas Jumper Day - Poppy Appeal

Alongside bumper contributions to the local Food Bank recently.  
Your generosity is much appreciated in supporting these great causes!



Save the Children  
**CHRISTMAS  
JUMPER DAY**

**£361**



BBC

**Children  
in Need**

**£1,043**



**£2,400+**  
**IN TOTAL**



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£644

#HelloYellow  
YOUNG MINDS



RBL  
ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

£354

# LITERACY: YEARS 7 AND 8

## WORD OF THE WEEK

During KS3 students will be focusing on key words useful to their academic progress as a part of their tutor time activities. The aim is to familiarise students with these key words which are useful in all subject areas.

Tutors will initially teach their tutor group the **Word of the Week** and students will endeavour to use it in their lessons. In this way students will develop an academic vocabulary. In the final week of every term there will be a competition to enter with the two of the correct entries will be drawn and get a prize. We would welcome your support in using these words at home and practising them with students. This term's words have been:

Date	Word	Date	Word
4/10	Factor	15/11	Research
11/10	Analyse	22/11	Identify
18/10	Environment	29/11	Authority
1/11	Establish	6/12	Principle
8/11	Source	13/12	Respond

AUTHORITY  
PRINCIPLE  
ESTABLISH  
ENVIRONMENT  
ANALYSE  
RESPOND  
RESEARCH  
SOURCE  
FACTOR

Ms Price

## LINCOLNSHIRE POETRY COMPETITION 2021

Students from across the Academy took part in the Lincolnshire Poetry Competition this year. The theme was 'Choice' and the best entries were selected by Stamford's Poet Laureate, Rob Elks.

The standard of entry was very high but we are very proud to announce that the first prize for KS3 went to Brody Foulston in Y9 and the judge went on to say: A well written and very mature poem, focussing upon an element of choice that would resonate with many – am I free to make my own choices or do external influences and pressures have a hand to play? I feel that Brody captures admirably the emotions around that question. It is well structured and is an excellent poem.



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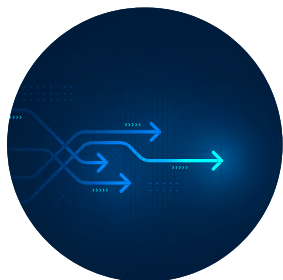
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## IS IT MY CHOICE?

Do I have the choice  
To love freely?  
To be treated like I'm 'normal',  
Not being tortured by the small voices I drown in.  
Daily I suffer,  
How long must the torment live,  
May I not love who I want?

Should I love men,  
Shoulders Broad,  
Voices deep, standing tall,  
Covered in muscles and hair,  
Dominant yet sweet,  
Not to fat nor too thin.

Or do I have the choice  
To love a woman, any shape.  
With or without stomach fat  
Tall or short,  
Uterus or not  
Hairy or bare,  
Stubborn or kind  
They are who I love.  
But is it my choice?



In addition, the second prize for KS4 went to Martha Wilson In Y11. The judge commented: Martha has produced a poem that really does highlight the complexities of choice. She manages to keep control of concepts in a poem that could have run away with her but still paints such complex twists and turns. I like the touch of Hamlet, there is also a pleasing hint of the surreal in some of the observations; the imagery is delightful in the poem and takes you to interesting places for thought and consideration. I love the line, "I dream choice, it is a swirling wilderness."

All of the winners and the judge's comments can be seen online on the Poetry Competition page at [www.willoughygallery.com](http://www.willoughygallery.com)

## CHOICE IS A SPECTRUM

We have two choices in life  
Shakespeare told us so: to be or not to be.

Will I succeed or fail?

Will this cost me happiness or desire?

Will I fight or must I take flight?

God made us with limitations.

We have no choice over that matter,  
So, after all, we are engineered to flee,  
So when we cannot fight, we much take flight  
What choices does this leave us with?

What is choice if not burden?

It has abilities to twist fate,  
Far beyond human understanding

But choice has its limits:

I did not choose to be where I am,  
But I made decisions that led me here.

Choice tricked me, tempted me

We are all faced with the same choices,

But we are not all the same. How is that so?

Some wait longer to surrender, some refuse to take flight.

Choices has allowed these differences: is that a virtue?



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If we did not have choices,  
Would the world be boring; or would it be freer?  
Would people be safe and happy,  
Far from the consequences of free will?

