

Brakenhale School Parent News

16th June 2017



Dear Parents/Carers

This week has seen lots of preparation for school trips that have either taken place this week or are due to happen in the very near future. A big thank you to Mr Smith and Mrs Avis who took over 40 students to Dell this week. They had a fantastic experience and the organisers were extremely impressed with their ideas and engagement in learning. Today has seen the departure of the Osmington Bay trip with approximately 100 Key Stage 3 students, led by Mr Beukes, heading off down to the South Coast; they have certainly chosen the right weekend, let's hope they don't run out of suntan lotion. Next week Mr Thomas will host an evening for parents and carers who have young people going on the Paris trip, another excellent opportunity for History and Languages students to immerse themselves in these subjects. The ever popular Duke of Edinburgh Award, led by Mr Hicks, continues to grow and a number of residential weekends are planned for June and July. We are very fortunate to have staff who are willing to give up their weekends and evenings to take our students on trips such as these. It is a huge responsibility and I am extremely grateful for their commitment. It would be remiss of me not to mention the role of Mrs Silvey who works tirelessly behind the scenes putting everything in place to enable these trips to go ahead.

We have enjoyed some very warm weather this week and the forecast predicts that this will continue into the beginning of next week. Please can I remind you to ensure that students are coming to school with a water bottle in order that they can remain hydrated, however, water must not be thrown around even if it is in an attempt to keep cool. We will make a decision on Monday morning as to whether ties will be temporarily allowed to be removed.

I would like to say a big thank you to Mrs Leahy, PTA Chair and all of the parents who attended this month's PTA meeting, the work that they do for the school is very much appreciated and their donations this month have gone towards new outdoor seating. Please keep an eye on parent news for the date of the next meeting. All parents are very welcome to attend.

Finally, I wanted to share with you a real example of staff resilience and student compassion. Mrs Ball our Health Co-Ordinator was involved in a hit and run accident last night. She has come into school today with severe bruising and extensive cuts to her face. She is so committed to the Brakenhale students that she did not want to take time off work even when we tried to persuade her to go home and a huge well done to Charlie Martin in Year 8 who stopped to try and help Mrs Ball.

Best wishes

Jane Coley, Headteacher

What's on next week

| | |
|--|--|
| 16 th to 18 th June | Year 7 and 8 PGL Trip to Weymouth |
| Monday 19 th June | Year 12 return to school |
| Tuesday 20 th June | Paris Trip Meeting for Parents, 6pm |
| 20 th and 21 st June | Year 10 Mock Interviews |
| Wednesday 21 st June | Year 10 Geography Fieldwork |
| Thursday 22 nd June | World Challenge Meeting for Parents, 6.30pm |
| Friday 23 rd June | Year 11 Prom |

Parent Support Group

of Brakenhale

Tuesday 27th June 2017

1.30pm to 3pm

Please come and meet our Family Support Worker and other parents to discuss all aspects of living with teenagers.



Refreshments will be provided.

Please come to main reception where Tracey Gosling, our Family Support Advisor will meet you.

The Brakenhale School
Bentley Lane
Brakenhall
Buckles
W12 7BA
01944 423041
tgosling@brakenhale.co.uk

High Expectations and Challenge for All



GCSE Exams – the home stretch

Year 11 were in school preparing for their penultimate GCSE Science exam on Chemistry.

Year 10 End of Year Exams

The Year 10 End of Year Exams will be starting on Monday 26th June. A revision guide was given out at the revision evening on Monday and a copy can be found on our website [here](#).

| | Monday 26 th June | Tuesday 27 th June | Wednesday 28 th June | Thursday 29 th June | Friday 30 th June |
|----------|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------|---|---|--|
| Period 1 | English 1 Hour 45 | English 1 Hour 45 | Option A Bus Studies 1 Hour 30 Economics 1 Hour Geography 1 Hour 30 History 1 Hour 15 HSC No Exam Spanish 1 hour 10 Art and Photography | Option B Bus Studies 1 Hour 30 Drama BTEC Practical Engineering No Exam French 1 Hour 10 Geography 1 Hour 30 Graphics 2 Hour History 1 Hour 15 HSC No Exam | Option D Bus Studies 1 Hour 30 RM 2 Hours Dance GCSE Practical Dance BTEC – Practical 2 Hours Geography 1 Hour 30 IT 1 Hour 15 Music 1 Hour 30 PE GCSE 1 Hour Spanish 1 Hour 10 |
| Period 2 | | | | | |
| Period 3 | Maths 1 Hour 30 | Maths 1 Hour 30 | Maths 1 Hour 30 | Option C BTEC ICT No Exam Computing 1.30 Engineering No Exam Food Nutrition 1Hour 45 French 1 Hour 10 Geography 1 Hour 30 History 1 Hour 15 Spanish 1 Hour 10 | Catch UP Dance GCSE 1 Hour 30 |
| Period 4 | | | | | |
| Period 5 | French Listening 35 min | Spanish Listening 35 min | | | |

