

# Brakenhale School

## End of Term Parent News

16<sup>th</sup> December 2016



Dear Parents/Carers

As we reach 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 is invaluable in helping me to make continual improvements for example the very constructive comments regarding the AP reports have resulted in a much more effective and detailed report going out, so thank you!

It has been an extremely busy term and the feedback from the Heads of Year further on in this newsletter outlines all of the exciting things that our students have been doing. On top of this the school continues to move forward at a rapid pace with a significant number of students joining us since September.

This week itself has continued to follow the pattern of previous weeks with the incredibly successful music show held last night. So many students excelled themselves on stage and showed unbelievable confidence to stand and sing before so many of you. Some of these students have also performed in the Christmas assembly today along with some very talented dancers from last week's dance show. A huge thank you to Mr Duffy and Miss Haley for all their work in supporting these young people and to all the parents who have been involved. Tuesday evening saw our Awards Presentation evening for last year's Year 11 & 13. It was lovely to see so many of them returning to collect their certificates and special awards. Celebrating their success is one of the best parts of the job.

We were very lucky to have Kevin Gaskell as our guest speaker. He gave an inspirational address on how to achieve your goals. He has very kindly provided the transcript of this which we have published below. Please do have a read.

We have also raised hundreds of pounds today for Save the Children with many staff and young people participating in Christmas jumper day. This term the school has raised thousands of pounds for charity showing how thoughtful and generous our community really is.

As I am sure you are aware I am going on maternity leave from today for the next 12 school weeks. However, I will be keeping in regular contact with key staff in the school via email, phone and through visiting.

In my absence Andy Hartley and Paul Gibson, Deputy Headteachers, will be Acting Headteacher, a role which they will share and I have every confidence in their ability to do this in a highly effective manner. They will also be supported in this by Nick Cross, Greenshaw's Direct of Secondary Education, who will be on site weekly. Nick is a former Headteacher of an outstanding school and has been introduced to students today.

### **Thank you and goodbye**

This term we are saying goodbye to a number of 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 and every one 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.....

**Miss Shaughnessy** who joined us in September 2013 as our Head of ICT. Miss Shaughnessy has decided to pursue her career elsewhere and we wish her the best.

**Mrs Birch** has supported our students with extra needs within our SEN department since April 2015 as a Teaching Assistant and has now decided to move on.

**Miss Phipps** has been with us since September 2015 and has supported our MFL team.

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. Inevitably there will be some changes in student's 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 Emily Metcalfe	Science Teacher
Mr Andrew Wilkie	Dance and Drama Teacher
Mr Timothy Harding	Science Teacher, joining us from Southfields Academy
Miss Luciana Cardosa	Music Teacher
Mrs Rhian Thomas-Nash	Teacher of ICT, covering until September 2017
Miss Julia Moore	Teaching Assistant, joining us from Harmans Water Primary School
Mrs Caroline Harris	Teaching Assistant, internal promotion
Mrs Jane Levitt	Sixth Form Administrator

Finally,

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a very happy, safe and restful Christmas break and to thank you all from all staff for the feedback, cards and presents that have been given this term, it is very much appreciated.

A very happy New Year to you all.

*Jane Coley, Headteacher*

## Presentation Evening

On Tuesday evening we held our annual Presentation Evening for last year's Year 11 GCSE and Year 13 GCE students, to celebrate their personal and academic achievements and for the students to collect their certificates. Our newly appointed Student Ambassadors were on hand to welcome visitors, give out programmes and refreshments and we were delighted that so many students and parents were able to join us.

Mr Beukes, Head of Key Stage 4, but last year's Head of Year 11, summed up the very purpose of the evening in his speech about Year 11. He said:

"Every cohort of students who walk through the school corridors are special, and as teachers we are privileged to walk these corridors with them and form part of their life stories.

I've been blessed to be part of a particularly special cohort, the class of 2016. What sets this group apart from any other is their resilience. Every time we needed them to step up they always answered the call. Class of 2016 you did us proud! You put us in the top 10% of progress made in the country and gave us the best GCSE results this school has seen.

However, we do not do this job for results, we do this to help shape and build a better future for our students. No matter where we find ourselves we will know that we are stronger because we walked the corridors of Brakenhale together."

