

Brakenhale School

Parent News

10th March 2017



Dear Parents/Carers

With exam season fast approaching, hundreds of our students in Years 11, 12 and 13 are tirelessly working to make those marginal gains that will really make a difference to their next steps. This week saw Year 11 sit their second round of Pre Public Examinations and already there seems to have been significant progress in both their understanding and application of the content. Next up are the post 16 students who sit their second round in just over a week. On behalf of the school we would like to thank you for your continued support of your child during this stressful time.

Attendance has increased again across all year groups and Mr Yeates' Year 11 group had the highest attendance figures this week so well done to them! Whilst the number is on the rise we still haven't reached our target so please can we ask that you continue to support us in ensuring your child is at school every day.

As always, there has been a number of events going on in and outside of the school day. This week and next we have had workshops for students from Soulscape which aims to educate students on the life they live today, which is very different to ones that we experienced when we were of secondary school age. Today saw some of our students visit Thames Valley Park for a STEM activity day and there are several of these still to come, demonstrating our desire to deliver a curriculum that goes beyond the classroom.

The school lottery launched by the PTA has proved popular in its first week of sales and we would like to encourage you to participate in this if you haven't already. Before the first draw we need to hit a certain number tickets sold to make it worthwhile and all profit will go towards the school. The work of the PTA is critical in supporting the school financially as I am sure you have seen in the news that schools are facing an uphill battle to fund many of the extras so many students and parents have come accustomed to such as clubs and catch up sessions. We are doing all we can to continue with these and any support parents can provide is always gratefully received. Don't forget our Bingo Evening on Saturday 18th March too.

This week saw Brakenhale gain more recognition amongst senior leaders across the county when Tom Dean, our Head of Maths, was asked to present about Maths strategies for improving achievement at the PiXL6 (Partners in Excellence) main meeting in London. The attendance at these meetings regularly is above 700 and we are extremely proud that the Maths department, who increased grades at C+ last year by 20%, have been recognised as a beacon of excellence.

Finally, we are about to face our last three weeks as Acting Co-Headteachers and we really want these to be as productive as possible for all students so please can we ask that you support our students to be ready for lessons with their tools for learning, in the correct uniform at all times and complete all homework set to the very best of their ability.

Mr P Gibson, Mr A Hartley, Acting Co-Headteachers

What's on next week

Saturday 11 th March	Mock Trial Competition, Reading Crown Court
Thursday 16 th March	Year 7 Parents' Evening
Friday 17 th March	Maths Challenge, Newbury
Saturday 18 th March	PTA Bingo Evening

Etiquette when travelling

Could we please remind parents and students that they are mindful of other people when travelling to and from school. Students using cycle and foot pathways should be especially courteous towards other cyclists and pedestrians on pathways.

Thank you.

Year 7 Parents' Evening – 16th March

Year 7 Parents' Evening is being held on Thursday 16th March between 4pm and 7pm. This is an opportunity for you to meet subject teachers to discuss progress and review targets.

Students should make appointments with their teachers and on page 13 of the student planner there is an appointment sheet for students to make a note of the appointment time they arrange with each subject teacher. Parents should please let their child know their preference for appointment times.

Mr Cooper, Head of Year 7

Young Interpreter Scheme

We are looking for volunteers to appoint a new young interpreter team. We will work together to develop skills that will help interact, support and guide new students who join our school.

We are looking for volunteers from Year 7 through to Year 12, to help students who are new to speaking English and unfamiliar with English culture.

Everyone is welcome!

The Young Interpreter Scheme supports the emotional health and wellbeing of new arrivals at the point of transfer into their new school. It provides additional support to students who are learning English as an additional language, to their families and to the school.

The scheme recognizes the huge potential that exists within the school community for students of all ages to use their skills and knowledge to support learners who are new to English so that they feel safe, settle and valued from the start.

Miss I Cmok, EAL (English as an Additional Language) Coordinator



Parent Support Group



at Brakenhale

Wednesday 22nd March 2017

9.30am to 11am

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.

Future Meeting Dates:

Friday 12th May ~ 9.30-11am

Tuesday 27th June ~ 1.30-3pm

The Brakenhale School
Beckery Lane
Bracknell
Berkshire
RG12 7BA
01344 423041
tgosling@brakenhale.co.uk

High Expectations and Challenge for All

St. Patrick's Day

Thursday 16th March 2017

POTATO SOUP SERVED WITH HOMEMADE SODA BREAD

IRISH BEEF STEW SERVED WITH COLCANNON POTATOES

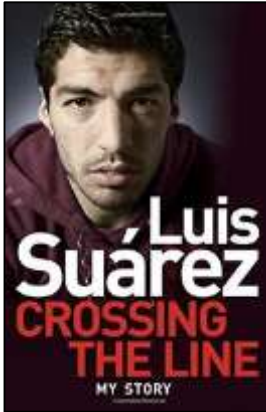
GREEN PESTO PASTA WITH SPINACH AND GREEN COURGETTE

LIME JELLY LUCKY POT

£2.30

Literacy Favourites

Continuing our thoughts on a love of literacy...



