

### Welcome

December is always a month filled with generosity, and our upcoming charity events truly reflect the kindness within our school community. From our Non-Uniform Day supporting three important charities to our Christmas Jumper Day collecting donations for the Paignton Community Larder, our students continue to show compassion and a willingness to help others. I am incredibly proud of their enthusiasm and the impact these small acts will have.

We are also counting down to a highlight of the year—our Winter Wonderland Celebration. Rehearsals are full of energy, and I know the audience will be captivated by the talent on display.

Across the Trust, our students have represented Paignton Academy with maturity and leadership, offering thoughtful ideas for future improvements through Trust-wide ambassador activities and our own Food Ambassador meetings. It is inspiring to see young people shaping their school experience so positively.

Our Year 8 and U14 netball teams have shown excellent teamwork and determination, achieving fantastic results. In the performing arts, we are delighted to celebrate Brooklyn in Year 9, who is once again starring in the local pantomime—a testament to her dedication and talent.

As we move into the final weeks of term, I want to thank our families, staff, and, most of all, our students for their continued kindness, commitment and passion.

**Mr Williams**

### Giving Back This December: Two Special Charity Days

As we move into the festive season, our school community is coming together to support some truly meaningful causes. Here's what's happening:



#### Non-Uniform Day – Friday 12th December

Students are invited to leave their uniforms at home for the day in support of our three chosen charities for 2025–26: Mind Devon, Cancer Research and Winston's Wish.

We ask for a minimum £1 donation and all donations received will be split equally between these important organisations, each doing incredible work to support mental health, cancer research and bereaved children.

#### Christmas Jumper Day – Monday 15th December

Bring some festive cheer to the corridors! Students should wear full school uniform but may swap their blazer or school jumper for a Christmas jumper of their choice.

Instead of money, we're asking for a food donation to support the Paignton Community Larder. All contributions should be dry, non-perishable food items or hygiene products—small acts of kindness that make a big difference for local families.

**Thank you in advance for your generosity and community spirit. Let's make this December one to remember!**

## Schools Across the Trust Come Together

This term, students at Waterleat Road welcomed Student Ambassadors from Brixham, Furzeham, Curledge Street and Kings Ash. The event brought pupils together to share ideas and help shape improvements across the Trust.

Working in mixed-school groups, students focused on six key areas:

- Food Provision
- Charity Work
- Anti-Bullying |
- Diversity
- Reading
- Earth Alliance

They identified priorities and set clear goals for the year ahead.



All pupils then joined an online session with ambassadors from all 26 TSAT schools, chaired by sixth-form leaders from Plymouth, Portsmouth, and Kent. The level of thought, teamwork, and collaboration was fantastic!

We look forward to meeting again at Borough Road in Term 4 as students continue to inspire and lead positive change across the Trust.

## Big News!



We are delighted to share that Brooklyn, a Year 9 student, is starring in this year's pantomime production of Cinderella, which opened last week.

This marks her third consecutive year performing in the annual show — a testament to her talent, dedication and commitment to the performing arts.

We extend our congratulations and best wishes to Brooklyn for continued success on stage.

## Year 8 Netball – Back in Action!

Last week, our Year 8 team returned to the court with energy and determination, winning both games convincingly!

The girls showed excellent teamwork and smart gameplay, especially when feeding the ball into the shooters – a real highlight of the night!

**Well done to all the players for a very successful evening. We're proud of you!**



## **Paignton Academy U14 Netball Team Shine at Devon Finals!**

On Monday, our amazing U14 team travelled to Exeter University for the Devon Finals of the National Schools Competition! We knew the group stages would be tough, but the girls' mentality was outstanding!

First match: A nail-biter against Blundell's! Ivy's interception and Cariad's sharp shooting sealed a 4-3 win!

Next up: Devonport High School – strong defence and clinical finishing led to another victory!

Momentum building: Wins against Shebbear College & Plymouth High thanks to brilliant centre court play from Emily, Bella & Isla!

Fatigue hit in the final pool game vs Churston, but we finished runners-up in Pool A!

Playoffs: Faced TGGs – tough match, but we fought hard! Then came the 3rd/4th playoff vs Churston... and WOW! The girls came out firing, took an early lead, and never looked back!

Final result: 3rd in Devon! Incredible teamwork, resilience & sportsmanship on display all day!

Well done, girls – you made Paignton Academy proud!



## **Food Ambassadors in Action!**

Last week, our amazing Food Ambassadors met with our catering team and the Trust's South West Lead for Food to share student views on our catering provision.

The students were superb – confident, thoughtful, and articulate in their discussions. They offered practical suggestions for menu improvements, shared feedback from across the student body, and helped identify positive steps moving forward.

Did you know? The students themselves chose our current catering provider!

We're excited to continue this work next week when the Waterleat Road Food Ambassadors meet to share their ideas too. Together, our students are shaping the food experience across the Academy!



## Step into the Magic...

You're invited to our Winter Wonderland Around-the-World Music & Dance Celebration—an evening where snow-kissed sparkle meets global rhythm!

With only a few weeks to go until the Winter Wonderland event, rehearsals are in full swing! A variety of acts are perfecting their performances, from bands to duets to choirs to dances.

Join us as Paignton Academy students take the stage after months of dedicated rehearsal, pouring heart and hard work into a dazzling repertoire inspired by every corner of the globe.

From Brazilian samba to Ukrainian melodies, prepare to be swept away on a romantic journey through culture, sound, and movement.

Step into the mood with wintry festive attire—where classic show elegance glimmers beneath a spell of winter frost!

Prize for best dressed guest!

Let the lights glow, the music soar, and the world come alive—right here, in one unforgettable winter night.

Come celebrate. Come be enchanted.



**Please book VIA the Arbor App Shop**



**Paignton Academy**



*Please like and follow our Facebook and Instagram pages to keep up to date with Paignton Academy's news.*

## Dates for Your Diary

Friday 12th December	Non-Uniform Day
Monday 15th December	Christmas Jumper Day
Tuesday 16th December	Christmas Concert
Friday 19th December	Last day of the Autumn term
Monday 5th January	First day of Spring term