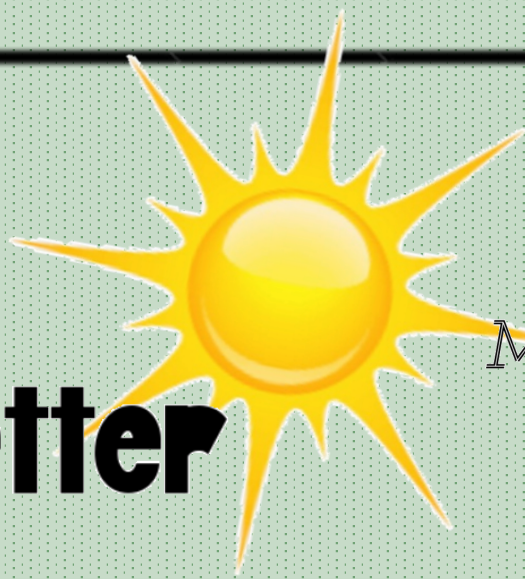


Spring Newsletter



Bramfield House
School

March 2023



Having worked at the school for nearly 12 years, starting as a part time teaching assistant, I can say it has been an absolute pleasure to lead the school over this past term. I appreciate it has been a term of change and the boys have coped extremely well with this throughout. I would also like to say a quick thank you to all parents that have shown their support over the last term as it has certainly been a big step for me to take on the current role.

The term itself has been a successful one and the newsletter shows just how many positives experiences are happening on a daily basis for all of our boys. Participation with events and fun activities continues to grow in both our boys and the staff with more and more continuing to be offered.

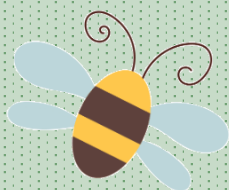
I am particularly proud of the number of pupils taking an active part in exams as early as some of our Key Stage Three cohort. The confidence being gained and success stories we are witnessing really does make this school special and we as staff are extremely lucky to experience the journeys we witness.



I am looking forward to even more positivity in the final term of the year. With the weather changing for the better and a number of planned activities confirmed, I look ahead with excitement.

It will of course be the final term for our current year 11 pupils. The residential team building activity had a really positive affect and I am confident the current cohort can give their exams in the summer a really good go. Moving on from Bramfield can be difficult for many however this year a lot of work has gone in behind the scenes to ensure the boys are as ready as can be for their next steps in learning and future careers, I wish every single of them the very best of luck, we shall be supporting them all the way!!

Leigh Bailey—Head of School



The Circus came to town!

For Bramfield Boy this term, we enlisted the help of Oak Circus Group, who are based in Norwich. They came out to us for a Tuesday afternoon complete with their box of tricks and taught the boys many skills such as juggling, devil sticks, handstands and headstands as well as group rope jumping.

There was a lot of fun and concentration (as you can see from the photos!) as many of the older boys helped to teach our younger students with skills they already had as well as show off their juggling and diablo tricks to the Oak Circus tutor who was suitably impressed.



Since returning from February half term, the circus team have been working with our lower school students in order to allow as many boys as possible to access this fabulous physical hobby!



It is an activity which really helps with hand-eye coordination, balance, planning and sequencing as well as improving self esteem through improving core strength. It helps to settle many of our lads as they can go into their zone of concentration and not worry about being distracted by the world around them.

Plus, it looks pretty cool to show off tricks and be able to teach others even without the other benefits!

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True Crime Bramfield Boy:

We have a youth coach who listens to True Crime podcasts while cleaning, a teacher who binge watches True Crime Netflix series and regular visits from our local police team to remind our students of the importance of knowing the law and how we all fit into



the rules laid out by our criminal justice system. Overall, I would definitely say that Bramfield House has a deep fascination, that so many people all over the world have with True Crime!

In this Bramfield Boy, we have looked at the Death Penalty in the USA and how people talk about this to their young children, how some people chose to murder for money as well as how modern forensics is consistently evolving to be able to match perpetrators





Biggest ever cohort of exam-takers:

We have been running Functional Skills exams for a few years now. These are nationally recognised exams that sit alongside GCSEs in Maths, English and ICT. SEND students in mainstream may often have little to no choice but to sit GCSEs at the end of year 11 which they might find very difficult and unduly stressful. If mainstream students (SEND or not) do not get a 4 / C, then they will likely have to complete Functional Skills alongside their college course or apprenticeship.



