



Braidwood School

Newsletter

Spring Term

Dates to Remember

May

- 22nd - Break up for Half Term (3pm)

June

- 1st - School commences
- 18th - Pupil Progress and Annual Review day - School closed to all pupils.
- 19th - Teaching and Learning day - School closed to all pupils.

July

- 17th - Pupils break up for the Summer Holidays (12pm)
- 20th - Teaching and Learning day - School closed for all pupils.

Head Teacher's Comments

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome to our Braidwood Spring Term newsletter. We want to share with you the fantastic experience the pupils have had this term and some exciting updates as to what is happening at Braidwood.

An encouraging new development in our school is the introduction of table tennis and the eagerness of our pupils to learn the game and compete with each other. It has been a joy to observe their interactions and take the opportunity to engage with pupils from our neighbouring school, Hodge Hill College, this is something we want to continue to encourage at every opportunity.

ICT changes:

We are updating our computer systems and have decided to move away from Google. We will be transitioning to Microsoft 365 from 31st May 2026. This will not affect communication between school and parents/carers but will be a change for our pupils who

are used to Google Docs and will be using Microsoft Word. This impacts the use of apps on I-pads and I thank all of KS3 parents for returning the I-pads so we can make the necessary changes to apps etc. ready for a smooth transition next half-term.

Uniform:

If an item of uniform is too small, damaged , lost and needs replacing, please contact the school office or you can now use our new School Shop where you can purchase a new item and pay online.

School Shop:

Our new online payment system can be used to order and pay for new school uniform items.



You will receive an invitation text today to sign up for this service. Attached is a picture of the app that can be downloaded to your phones/I-pads for ease.



School money CANNOT be used to pay for food at break or lunchtime,

Travel Training:

If you think your child is ready to travel independently to school and you want to discuss it, call the school office to arrange a meeting with our Designated Travel Trainer who can share what travel training programme can be put in place for your child.

Regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "C Nock".

Mrs Charlotte Nock
Head Teacher

World Book Day

World Book Day was a great success at Braidwood School. All pupils had the opportunity to celebrate reading through a range of fun and engaging activities. Each class enjoyed a trip to a local bookshop where pupils were able to choose and buy a book of their own (using a free token). Back in school, pupils got creative by designing their own bookmarks, drawing and reading comic strips, and taking part in exciting BSL games linked to reading and storytelling. The school was also full of colour and creativity as pupils and staff dressed up as their favourite book characters. The costumes were fantastic, and the winning costume earned their form group a special prize - a trip to Birmingham Library. It was a wonderful day that encouraged a love of books, creativity, and shared enjoyment of reading across the whole school. 🇬🇧🌟



Careers Fair

Year 9 students visited the *Careers Without Barriers* SEND Next Steps Fair at St Michael's CE High School at the end of March. This was an excellent visit where pupils met employers, colleges and training providers.

Pupils spoke to organisations such as Mencap and Juniper about **supported internships** which help young people with an EHCP to learn skills in a real workplace with extra support. Students also learned about **apprenticeships** where you work and earn while training for a job. We were impressed by pupils' confidence, engagement and the thoughtful questions they asked about their future pathways.



Axis Open Door

A group of KS4/5 pupils visited AXIS Open Doors on 23rd March for a work placement experience. They learned about fire stopping and saw a fire door installation demonstration. Pupils also had the chance to do hands-on work in the warehouse, where they practised installing fire blockages. This helped them understand how important safety work is in buildings. The visit gave pupils a real insight into construction careers. Staff at AXIS shared positive feedback, saying:

"It was a pleasure to work with such an enthusiastic and engaged group, and that they are a real credit to the school."



BTEC Sport
visit to WBA
Leisure
Centre



The BTEC Sport Year 1 group visited WBA Leisure Centre to explore different job opportunities. They were lucky enough to be given an hours access to the gym and a guided tour by the General Manager. They met staff with different roles (admin, personal trainer, manager etc) and asked some great questions about the different types of careers available within the leisure centre and what responsibilities come with those jobs.



Key Stage 4/5 pupils faced the various challenges of climbing, archery and tubing during an activity day at the Ackers Outdoor Activity Centre. They thoroughly enjoyed trying new things and supporting each other as they got to grips with the different skills.

Ackers



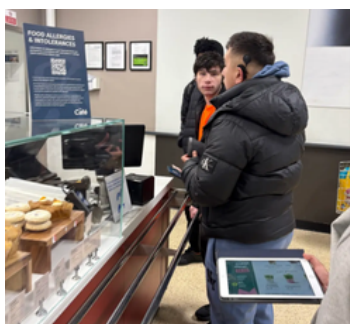
Promoting Independence

Here at Braidwood, we are always looking for meaningful ways to support the pupils in developing confidence, independence and essential life skills.

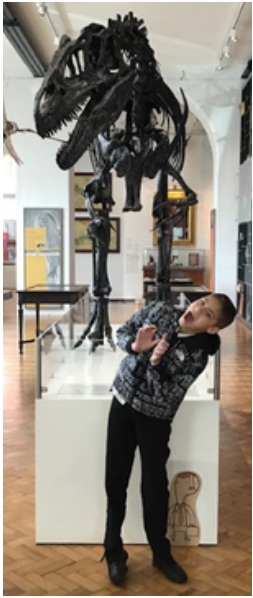
Travel training in Y11, Y12 and Y13 teaches the pupils to navigate safely and responsibly, whether it is crossing the road, using public transport or reading timetables. Pupils are taken in small groups or 1 to 1 with members of staff to gain confidence and preparing them for adulthood and the wider world.

Pupils also take part in visits to local shops giving them the opportunity to practise real-life skills such as money handling, making choices or asking for help.

We encourage families to support with this at home too, whether it is practising short journeys together, involving them in shopping trips or giving them the chance to make their own choices.



Together, we can empower our pupils to become confident, capable and independent individuals!



Lapworth Museum of Geology.

Year 7 pupils explored the wonderful world of rocks and fossils at Lapworth Geology museum where they also took part in a workshop where they learned about the different types of rock and enjoyed seeing the impressive dinosaur exhibit.



Birmingham Rep

Well done to four pupils who have been selected to take part in a week-long, nationwide work experience from 15th-19th June. This is a great achievement, and they have done very well to be chosen for this opportunity.

Well
done!

Walsall
College



We encourage local parents to attend the Walsall College Open Day to explore the next steps available after school. It is a great chance to see courses, meet staff, and help your child plan for their future.



Whole School Attendance

Year to date - 85.2% (Sept - Mar)

Spring Term - 85.1% (Jan - Mar)

At Braidwood, we expect all pupils to attend school everyday to get the most out of their learning with specialist teaching and support staff. Every effort must be made to ensure attendance to school everyday.