



Brandles School Newsletter Spring Newsletter

“Brandles is a good school”

Ofsted Inspection.

Ofsted came earlier than expected, but on the 26th and 27th February Brandles was again deemed to be a “Good” school. A huge amount of positive practice was commented on and in lots of aspects, the school was considered outstanding. It was a stressful couple of days for all but pupils, parents, Governors and staff worked hard to ensure that we had the right outcome.

Our last inspection was in June 2011, so we knew that our next inspection was imminent but it still doesn't prepare you for when they actually walk through the door.

- * “Behaviour in Brandles School is good”
- * “Lessons are relaxed and enjoyable with students trying hard to achieve”
- * “Students are highly supportive of the staff”
- * “Students have a positive attitude to learning”

These are just some of the pleasing comments that the inspector made about Brandles School. We are constantly seeking to improve the quality of education that we deliver and broaden the range of experiences that will equip our young people for life.

The full copy of the report can be found on the school website or on the official Ofsted website.

D.Vickery Head Teacher

We Did Well!

Governors are delighted to report on the ‘Good’ grading at the recent Ofsted inspection! With the current much stricter regime than in previous years this is indeed an excellent result. We are very pleased with the way Mr Vickery, the staff and indeed, the boys responded to the challenge.

The truth is that there have been year on year improvements since the last inspection – especially in many aspects of literacy, and good and outstanding teaching generally. Governors have had direct evidence of this, and I have had the pleasure personally of observing some excellent lessons in science, PE and Art.

However, that is not to say we are now resting on our laurels! At the next inspection we are firmly focused on achieving that Outstanding grade!

I am looking forward to the prize-giving this year, I am sure that there will be many deserving awards and it is something that I really look forward to every year.

Kathy Dunnett

Chair of Governors



PE

This term in PE the students have been doing Gymnastics, some for the first time.

Despite initially not being too keen, we are starting to see some great gymnastics from the students. We have pupils who are able to handspring, backflip, headspring, cart wheel, headstand, handstand and forward and backward roll. The final week we are hoping to get some students springing over a box and landing on their feet, and jumping off a springboard!

Fixtures wise, Brandles key stage four pupils finished 2nd at a recent Badminton tournament which was an excellent result of which the entire school should be proud. The key stage three pupils have a football tournament coming up, and will be looking to cement their place at the top of the table after a cancellation at their last tournament due to bad weather.

Dates for your diary

End of term Friday 4th April 1.00pm

Return to school Thursday 24th April

Bank Holiday School Closed 5th May

End of term Friday 23rd May 3.30pm

Return to school Monday 2nd June

Level 2 trip to 23rd - 27th June Weymouth

School breaks up for summer Friday 18th July

Diary Dates

Parents Evening

Wednesday 9th July 5pm -7pm

Year 9 and 10 Choices evening

Wednesday 14th May 6pm - 8pm

Presentation Awards

Friday 18th July 11.15am - 12.30pm

Diary Dates

National Science and Engineering Week
Crest Community Garden Challenge

To celebrate science week this year our pupils were involved in a whole day activity where they were taken off timetable to work in teams to produce a design for a community garden. All teams decided to use the school grounds to base their designs on and they came up with some fantastic ideas. To help them with deciding what plants they could grow in their gardens, some boys took part in some science experiments to test the condition of the soil, what type of soil we have at Brandles and what we could do to improve the condition. The day proved to be a great success and many great ideas came out of the event. The boys showed that they could work both independently and as part of a team. Each team had a project manager and they all showed great organisational and decision making skills. As a result of their hard work many of the boys will be receiving a Crest Discovery award, so please watch out for this. We will be using some of the ideas to develop the gardens at school and all year groups will be involved in the construction or planting. We have already started building a greenhouse made out of plastic bottles and we will soon be starting on an insect hotel and wormery to help compost food waste from the kitchen. Well done everyone on making this a really fantastic day... Thank you.



Visit to Chapmans Butchers
25th March 2014

Year 7's were treated to a guided tour of local butchers shop Chapmans in the High Street as part of their Food Technology lesson. The boys had a wonderful time looking at the variety of meat on offer and got to see behind the scenes at how everything is prepared. At the end of their visit they were treated to some extremely tasty sausages which they ate with gusto on their return to school. Thank you Chapmans for making us feel so welcome.



Food Tech
31st January 2014

Staff treated students to a special breakfast consisting of bacon butties, fresh fruit, yoghurt and cereal in aid of International Breakfast Week. Students enjoyed the variety of foods and were made aware of how important breakfast is to start the day.



Governors

Many of you may not really know or understand the role of governors. The truth is that anyone can be a governor – anyone that has some time to spare to support the school and the staff through meetings, governor visits and governor link roles. Full training is given. If you think you may be interested in becoming a governor, there will be vacancies in the autumn term. Please do contact me, the Chair of Governors for information and an informal chat. Kathy Dunnett 07990850700.

Could you spare a couple of hours every half term to meet with myself and Karen Grieves, who is a worker attached to Brandles, to look at how we do things, the letters we send home, the way we communicate with you etc.

This is not going to be a "heavy" meeting but one over a cup of coffee to try and make sure we have things right.

We can either meet at school or in a local coffee shop near where you live. Interested –please call me

Janet Stone 07890665157



Coffee & Chat

The Clock Design Competition

There were thirty two entries for a clock design competition using a plain wooden clock kit that came with a working quartz mechanism. A great deal of enthusiasm, secrecy and thought was shown by the entrants who used their artistic talents to produce some stunning and very original ideas. The students, who had to do all their own design and production work, used a wide variety of techniques covered during art lessons to produce the final entries. The judges found it very hard to decide who had won the various categories and it took a lot of discussion to come to the following final decisions:

Best Overall Clock **C. McGee** Year 11
Most Unique Design **B. Bray** Year 8
Best Decoration Idea **J. Culver** Year 11
Humourous Clock **B. Carter** Year 10
Most Original Idea Clock **J. Males** Year 11

Best Design **S. Davis** Year 7
Best Effort **A. Godfrey** Year 8
Most Dramatic Clock **K. Varia** Year 11
Most Neatly Finish Clock **S. McAteer** Year 10