We typically start level 1 functional skills (the same as a 3 / D at GCSE) in year 9, giving students the time and confidence to build to level 2 (the same as a 4 / C at GCSE) in year 10 and then attempting the GCSE in year 11. This is especially useful

in English where a lot of Bramfield students have had lots of fear and failure before arriving with us. The pride on the faces of the boys when they are told that they have passed the reading, writing and speaking elements of a nationally recognised qualification is worth every eye roll over 'boring' literacy! It also really helps to build their confidence in their own ability and to prove to them that they are baselined at the same level as other students all over the country.

This March, we had a grand total of 31 students sit exams. These students ranged from two of our year 8 boys through to our year 11s, who are eager to pass at school and be exempt from re-sitting at college. This is the first year that we have offered any year 8 student the chance to take a real exam as year 8 is the first year in Upper School and is a year of transition from lower to upper school. However, our two exam takers are both very able young men who enjoy a challenge and, as we said, have nothing to lose as they can always try again in the following years at Bramfield. They also happen to be in the form group of one of our literacy leads so there may have been a little extra pressure...

Our Exams Officer has been refining her technique after each set of exams and now has a massive wheeled suitcase to carry all of the scripts, clocks, pens and calculators required for exams. The irony is that she now wheels round the school looking like she's off on holiday to relax while dealing with the most stressful and pressured days in the school calendar!

We are so proud of our team around exams! They make sure that we have enough invigilators, rooms, resources and that all the boys have the correct Access Arrangements in place in order to allow them to show off their full potential and embed their normal ways of working before moving onto college or the world of work. We also ensured that all of upper school were aware of exam protocol this year with an assembly where the students are made aware of the rules and understand 'Malpractice'!

Malpractice, as I am sure anyone at Bramfield House would be happy to explain, comes from the Latin meaning 'bad' and refers to anything that might be cheating or giving someone an unfair advantage in an exam such as wearing a watch connecting to the internet or hiding the answers in the bathroom!

We are incredibly proud of our students and their resilience in exams taking. As an English Lead at the school it fills me with happiness and pride to think that so many of our students are able to complete and pass exams in such a mature and respectful way. During the Spring term to see over 20 upper school students concentrating on doing their best, writing away is a wonderful testimony to how far the students and school has come in raising aspirations. One of our year 11s did suggest that we should have taken a photo as he 'felt like I was in an exam hall!' However, we concluded that would probably be a form of malpractice and may have distracted the pupils in a live examination!



WORLD BOOK DAY

Term 2 always has been one of the biggest times of the year for Literacy. As well as being the birthday of one of our lovely literacy leads, it is also World Book Day. Last year some of you will remember our

'Roald Dahl' theme. This year, we went back to our childhoods to remember our very favourite books while dressing in our comfiest reading-wear (i.e Pyjamas / onesies / trackies!)

We started our day with a quiz for boys and students alike. We had photos of staff reading their favourite books with clues and typical habits that people could guess.



'That's Kelvin, I recognise his hands!' was a classic answer with bonus points for other students being able to name one of our literacy lead's car!

We used World Book Day 2023 to launch our 'Kindness Campaign'. So many Bramfield Boys are often so kind that we wanted to recognise that officially and give out golden tickets for acts of kindness; this



was from choosing a book for a younger foster sister to carrying bags for staff to helping a younger student to manage their emotions and social interactions over the day. One of our year 11 students won the kindness lucky dip at the end of the day; winning himself a pair of Turtle Beach headphones in honour of Book Beach that popped up outside of the English Room.

We created and played a human fruit machine based on a childhood favourite, The

Hungry Caterpillar. Students (and staff!) were required to say 'Go' for three members of staff (or students!) to each pull out a different piece of fruit from three separate bags. If all three people pulled the same item, it's a win! The luck and anticipation involved engaged everyone and the thrill of winning was really fun and engaging. Plus, we got to eat the game items once everyone had had a good go!



World Book Day is a wonderful time to make links with our local bookshop in Halesworth. Last year, they kindly gave us all of the free books to give away along with the offer of

discounted books when using Book Tokens in the shop with the boys. This year again, we got all of the free books from the shop alongside good discounts for book-related prizes for our Kindness Campaign moving forward. It is a really heart-warming feeling to think that Bramfield can play such an integral link in our local community and helps with our Kindness quota!