Our guest speaker for the evening was Kevin Gaskell. Explorer, sportsman, entrepreneur, businessman and professional speaker, Kevin Gaskell has been CEO of three iconic car brands; Porsche, Lamborghini and BMW. He innovates for businesses, improving growth and encouraging turnaround and passionately believes that ordinary people can deliver extraordinary results given the invitation to believe in the goal and the opportunity to contribute towards its achievement.



This is what Mr Gaskell told our audience:

Being the best that you can be

There is a saying "if you don't have a plan then you are part of somebody else's". If we want to be successful then it is critically important to have an ambition, a plan, or even to have a dream about what it is we wish to achieve. Through my career in big companies, small companies, startups and turnarounds I have met talented, smart and incredibly successful people. Each one of them has had a plan. I have made it my business to learn something from each one of them. As you prepare to apply your skills and qualifications to compete for your career in a turbulent, challenging - but exciting - world I'd like to share the principles that I have seen the most successful people apply:



First - Dare to dream:

Every single one of us can be a Nobel Prize winner, the Governor of the Bank of England, a Law Lord, carpenter, artist, teacher, gardener... or whatever it is that we want to be. To achieve that goal we need to be able to imagine what success looks like for us, to have a purpose – and then to commit to making it happen. Recognise that most limitations in life are self-imposed so don't be afraid to think big - do not allow anything to limit your imagination or your determination to achieve your dream.

Never let an opportunity to progress and grow towards your goal go by. The opportunities may be presented to you at inconvenient times but that doesn't matter. There is never a perfect time so don't hang around waiting for one.

I was asked to be CEO of Porsche GB when I was 32. Why me? Simple - nobody else would do it! The business was a total mess. Sales were down by 90%, we were at number 32 (out of 32) in customer satisfaction. We had 3 years' worth of unsold cars in stock. The business was making huge losses. I was terrified. But what an opportunity!! What an invitation!! Four years later we were the most profitable car company in the market, number 1 in customer satisfaction and had a 1 year forward order bank. This was because the team I worked with dared to dream. We imagined what the company could be, we challenged ourselves and every part of the company to become world class. We did not accept limitations.

Part of this is believing that this is possible. Starting from the default mindset that you ARE good enough and that you WILL succeed

Second - Don't let the facts stand in the way of a good decision:

There's always a logical reason NOT to do something. People who don't dream will always give you an excuse so that you don't have to try. They will offer facts and reasons why you won't get to where you want to go.... Ignore them! When I first said that I was going to walk to the North Pole and then the South Pole people told me that I was crazy. They gave me every reason why I shouldn't even try... Storms, polar bears, hungry killer whales ... oh yes and the cold – as if that would be a surprise! (The coldest day was minus 60C!) I listened to them, and then I ignored them.

Do not be afraid to grab an opportunity when you see it because it probably won't come past again. The biggest regrets are usually about the things which were not done or not even tried. So follow your dream, open up, give yourself a chance. Believe it can be done, you've just got to find a way. If it feels right, is exciting, appears to be a fantastic opportunity, then it probably is ... so grab it!

When I walked away from the job as Managing Director of BMW people told me that I was crazy. But I had a belief that the internet would change the way that cars were sold. And a dream that I could be the one to build the new way. I went from being a high profile businessman to dotcom startup nobody overnight. The front page of the automotive trade newspaper ran a big article explaining why I would fail...! They threw every logical argument and excuse at me and my team. But we did it anyway. Five years later when we sold the business for £100 million everyone told us we were lucky! The truth is we weren't lucky, we had a good idea, we had a great team and we had a dream which we worked very very hard to achieve.

So when you see your opportunity, be brave, make a positive decision, take the chance and run with it.

Third - Choose the team you work with very, very carefully!

The people who you choose to work with, study with or just hang out with will have a huge impact on your life. If you choose the right team you will learn from them, grow with them, be positively challenged by them. So make sure that you look for people who are positive – and who are ambitious for team success as well as personal success. Don't waste your time with people who waste your time!

Finally – stay calm and be polite.

Be consistent, approachable, and friendly. Smart people choose not to do business with or to offer opportunities to individuals who are not nice to deal with. By all means be determined and ambitious – but always do it with a smile and a polite word. Always say thank you. When you are successful always share the credit, make heroes of the people in your team. But don't forget to play sport, share time with your friends or to take a holiday. Successful people usually work too many hours. We all need hobbies and pastimes which allow us to rejuvenate and refresh our passions. Stay calm, stay balanced, have fun.