- Art and Photography Exams all day Wednesday 5th July

Art and Photography Exhibition

The Art and Photography departments wish to invite you to come and celebrate the wonderful work that has been created this year by our very talented GCSE and A Level students. Work will be displayed in the main hall from 5pm to 7pm on the 3rd July. All students and their families are welcome to attend so please come along and view the talent we have at Brakenhale.

Mrs S Higham, Head of Design Technology

Dance News

Auditions: We would like to congratulate the following students on auditioning and gaining a place in the Berkshire County Dance Company Youth for the next academic year. Well done to:



Kieran West in Year 12, Jade Ackuaku in Year 11, Lauren Williams and Emily Cary in Year 9 and Alice MacDonald in Year 7.

Year 10 Grease Performances: On Thursday evening, the Year 10 Drama students performed extracts of Grease to a packed audience in the Drama Studio. These performances involved acting, dancing and singing and we were impressed that these excellent quality extracts were put together in just a few weeks. It was lovely to see family, friends and staff all come along and support the performers. Thank you to everyone who helped make this sharing of work a huge success.

Miss Haley, Head of Drama and Dance and Mrs Raby, Teacher of Drama and Dance

DELL Activities Trip



On Tuesday 13th June, Brakenhale School was given the opportunity to take part in an activity at DELL in Bracknell. Learning to Work, who are a company striving to promote the skill sets that are involved in the STEM subjects (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math), joined up with DELL to run a Lego Mindstorm Control Technology event. The event was aimed at students aged 15 years and above, and therefore students who are approaching the time where industry and working in a professional environment is not that far away.

The event kicked off with a little background knowledge on Michael Dell, the founder and CEO of DELL. You could tell that the story of how he started this company from his dorm room (2713) at The University of Texas got some of our students thinking, especially when told the figure of how much Mr Dell is now worth – a lot! I hope students appreciate that no idea is a bad idea until it is proven to be bad!

Students were put into groups of three, creating fifteen different teams. Their first task was to build a robot (very much resembling Johnny 5, from the 1986 blockbuster – ‘Short Circuit’). Once they completed the construction of their robot, students were introduced to the ‘Mindstorm’ software, that enabled them to programme their robots. The programming was to drive their robot down a track and through some obstacles, as seen in the picture below. Looks simple doesn’t it? If you only knew!



What stood out for myself was the overwhelming perseverance from each team, in their quest to direct the robot down the track. The teamwork that went into the day was superb, and the iterative manner at which the students worked, continually testing and striving for that perfect run was astounding.

Not only did students represent the school in a fantastic light, more importantly they represented themselves fantastically in front of industry.

It was a fantastic afternoon, and I would like to thank Ms Avis and Mr Mitchell who accompanied myself with the students to DELL, and also to the team from ‘Learning to Work’ for putting this event together. Finally, a big thank you to DELL who not only allowed use of their facility, but also allowed time out from their busy schedules for employees to come and be mentors for the afternoon with our students. I hope the students got a lot out of the day, and more importantly enjoyed it. Below is a picture of the winning team, collecting their prizes from representatives from Dell and Learning to Work.



Thank you again to everyone involved, including the behind the scenes team at Brakenhale.

Mr Smith, Technology Teacher

Science Club



We have a small band of Year 7 and Year 8 students who join together to do science after school. This is usually put on by Mrs Daniels in the LRC, who does a fantastic job of finding interesting and informative experiments to do.

This week, however, I asked for the group to come and help make a model of a transverse wave. This involves a series of wooden skewers stuck to some duct tape, which then have jelly babies mounted on either side. The idea is that this then transmits a transverse wave down the line of tape.

