

Brakenhale School Parent News

26th May 2017



Dear Parents/Carers

This week has seen the first really warm weather of the academic year and students have coped really well in the heat. We will be continuing our policy of blazers being optional for the rest of the term but ties will need to be worn every day unless we make the decision in the morning that they may be removed as we did today. Can I please take this opportunity to remind you that students are not permitted to wear any jewellery aside from a conventional watch and one gold or silver stud in the lower lobe of their ear. I am aware that holiday periods tend to be times that some students will have a facial piercing or one in the cartilage of their ear. We are unable to sanction these and therefore students will be required to remove them or to wear a non-visible plastic retainer. All of these stipulations are clearly laid out in our uniform code.

Yesterday I had a three hour meeting with colleagues from the Education Funding Agency and the architects who are planning our significant school rebuild. Over 70% of the school will be demolished and rebuilt over the next three years. The process is not a quick one due to the extent of the plans and the need to make sure we plan effectively. Across the summer holidays we will meet with and appoint the construction firm and we aim for planning to be fully approved by February and at this point the land can be prepared for the new buildings. We anticipate, based on current plans, that the work will be divided into two phases. More news to follow on this in September.

Lots of young people have received positive accolades this week with many of Year 9 having a film afternoon today as a reward for their excellent behaviour and achievements this half term. Some Year 7 students have had a celebration pizza lunch with Mr Beukes this afternoon for their achievements on the sporting field and Megan in Year 7 deserves a special mention for gaining second place in a field of over 200 synchronised swimmers from across the whole country. Well done Megan!

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support and hope that you have a relaxing and safe half term break.

Best wishes

Jane Coley, Headteacher

What's on next week

Monday 29th May to Friday 2nd June

Summer half term holiday

Summer Uniform

In light of the expected hot weather we have made the decision that the wearing of school blazers will be optional for all students until the end of the summer term. The wearing of scarves on the school site is no longer allowed for the rest of the term for the same reason. If students decide not to wear a blazer it cannot be substituted for a coat. If a coat is required then a blazer must be worn underneath. Students will still be expected to keep their top button done up and their ties on unless otherwise decided. Shirts must also remain tucked in and the remainder of school uniform rules still apply.

Can I please remind you that white socks are not permitted and earrings should only be worn in the lower ear lobe and only 1 gold or silver stud in each ear is permitted. No other facial piercings are allowed and students will be expected to remove these.

Year 9 Religious Studies GCSE Exam

I am writing to give you advance notice of the GCSE Religious Studies (RS) exam which your son/daughter will be taking in May 2018.

Their first exam will be Philosophy which will be held on the afternoon of Monday 14th May 2018 and this is a two paper exam. Their second exam, which is on Christianity, will be held in afternoon of Wednesday 16th May 2018 and their final exam on Islam will be held in the afternoon of Thursday 24th May 2018; these papers are one hour in duration.

In order to prepare our students for these exams they will be sitting one two-hour paper on Friday 30th June 2017. At this time next year they will be sitting the official exam two-hour paper and unless they've had practice at working for such a length of time they won't achieve their potential. This is not meant to cause our students any unnecessary stress, they have been working really hard in lessons so they have nothing to be worried about, my only aim is to make sure that they can sustain two hours of concerted effort in Year 10.

Looking ahead too, they will also be given a 'slot' in the Year 11 Pre Public Exam (PPE) cycle and by that point they will do the full compliment of papers: 2 x 1 hour exams and 1 x 2 hour exam. Hopefully this process will help set them up for all their other GCSE exams which they would take during the following summer 2019 and with a good pass from their RS papers they will be confidently ready to achieve some fantastic results in their other GCSEs.

I know many of you have already purchased an RS text book for home learning, if anyone else wishes to purchase a copy for their son/daughter please contact the school office.

Miss L Baveystock, Assistant Headteacher

Health Zone

Keeping Hydrated

As the weather is warming up can we please remind students to either bring water to school or to bring a bottle that they can fill from the water taps at school. Students should please remember to fill their bottles during break and lunch times. Rehydration is especially important after PE lessons or other physical activity.



Head lice

Please be aware that there is a large concentration of head lice in the local schools at present. Please be extra vigilant with your children's hair, check regularly and treat accordingly.

Please refer to NHS Choices website for further information.

[NHS Choices - Head Lice](#)

Ms Ball, Health Coordinator



Student Voice

The first student council meeting was held with the new elected reps and what a productive meeting it was. Lots of fantastic ideas on ways in which we can develop the school and ideas for positive change.

