

Bramley Grange Academy – Christmas Special Newsletter 2025 🎄



This half term has been a busy and exciting one, with pupils taking part in a wide range of activities including our Remembrance Service at our local church, Christmas Jumper Day, Food Bank Drive, taking part in fishing and the GASP motor projects, the business enterprise morning, outside speakers and Outdoor Learning sessions.

We have enjoyed celebrating Christmas with our annual Christmas lunch served by the senior leadership team. Pupils sat in their tutor groups, enjoying the full works, pulling crackers and telling jokes to each other.



across the school.



Pupils have engaged brilliantly with every opportunity, and it has been wonderful to see a real sense of community growing

This term has ended with a successful trip to see *Beauty and the Beast* at the Yvonne Arnaud Theatre in Guildford in which the whole school was seen singing to the 12 days of Christmas, and a very competitive 6-a-side football tournament for staff and pupils, expertly led by Mr Appau and the staff team.

Congratulations to XXXX who won the tournament.

Year Group Highlights

Year 7 have had a busy and inspiring term. Highlights include:

- History: Exploring Roman Britain.

- Science: Learning about evolution and fossils.
- Art: Discovering the surreal world of Salvador Dalí. Watercolour experiments with blending and layering.
- Maths: Progress with fractions and an early introduction to algebra.: Pupils improved their 6-times table and explored evolution and inheritance. Frankie and Vinnie impressed with problem-solving and curiosity.
- English: Studying *War Horse* by Michael Morpurgo, discussing World War I with empathy and maturity.
- Geography: Building map-reading skills, clay models helped pupils understand topography and contour lines.
- PSHE: Engaging in thoughtful discussions about discrimination, positive choices, and healthy relationships.

We were delighted to welcome two new pupils, who have settled in wonderfully thanks to the support of the class. A special mention to Bella for organising Christmas Jumper Day and helping collect food for those in need.

Year 8 have been working hard in maths, focusing on their algebra skills, times tables and problem-solving skills. In English they have been working on new vocabulary and longer pieces of writing. The pupils have been very engaged in their circuit projects which have included a light-up treasure chest and an armadillo on wheels! Maths has seen the most success this term with the whole class making great progress with decimals! Most recently, The class has engaged with various versions of A Christmas Carol (in keeping with the season) and have surprised even themselves by creating and sharing some beautiful poetry inspired by language of days gone by as well as using our senses to help us write. We wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a restful holiday!

With Miss Kay on maternity leave, we are looking forward to welcoming Jeni Hall an experienced SEN teacher joining the team in January.

Year 9 The highlight for Year 9 Hazel has been the addition of Fishing to the timetable! Several pupils are keen anglers, and Thursdays are now a favourite day for all, even those new to fishing. Special congratulations to Sam and Perry, who caught sizable pike.

Year 10 have had a productive term:

- Outdoor Learning & Duke of Edinburgh: Pupils engaged in first aid, skills training, and practical activities.
- BTEC Sport: Designed and led fitness sessions.
- Hospitality & Tourism: Designed their own theme park.
- English: Focused on *Private Peaceful* by Michael Morpurgo.
- Maths & Science: Continued building confidence and lab skills.
- Business Workshops: Explored running a business and future career ideas.

They have also welcomed their new co-tutor Mr Farmer and have adapted well, showing growing engagement, maturity, and teamwork.

Year 11 have had a term full of achievement:

- Tackling mock exams with determination.
- Planning charity events in Work Skills.
- Thoughtful PSHE discussions on contraception, periods, disabilities, and racism.
- Outdoor Learning experiences, including trench-digging projects.

Dog Mentor Update – Clemmie & Winnie 🐾



Clemmie has been busy supporting pupils with reading, regulation, and 1:1 session in the newly decorated Dog Mentor room. She will also join pupils for the *Beauty and the Beast* panto on 17th December.

Winnie helping Logan with his Dog Mentor Book and having a groom with her favourite brush.

Ben has been helping Clemmie learn a new trick, while Clemmie has been mentoring Winnie, who is learning the Dog Mentor ropes and has already supported several sessions independently.

Winnie even spent a full day with Year 11, much to the delight of pupils and staff alike.

Clemmie has also taken her role as big sister very seriously, continuing to show Winnie the Dog Mentor ropes. Although Winnie is yet to begin her formal Dog Mentor training, she has already joined several sessions on her own.