Year 11 Residential Trip

Grit, Spark, Team, Adventure, Ready

We seized the opportunity to assemble all of the year 11 student and whisk them away for a short three-day residential trip to Sheringham north Norfolk. We used the opportunity to give the year 11 pupils some time away from the school environment and with the upcoming exams in the not to distant future, this allowed us to get them together and place an emphasis on learning through Activity, Enjoyment, Achievement, Discovery, Responsibility and Teamwork. We spent the opening day working through a variety of team focused challenges with the boys scaling heights of the crate stacking challenge. Part of each team looked down from six metres high to guide the 'builders' on the ground, with the aim of working together as a team to construct a rather wobbly vertical tower. The remainder of the day was spent with the boys using their problem solving and teamwork skills to overcome a variety of challenges set by the experienced team at Hilltop. Day one ended with a night time woodland walk and some enthusiastic and entertaining dancing from the boys around a campfire within the woods.



Day two commenced with a short walk through the woodland of hilltop to the tree top challenge. This was chosen



to place the boys out of their comfort zone in scaling the 10 metre high obstacle course in a number of different ways. With all the staff and boys harnessed we spent an enjoyable morning which was full of personal achievements, overcoming fears and working together to encourage and conquer some fears. The staff at Hilltop continued to stretch the boys with a visit to the archery range and even managed to get us on to the 16m/52ft airbag jump. We were restricted in time on this but still managed to get the boys to jump from the



7m/23ft platform. This was for sure the biggest leap of faith the boys and accompanying staff had taken. The afternoon was spent on the double sided 15m climbing wall with the boys taking it in turns to belay for each other whilst making their way to the top. There was an option to take an even more challenging route to reach the top which some of the boys opted to take.



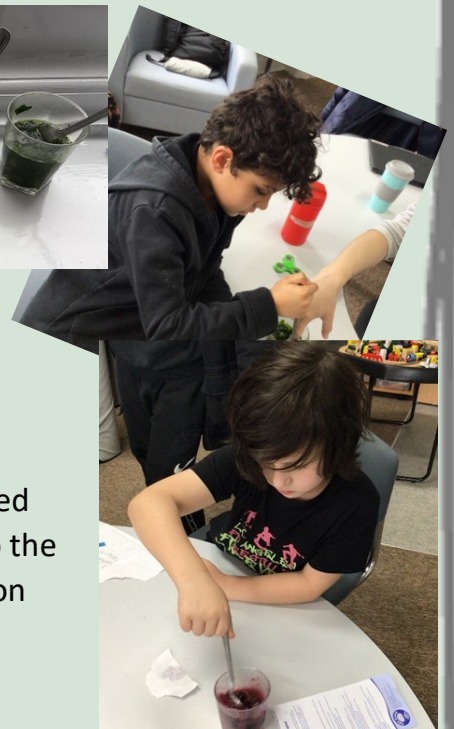
Our final morning was spent with the onsite mountain biking expert. The boys spent time learning new skills and jumps on the bikes whilst whizzing around using the off-road track at hilltop. We then went on to the final activity of the trip with a short walk to the 130m long big zipper. By this time there was a good sense of comradery within the group and the boys and staff alike supported each person as they stepped off the platform. We were pleased to see all the boys step out of their comfort zone with a willingness to try something new and definitely noted some

growth in confidence within the group. We are really pleased at the level of personal development each boy has shown and would definitely recommend Hilltop for future class trips.

It was important that the year 11 boys had some time to refocus themselves before exams begin. They all enjoyed themselves, but at the same time were learning really key skills in terms of working as a team and developing their social awareness. We would really like to thank all of the staff and the team at hilltop for making the trip good fun, focused and for helping to teach the boys some very valuable life skills.

Sapling Class

In topic we looked at which clothes the Anglo-Saxons wore. We talked about the materials they used to make clothes and talked about the similarities and differences between those and the clothes we wear today. We then looked at how they dyed clothes different colours using natural dyes. We then made natural dyes using, saffron, turmeric, spinach, coffee and blueberries. We have added strands of cotton and wool to them to see how well they absorb the colour. We will use them in our next lesson to create Anglo-Saxon tunics.



Ivy Class have been hard at work creating persuasive leaflets in English. They have tried to incorporate all the features of **persuasive** writing and use **eye-catching** images, sales offers, direct address and more. Some boys chose a more serious content matter such as sponsoring a charity to look after a child and other boys chose to attract tourists to visit places such as Southwold Pier, Africa Alive or buy the latest technology. Well done boys for these eye-catching leaflets

VISIT SUNNY SOUTHWOLD!!!!

Enjoy ice cream. Enjoy the hotels. So many smiling faces. So much

Play the arcades they're sooooo good 😊

In order to pass their Functional Skills exams they must be able to use language that is effective, accurate and appropriate to context, situation and audience

SPONSOR A GIRL

GIVE money NOW

IPHONE 14

Buy it now!

