

# Brakenhale School

## Year 9 News



**Week commencing – 19<sup>th</sup> January 2018**

Dear Year 9 Students

This week has been a lovely week. I have had the pleasure of walking round lots of lessons and seen a huge amount of learning. Behaviour and the attitude towards learning has been brilliant. A special mention to 9N in their French lesson on Thursday; I was so impressed with the level of engagement and quality of work. Those higher level translation tasks were a real challenge and met with keen minds. Another mention to the amazing artists in 9K who I had the pleasure of covering this week.

### **Assemblies:**

Our assembly today had a theme that resonates with us all personally, reminding us that we are all unique and all sparkle in our own way. Upon reflection of my day-to-day interactions with you all, I know that I deal with any behaviour problems that arise and will have to have challenging conversations about wrong choices. However, regardless of this, I am always thrilled to be your Head of Year and value each and every one of you for the individuality you bring to our amazingly diverse and awesome year group. You are a joy to work with.

Following on from the Duke of Edinburgh's Award assembly last week, there is an information evening next Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> January from 6.00pm – 6.45pm in the Main Hall. Please do come with your parents to find out more and take a letter and/or enrolment form home. This award allows you to get nationally recognised accreditation for hobbies or clubs you may already do and allows you to partake in camping expeditions with your friends and have an absolutely brilliant time.

### **PSHE and options:**

The PSHE session next week will be in the Main Hall and will be led by Mr Gibson and Heads of Department and will give you lots to think about with regard to your options.

I have had several conversations with lots of your parents this week who have had questions because Year 9 is 'options year' and options haven't been chosen yet, or there is uncertainty over what the process is. I wanted to take a moment to explain a few things.

The options process has now officially started. You have taken your PPEs and the results are in. Last week, Miss O'Brien and I met with Mr Gibson and Mr Duffy to discuss the final details of the events to come. This week, Miss O'Brien and I have spent a lot of time considering each and every student; and how we will guide you and enable you to choose subjects you will enjoy and maximise your final GCSE grades and subsequently your opportunities after school.

Options Evening is taking place on Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> February from 6pm – 8pm in the Main Hall. Mr Gibson has sent an email home to all parents with more details about this event. The process and deadlines will be fully explained on this evening. We want to see ALL of you with your parents please as this is a very important evening.

On Monday, I am meeting with the tutors to discuss the options process in detail; and after options evening, you will all receive an appointment time to meet your tutor to have a brief discussion about your thoughts, interests and subjects that teachers have high predictions for you in. We want you to achieve your potential and to be choosing subjects you will enjoy and thrive from studying for the next two years.

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Three weeks later on Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> February is Year 9 parents evening. You will have had a chance to think about options, speak to parents and tutors, and this is the chance for your parents and you to speak with your subject teachers in order to discuss your progress and start to decide if you might want to take certain subjects. Again, we expect you all to be here for parents evening to be able to make the most informed decisions.

The details of the process following parents evening will all be explained on 1<sup>st</sup> February as I have said above. I really hope this clears up some of the questions that have been asked.

**Attendance:**

Attendance for Year 9 last week was not the best it has been. I understand that a few people were sent home sick after the injections on Tuesday. This could not be helped but I hope you realise that this does affect attendance figures so it's even more important to be in everyday up until the summer. Aim high!

**Reading in Tutor:**

I have been very impressed with the take-off of the reading scheme we have introduced. We are insisting that all students sit with their books on the table and follow their story with a ruler whilst their tutor reads. This scheme has proven to be successful in other schools within the Greenshaw Learning Trust; and it has already had an effect on how calm and orderly you start your day of learning. I hope you are enjoying your books and are keen to hear what happens next. The benefits to your vocabulary, and as a result, your comprehension of questions in exams, will be remarkable and hopefully make a substantial difference to the grades you will achieve.

As always, stay safe and have a lovely weekend.



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		<b>Tutor</b>	<b>Notices</b>
<b>Monday</b>		<b>Uniform Check Tools for Learning Reading Time</b>	
<b>Tuesday</b>		<b>Uniform Check Tools for Learning Reading Time</b>	
<b>Wednesday</b>		<b>Uniform Check Tools for Learning Main Hall Assembly</b>	
<b>Thursday</b>		<b>Uniform Check Tools for Learning Reading Time</b>	
<b>Friday</b>		<b>Uniform Check Tools for Learning Sports Hall Assembly</b>	

#### **Lunch-time and Period 6 detentions**

Lunch-time detentions for lateness and uniform in G01

Period 6 HOY office with Mr Hicks and Miss O'Brien from after school till 3:30pm

If you do not attend your lunchtime detention, there will be a message sent out via schoolcomms to your parents and you will be expected to be in period 6 the following day.

#### **Key Dates:**

<b>Date</b>	
January 24 <sup>th</sup>	Duke of Edinburgh's info evening 6-6.45pm in Main Hall
W/C 31 <sup>st</sup> January	Year 9 Book Look Week
1 <sup>st</sup> February	Year 9 Options Evening
7 <sup>th</sup> and 8 <sup>th</sup> February	Whole School Show
22 <sup>nd</sup> February	Year 9 Parents Evening

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