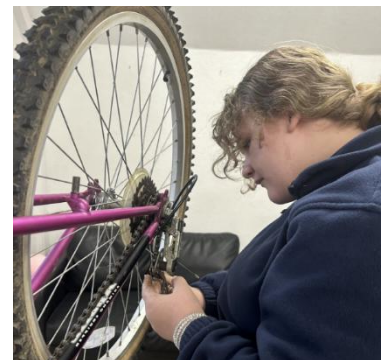


Alternative Provision & Outdoor Learning

Alternative Provision: Nine pupils spent half-days on practical learning like bike maintenance and woodwork, showing resilience and strong listening skills. Behavioural improvements have been observed across the school as a result.



Outdoor Learning: Pupils cooked over open fires, dug trenches, and safely used tools, developing teamwork, perseverance, and new practical skills.



Duke of Edinburgh Award: Pupils made progress toward Bronze, completing Physical and Skill sections

and focusing on basic first aid for safety on expeditions.

Attendance Matters

Attendance continues to improve at Bramley Grange Academy:

- This half-term vs last year: up 11%
- Full year vs last year: up 15%

We continue to maintain a high expectation of over 90% attendance for all pupils.

Outstanding Attendance Achievements:

- Arthur Stern, Year 9: 100%
- Frankie Bonner, Year 7: 98.7%
- BellaRose Graham, Year 7: 98.7%
- Laylen Mauger, Year 10: 98.7%

These are well above the national average—well done to all of you!

SEND

- Annual Reviews:
 - Year 9 – Spring 1 term
 - Year 8 – After February half-term
 - Year 7 – After the Easter break

Thank you for your continued support in attending these meetings, which are vital for ensuring the best outcomes for our pupils.

Parental Coffee & Cake Morning

We were delighted to host another successful Coffee & Cake morning this term. It was fantastic to see so many parents engaging with our school community.

Looking ahead, Ms Campbell and Mr Trendall will lead the next session, focusing on Safeguarding and Outdoor Learning. The date will be confirmed in the New Year, so please keep an eye out for further details. If you would like a Coffee Morning on a specific topic, please let us know. We value your ideas and want these sessions to be as helpful and informative as possible.

Safeguarding at Bramley Grange Academy

Keeping our pupils safe, informed, and confident is at the heart of everything we do at Bramley Grange. This half term, we have been talking about a number of important topics in age-appropriate ways to help pupils make positive and safe choices.

What we've covered this half term:

- The risks linked to vaping and why it can be harmful.
- How to recognise and challenge racism
- Working well as a team and supporting each other
- Building and maintaining healthy friendships and relationships

These sessions have encouraged pupils to ask questions, think carefully, and learn how to stay safe and respectful in different situations.

What we will cover next half term:

- Staying safe online and understanding how to make sensible choices
- Raising awareness of unsafe influences and helping pupils know what to do if they ever feel worried.

We will continue to explore these topics in a supportive and practical way, helping pupils build confidence both inside and outside school.

Working Together

We believe safeguarding works best when school and families work in partnership. If there are any topics you would like us to include in our drop-down days or PSHE curriculum, we would really welcome your ideas. Please feel free to contact the safeguarding team to share suggestions or ask questions — we value your input and want to make sure our approach reflects the needs of our whole school community.

Reflecting on this last year, it's inspiring to see how much we have grown both individually and as a school community. Our pupils now engage in six lessons a day, conform to our behaviour expectations, experience a variety of rich learning opportunities. We have a fully qualified teaching team, dedicated support staff, and learning mentors, we are ensuring that all children can achieve and flourish.

I want to take this opportunity to thank our entire school community—pupils, parents, staff, and governors. None of this would be possible without your support and trust. With Christmas on the horizon, I wish you all a very happy and peaceful festive season.

Merry Christmas from everyone at Bramley Grange Academy!

And we look forward to seeing pupils back on **Tuesday 6th January 2026!!**

Louise Needham
Headteacher

Dates for your diary 2026:

Jan 5 th	INSET day.
Jan 6 th	Pupils return to school.
Feb 16-20 th	Half term
Feb 23 rd	LSEAT INSET day.
Feb 24 th	Pupils return to school.