



Bramfield House
School

AUTUMN NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2023

As we reach the conclusion of another term at our School, I wanted to take a moment to reflect on the journey we've shared and celebrate the growth and achievements of our students throughout the term.

I am personally really pleased with the strides students have made in their academic pursuits this term, from those accessing education for the first time in a long time to those achieving excellent results in the mock testing. Everyone's unique learning style and needs have been catered to, allowing them to engage with the curriculum in a way that fosters understanding and success. We've witnessed a genuine enthusiasm for learning, and our dedicated teaching staff have played a pivotal role in creating a supportive and inclusive environment.

Throughout the term, our support teams have worked tirelessly to provide a safe space for students to express themselves and develop essential coping skills.

We've seen positive changes in emotional regulation, self-awareness, and interpersonal relationships, contributing to a more positive overall school atmosphere through the term.

It's essential to celebrate the achievements of our students, big and small. Whether it's mastering a challenging concept, demonstrating resilience in the face of adversity, or fostering positive relationships with peers, every accomplishment is a testament to the hard work and dedication of our students. We encourage you to acknowledge and celebrate these achievements at home, reinforcing the value of effort and perseverance to which there are many highlighted throughout the newsletter. We will continue to refine our approaches based on the evolving needs of our students and maintain open lines of communication with parents and guardians.

Thank you, parents and guardians, for your ongoing support and partnership.

Together, we can create an environment where every student can reach their full potential.

Wishing you a restful and joyful Christmas. We look forward to welcoming everyone back for the start of a new term filled with opportunities for growth and success.

With regards,
Leigh Bailey
Head of School



MEET OUR NEW PRINCIPAL...BEN!



I am delighted to introduce myself as the new Principal at Bramfield House School. As there has previously not been a Principal at Bramfield, you would be forgiven for asking why we have a Principal now and what does he do? Well, the first of those two questions is the easiest to answer. Bramfield has undergone significant growth over the last two years and is now the largest school in Acorn Education and Care (our parent company). As such, the organisation is quite complex and consists of several teams including Education, Care, Therapy, Maintenance, Domestic, Catering and Administration and Finance. The Principal's role is to oversee all of these teams and work with the team leaders to ensure we collectively provide the best possible experience for boys at Bramfield. Leigh Bailey is still Head of School and leads on all aspects of education; my role is to oversee all elements of the wider organisation. As to what do I do? Well....I am still making a list, but I can assure you I am kept busy all day and all week!

Anyway, this termly newsletter is a perfect opportunity to introduce myself and tell you a bit about me. So as you know, my name is Ben and I have been in education since 1996 which makes me quite old and that's why I have grey hair and still wear shoes and a shirt to work. I began as a PE teacher all those years ago and worked my way up to Head of Year and Head of Department. Many PE teachers, when their knees go and their waistlines expand, end up in Behaviour Lead Roles. I am no exception to the rules of the universe, and I was duly appointed as Vice Principal at a large mainstream school back in 2008. As the whole school behaviour lead, I began to understand that not all students fit the same mould and that many have needs and different life experiences that make coping in school very difficult. As such I began to change my approach to maintaining discipline across the school and began to work closely with students that were generally considered "naughty", forging trusting relationships and working closely with their families, often resulting in positive transformations. This experience laid the foundations for my next role as a Deputy Headteacher in a school for boys with Emotional, Social and Behavioural Difficulties. I spent 6 years learning about operating in and leading a special needs school and significantly developed my understanding of a range of conditions and experiences that have an adverse effect on the school experience. In 2019 I joined Acorn Education and Care as the founding Headteacher of Medway Green School where I continued to work until September when I accepted my current position at Bramfield.

As some of the boys already know, I still live in Kent with My wife and daughter and my spaniel, Fudge. I also have two sons, who are currently studying at Bournemouth and Loughborough Universities. I love sport and I am a big Brighton and Hove Albion fan. I played rugby as a youngster and played rugby until I was in my 30's and I still love to watch a match. I particularly like to watch my children when I can. My youngest son represents Loughborough University Rugby League team, my eldest son plays American Football at Bournemouth and my daughter plays netball for two local teams in Maidstone and Medway. I was also a competitive swimmer as a teenager and I still love to swim now, so you will often see me doing lengths in the pool. In my continuous losing battle against my waistline, I also enjoy indoor rowing on my water rower and long walks with Fudge, although I have to admit they often end in a country pub and a lovely pint!

