



This term in P.E the students have been studying a Rugby topic, as well as badminton and personal fitness training. Some students have been training exceptionally well and have been taking part in extra-curricular multi-gym sessions and clubs.



A group of students represented the school in a tag rugby contest at the Valley school in Stevenage and scored an abundance of tries. For many the highlight was getting a victory against the staff in a touch rugby game at the end of the term (only by a couple of points we must add).

Several students in Years 11 and 10 had opportunity on December 11th to visit the home of English rugby, Twickenham Stadium, to watch the annual Oxford v Cambridge University with a crowd of over 25,000 it was a great experience and a record high scoring spectacle to Oxford's favour.

Next term we look forward to Basketball and Gymnastics and will test our skills against other skills in fixtures in a variety of sports.



Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year
from all the Staff and Governors

Go - Karts

12 students visited Teamwork's Karting in Letchworth in December as part



of their Reward Trip for all their hard work this year. After a Health and Safety check and into full driving wear including helmets, students competed against each other for the fastest lap and overall race position.

Do we have the next Lewis Hamilton here at Brandles?

The Great Fire of London

Over the last term years 7 and 8 have been studying the Great Fire of London. They have discovered that the fire started in a bakers shop in Pudding Lane in the summer of 1666. They have made their own codes like Samuel Pepys and his famous diary. The culmination of the topic was to burn their model of London.

Did you know that the man who decoded Samuel Pepys Diary was the Rev. Smith who is buried in the church yard of St. Mary's Baldock?



Diary Dates

Break up for Christmas Friday 19th December 1.00pm - Return Tuesday 6th January

Half Term Break up Friday 13th February at 3.30pm and return Monday 23rd February.

Easter break up Thursday 2nd April and return Monday 20th April.



Trip to Offley –Last week four of our pupils and two staff travelled by bus to Great Offley for lunch. They had to catch the 98 bus from Baldock to Hitchin and then the 103 bus to Great Offley. They had lunch at The Green Man and then travelled back to school at 2.00pm.



Music

At the start of this half term we enjoyed our first Music Assembly of the year. We heard some very good compositions written by pupils in Years 7 and 8. We also heard an excellent performance played on the piano by Aliou. At the end of November Christopher and Ryan attended a Show and Share day which involved pupils from several schools in Hertfordshire. We are looking forward to hearing more of the pupils' work in our next Music Assembly during the last week of term.

Brandles School Uniform is important to us and it is an expectation that all pupils wear the correct uniform

Brandles uniform consists of black trousers – ***no jeans or tracksuit trousers.***

Black blazer or Black v-necked jumper

White shirt (long or short sleeved)

T Shirts can be worn under the school shirt but it must be ***plain white.***

Pupils are expected to wear black traditional school shoes – not trainers, converse or plimsolls.

It is not permitted to wear a pair of trousers or shorts under school trousers.

Trousers are to be worn on the waist.

PE kit consists of white polo shirt, blue shorts , socks and trainers

If agreed with the PE staff, black or blue tracksuit trousers can be provided and washed by parents to be worn in cold and wet weather.

PE kit is kept at school for the week and taken home every Friday to be washed.

Pupils need to provide a pair of trainers that they can keep in their PE lockers just to use for PE.

Jewellery -Pupils are permitted to wear a watch – ***but must be responsible for taking care of it.***

Necklaces and rings are not allowed, but a small stud in the ear is acceptable.

Other piercings are not permitted.

Hair Care -The school expects pupils' hair to be clean and tidy.

Long hair should be tied back if requested and patterns and designs in short hair are not permitted.

Coloured hair ***is not permitted*** unless agreed with the Head Teacher.

School uniform is important to us and we will be expecting all pupils to wear all the correct uniform.

Panto—This year's panto is Dick Whittington, adapted by Mr Bassett and directed by Mrs Gilly Barrett.

Cancelled

Unfortunately the Panto had to be cancelled due to lack of time.

A big thank you goes to Mr. Bassett ,Mrs. Barrett and the staff and pupils who put in so much effort.

Literacy—Homophone Tutor Quiz

The pupils in tutor time enjoyed the two day quiz put on by Mrs Aujla and Mrs Mason.

The pupils were unable to find the 441 homophones listed in the dictionary, but Mr. Wainwright's tutor group did find the most.

The group won a tub of celebrations—making Mr. Wainwright very happy !

A **homophone** is a word that is pronounced the same as another word but differs in meaning, and may differ in spelling. The words may be spelt the same, such as rose (flower) and rose (past tense of "rise"), or differently, such as carat, caret, and carrot, or to, two, and too.

Hello and Goodbye -This term we say hello to

Mrs. Coxall and Miss Turner who join us Teaching Assistants.

We also say hello to Mr. Steve Swan who has been employed as our family worker.

Joining us as a new governor is Mr.Thornton

Mrs Dot Reid, who has worked at Brandles for 18 years leaves us at the end of this term to start her retirement. Dot is going to spend her retirement visiting her family and travelling.

We wish her well and hope she keeps in touch.



Also leaving at the end of this term is Ms Breckon who is starting her maternity leave. Her baby is expected in February .