I have been fortunate enough to have seen these principles applied by the very best entrepreneurs, corporate executives, scientists, engineers and sports stars. I have met and worked with many of them. They all have a dream, they all show determination and they don't give up. They think big, they face challenges and they get on with it whether it goes right or it goes wrong. If it goes wrong then that's just a learning opportunity so get back up and get it right next time.

You are the new generation, the new leaders... It only seems like 5 minutes since I was thinking about what to do after school. Now I am looking back and sharing what I have learnt throughout my career. You are incredible, now you can go into the world and achieve great things ... the opportunities are waiting for you. Go and be the very best that you can be. Dare to dream.

## Christmas Lunch

Our catering team served a record breaking Christmas Lunch service on Wednesday, with the highest number of covers served and takings received in recent years!

It was truly the best Christmas lunch I have been involved in and I would like to thank all the kitchen team for the fantastic food, all the staff who supported the event, but most of all our students. We had their full co-operation in a very different lunch service to normal; everyone involved should be very proud of what we all achieved.

Merry Christmas to you all.

*Mrs Silvey, Catering & Hospitality Manager*



## Year 11 Pre Public Exams Results Day – Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> December



On Thursday the students of Year 11 received their Pre Public Examination (PPE) results in a format that resembles what they will face in the Summer of 2017.

They opened their sealed envelopes to reveal the grades they have achieved which was met with a mixture of jubilation, expectation and, in some cases, disappointment. The message was clear to all that this should be used as a stepping stone by allowing them to understand where gaps in knowledge and technique are missing. We are extremely proud of how our Year 11s tackled the PPEs and we look forward to working with them in their final full term.

*Mr Gibson, Deputy Headteacher*

## Music Concert – Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> December

Well done to Mr Duffy and all the students who produced and took part in the Music Concert on Wednesday, for all their hard work and commitment to put on such a fantastic show. It meant a lot to the staff and students that so many teachers, parents and peers came along to see them perform.

It is amazing the incredibly vast range of talents showcased by everyone on the evening and a real credit to the school.



## Brakenhale Photography

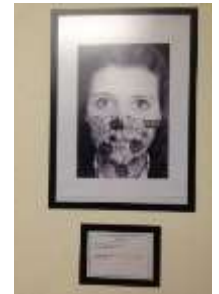


Brakenhale photography students have had their artwork selected and displayed in the Council Buildings in the town centre. The work of Shannon Leigh Carter, Luke Beards, Viktoria Petrova and Daniel Jose of Year 11 are on display in the Reception of Easthampsted House in Times Square.

Emma Young, of the Democratic and Registration Services team said "They look fantastic and I've already had many comments about how professional they are including from local Councillors and the Mayor."

It is so fantastic that the school can positively impact on people's days through our students' talent and hard work.

*Mrs G Powell, Assistant Headteacher*



## Year 11 – Extension to the school day

From Monday 9<sup>th</sup> January to Friday 31<sup>st</sup> March next year we will now have a period 6 for students in their final year here at The Brakenhale School to ensure that they are fully prepared for their summer examinations.

These lessons will be formally timetabled and consist of an extra hour at the end of the normal school day, meaning that students will now finish school at 4.05pm. Students will receive extra sessions in English, Maths, Science and their options subjects.

These extra lessons will be taught by their normal class teacher and will be geared towards covering outstanding content, completing controlled assessment and working on examination technique. We are excited to be in a position to offer this to our students and I would like to thank our committed staff for giving up extra time and also you and your child for your continued support.

I genuinely believe that this initiative, running alongside all of the extra interventions we are currently implementing, will have a significant positive impact on our students' results in the summer.

Should you wish to discuss this further, please do not hesitate to contact me.

*Mr Gibson, Deputy Headteacher*

## Use of School Site and Sports Centre Facilities

I would like to make a 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. 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.

## Student Librarians

Two of our Year 7 students have been appointed Student Librarians as part of their Pixl Edge award. They will work in the library alongside Mrs Daniels, helping with all aspects of librarian work. They will also work towards a Student Librarian qualification at the same time.

