



September 2016

Dear Parents/Carers

Welcome back to Brakenhale for another year and we hope you have all had a restful summer break. It seems hard to believe that this is the fourth "start of the year" letter I've written to you all; time has certainly flown! I'm sure it goes without saying that this letter is the most important I've written to you as your son/daughter begin their GCSEs.

It has been well reported how much change our students will experience over the next two years. The experience of this cohort will be very different to that of any older brothers and sisters. With this in mind there are a number of things that you can help the year team with in order to facilitate a smooth start to Key Stage 4:

- Be involved with your son/daughter's learning- a problem shared is a problem halved!
- Encourage them to complete homework in a timely fashion
- Make sure they come to school with all the right equipment for their lessons, including a pencil case.
- Communicate with the school if there are any problems that may affect your child in school.
- Use the new planners; these are an improved tool to aid communication between home and school, and important in making sure students are organised. They will be signed every week by tutors and we ask that parents/carers check the planners and sign each week.

In addition, it is very important that your son or daughter's attendance is high. Part of preparing our young men and women for life after school is having high standards of attendance and punctuality. The school will become concerned if their attendance drops below 95% as it is vital they are in school and learning well.

There is a comprehensive PSHE (Physical, Social and Health Education) programme that students will following. This will be taught as a separate, one hour lesson, every fortnight. Do feel free to discuss the issues covered with your son/daughter.

Of course, there is more to life than work and it is important to have a healthy work/life balance. There are plenty of extra-curricular clubs available through school itself, or in the local community- it can be very beneficial to have extra interests whether it be sport, music, art, dance or whatever they are interested in.

From the school's side we are always on hand to help. All the students are very different- some will adapt quickly to the new demands; others may take more time. Please feel free to get in touch if you have any concerns at all.



Lastly, we welcome three excellent new tutors this year:

- Mr Smith (10R)
- Mr Jackson-Sankey (10K)
- Mr Swynford-Lain (10A)

We are fortunate to have a very strong team of tutors in Y10. They are the first port of call for the students, and yourselves, if there is an issue. Tutors will be making contact with you all but do of course get in touch sooner if there is something you would like to discuss.

The Y10 team and I are looking forward to welcoming back all our students and enjoying a productive start to their GCSEs.

Yours faithfully

Phil Benson

Mrs Duddy (formerly Miss Martin!)

Key Dates

Tuesday 20th September:	13.05 pm early closing to prepare for Open Evening 6.30-8.30pm Year 6 Open Evening
Wednesday 21st September:	Late start for students, registration at 9:40am followed by Period 2 at 10:00
Thursday 22nd September:	Y10 Information Evening (More details to follow)
End of October:	Y10 Assessment Point 1 deadline for staff
24th - 28th October:	Half Term
Beginning of November:	Y10 Progress Reports sent home
Thursday 17th November:	Parent's Evening
Friday 16th December:	End of Term 1, early finish