Miss S Barnwell, Science Teacher

PE News**@brakenhalePE**

Last week we had 91 students involved in extra-curricular PE which is amazing and the weather has finally arrived for the summer term!

Year 7 District Athletics

On Thursday 8th June we took 26 students to Bracknell Athletics Track for the Year 7 district sports. All the students were a credit to the school and worked really hard. We had students trying new sports such as high jump and discuss. They all worked well together and really cheered each other on!

A massive congratulations needs to go to Jamie P and Joe M as they have got through to the County Round on Thursday 29th June. The PE department wishes you all the best for this event boys. Good Luck.

Rounders

On Tuesday Year 8 had their first rounders match. They had a fantastic first half with some brilliant fielding and batting. There were a couple of silly outs which meant we had 3 students let in with 2 minutes to go. They worked so well and kept the half rounders coming. We then had our second innings, and Edgbarrow stepped up their game. We continued well but sadly Edgbarrow beat us 12-10. Better luck next time.

**Year 8 Girls Palmer Park**

A massive thank you and congratulations to Bella C, Kayleigh L and Jessica D. You were the only students to turn up to this event and you did Brakenhale proud! Well done girls and good luck in your next competition.

**Sports Day!**

It is nearly time for Sports day already!

Sports Day will be held on Wednesday 12th July. Students have had assemblies this week, getting their teams together. Remember Sports Captains, Miss Willimott will need the team sheet ASAP. Fields events will be during period 1, 2 and 3. There will be an early lunch and then the whole school will come down for the events in the afternoon. Please can parents remind sons and daughters to come dressed in PE kit with either a top in their house colour or their normal PE t-shirt and to bring sun cream/hat/waterproofs etc. to school - we are unsure of what the British weather will bring! A reminder will be put in the parent news closer to the day!

Year 9 Sports Leaders

On Tuesday, we had 12 Year 9 students invited back to be athletic leaders for the Primary Schools' County Round. All 12 of the students did a fantastic job and were great leaders. They had a range of roles, from changeover judges, to measuring the long jump, to collecting the rounders' ball on the throw. They were a real credit to the school and I have received a positive email from the organisers saying how fantastic and lovely they all were. Well done.

Athlete of the week

Well done to Joe M and Sophie H in Year 7. They are this week's athletes of the week, they both have been fantastic in athletics. Well done and keep it up!

Fixtures and not showing up!

If your son/daughter is unable to attend a fixture please can you let a member of the PE department know as soon as possible. We have had two athletics fixtures where only 3 students have turned up and we needed a team of 11! It is unfair on those 3 students and the organisers of the event! Also the PE department who have had to arranged the fixture, a minibus and driver and the necessary paperwork, as well as giving their own time up!

If you say you will be attending a fixture then please can you attend!!!

Fixtures for next week!


Tuesday 20th June: Young Ambassadors and Year 7 Cricket event @ Great Hollands Rec from 12pm - 3pm
Year 7 A and B Rounders v Edgbarrow @ Home
Year 7 and 8 Girls Athletics @ Palmer Park

Wednesday 21st June: Year 7 and 8 Rounders v Sandhurst @ Home

Thursday 22nd June Year 8, 9 and 10 Rounders v Ranelagh @ Ranleigh
Year 7 and 8 Boys Athletics @ Palmer Park

Extra-Curricular Clubs

The extra-curricular timetable for this half term! Please encourage students to attend as we have lots of fixtures coming up!

| | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY |
|---|--|--|--|---|---|
| AFTER SCHOOL 3:10 - 4:30 | Staff Meetings  | Athletics Mr Jackson-Sankey, Mr Yeates, Miss Willimott Cricket KS3 Mr Boucher | Rounders and Rounders Leaders All Years Miss Willimott, Miss Rushby Cricket KS4 Mr Beukes Softball All Years Mr Jackson-Sankey | Athletics Mr Boucher, Mr Beukes, Miss Rushby Tennis All Years Mr Yeates | GCSE Revision/ BTEC Catch up (Year 10 and 11) Mr Yeates, Miss Rushby, Mr Beukes, Miss Willimott, Mr Boucher |

* Trampolining to be confirmed

Miss L Willimott, Lead Coordinator of Girls PE and Teacher in Charge of Health and Social Care

PTA News



The PTA meets once every half term. Everyone is welcome to join us.

Our next meeting will be in the autumn term next academic year, everyone is invited.