*Mrs Daniels, Learning Resource Centre Manager*



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



The last week of term has been no quieter than the rest of term for the PE department. This week has seen our first **inter-house competitions** and they have gone off with a bang! There has been a real buzz and excitement around inter-house competitions across the year groups.

All houses played six games with nearly all the students either playing or officiating or helping with scoring. It was nice to see so many students working within different teams and not just with their friends or PE groups. Everyone got into the house spirit and it was a really enthusiastic atmosphere. There was some excellent netball and rugby played over the 3 days of house competitions. The winners were:

- Year 7 Netball - BRUNEL
- Year 7 Rugby - HAWKING
- Year 8 Netball - KING
- Year 8 Rugby - NIGHTINGALE
- Year 9 Netball – HAWKING
- Year 9 Rugby - HAWKING

The PE department would just like to thank all the student helpers and staff that came to support.



We had our second **badminton** fixture against a strong Edgbarrow side. Unfortunately, despite our Young Ambassadors being at their meeting, Edgbarrow won all age groups but our students worked extremely well and put in some good individual performances.

We have had more success this year with our Year 9 and Year 10 teams being crown the Bracknell Forest **Rugby** Champions for 2016. Well done to all the boys that played within these two teams. Photos of them receiving their trophy will be coming in the new year.



# Brakenhale PE Extra Curricular

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
<b>AFTER SCHOOL</b> 3:10 - 4:30  <b>Starting from Monday 9<sup>th</sup> January</b>	<b>Girls Football</b> All Years Mr Jackson-Sankey  <b>Table Tennis</b> All Years Miss Rushby  <b>Year 11 Football</b> Mr Yeates	<b>Badminton</b> All years Mr Yeates  <b>Year 9 + 10 Football</b> Mr Jackson-Sankey	<b>Handball</b> All Years Mr Boucher  <b>Hockey</b> All Years Miss Willimott + Miss Rushby  <b>Year 8 Football</b> Mr Beukes	<b>Trampolining Beginners and Squad</b> Mr Beukes + Miss Willimott  <b>Year 7 Football</b> Mr Boucher	<b>GCSE Revision/ BTEC Catch up</b> Mr Yeates + Miss Rushby + Mr Beukes + Miss Willimott

Students will just need to turn up to the clubs and make parents/carers aware of which ones they are staying for.

**Reward Trip**

All places have been filled for the reward trip to Birmingham to watch the Basketball Finals. Thank you for those who have paid their money. A review of the trip will follow in next year's parent news. If you would like to attend one of our reward trips then students need to make sure they are attending clubs and fixtures. Details will follow of the Spring Reward Trip.

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

## What's On Next Week

Monday 19 <sup>th</sup> December	<b>Inset Day</b>
	<b>Year 11 ISA Day</b>
Tuesday 20 <sup>th</sup> December	<b>Inset Day</b>

## Vacancies

We currently have the following support staff vacancies in school:

- **Teaching Assistant**
- **Finance Officer**

We have exciting opportunities for the above experienced, committed and enthusiastic staff. The successful candidates will join a team of teachers who are passionate about engaging and inspiring young people in their learning. We are looking to recruit colleagues with both the commitment and relevant skills to drive our raising standards agenda across the whole ability range.

## Easy Fundraising

Did you know that whenever you buy anything online - from your weekly shop to your annual holiday - you could be collecting free donations for The Brakenhale School - Bracknell?

There are over 3,000 shops and sites on board ready to make a donation, including Amazon, John Lewis, Aviva, thetrainline and Sainsbury's – it doesn't cost you a penny extra!

It's as easy as 1, 2, 3...

1. Head to <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/brakenhaleschool/> and join for free.
2. Every time you shop online, go to easyfundraising first to find the site you want and start shopping.
3. After you've checked out, that retailer will make a donation to your good cause for no extra cost whatsoever!

There are no catches or hidden charges and The Brakenhale School will be really grateful for your donations.

Thank you for your support.





## PTA News

### Christmas Raffle:

We are delighted to advise that the PTA Christmas Raffle was drawn at 3pm on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> December 2016 by Mr Hartley, Deputy Headteacher.

We would like to thank everyone who supported to PTA by buying tickets. The raffle made a total of £288, part of which was already included in the previously announced Christmas Market total.