In *Crossing the Line*, Luis Suárez talks from the heart about his intriguing career, his personal journey from scrapping street kid to performer on football's biggest stage, and the never-say-die attitude that sometimes causes him to overstep the mark.

Mr Yeates

Mrs Powell and Miss Baveystock, Assistant Headteachers

Mr Bell's Favourite Books

Harry Potter, J.K Rowling

J.K Rowling creates an amazing fantasy world, filled with magic, fantastic beasts and a fight between good and evil. Harry and his friends must work together to save the world from Voldemort. Rowling inspired a generation to love reading.



Favourite quote:

"Words are, in my not-so-humble opinion, our most inexhaustible source of magic. Capable of both inflicting injury, and remedying it."
(Dumbledore, Harry Potter)

To Kill A Mockingbird, Harper Lee

Atticus Finch is my favourite fictional character. He is fair and true to his morals. He is a lawyer who has been hired to defend a black man in a case (back in the 1930s when racism was much, much worse). The quote below shows him expressing the idea that winning is not the only thing of value in trying to do something. Simply trying to do the right thing is worthwhile even if the results don't appear to warrant it.



"Simply because we were licked a hundred years before we started is no reason for us not to try to win." (Atticus Finch, *To Kill a Mockingbird*)



PE News

@brakenhalePE

We have had a busy week with around 100 students taking part in extra-curricular clubs and fixtures.

At the time of writing only the U15 (the Year 10) football game had been played. On Tuesday 7th March, the U15s travelled to Forest to play a football league fixture. In what was a very competitive match, Forest ran out 3-1 winners. Trying a new look formation, Brakenhale started slowly and were 2-0 down at half time. The second half however produced one of our best halves of football produced this year. The team kept Forest penned into their own half and limited to only playing on the counter attacks. A fantastically controlled performance. Toby G was MOTM (Man of the Match).

In next week's parent news there will be match reports on the following matches:

Year 8 against Altwood, Year 7 against LVS, Year 11 against Ranelagh.

GCSE PE Conference

On Friday, the GCSE PE students, along with Miss Rushby and Mr Yeates, went to London for the annual GCSE PE conference. This is an all-day event where presenters talk through the projected exam giving the students tips on how to get those all-important marks in the exam. Attendance at the conference has shown a raise from 70% A-C in 2015 to 92% in 2016. Hopefully 100% in 2017! Towards the end of the day, students are selected from every school attending to come and see what they have learnt/can remember. Olivia went up to represent Brakenhale and she ended up winning the whole quiz!

Well done to Olivia and hopefully the GCSE students will remember all the important details for the exam.

Dates for your diary for Year 11

- All Day Practical PPE on Tuesday 21st March
- All day Practical Edexcel Exam on Wednesday 19th April
- Exam will be on the 19th May
- Trekking will be on 21st and 22nd April

Reading Football Club coming to Brakenhale!

We have a fantastic opportunity with a Reading Football Coach coming in to increase participation in girls' football. The girls targeted are all Year 8s and Year 7 Y-band girls. I am hoping we can keep this link with reading football club to offer it to further classes and year groups. Details of the session will follow in next week's parent news.

INTERHOUSE competition

As we get closer to the end of term, it can only mean one thing! INTERHOUSE COMPETITION! This term's interhouse competition will be held on the following dates:

- Year 9 – Tuesday 28th March
- Year 8 – Wednesday 29th March
- Year 7 - Thursday 30th March

Both the boys' and girls' competition will be on football! Start getting your team ready. Sports captains will have further details.

Athlete of the Week


The athletes of the week this week are Taylor and Olivia from Year 11. Taylor was selected as athlete of the week for his effort and attitude in the football match and Olivia was chosen as she won an interaction quiz at the GCSE PE conference on Friday.

Well done to both of these students and we look forward to seeing who will be athlete of the week next week.

