

# Brakenhale School Parent News

19<sup>th</sup> May 2017



Dear Parents/Carers

We only have one more school week officially before half term, but yet there is still so much to do and so much that is going on within the school.

This week we have announced our Head Boy and Girl appointments for next year and you will see their photographs within this week's parent news. So, a big congratulations to Eloise Morris and Kieran West, we are all looking forward to working with them across the next Academic year.

The students at Brakenhale are really lucky that there are so many opportunities available for them and further down this edition you will see news of a scholarship at Wellington College that two of our Year 9 students have managed to gain.

During the next half term we will see further visits to companies such as Dell in order to broaden the horizons of our students.

Next week I have a further meeting with the Education Funding Agency building surveyors and planners to finalise the plans for the rebuild work. Although I have not published news of this lately I can assure you that there is an enormous amount of work going on behind the scenes. As soon as the plans are complete I will make these available to you. The next part of the process is to tender for the building work and we anticipate this will be early in the Spring term so watch this space for more updates!

Best wishes

*Jane Coley, Headteacher*

## What's on next week

Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> May      **Year 8 HPV Vaccinations**

## The Wheeler Programme based at Wellington College

We are pleased to announce that two of our students, Reece and Marlie in Year 9, have been awarded places on the Wheeler Scholarship programme in association with Wellington College. Both Reece and Marlie had to complete detailed application forms and meet Wellington College staff before their acceptance was confirmed. The students will be given academic coaching and guidance by Wellington College staff over the next year or so and will be visiting, and on occasion, staying at the college for several days. I am sure they will benefit immensely from this experience.



Wellington College have generously increased the amount of outreach work they do with Bracknell Forest schools in the last year or so and this is further evidence of this. Alongside the Wheeler Programme we have also benefited from student conferences, careers work and teacher support and we are most grateful for their generosity and support.

*Mr N O'Donoghue, Head of Year 9*

## Head Boy and Head Girl for 2017-18



Last week candidates for the position of Head Boy and Girl for 2017-18 were interviewed. The students had already written a letter and given a speech to their peers prior to the interview so this was a rigorous process!

Following the interview we are pleased and proud to announce that Eloise Morris will be Head Girl and Kieran West will be Head Boy. They will begin their roles when the Year 12 students return from exam leave in mid-June.

These are now established as exciting roles for the school and are a sign of how the school continues to encourage and listen to the student voice. The students will act as ambassadors for the school and will continue to lead our successful school council.

We look forward to seeing them achieve great things!

*Mr A Hartley, Deputy Headteacher*

## GCSE Exams

It is said that a picture speaks a thousand words...

We had 110 Year 11 students working hard making the difference in dedicated revision session before their first Chemistry 1 exam on Thursday.

*Mr P Gibson, Deputy Headteacher*



## Parking

Please can we take this opportunity to remind you that students should be dropped off and collected from the school's **Coningsby entrance**, not main reception, at the beginning and end of the school day.

Please also ensure that you park and drive courteously around the school site including not obstructing the gateways.

As a school, we always want to maintain positive relations with all residents in our local community and would be really grateful if this can be considered when dropping/collecting students from the school. In particular could we ask that driveways and roads are not blocked so that residents can still access their homes and vehicles; could you please take extra care in and around Coningsby. Please remember that the zigzag lines in Coningsby opposite Rectory Close are there to keep the area clear to allow an unrestricted view for approaching drivers and children wanting to cross the road.

Your support in these matters is much appreciated as always

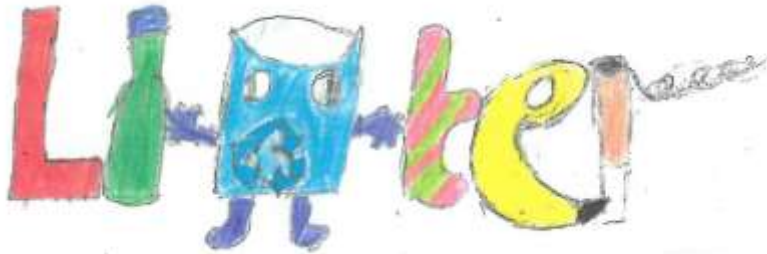
*School Office*



## Year 7 PiXL Edge

Year 7 students continue to engage with PiXL Edge, showing the drive and commitment to make a positive change to the local community.