I am currently on site at Bramfield four days per week and I work from home one day. I do have plans to move to Suffolk once my daughter has completed her A levels. This routine has taken some getting used to, but it has been well worth it as Bramfield is a truly exceptional place with an amazing staff team who genuinely care and work tirelessly for every boy in the school. When I walk around the school and listen to the interactions between the adults and children, it brings a smile to my face to hear the positive language and caring nature even when young people are struggling to manage their emotions. Boys also benefit from an inspired Curriculum including vocational learning and the Bramfield Boy / YOLO program as well as all the opportunities and awards that they can receive. My intention, over time, is to Make Bramfield an outstanding provision.

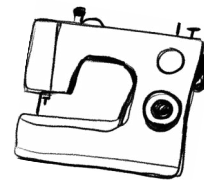
I am sure that I will have the opportunity to meet you all in person at some stage. Until then, best wishes and have a wonderful Christmas.

Thank you

MERRY
CHRISTMAS
AND
HAPPY
NEW YEAR

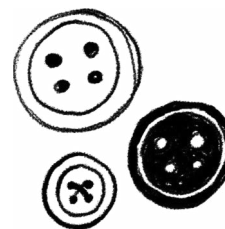


BRAMFIELD BOY



Upper School - Daniel (Rowan class) has really shown his creativity, patience and skill, in our Christmas crafting Bramfield Boy and has now learnt to independently sew.

Daniel has learnt to thread a needle, tie a knot on the end and stitch in a neat pattern. He also used several other media and materials to create these wonderful Christmas mice to put in our community



Christmas hampers



Lower School - Bramfield Rangers

Boys have been taking part in building bug hotels, making fires, cooking and treasure hunts. They worked brilliantly as a team and demonstrated positivity, determination and perseverance.

Media Studies



Upper School- During our sessions on Tuesday afternoon we have been taking part in Operation Christmas where we have been making Christmas cards and a Bramfield House School calendar which will accompany other things that have been made by pupils in other groups as part of a hamper going out to families in the local community. We have been visiting the local areas taking photos for the calendar and the others have been using an online software to design their Christmas cards. It's been lovely working together on this!



Play
Up
heese

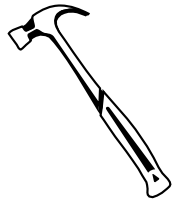




3D DESIGN



A busy, yet enjoyable term in the 3D Design workshop. Our year 11, 3D Designers have been in preparation for their GCSE Mock Exam in December. They have been exploring the work of the Bauhaus design movement, including other crafts people linked to their theme of 'Lamps and Lighting.' The pupils, all of them progressing well, have been researching and experimenting with different production processes, such as plastic shaping and Japanese origami style paper folding. After this initial stage of the design process was completed, the pupils came up with their own design in the style of their chosen theme before going on to manufacture it. Pupils have been displaying real grit, focus and perseverance.



In lower KS3, pupils have been formally introduced to the 3D design making process. Pupils enjoyed studying existing toy designers and experimented with a range of manufacturing techniques, before going on to design and produce their own functional toy for a child to play with. Skills introduced, included using a scroll saw to cut safely, marking out accurately and cutting on the outside of the line and safely using a disk sander. A successful and enjoyable project all round, with some great and unique finished products.



In upper KS3, pupils have been successfully introduced to the plastic strip heater for the first time. After following the 3D design process, the pupils went on to produce a functional Acrylic phone holder. Skills introduced and practiced included the safe and accurate use of the strip heater and scroll saw (including adding masking tape to an acrylic cutting line on a scroll saw to prevent melting and refusing.) Smoothing Acrylic by using a steel rule to scrape the edges, cross filing using varied wet and dry grit paper to achieve a smooth surface, before flame polishing to finish.

Pupils have displayed enthusiasm, a high standard of detail and a developing practical skill set.



ECO NEWS



It's been a busy term so far on the Eco front.

In Bramfield Boy in the lower school, Rebecca and her group have been doing an amazing job highlighting issues whilst helping to improve the school environment. Activities have included; Litter picking in the local community and school grounds, Information poster making, Bird feeder making, made sea creatures out of recycled materials and designed eco-friendly tote bags. Other groups around the school have also been litter picking, constructing bird boxes, making bug hotels, designing hedgehog homes and reusing items that are not needed or wanted anymore. Max J has also been out litter picking in the school grounds himself during his breaks!