Fixtures for next week

Monday	13 th March	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • U14 v Maiden Erlegh (Home)
Tuesday	14 th March	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • U14 (Year 9) v Forest (Home)
Wednesday	15 th March	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • U18 v EP (Home) • U14 v St Crispins (Away)
Thursday	16 th March	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • U12 (Year 7) v Charters (Away) • U16 (Year 11) v Cox Green (Home)

Clubs and Activities

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
AFTER SCHOOL 3:10 - 4:30	Staff Meetings  @brakenhale	Year 9 + 10 Football Mr Jackson-Sankey Trampolining Beginners and Squad (until 4pm) Mr Beukes + Miss Willimott Handball All Years Mr Boucher	Hockey All Years Miss Willimott + Miss Rushby Year 8 Football Mr Beukes Badminton All Years Mr Yeates	Year 7 Football Mr Boucher Girls Football All Years Mr Jackson-Sankey Table Tennis All Years Mr Yeates	GCSE Revision/ BTEC Catch up Mr Yeates + Miss Rushby + Mr Beukes + Miss Willimott + Mr Boucher

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

Talented Students



One of our talented Year 9 students is performing in the Youth Theatre production of Fame at the Theatre Royal in Windsor.

Mr O'Donoghue, the Year team and the rest of the school wish Tegan the best of luck in her performances:

Wednesday 12th April - 6pm - 9.45 pm

Thursday. 13th April - 6pm - 9.45pm

Saturday. 15th April - 6pm - 9.45pm

School Lottery

Thank you to everyone who has signed up to the school lottery. Have you bought your tickets yet?

Don't forget to purchase them before our first draw on **Saturday 25th March** so please join up and start helping our school.

Clothes Recycling

As we all start to think about spring cleaning at this time of year, when you sort out all your old and unwanted clothes, shoes or accessories please put them to one side for our next

Bag2School Clothes and Accessories RECYCLING

Last year we collected over £200 for the school just by everyone sending in unwanted clothing.

We do not have a definite date yet but a collection will be organised for the summer term.

Bag2School bags are available from school or you can also put your items in a plain bin liner or other bag.

We welcome clean clothes, paired shoes, handbags/bags, hats, scarves and ties, jewellery, belts and soft toys. Household linen, towels, curtains and bed linen (duvet covers, sheets, pillow cases) are now also accepted.



No duvets/blankets, pillows/cushions, carpets/rugs, or school uniform/corporate clothing please.

A full list of accepted and non-accepted items are available on the Bag2School website:

<http://uk.bag2school.com/what-we-collect>

Dedicated to Raising Money Through the Community FOR the Community!

PTA News

The PTA now meets once every half term. Everyone is welcome to join us. The next meeting will be after half term.



You can find copies of the Bingo Evening and School Lottery letters sent home on the school website 'letters' page:

<http://brakenhale.co.uk/pastoral-support/letters-sent-home/>

PTA Upcoming Events:

Saturday 18th March

- Bingo Evening
Tickets are available from main reception or complete the form at the bottom of the letter that we sent home via schoolcomms

Tuesday 25th April

- Summer Term 1 Meeting

Sunday 7th May

- Support for Bracknell Half Marathon

Tuesday 13th June

- Summer Term 2 Meeting

Saturday 24th June

- Race Night

The Brakenhale School PTA

NEXT EVENT...

BINGO

Saturday 18th March 2017

B	I	N	G	O
N	I	G	H	T
Saturday 18th March 2017				
Doors open at 7pm		First game at 7.30pm	Cash Bar Raffle Dinner*	
Tickets £7.50 adults		£5.00 children (under 16) £22.00 family (2 + 2)	Jacket Potato Dinner* with selection of fillings (included)	

PTA
The Brakenhale School
PARENT TEACHER ASSOCIATION

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



Sainsbury's
Active Kids
Eat well • Move well • Live well

Future Diary Dates

Week commencing 20 th March	Sixth Form PPEs
Wednesday 22 nd March	Parent Support Group Coffee Morning
23 rd to 26 th March	Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award expedition
Friday 31 st March	Last day of Spring Term
Friday 31 st March to 3 rd April	Silver Duke of Edinburgh Award expedition
Monday 3 rd to Monday 17 th April	Easter Holiday
Tuesday 18 th April	Inset Day
Wednesday 19 th April	Summer term starts for students
Monday 1 st May	Bank Holiday
Monday 29 th May to Friday 2 nd June	Summer half term holiday

Term Dates 2016-17

Inset Days: Tuesday 18th April 2017

SPRING TERM 2017

Wednesday 4th January – Friday 31st March 2017
 Spring Half Term - Monday 13th to Friday 17th February 2017


Spring Holiday: Monday 3rd April to Monday 17th April 2017

(Good Friday 14th April, Easter Monday 17th April)

Please note Tuesday 18th April is an Inset Day

SUMMER TERM 2017

Tuesday 18th April Inset Day
 Wednesday 19th April – Friday 21st July 2017
 Summer Half Term - Monday 29th May to Friday 2nd June 2017



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

Brakenhale School, Rectory Lane, Bracknell, Berkshire RG12 7BA

☎ 01344 423041 ~ 📧 mainreception@brakenhale.co.uk ~ 🌐 www.brakenhale.co.uk