This poster was created by a Year 7 student to raise awareness of litter issues.



### What is Litter?

Litter is unpleasant waste, such as cigarettes, fruit peels, plastic bags, wrappers, etc., which is usually dumped by the park, school field, etc., rather than in a bin. This can cause uncomfortable views and create a risk for wildlife/the environment. However, littering is not always intentional as natural litter can be blown by the wind.



### Other Affections of Litter

Water litter can get tangled/caught in parts of vehicles such as boats. Moreover, litter can cause choking and difficulties in breathing to most species of marine life easily.

- 75% of Americans have littered in the past 5 years.
- Most common litter offenders are men aged 18-34.
- Over 1 million seabirds are killed by sea pollution every year.
- Plastic is the most common element found in the ocean.
- Over a billion tons of litter end up in the ocean each year.



### How Can We Stop Littering?

We can stop littering by being cautious of where we put our waste and immediately put it in the bin. Every once in a while people can gather together and pick up litter for about five minutes. Ensure that you report littering and encourage your neighbours and friends/family.

**As a school we can work together as a team and encourage others.**

**Everyone can do something to help!!!**

By Celestine, Year 7

Mr M Cooper, Head of Year 7

**Brakenhale Elects!**



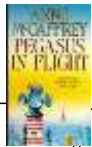


In order to help prepare our students for voting in the future we are running our own in-school election alongside the General Election; we will mimic the election in many ways and each tutor group will be treated like a constituency. Year 7 to 10 students will be looking through three policies from the five main parties in tutor time. In order to ensure that no preconceptions are taken into consideration we have changed the names of each of the parties and we have changed the colour that is typically associated with them.

Students will be voting next week in tutor time and we will be releasing the results the week back after half term. At this time we will reveal which party is which and reflect on how the country voted and whether it was or wasn't in line with how Brakenhale voted.

*Mr T Dean, Head of Maths*

**Literacy Favourites**

The last book reviews from our prolific reader Mrs Wilkins:

<p><b>A Book Review by Mrs Wilkins</b></p> <p><b>Title</b> Pegasus in flight</p> <p><b>Author</b> Anne McCaffrey</p>			<p><b>Your star rating for this book:</b></p> 
<p><b>Characters</b></p> <p>Rhyssa Owen is a 'talented' person, that is, someone who can hear people's thoughts and put her thoughts into other people's heads. She is director of the organisation which finds other talented people and trains them for jobs. Peter is a fourteen year old teenager in a body brace in hospital. Tirla is an orphan, an illegal girl with no identity wristband to give her housing, food or free schooling. Boris and Sacha are twins and both want to find out who is running a child slavery racket between the residential liners.</p>	<p><b>Plot</b> What happens? Is it fun?</p> <p>The plot, set in Jerhatten, in the future, covers the question of what would our response be to 'talented' people. It covers the idea that the future may have different gadgets, housing, travel but has mankind changed at all? By setting it in the future, the concept of slavery can be discussed.</p>		
<p><b>Your opinion</b></p> <p>How will mankind evolve? Will we do more extraordinary things with our brains? These questions are investigated in this book and in the sequels. The prequel, 'To Ride Pegasus' was written after this book had become a bestseller. It is a great read, and when you read it a second or third time, you notice extra layers of detail that Anne McCaffrey included to make it a very realistic future.</p>	<p><b>Recommend? Why or why not?</b></p> <p>It is a great read about Peter and Tirla finding their place in the adult world. Tirla is a great role model for girls, as she is very resilient.</p>		

**A Book Review by Mrs Wilkins**  
**Title** Three ways to capsizes a boat  
**Author** Chris Stewart



**Character**  
 Auto biographical, narrated in first person by the author. Chris writes about one of his first jobs, to skipper (captain) a yacht belonging to a friend's aunt. He said yes but he has never sailed a boat! Another character is Patrick who teaches him to sail and also capsizes!

