

Bramley Grange Academy NEWSLETTER

From the Headteacher

As we reach the end of another fantastic half term, I want to take a moment to reflect on what has been an incredibly busy and rewarding seven weeks at Bramley Grange Academy.

It has been wonderful to see our pupils continue to flourish, embracing every opportunity with enthusiasm, resilience and determination. Our Year 9, 10 and 11 students have approached their external examinations with maturity and perseverance, and we are incredibly proud of the effort they have shown throughout the examination period.

Alongside their academic achievements, pupils have enjoyed an incredible range of experiences, including Summer Camp, Duke of Edinburgh expeditions, beach trips, the Festival of Sport, the inaugural LSEAT Youth Cup, educational visits and a host of enrichment activities. These opportunities continue to build confidence, develop independence and create memories that will last a lifetime.

Despite the exceptionally hot weather, our pupils have continued to demonstrate outstanding attitudes to learning and have shown remarkable resilience throughout the term. Their kindness, teamwork and willingness to challenge themselves have been a pleasure to see.

This half term has also been an important one for the school. We were delighted to receive a highly successful quality assurance visit from London South East Academies Trust, alongside a visit from a RISE Adviser from the Department for Education. Both recognised the significant progress Bramley Grange Academy has made over the past year and acknowledged the continued improvements taking place across the school. These visits reflect the dedication and hard work of our pupils, staff, families and governors, who have all played an important part in our journey.

Louise Needham



YEAR GROUP UPDATES



Year 8

Year 8 have enjoyed a fantastic half term packed with exciting learning. Pupils created beach safety posters, explored war art, investigated Bramley's local history and brought their learning to life through visits to Guildford Museum and Guildford Castle.

In Science, pupils enthusiastically took part in a lamb heart dissection, while Maths focused on coordinates through practical activities. PSHE explored water safety and responsible social media use. Throughout the term, Year 8 have shown excellent curiosity, enthusiasm and maturity.

Year 7

As another busy term comes to an end, we are incredibly proud of everything Year 7 have achieved. Pupils have written biographies and restaurant reviews in English, explored the circulatory system, chemical reactions and dissections in Science, investigated climate and weather in Geography, and travelled back to Ancient Greece in History. Creativity has flourished through Art, while Maths and Computing have developed problem-solving and programming skills. Beyond the classroom, pupils have enjoyed trips to London and the beach, represented the school in sporting events, and grown in confidence, resilience and teamwork. Thank you to all our Year 7 families for your continued support.



YEAR GROUP UPDATES

Year 9

Another fantastic term has seen Year 9 thrive in GASP and Fishing, represent the school brilliantly by finishing third in the Youth Football Tournament and produce some exceptional artwork. Pupils also completed their first Functional Skills examinations with remarkable resilience despite the hot weather, demonstrating maturity, determination and courage. They are now looking forward to beginning GCSE pathways after selecting their options and are excited for Thorpe Park and the Festival of Sport.



Year 10

We are hugely proud of Year 10 who successfully completed Entry Level Functional Skills examinations in Reading, Writing and Maths within a formal examination environment. Their calm approach during the heatwave reflected the confidence and resilience they have developed. Visits to Guildford College and Merrist Wood have helped pupils begin planning exciting destinations beyond Bramley Grange.



ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS THIS TERM



Beach Trip

Our whole-school beach trip was a fantastic way to celebrate the end of the year and was thoroughly enjoyed by pupils and staff alike. The beach was filled with laughter as pupils paddled in the sea, built impressive sandcastles, played beach games and rounded off the day with a well-earned ice cream. It was wonderful to see pupils from different year groups spending time together, encouraging one another and creating lasting memories. The day perfectly reflected the strong sense of community at Bramley Grange Academy, with teamwork, kindness and positive relationships on display throughout.

Reading for Pleasure

Reading takes many forms including books, audiobooks, comics, graphic novels, manga, magazines and even watching films with subtitles. We encourage every family to enjoy reading together over the summer. Featured authors included Neil Gaiman, Louis Sachar, Benjamin Zephaniah, Michael Morpurgo, Suzanne Collins and Patrick Ness.



ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS THIS TERM



Dog Mentoring

As the summer term comes to a close, Clemmie and Winnie have continued to make a positive impact across the school, providing comfort, encouragement and support to pupils in every year group. They were especially pleased to spend time with our Year 11 students during the exam period, helping them feel calm and confident. We wish all our Year 11 leavers every success for the future.

This term also brought a special achievement, with Clemmie receiving the Embedded Practice Award 2026 at The Dog Mentor Conference, recognising the outstanding impact of our Dog Mentor programme across the school.

Science and PE

Science

Most pupils have now earned their Bunsen Burner Licence and are confidently setting up equipment independently. Practical investigations included measuring heat transfer and exploring changes of state—complete with popcorn experiments! We are also delighted to be working alongside other Trust schools to establish a new Science Hub.

PE & Sport

This term pupils developed athletics skills including relay, javelin, shot put, sprinting and long jump before moving into cricket, softball and rounders. Our BTEC Sport pupils completed major assessment units and continue making excellent progress.



CAREERS AT BGA

Careers

I would like to introduce myself as the Careers Lead at BGA. Throughout the coming year, I will be sharing regular updates about our careers programme and the opportunities available to students as they prepare for life beyond BGA.

Careers education is a vital part of the curriculum, helping young people make informed decisions about their future. Our aim is to ensure every student develops the knowledge, skills and experiences needed to achieve their aspirations. Recently, our Year 10 students visited Guildford College and Merrist Wood College. These visits gave them the opportunity to explore the campuses, experience college life and learn about the wide range of courses available. As the visits took place outside normal teaching hours, students were able to explore the facilities in a quieter environment while receiving detailed information about different study programmes.