Choice is delivered to us on a silver platter,  
Or else is sent to us in our dreams,  
I dream choice, it is a swirling wilderness  
That I yearn for as I drift into sleep,  
I escape to a place of freedom,  
But when morning comes; piercing me out of this euphoria,  
I find myself with only the choices of how will I continue?  
You see my dreams are far away. For now.  
But one day maybe I will. Taste choice, feel choice.  
Choice does not scare me, it thrills me  
I welcome it. Beginning to come to my rescue

Thank you choice, because choice is a spectrum  
I can choose where I am.



# LIBRARY

Despite various restriction we are endeavouring to keep the Library open for students three lunchtimes a week: Tuesdays, Wednesdays & Thursdays from 12.30- 1pm. Thank you to Ms Herziger and the Sixth Form volunteers who are helping us. Students may borrow books if they have a membership number; return books and complete work in the Library at these times. I have been delighted to see a growing number of students enjoying this facility whether they want to borrow books or simply have a quiet space to read in.

I very much hope that every student at Branston is a member of the Lincolnshire Library Service and therefore will be able to access this wonderful service. Parents/ Guardians will need to join the Library online as paper applications are no longer being accepted. You can do this by going to the Lincolnshire County Council Website- Select Libraries, leisure & heritage- Join a Library.

As soon as you receive acknowledgement of your child's membership, they can note their number in their Planner and use this to borrow books from the Library. Our Library is of course also a Community Library and open at the following times to members of the public:

<b>Monday</b>	<b>10am to 12pm</b>
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Closed</b>
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>10am to 12pm and 5pm to 7pm</b>
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Closed</b>
<b>Friday</b>	<b>9.30am to 2.30pm</b>
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>9.30am to 2.30pm</b>
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Closed</b>

Ms Price



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# YEAR 11 - FOOTBALL

The year 11's have begun life after COVID very well. Over 30 boys regularly attended training and for this reason we have entered two sides into various competitions this season.

Playing in their first competitive fixture since March 2020 the 'A' team went away to Priory Witham Academy and returned with a 10-0 victory, which include 5 goals from Captain Dylan Hearn, currently this is our only league game to date.

The national cup started with a hard fought 5-2 victory against Priory Ruskin Academy (Grantham) and ended in the last 32 away, in Humberside, against a very good South Hunsley School 0-3.

With the county cup and conclusion of the league season a busy and hopefully successful period beacons in 2022.

The year 11 B team started by playing a thrilling league fixture away at Minster. Throwing away, a 3-1 lead with 10 minutes to play, only to win the game in the last minute with a Charlie Foster corner that went straight in, resulting in a 4-3 victory and one of the noisier minibus journeys home I have experienced in the last 15 years!

We entered the national cup for B team's drawing Boston Grammar at home. Despite creating enough chances to win 3 games we exited the competition at the first hurdle with a 0-1 defeat.

With 3 league games still come after Christmas, more football and sadly singing are on the horizon.

Mr Inman

# TERM DATES FOR THE ACADEMIC YEAR 2021-2022

## TERM 1

Wednesday 01/09/21 STAFF TRAINING DAY

**Thursday 02/09/21 to Friday 22/10/21**

\*\*\*\*Thursday 02/09/21 - Year 7 and Sixth Form only\*\*\*\*

Friday 03/09/21 – ALL YEARS

Half Term: Monday 25/10/21 to Friday 29/10/21

## TERM 2

**Monday 01/11/21 to Friday 17/12/21**

Christmas Break: Monday 20/12/21 to Monday 03/01/22

## TERM 3

Tuesday 04/01/22 – STAFF ONLY

**Wednesday 05/01/22 to Friday 11/02/22**

Half Term: Monday 14/02/22 to Friday 18/02/22

## TERM 4

**Monday 21/02/22 to Friday 01/04/22**

Bank Holidays: Friday 15/04/22, Monday 18/04/22

LA school holiday in lieu of 02/06/21 bank holiday: Tuesday 19/04/22

Easter Break: Monday 04/04/22 to Tuesday 19/04/22

## TERM 5

**Wednesday 20/04/22 to Friday 27/05/22**

May Day Bank Holiday – Monday 2nd May 2022

Platinum Jubilee Bank Holiday: Friday 3rd June 2022

Half Term: Monday 30/05/22 to Friday 03/06/22

## TERM 6

**Monday 06/06/22 to Wednesday 20/07/22**

Friday 01/07/22- STAFF ONLY



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\*Does not include student or annual memberships

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