**Plot**  
 The book is divided into three parts. Part one, competent crew tells the how, where, when and why it all began before moving the plot to the Isles of Greece for part two. The finale is sailing around Vinland and big ocean sailing.

**Your opinion**  
 This book is hilarious and best read out loud to friends, as Chris has adventures occurring on each page, often due to his love of spontaneity, rather than thinking before making decisions.

**Recommend?** Why or why not?  
 If you want or need a laugh read this book!  


**A Book Review by Mrs Wilkins**  
**Title** The Reader  
**Author** Bernhard Schlink



**Your star rating for this book:**  


**Characters**  
 Michael is a teenager who reads to an older woman called Hanna. They have a passionate love affair. Years later, when Michael is a law student, he observes a trial in Germany and sees Hanna, his first love, in the dock for war crimes in the concentration camps of the Nazi regime. The other characters are minor, e.g. Hanna's lawyer, the judge, Michael's family.

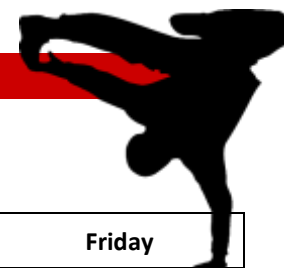
**Plot and my opinion.**  
 It is not a fun book. It is a deep thinking book, making you ask many questions. Do people change character? Should people be responsible for their own actions? What would it be like to be a teenager growing up in post-war Germany? How would history be presented to you as a German citizen and how would you relate to family who had lived through the horrors of war (and not won.) The book was written by a German author, who gives a different insight to European history.

**Recommend?** Why or why not?  
 If you like history, read this for a different perspective and expect your ideas to be challenged!

Mrs G Powell and Miss L Baveystock,  
 Assistant Headteachers



**Dance and Drama Enrichment Timetable**



Starting from Monday 15<sup>th</sup> May

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<b>Lunch time</b> 1:25 – 1:55	Open for rehearsals	<b>Street Dance (MS)</b> Jade and Jaime	<b>Boys Dance (MS)</b> Kieran West	Open for rehearsals	Closed
<b>After School</b> 3:05 – 4:05	<b>Year 7 &amp; 8 Dance Project (MS)</b> Guest choreographer <b>Freya Harris</b> Open to Year 7 and 8 students interested in dance, creating a piece for the end of year show	<b>Year 9 &amp; 10 Dance Project (MS)</b> Guest choreographer <b>Tyler Jones</b> Open to Year 9 and 10 dance students, creating a piece for the end of year show  <b>Theatre in Education Project (LO1)</b> <b>Chloe Johnson</b> Year 12 Project	<b>Year 12 Choreography (MS)</b> <b>Chloe Johnson</b> Year 12 Choreography rehearsal  <b>Drama Club (LO1)</b> <b>Miss Raby</b> Drama club for Year 9 & 10 Drama students <i>Starts 6<sup>th</sup> June</i>	<b>Year 12 Choreography (MS)</b> <b>Kieran West &amp; Fay Beesley</b> Year 12 Choreography rehearsals	<b>DANCE COMPANY (MS)</b> <b>Miss Haley</b> Dance Company rehearsals for the end of year show

Miss Haley, Head of Dance and Drama

**PE News** **@brakenhalePE**

This week Brakenhale PE saw their biggest fixture ever (well from what I can remember) when we took 42 students to District Athletics despite the weather being horrible. For the whole event it did not stop raining, everyone left the event looking like a drowned rat! The students were amazing as they did not moan, they just got on with it. They were a real credit to Brakenhale.