The visits were invaluable in helping students begin to consider their post-16 options. There will be further opportunities to attend open events and revisit colleges as they narrow their choices. The animal management and land-based courses at Merrist Wood were particularly popular, with students enjoying the chance to meet and interact with the horses.

We look forward to supporting all students as they explore their future pathways and prepare for the next stage of their education.

College Open Days

Guildford College open days on 10th October and 18th November- Events
- Guildford College

Merrist Wood open days on 7th October and 14th November- Events
- Merrist Wood College and University Centre

Nescot open day on 10th October-
Nescot Open Event - October 2026
Tickets, Saturday 10 October • 10 AM
- 1 PM | Eventbrite

Brooklands open day on 15th October
October Open Event - Brooklands
Technical College

**If you would like any help or guidance, please
do not hesitate to email me
at jennifer.hall@branleygrange.lseat.org.uk.**

ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS THIS TERM

Youth Cup

We were delighted to host the inaugural LSEAT Youth Cup this term. It was fantastic to welcome pupils from across the Trust and see them compete with enthusiasm, respect and excellent sportsmanship. Every team represented their school brilliantly, making the day a real celebration of teamwork and inclusion.

Our boys were fantastic ambassadors for the school, Captained by Sonnie who ensured all teams were made very welcome!

Sadly we did not win this time, but we are already planning training for next year.

Alternative Provision

Although we only had four sessions after half term, the young people made the most of every opportunity. Highlights included trips to Leith Hill, where they explored the woods, climbed the tower and enjoyed a well-earned ice cream, and Frensham Pond, where everyone took part in a swim and a scenic walk. It was wonderful to see confidence in the water grow, with pupils supporting one another and showing resilience throughout. We are incredibly proud of their achievements and look forward to more adventures next term.



IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Term Dates

School Term Dates 2026–2027

Term	Dates	Notes
Autumn Term 1	4 September 2026 – 16 October 2026	INSET: 2 & 3 September 2026
Half Term	17 October – 1 November 2026	School closed
Autumn Term 2	2 November – 18 December 2026	
Christmas Holiday	19 December 2026 – 4 January 2027	School closed
Spring Term 1	5 January – 11 February 2027	INSET: 4 January 2027
Half Term	12 February – 22 February 2027	School closed
Spring Term 2	23 February – 25 March 2027	Trust INSET: 22 February 2027
Easter Holiday	26 March – 12 April 2027	INSET: 12 April 2027
Summer Term 1	13 April – 28 May 2027	
Half Term	31 May – 4 June 2027	School closed
Summer Term 2	7 June – 20 July 2027	INSET: 18 June 2027
End of Academic Year	20 July 2027	Last day of term

INSET Days

Date	Type
2 September 2026	INSET Day
3 September 2026	INSET Day
4 January 2027	INSET Day
22 February 2027	Trust INSET Day
12 April 2027	INSET Day
18 June 2027	INSET Day

Keeping Well and Busy Over the Summer

The summer holidays are a great time to relax and recharge. Here are a few ideas to stay happy and healthy:



Keep active with walks, sports or outdoor play.



Try cooking or baking a healthy recipe.



Be creative with art, crafts, writing or colouring.



Enjoy reading or learning something new.



Make time to rest and keep a good sleep routine.

We hope everyone has a safe, happy and enjoyable summer.

Recommended 'reads' for the summer are:

For younger 'thriller-lovers' – Jamaal Target: Phantom Agent by Isaac Hamilton McKenzie

For pet-lovers – The Wild Ones by Steve Cole

Graphic novel – Unfairies: Death by Toad, by Huw Aaron

Fantasy-lovers – Wildheart by Bec Manser

For those going through a hard time – Six Weeks by Matt Goodfellow

Dystopia-lovers: Piper at the Gates of Dusk by Patrick Ness / Burn the Water by Billy Ray

Football-lovers – Strike by Mitch Johnson

Others: How to Say No to Your Phone by Brad Marshall; Alastair Campbell Talks Politics;

AND ONE LAST THING..

Safeguarding

Safeguarding During the Summer Holidays

Our safeguarding team is available throughout the summer holidays. If you need support or have any concerns about a child or family, please contact us:

Safeguarding Team:

safeguarding@bramleygrange.lseat.org.uk

Kim Campbell (Designated Safeguarding Lead):

kim.campbell@bramleygrange.lseat.org.uk | 07792 104988

If you require children's social care support, please contact Surrey Children's Single Point of Access via the Surrey County Council website, where you can also find advice if a referral is not needed.

For mental health support, helpful resources are available from Mind (11–18s) and YoungMinds. Please do not hesitate to get in touch if you need any support.

Attendance Matters

Congratulations to the following students who have achieved 100% attendance this half-term. Angel, Paige, Bella, Kingston and Harley.

Thank you and Goodbyes

As we look ahead to the summer break, I would like to thank our families for their continued support throughout the year. We also take this opportunity to say farewell to several valued members of staff who are leaving Bramley Grange Academy. Our sincere thanks go to Kevin Acott, Estates Assistant; Alex Matthews, member of the IST team; Steve Castle, Food and Science Technician; and Lisa McGhie, Attendance Officer. We are grateful for the dedication, care and hard work they have shown during their time with us, and we wish them every success and happiness in the future.

We wish all of our pupils, families and staff a safe, relaxing and enjoyable summer holiday.