In response to some of the issues raised we have some feedback on the things being done - please see below:

You said, we did		
Topic	You said	We did
Learning and teaching	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Requested more stability in subjects, with subject specialist teachers who can deliver more engaging and interactive lessons. You wanted better cover work. You wanted more consistency with Show My homework. Vivos – you wanted a better reward system with more consistency. More rewards for people who are good all of the time. Year 10 requested revision help and guidance along with revision time. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We have recruited some excellent subject specialists for September, particularly in Maths, English and Science. Heads of departments are working on changing the format of cover work so that it is better quality. Next year it will be compulsory for all teachers to use SMH as the planner is changing. Rewards are changing we have a new system next year based around house points. Mr Gibson has been doing pizza lunch with students in Year 10 and 11 to reward good behaviour, this will be done with 7, 8 and 9 after half term. Queue buster cards are being given out. A revision evening is being set up to go through how to revise and revision tips. This will be after half term before your end of year exams.
School grounds and accommodation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Several issues raised with various areas of the school. Heating to be put back on. Request for an update on the new build. Picnic benches and more seating. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This has been shared with the site team and they will work on it as best they can. When cold heating will be put on in certain areas of the school, students need to ensure they close doors after them to keep the heat in. Mrs Coley is going to attend the next school council meeting to share plans. Miss Thomas is going to put a request to the PTA for funding to get some put into place.
Student wellbeing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> School bags to be more durable and waterproof. Cold food outside in the summer. Request for more motivational and inspirational posters. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There is a new stock of school bags that are better quality. There will be a cold food station outside in the summer. The new build will also have a hatch to serve cold food from. Mrs Coley is happy for this to happen but would like the students to find them. The student council will make a decision on them and pass to Mrs Coley. If you have ideas please share with your student council reps.
AOB	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> You requested more mixing of X and Y band. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The new house system will provide an opportunity for this.

Miss Thomas, Student Voice Coordinator


Literacy Favourites

Mrs Gibbons recommends the Jack Reacher series by Lee Child:

My Favourite read

I love to read a long series and get to be familiar with the characters. The Jack Reacher books are an easy to read detective series with an old-fashioned action hero. Jack Reacher finds himself in life-or-death situations with only his experience, hard learned skill and keen mind to get him and his friends out alive and catch the bad guys. Jump in part way through or start at the beginning!

- Mrs Gibbons





Mrs G Powell and Miss L Baveystock,
Assistant Headteachers

Lexicon Job Fair

The Lexicon Jobs Fair is being held on Wednesday 7th June, and parents are invited to take students along for the afternoon/evening sessions at The Grange Hotel in Bracknell town centre.

The event is open from 1.00pm to 8pm.

Slaughter

Discover 3,500 jobs
at The Lexicon Jobs Fair



Wednesday 7 June, 1pm to 8pm at Grange Hotel
The Lexicon, Bracknell opens on 7 September, with more than 10 shops and restaurants (including top retail brands)

#TakeofftheTown

THE LEXICON

Register to attend now:
thelexiconbracknell.com/job-opportunities
Grange Hotel, Bracknell RG12 1DE

- From fashion to beauty, food to hospitality and customer service to operations
- Full-time, part-time, evenings and weekends
- Easy access by train and bus

How to find us:



#TakeofftheTown

PE News

@brakenhalePE

We have finally had to use the sun cream this week, which has been a massive improvement on the rain last week!

Rounders

We have had our first rounders fixture of the season, with the Year 9 and 10 teams playing Edgbarrow.

The Year 10s played brilliantly and showed real teamwork, captained by Claudia. They seemed to be tuned into each other as there were very few mistakes in fielding and batting. Jade did a fantastic catch which was my highlight of the game. We had some great hits with them going over the heads of the Edgbarrow team. We won 14 - 7 and player of the match was awarded to Danielle who has an interesting trick of shouting hit when she hits the ball and it confuses the other team.



Congratulations to the Year 9 students who had a really close game against Edgbarrow for their first rounders match of the season, with Tiegan winning player of the match. This was a great opportunity for our rounders leaders to showcase their skills in a match situation. Well done girls and good luck for the next game.

A massive thank you to Lily and Emily for stepping up and playing in the Year 10 Edgbarrow team. They did a fantastic job and without them the Year 10s wouldn't have been able to have a game!



Sports Day


Just a head's up that sports day will be on Wednesday 12th July. More information will be given during assemblies after half term.

Fixtures after half term

- Tuesday 6th June - Year 9 and 10 Rounders v Sandhurst @ Home
- Year 7 and 8 Girls Athletics @ Palmer Park
- Thursday 8th June - Year 7 District Athletics @ Bracknell Athletics Track
- Year 7 and 8 Boys Athletics @ Palmer Park

Extra-Curricular Clubs

The extra-curricular timetable will be the same after 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 taking place on Tuesday 13th June at 7pm, 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.

PTA Upcoming Events:	<i>Tuesday 13th June</i>	Summer Term 2 Meeting
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School Lottery

Congratulations to the recent prize draw winners:

Saturday 20th May: Mrs R

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.

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



Last term School Lottery gave two supporters the chance to win a 12-month family Heritage pass of their choice.

This term they are offering the chance for 4 supporters to win a Kindle E-Reader. 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.



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

Future Diary Dates

Monday 29 th May to Friday 2 nd June	Summer half term holiday
Tuesday 13 th June	PTA Meeting
Friday 16 th June	Year 11 study leave starts
16 th to 18 th June	Year 7 and 8 PGL Trip to Weymouth
20 th and 21 st June	Year 10 Mock Interviews
Wednesday 21 st June	Year 10 Geography Fieldwork
Friday 23 rd June	Year 11 Prom
Monday 26 th June	Sixth Form Transition

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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