Unfortunately our next scheduled event, Race Night, has had to be cancelled but we will be looking into rearranging this event for the autumn term.

We will once again have a stall at the Bracknell Lions Bracknell Show on Saturday 22nd July at Wildridings Playing Fields between 12noon and 5pm, so come and join in the fun.

We are also collecting any unwanted clothes, shoes and accessories for recycling:



School Lottery

Congratulations to the recent prize draw winners:

Saturday 10th June: Ms S

Don't forget to join up and purchase your tickets to start helping our school.

We now have 44 supporters who have 67 tickets in the draw between them. So far we have raised over £270 for the school and the current projected fund for the year is almost £1400. Thank you to all our supporters.



Click here to [Support the Brakenhale Lottery](#)



Last term School Lottery gave the chance for 4 supporters to win a Kindle E-Reader, well done to the winners.

This term they are offering the chance for 2 players to win a Family Heritage Membership. You can find full details on their website.

Our School Lottery is a fun and effective way to raise money to help improve our school but we need your help to make it the best it can be.



Easy Fundraising

With easyfundraising.org.uk you collect free donations to your selected cause every time you shop. You can make a big difference on everything from groceries to getaways and it doesn't cost you a penny!

When you shop the easyfundraising way with one of their 3083 shops and sites they give easyfundraising a commission for your purchase which is turned into a donation for your selected good cause.

When you visit the website easyfundraising.org.uk - simply search for the retailer you want to shop with and click out to them using the green 'Go Shopping' button. You will be taken straight to the retailer's website and your experience will be identical as if you had gone there directly but easyfundraising will be able to track your purchase to ensure a donation for your good cause.

You can also install their Donation Reminder - this means a box will appear if you are shopping with a retailer who participates in the Donation Reminder and you don't even need to visit the easyfundraising site! All you need to do is click Activate Donations and any eligible purchase will be recorded for you. Take a look at the Donation Reminder [here](#). The Donation Reminder is supported by Chrome, Firefox, Internet Explorer and Safari but can't work on mobile phones or tablets.

Shopping on your mobile? No problem, for mobile phones and tablets there is the handy easyfundraising App, perfect if you like to shop on the go and available completely free of charge from your App store. Now you can not only shop using it but you can check out your own donation total and see how your cause is getting on too. More information can be found [here](#).

Don't forget to shop through
www.easyfundraising.org.uk to
 effortlessly help raise money for the
 school!

Future Diary Dates

| | |
|--|--|
| Monday 26 th June | Sixth Form Transition |
| | Start of Year 10 End of Year Exams |
| Tuesday 27 th June | Parent Support Group |
| 2 nd and 3 rd July | Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Assessment |
| Monday 3 rd July | Art and Photography Exhibition |
| 5 th and 6 th July | Year 6 Transition Days |
| Thursday 6 th July | Year 6 Information Evening |
| Friday 7 th July | Year 10 Mock Interviews |
| Wednesday 12 th July | Sports Day |
| Thursday 13 th July | Year 10 Enterprise Day |
| | Summer Awards Evening |

Term Dates

SUMMER TERM 2017

Wednesday 19th April – Friday 21st July 2017

Summer Half Term - Monday 29th May to Friday 2nd June 2017

Summer Holiday for students– Monday 24th July to Monday 4th September

AUTUMN TERM 2017

Inset Days: Friday 1st and Monday 4th September

Inset Days: Monday 18th and Tuesday 19th December

Term dates for students:

Tuesday 5th September – Friday 15th December 2017

Autumn Half Term – Monday 23rd to Friday 27th October



Bracknell Forest term dates can be found on their website:
<http://www.bracknell-forest.gov.uk/schooltermandholidaydates>



Term Dates 2017-18

| | | |
|--|--|---|
| Autumn Term: Friday 1 st September to Tuesday 19 th December 2017 | Inset: Friday 1 st & Monday 4 th September, Monday 18 th & Tuesday 19 th December | Half Term: Monday 23 rd to Friday 27 th October |
| Spring Term: Wednesday 3 rd January to Thursday 29 th March 2018 | | Half Term: Monday 12 th to Friday 16 th February |
| Summer Term: Monday 16 th April to Monday 23 rd July 2018 | Inset: Monday 23 rd July | Half Term: Monday 28 th May to Friday 1 st June |

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