At high jump, students did not only battle with jumping the bar, it was like jumping into a swimming pool. At discus the students had to stand within a puddle to throw. At shot they were throwing into a massive puddle, which Mr Hillman was not too happy about as he got splashed every time one was thrown!

We had some fantastic results:

- Tom N - 2nd in Javelin with 30.74 meters
- Michael A - 2nd in High Jump with 1.44 meters
- Mark R - 3rd in 100m with 12.15 seconds and 4th in 200m with 25.95
- Charlie W - 3rd in long jump with 4.31 meters
- Jaime F - 4th in 800m with 2.33 minutes
- Reece P - 1st in 200m in 26.75 seconds
- Conor O - 2nd in 200m with 28.33 seconds
- Michael G - 1st in long jump with 5.30 meters
- Ellis H - 100m in 12.53 and 3rd in high jump with 1.25 meters
- Maizie F - 3rd in Shot with 7.55 meters
- Lidia D - 4th in Javelin with 17.20 meters
- Grace P - 2nd in Long Jump with 3.85 meters

A massive thank you needs to go to Hope and Grace G who helped us run the shot event and for getting completely soaked doing so.

Well done to everyone who competed: Tiana B, Martin C, Josh M, Kai M, Jamie F, Oliwia O, Maisie S, Conor O, Billy W, Mark R, Maddison N, Claudia P, Amy C, Aaron R, Michael G, Charlie W, Macey T, Ellis H, Reece P, Daniel B, Asha M, Maizie F, Ton N, Grace P, Hannah F, Lidia D, Emily C, Daniel L, Kayleigh L, Emma W, Jake B, Elissa F, Suzie R, Will E, Conor T, Jack W, Nikeisha R, Harry C and Leanne P.


Following on from the results of Wednesday we have Reece P, Grace P, Michael A, Jaime F, Kai M, Mark R, Ton N, Martin C, Conor O and Michael G attending the next stage: County Round on the 10<sup>th</sup> June. Please come and see Miss Willimott for a letter and more details.

Well done to everyone involved and good luck in the next athletics events.

**Fixture next week:**

Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> May - Year 9 and 10 Rounders match v Edgbarrow at home

**Extra Curricular Timetable for this term**

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

## New Kit!

Thank you for the very kind donations received from parents Mr Duncan Gennery and Mr Heath Turrall towards purchasing new Football kits for every age group for next season.

From next season the teams will be running out in brand new Nike 'Dri-fit' kit complete with school logos and there will even be enough shirts for the whole squad, so no shirt swapping during substitutions!

The school and students are extremely grateful for the parents' contributions and can't wait to show them off!

*Mr W Yeates, Head of PE*



## PTA News

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

Our next meeting will be taking place on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> 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.



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

**Congratulations to the recent prize draw winners:**

**Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> May: Ms L**

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

We now have 42 supporters who have 65 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.



## Future Diary Dates

Wednesday 24 <sup>th</sup> May	<b>Year 8 HPV Vaccinations</b>
Monday 29 <sup>th</sup> May to Friday 2 <sup>nd</sup> June	<b>Summer half term holiday</b>
Tuesday 13 <sup>th</sup> June	<b>PTA Meeting</b>
Friday 16 <sup>th</sup> June	<b>Year 11 study leave starts</b>

### Term Dates

**SUMMER TERM 2017**

Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> April – Friday 21<sup>st</sup> July 2017

Summer Half Term - Monday 29<sup>th</sup> May to Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2017

Summer Holiday for students– Monday 24<sup>th</sup> July to Monday 4<sup>th</sup> September



**AUTUMN TERM 2017**

*Inset Days: Friday 1<sup>st</sup> and Monday 4<sup>th</sup> September*  
*Inset Days: Monday 18<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> December*

Term dates for students:  
 Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> September – Friday 15<sup>th</sup> December 2017

Autumn Half Term – Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> to Friday 27<sup>th</sup> October

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



### Term Dates 2017-18

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

Don't forget to shop through [www.easyfundraising.org.uk](http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk) to effortlessly help raise money for the school!

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