We are working hard to increase our recycling so every classroom has got a recycling bin and we are collecting batteries, laundry containers, bread and bakery product wrappers, biscuits, cracker and cake wrappers and printer and toner cartridges to recycle. The school also benefits from this by gaining points which can be used to obtain equipment etc. Well done to Max J, Ben and Wyatt for bringing the largest amounts of recycling in so far. Thank you!



We have taken part in Cut your Carbon Month and Switch off Fortnight to raise awareness, save money and reduce our carbon footprint.

The school site has also been registered as a nature park as part of the National Education Nature Park. This is a nation wide scheme which looks to bring children closer to nature. This is to aid well-being, help with nature recovery, upskill children with green skills for the future and provide opportunities for scientific research. We are at the start of our journey and there are some exciting opportunities ahead.

We are also part of Climate Clever Schools and Plastic Clever Schools which look at ways of combating climate change and reducing plastic use in school and at home. Again, this will link in with our work towards gaining our Green flag through Eco Schools.



Common Seas





READING CHALLENGE

This term the boys at Bramfield have shown such spark and determination with the Reading Tree Challenge. So many of our boys have gone above and beyond reading multiple books in their spare time, both at home and at school.

In each classroom, they have proudly displayed the class tree and then filled it with leaves with numerous titles of books they have read and enjoyed.

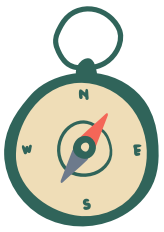
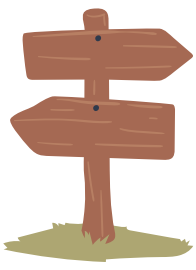
Some boys worth mentioning, who have shone with the challenge are Alaric, Jenson, Archie, Ethan and Finlay

The winning class, with the most leaves were HOLLY CLASS! Well done!



Here is the winning tree!





OUTREACH INTERVENTION

This first term has seen a number of boys taking part in outreach interventions.

This has involved being out of the school several mornings each week taking part in activities within the wider community.

The boys have taken part in some quite long hikes and have enjoyed exploring the local area, however, by far the most popular activity has been fishing.

All of the boys have put in time and effort into learning to fish. Some boys could not go near to any bait when we first started and they are now baiting their own hooks. Some could not tie a knot and they can now tie on their own hooks. All of the boys are now keeping an eye on the weather and are starting to learn about tides. All of the boys have interacted with members of the public who will ask if we have caught anything as they walk past.

Most importantly, they have all shown perseverance, patience and team work. At times we have gone weeks at a time without catching anything and we have stood by the water through some miserable weather. At no point has anyone showed any signs of giving up and they have helped and encouraged each other along the way.

All the boys are looking forward to what next term brings and are hoping for nice weather and plenty of fish! Keep up the hard work boys!



LET'S GO FISHING





TRIP TO THE FIRE STATION



Lauren, Learning Mentor in Middle school took 2 students to visit the South Lowestoft Fire Station in November. Wow, what a fantastic trip! It was a very exciting station with lots of different fire rescue vehicles including a speed boat and a huge rescue truck with a crane! We couldn't believe how big the wheels were!



We explored their training smoke house, had a great tour of the station including looking at where they sleep, as we learnt it's a 24-hour watch station. We even got a turn on the hoses as well as our own personal fake call out!



Volunteers needed

HALESWORTH IN BLOOM



We have teamed up with Halesworth in Bloom which is a volunteer group that work together to keep Halesworth maintained and in bloom. A small group of boys from the primary have been watering plants, litter picking, weeding and collecting leaves. They have loved getting involved in the nitty gritty digging and planting.



CAREERS

We continue to integrate the Skills Builder framework into the curriculum, fostering the development of transferable life and work skills. This includes the use of the AQA Unit Award Scheme to celebrate achievements and boost aspirations.

This term has seen a visit from East Coast College to discuss college courses and campus life, as well as tours of college facilities. Additionally, we gained valuable insights into the workplace through a visit to Roundhouse Engineering in Lowestoft.