Buy the **iphone 14** because it has a **dynamic** island which is the **NEWEST TECHNOLOGY!**
Available **right now** and it should last you 5 or 10 years if you don't drop it or break it!!!

And the camera has 48 MEGA PIXEL. Which is a lot for a phone.

The screen is 120hz which is very fast.

And you can use social media for 24 HOURS and the price is on

KIDS GO FREE

Saturday, 28th January – Wednesday, 1st February

Use Code **KIDSGOFREE** at checkout

ZSEA AFRICA ALIVE ZOOLOGICAL RESERVE

Limited time only

Join us for WORLD

£5 entry all day

It would make a great day because you would get out of the house and with the family and be a social for once in your life!

AFRICA ALIVE – UP CLOSE WITH ANIMALS

LOCAL PLACES TO VISIT THIS SPRING



This term year 9 and 10 went to the Norfolk and Suffolk Skills and Careers festival, this is a fantastic chance for them to discover a huge range of opportunities available to them from across the county to motivate inspire and offers them an offer the chance to explore the next steps towards their career.



With a large number of stalls from a variety of job sectors the pupils were given the chance to speak to employers and post 16 providers with interactive games, simulators and workshops.



Year 11 Transition to Post 16 Education

All our year 11 pupils have received their conditional offers for the next phase of their education. However, it's never too late to change their mind. Michelle and Mark our on-site Careers Advisor's is here to help with any worries or queries you may have.

We have liaised with the SEN teams at the colleges to help with this and we are trying to arrange transitions days where possible.

16-19 Bursary Fund

You may also need to start looking at whether you are eligible for a bursary.

A bursary is a type of financial assistance that is awarded to students or individuals who need financial support to pursue their education or training.

The 16-19 bursary fund is money the government has given to local authorities, schools, colleges and other education and training providers (education institutions) to support students who need financial help to stay in education.

There are two types of 16-19 bursaries:

1. bursaries for defined vulnerable groups of up to £1,200 a year
2. discretionary bursaries which institutions award to meet individual needs, for example, help with the cost of transport, meals, books and equipment.

Find out more at www.gov.uk/guidance/advice-for-young-people-16-to-19-bursary-fund-guide

- **Benefits - GOV.UK** www.gov.uk/browse/benefits
- **Care Act 2014 – legislation** - www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2014/23/contents/enacted
- **Mental Capacity Act 2005 – legislation** www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2005/9/contents
- **Suffolk Local Offer | Community Directory** www.suffolklocaloffer.org.uk
- **Norfolk Local Offer | Community Directory** www.communitydirectory.norfolk.gov.uk/

DID YOU KNOW

MONEY MATTERS WILL CHANGE WHEN YOUR CHILD TURNS 16!

It is therefore a good idea to open a bank account for your child before they turn 16 – that way you can still help or do it on their behalf.

COMIC RELIEF

RED NOSE DAY

FRIDAY 17 MARCH



We raised over £300

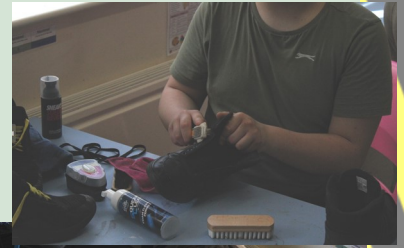


Shoe Repairs

personalising them with new laces, insoles and even airbrushing.



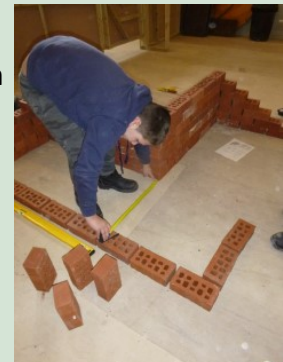
For choice time on a Friday, upper school have had the option, this last term, to do a shoe repair session each week. This has proven to be a great hit and each week boys come along and clean up their trainers and shoes. They spend time brushing the dirt off, wiping them clean and polishing them up as well as



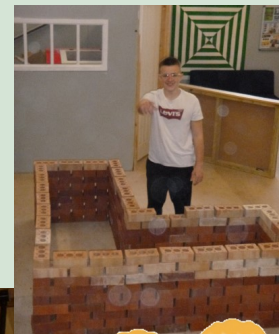
UNDER CONSTRUCTION

It has been another busy term here at Bramfield House School. All boys have been working really hard on the new topics which have been set. We have spent most of the year looking at how we use mathematics within the construction workshop. Most of the boys have taken this in their stride and produced some quite wonderful pieces of work.

