



15th December 2017

HEADTEACHER'S REPORT

As we near the end of the Autumn term I wanted to take the opportunity to write to everyone to say thank you very much for your help and support this year. Your feedback continues to be invaluable in helping us to make continual improvements, this year we have started to use the phrase #teambrokenhale with staff and students as a continual reminder that we are all part of the community together and as parents/carers you are a significant part of this team.

It has been an extremely busy term and the feedback from the Heads of Year in their weekly newsletters outlines the exciting things that our students have been doing. On top of this the school continues to move forward at a rapid pace with our new building plans being finalised for a March 2018 start – more news to follow.

The year started with the extremely successful school open evening and tours. Despite a number of tours being scheduled we needed to add additional tours to the list in order to accommodate the great many parents and future students that wanted to see our school. Over 550 people came on our tours and were overwhelmed by the positive attitude around the school. The atmosphere at Brakenhale continues to model both high expectations and challenge. The feedback we continue to receive from the community, parents and governors is on the whole overwhelmingly positive.

I would also like to thank you all for your support in ensuring that students continue to uphold our very high standards of uniform, behaviour and punctuality. Regarding uniform, the students overall continue to look extremely smart and represent the school so well. If there are any issues with uniform that have been highlighted this term please ensure that these are rectified across the holiday. A big thanks to all of our students, parents and staff for maintaining our school standards and making our school the first choice for many students.

Thank you and goodbye

This term we have a few goodbyes to say to teachers and support staff who are moving on to other schools for promotions, or leaving us to go on to other exciting opportunities.

To each of them our heartfelt thanks for all they have done for The Brakenhale School and our students. I do hope that all staff leaving us have thoroughly enjoyed their time with us, felt valued by myself and their colleagues and have grown and developed professionally in readiness for their next steps. The enjoyment of our jobs is not only the work that we do but the people that we work with and from all of us to all of those that are leaving a huge thanks for being such great colleagues.

Therefore it's goodbye and thank you to.....

Mrs Isherwood who joined us in April 2011 as an unqualified Teacher of Science from Canada. Mrs Isherwood then developed into a fantastic Science teacher and second in Science. She has decided she would like to spend more time at home being a mum to her beautiful daughter and we wish her all the best. She will be sorely missed. She will be coming in across the next term to work with her Sixth Form students; an example of her continued commitment.



Mr Jackson-Sankey joined us as an unqualified Teacher of Science in April 2015. He then went on to help support our PE department in addition to these duties. He has decided to leave us to follow his dream career as a professional football coach. He will be returning temporarily in January to do some before school clubs for us.

Mrs Stowe joined us in May 2012 and has worked both as an Unqualified Teacher and a Cover Supervisor in various departments. Her passion, however, lies in Textiles and she will be leaving us to join Easthampstead Park school as a technician.

Mrs Rakowska came to Brakenhale in September 2012 as a Teaching Assistant supporting SEN students, her recent Level 5 qualification means she now has a promotion working as a Specialist Needs Tutor. She will be greatly missed by both staff and students.

Finally, **Mrs Nield** joined us in the Summer term first as a student and subsequently decided to remain with us to develop her skills further. She has decided to continue her career in another school.

We are extremely fortunate to find ourselves in a position, where despite a national recruitment crisis in teaching we have been able to appoint a number of highly qualified practitioners with impressive records of success in education. This has also meant over staffing in key curriculum areas such as English and Science. Inevitably there will be some changes in students timetables to reflect the new staffing arrangements and this has been an opportunity for us to ensure that staff specialisms are directed to the most appropriate sets.

Miss Parris Dawson	English Teacher
Ms Joanna Leary	English Teacher
Mrs Rebecca Lowe	Head of Product Design & STEM
Mr Brett Coley	Science Teacher
Mr Christopher Bailey	Science Teacher & Second in Science
Miss Laura Turner	Science Teacher
Mr Calvin Maye	PE & Science Teacher
Mrs Karen Budden	Finance Officer
Mr Haydn Cooper	Assistant Caretaker

A recent survey of school staff revealed that 98% of them were very proud to work in the school, a real reflection of their commitment to what we are achieving.

Use of school site and Sports Centre facilities

Once again could I reiterate my plea that students do not come onto the school site during the holidays, evening or weekends to use the playing fields or to sit around on the school benches. I know for a large number of students this would not be their option of choice, but a small minority of students cannot stay away! We have lettings during these times which mean that the gates are sometimes open and therefore people can wander into school. We are also beginning to embark on our building programme and this will make unsupervised activity on the school site very dangerous. I am just wary that we do not want people climbing onto roofs or hurting themselves in any way and therefore all activities on the school site must be supervised so I would ask that students do not come onto the school site for any reason unless they are here for a supervised activity.



Important Future Dates

Please see below a reminder of a few important dates coming up after the holidays.

Wednesday 3rd January	Return to school
Monday 8th January	Year 8 Outward Bound Year 11 BTEC exams Year 11 PPE results Year 12/13 PPE
Thursday 11th January	PTA Year 7 Disco
Friday 12th January	Year 8 Book Look Week
Tuesday 16th January	PTA Meeting
Thursday 18th January	Year 8 Parents Evening
Saturday 27th January	All day rehearsal Whole School Show
Thursday 1st February	Year 9 Options Evening
Saturday 3rd February	All day rehearsal Whole School Show
Wednesday 7th February & Thursday 8th February	Whole School Show
Monday 12th February	Half Term Holiday Sixth Form Trip to Rome
Monday 19th February	Year 9 Book Look Week
Tuesday 27th February	PTA Meeting
Sunday 4th March	Bronze DofE Practice Exhibition
Wednesday 7th March	Primary Liaison Meeting Parents evening for Ski Trip
Friday 16th March	Year 7 Book Look week
Monday 19th March	Parent Support Group



Wednesday 21st March

Year 7 Parents Evening

Friday 23rd March

Year 10 & 11 Practice Silver DofE

Friday 30th March – Sunday 15th April

Easter Holiday

As a reminder all students will need to be on site at 8.30am on Wednesday 3rd January.

Finally,

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a very happy, safe and restful Christmas break and I look forward to working with you all in the New Year.

Best wishes

Jane Coley