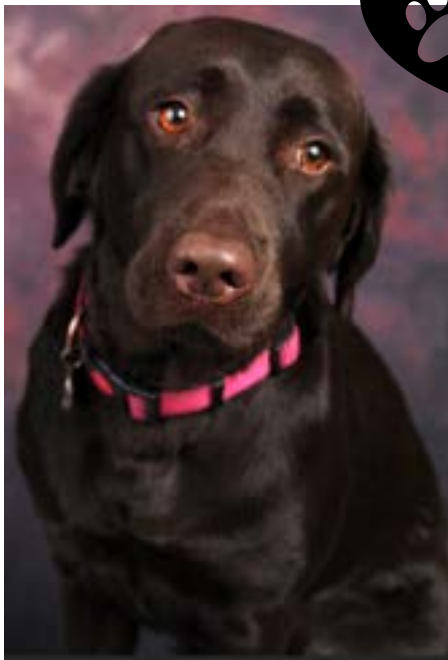
In Year 11, students have actively applied for post-16 placements and participated in one-to-one guidance interviews with our external advisor, Kerry, from Beacon East. Work experience has commenced for some pupils, with plans to expand participation in the next term.

Looking ahead, we have exciting plans for after Christmas, including a visit from the City College apprenticeship team and a workshop/presentation from the job centre, exploring the benefits of employment.

Ensuring that young people are well-supported both in school and at home is crucial for preparing them adequately for their future working lives. The landscape of work has been undergoing changes, predating the pandemic's impact on businesses. The traditional work model has evolved, and today's employees differ significantly from their counterparts a decade ago. Businesses are compelled to adapt and keep pace with these transformations, and the pandemic has only accelerated this process.



LOTTE



We are thrilled to introduce the newest member of our school community, Lotte a delightful and affectionate chocolate brown Labrador! Lotte has joyously bounded into our lives, bringing an abundance of warmth, companionship, and wagging tails.

As a dedicated and loving addition to our school, Lotte embodies the spirit of friendship and support. Her gentle demeanour and friendly nature make her the perfect companion for our pupils, offering comfort and a reassuring presence throughout their school days.

Lotte isn't just a furry face; she's a vital part of our school's well-being programme. Research has shown the positive impact that dogs can have on mental health and stress reduction. Lotte will be participating in various activities, from calming moments during exams to providing a listening ear for our CYPs who may need an extra dose of encouragement.

Rest assured, Lotte is not just here to play fetch (although she does enjoy a good game!).

We understand the importance of ensuring a safe and comfortable environment for all our pupils. Therefore, if any families have concerns or questions regarding Lotte's presence at the school, please don't hesitate to reach out.

Let's extend a warm welcome to Lotte as she becomes an integral part of our school community. We are excited about the positive impact she will undoubtedly bring to our pupils' lives.

- Physical** interaction with dogs is proven to lower blood pressure, it stimulates the senses and encourages exercise
- Emotional** spending time with the dog can lift mood, ease anxiety and provide non-judgemental comfort
- Social** can teach responsibility, compassion towards others, can improve self confidence and give something to talk about with peers
- Cognitive** the benefits of time spent with the dog also show in strengthening memory, problem solving skills and creativity





GIVING BACK TO THE COMMUNITY

During Bramfield Boy in the Upper School this half term the boys have been making gifts to give back to the local community. Inside the Christmas Hamper were handmade wooden decorations that were crafted in 3D Design, a Bramfield calendar designed and made by the photography group, some yummy treats baked by the catering group and computer designed cards.

We certainly put smiles on peoples faces this year, and even brought some to tears with our kind generosity from the boys.



BEECH HOUSE CARE HOME



3 likes
queensheadbramfield Oh, this brought a tear to our eye this morning 🍷🍷🍷 A special delivery just arrived from the pupils and teachers of @_bramfield_house_school_ who hand delivered us a very special Christmas bag of Random Act of Kindness, complete with sweets, a calendar and these beautiful handmade wooden tree ornaments, which now take pride of place on our 14ft tree in the bar.
What wonderful values to teach these boys and what a credit to the school they are.
I'm not crying, you are 😭😭
#suffolkpub #thoughtful #merrychristmasboys

