

Monday 18th March 2024

Headlines from the Head – March 2024 Edition

Dear Parent/Carer,

It's been a very productive half term so far, with lots of exciting additions to the curriculum.

We had an amazing World Book Day celebration filled with quizzes and prizes. Thank you to all the students who participated with such enthusiasm! It was a joy to see everyone embracing the magic of literature, with some staff enjoying the opportunity to dress up.



Our school celebrated International School Meals Day by offering a delicious variety of dishes from around the world. It was a culinary journey that broadened our students' horizons and celebrated cultural diversity.

We proudly supported Red Nose Day, coming together as a community to raise awareness for important causes. Thank you to everyone who contributed to making a positive difference, including Carl our Chef and Lisa our Food Tech teacher ensuring some celebratory goodies were shared.



Despite the weather challenges, our outdoor education programme is flourishing. This term, students are exploring climbing and forest school activities, including shelter and den building. It's inspiring to witness their resilience and adventurous spirit.

Our pupils continue to shine bright, representing our school with excellence wherever they go. From celebration trips to awards for positive behaviour choices, they make us proud every day.

We're thrilled to report record numbers of AQA unit awards and headteacher awards, recognising student engagement, achievement, and kindness towards others. Congratulations to all our award-winning pupils! On the subject of academics, our Year 10 and 11 exam entries are in and all students have had their exams timetable shared with them via their tutors. Letters have also been sent home.

Our pupil voice panel is now established and gearing up for their first formal meeting on Tuesday 26th March. We're excited to hear their perspectives and ideas on making our school an even better place.

We saw a record high in pupil attendance in February, and we're committed to maintaining this momentum. Your support in ensuring your child's attendance is crucial for their academic progress and success.

Transition work is underway for our upcoming Year 7 cohort, ensuring a smooth and successful transition to secondary school. We're dedicated to supporting our students every step of the way and will be planning some visits for our new children for the Summer term.

Our staff have been engaged in a professional development program to support trauma-informed practice. Understanding and addressing the impact of trauma on child development is essential, and we're committed to creating a nurturing environment for all our students. Our goal is to achieve a gold award in The Attachment and Trauma Sensitive Schools Award, reflecting our dedication to compassion and nurture.



This month sees Brunel School start their journey to becoming a bronze level Rights respecting School (Unicef). This is going to be an exciting journey for pupils and staff. The UK Committee for UNICEF (UNICEF UK) works with schools in the UK to create safe and inspiring places to learn, where children are respected, their talents are nurtured and they are able to thrive. The Rights Respecting Schools Award embeds these values in daily school life and gives children the best chance to lead happy, healthy lives and to be responsible, active citizens.

We have been proud of our pupils' achievements outside of school too, such as our Year 7 pupil, Lennie, winning an award for his rugby club, and our Year 11 pupil, Bailie, putting on a magnificent show in the music production evening at Sound Communities where he perfectly rapped to songs that he wrote himself. We are also excited to follow Ben, another year 11 student, through his next charity effort at his rugby club where the team are taking ballet classes to present a show later this year. We love to hear of pupils' achievements in the wider community – do please share them with us!





Brunel School

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I am introducing a new section to Headlines from the Head – ‘Meet the Brunel Team’. This week, I am pleased to introduce Lisa Mills, our Catering Instructor who works with our pupils on their cooking and meal preparation skills, whilst also offering wellbeing cooking sessions on a 1:1 basis.



Lisa Mills
Catering Instructor

I am Lisa, originally from London but moved to Devon a couple of years ago. With a totally new career change, I started working for Brunel School last April. I now work within the Vocational block, teaching cooking to all the students, and really enjoy the close-knit team we all are here. In my spare time, I like to take walks on Dartmoor, and visit my granddaughter back in London as often as I can.

Thank you for your continued support and partnership in nurturing the growth and success of our pupils. Together, we make a difference.

Yours Sincerely,
Vikki Alden
Headteacher