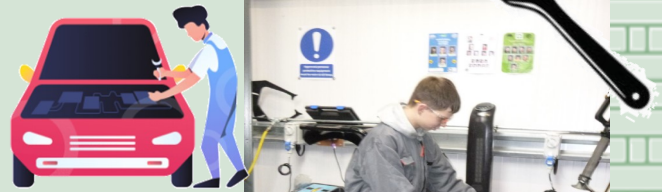
Working with lower and middle school on very simple maths problems and looking at how we can solve these with a basic understanding of the subject. We started the term looking at wheels and circles. Some of the boys produced some very nice clocks using a pair of compasses to mark out the circle then using a protractor to divide the circle into 12 sections. The upper school boys who take construction have been looking at slightly harder aspects of the subject. One in particular has been learning about staircases and how we need to understand the maths to enable us to produce a staircase.



Most of the boys who are studying construction have been looking at the various options available to them if they choose to work in this industry. Making posters about the various roles available to them from becoming an architect or being a bricklayer. We have started to look at which college places would be available and looking at which grades boys need to achieve to get a place at one of these colleges. One of the students studying this subject has already been offered a college place on his predictive grades which is great news for him.



Motor Mechanics



All students from all areas in the school are working towards the Gateway framework when working in the workshop. Recently the boys have had a lesson on tyre changing.

Darren also spends a lot of time with the students during Bramfield boy where this term the boys have been learning about bike repairs. A quick email was put out



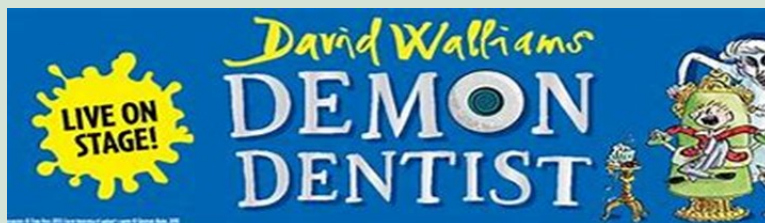
Springtime ON THE FARM

It is all happening down at the farm this term, spring is in the air and the boys are all busy planting seeds and watching them grow into small plants. The poly tunnel has been cleaned out and is ready for the new crop of plants for the boys to maintain. Sally has also been busy gaining her qualifications in instructing and she is looking forward to progressing onward to doing her assessor course.

Last month saw the arrival of some 19 new chicks for the farm, these were hatched at the school and will continue to live with us for the near future. During Bramfield boy we will be using our skills and teamwork to produce a new chicken run and shed for the flock.

We are still living with the bird flu virus and this has given us the chance to teach the boys about other aspects of farming.





“THE BRAMFIELD BOYS MEET THE DEMON DENTIST”

On Thursday 16th March 2023 some lower school boys visited Ipswich Regent Theatre to watch the “Demon dentist” a take on the David Walliams book. All the boys were excited and had the best time. There were many other schools there and the Bramfield boys represented us beautifully. The show itself gave us laughter, suspense and much to the boys amusement...EXPLOSIONS! It was a brilliant trip and an amazing show. I don't think the boys will avoid brushing their teeth ever again!



Family Forum

Thank you to everyone who has expressed interest in the forums and to those of you who have been able to attend. We have had a good turn out to both of the forums (one in Halesworth and one in Norwich), with lots of discussions, some signposting, as well as some lovely, positive feedback afterwards.

We are planning to have the forums in different locations so that we can hopefully give opportunity for all parents and carers to attend if they so wish. In the meantime, if you have anything you would like to have covered in the forums please let me know.

Some parents have asked about SEND clubs/activities for the boys, so I have listed a few here.

Able2B, 9 Gilchrist Cl, Bessemer Rd, Norwich NR4 6AT, 01603 986407 - [Home - Able2B](#)
Youth club for SEND in Norwich – [Social F.I.E.L.D – Lola Stafford Consulting Ltd](#)
Involve Active, Lowestoft - <https://www.involve-active.co.uk/>

Given the increase in the cost of living, here are a few links which may help.

Watersure scheme which can help with the cost of bills if eligible - [WaterSure Scheme: What Is It and How Can I Apply? \(selectra.co.uk\)](#)
Cost of living help – Norfolk - [Help with living costs - Norfolk County Council](#)
Cost of living help – Suffolk - [Cost of living support - Suffolk County Council](#)

If there's anything I can help with, please do not hesitate to contact me

Karen



We look forward to seeing everyone back on

Thursday 13th April 2023