HALESWORTH
COMMUNITY
LARDER PROJECT

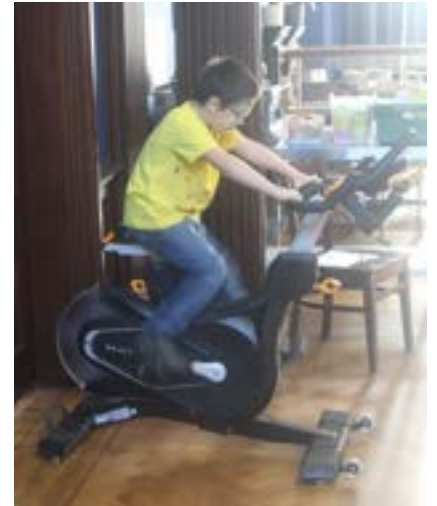




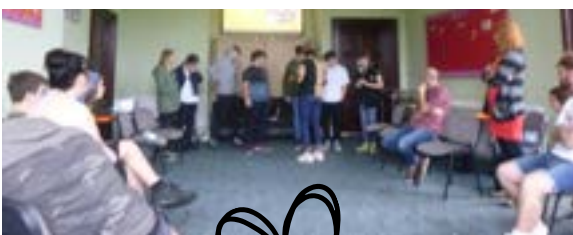
BBC

Children in Need

We took part in Children in Need day. All boys engaged in lots of different activities to help raise the grand total of £221.32. We even waxed Tim's legs!!



On Friday 13th October, key stage 3 and 4 boys were extremely fortunate to have guest speakers Joanne Ogogo and Linda Hook from Face Value Training in school to deliver some workshop-based learning on Racial Awareness. The first part of the session was to talk about Diversity, exploring our differences and gaining an understanding that people should not get treated less fairly based on our differences. The young people engaged in several activities to enhance the concept of us being different on the outside but the same underneath. The groups used oranges and M&Ms for these activities and participated well. This activity was able to deliver a simple but strong message. We explored the concept of covert and overt racism and gave examples of each. The young people looked back at the history of racism and discussed slave trade and racial segregation – showing imagery that highlighted the use of language and racist words, making the connection as to why the racist words we hear are so upsetting and offensive. Finally, the groups identified the impact of racism and named some of the emotions that racism can cause. They further identified some of the reasons why people may behave in a racist way. The session ended by empowering the young people to be accountable for actioning what they could do to prevent racism. Overall, positive interaction, moving heartfelt discussions and a greater understanding on some very important topics. This was a fantastic opportunity for our young people.



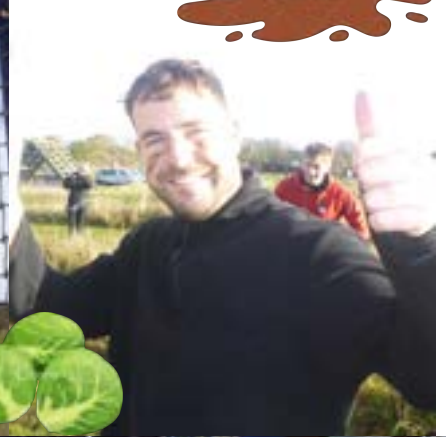


CHRISTMAS ACTIVITIES WEEK



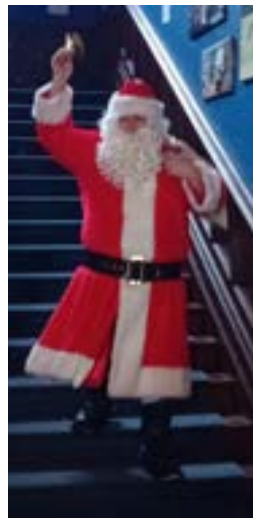
We held a week long timetable full of Christmas activities to help students develop their social skills, friendships and self-confidence. These included: Zorbing, Ninja Tag, A tough Mudder adventure course, a gaming van, escape room, treasure hunt, student quiz, Christmas parties, Nativity show, music concert, cinema, Play2Day, hot chocolate making at forest school, bike trail, tobogganing, pool party, Christmas lunch, end of term awards assemblies and so much more!!

We all had an AMAZING week!

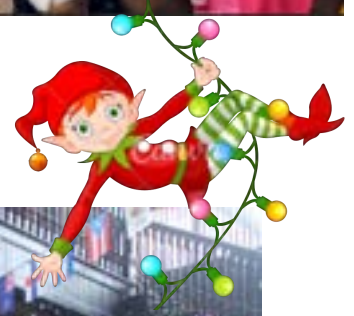


HÖ HÖ HÖ





Believe in the magic of Christmas



WE ALL HAD BREAKFAST WITH FATHER CHRISTMAS



MERRY Christmas

We wish you all Happy Christmas and we look forward to seeing the boys on Thursday 4th January!