A list of the winning ticket numbers can be found below and prize winners have been notified individually. Prizes are available from main reception.

Prize	Ticket Number	Colour
Digital Camera	178	Blue border, white
Christmas Hamper (contents)	69	White
Slow Cooker	89	Blue border, white
BMW Picture	254	Blue border, white
Wine & Chocolates Board	323	Blue border, white
Cava & Crackers	106	White
Bekonscot Model Village Ticket	310	Pink
Downshire Golf Pitch & Putt Tickets	835	Yellow
Barrett & Coe Photography Experience	208	Blue border, white
Venture Photography Experience	328	Green
Mercedes Benz Umbrella	156	Blue
Lookout Discovery Ticket	128	Blue border, white
Bracknell Bees Family Ticket	240	White

### PTA Upcoming Events:

Next Meeting                      Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> January



# Brakenhale School

## Year 7 News



Dear Parents and Carers,

We hope your child has enjoyed their first term at The Brakenhale School. The Year 7 students have taken part in many activities they can be proud of, both academically and within the extracurricular activities provided.

There have been a huge number of fantastic events this past term including the Christmas Fair. Students from Year 7 ran various stalls and raised a huge amount of money for the PTA and it was so uplifting to see their enthusiasm and participation in this great event.

Students in Year 7 have also worked with Bracknell Forest homes and the Learning to Work group, creating their own mini-van business enterprises. Students had to present their business ideas to employees of Honda and several of these presentations were of an outstanding calibre.



Year 7 Students receiving awards for their outstanding presentation from Honda and Learning to

In the run up to the Christmas holidays there have been some outstanding musical and dance performances by Year 7 students at our school shows. The quality of their performances were to be marvelled at and are looking forward to more performances over the coming years.

There have been a number of sporting successes, including groups of Year 7s going to various secondary schools and competing in events such as netball, football and rugby. It was a pleasure to see students so involved in their inter house competition on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> December. There were some real stand out stars in the making and some great tries in the boys' rugby and goals in the girls' netball tournaments.

Year 7 students have also embraced the philosophy of PiXL Edge this past term. Students have been busy developing the skills of leadership, organisation, resilience, initiative and communication. Some students have already completed 4 activities out of 10.

It has been a pleasure to see cake sales ran by students of 7E, 7A and 7B this past half term. Students have been raising money for great causes such as cancer research, with monies well over £100 raised. We hope to see more of these great events from Year 7, they deserve a huge amount of praise for their positive contribution to the wellbeing and life of the school.

This term has seen the introduction of the student ambassadors, Year 7 and Year 8 students have supported the school across the music and dance shows as well as the Year 11 presentation evening. Students did a sterling effort welcoming parents to the school and providing refreshments and acting as guides to parents. Students have truly shone and parents have praised their pleasant manner and how well presented they are, truly doing both the school, themselves and their family proud.

Next term students will look at raising Year 7 students' aspirations further. Students will take part in a fantastic careers fair hosted at Brakenhale on the 20<sup>th</sup> January.

I have included below some key dates for your information including the plan for the first day upon return to school:

- Wednesday 4th January: Return to school, 08.40 start of school day.
- Thursday 19th January Year 7 Disco, 7.00-9.00pm
- Monday 13th–Friday 17th February: Spring half term
- Thursday 16th March: Year 7 parents evening

Remember with a new term come the same high expectations that we know you have fulfilled well over the past term. To ensure you can achieve and aim high you must ensure you have all tools for learning, the items needed are listed below:

- Planner
- 30 cm ruler
- HB pencil
- Rubber
- Colouring pencils/felt tips
- 3 black or blue pens
- Pencil sharpener
- Calculator
- Protractor
- Highlighter
- Glue stick

We have found the best students always remember to pack their bags the night before ensuring they have all equipment and any additional items such as any school books, ingredients needed or their PE kit to help facilitate learning.

To further instil pride and confidence we look forward to you coming in so smart and well presented as so many of you have done over the past term. Remember you must ensure you have full school uniform worn correctly at all times. This includes having the following:

- Black polishable shoes
- Black coat suitable for the cold weather
- Brakenhale school bag

We hope both yourselves and students have a wonderful safe holiday full of joy and happiness. We look forward to working with you over the course of the next term.

Kind regards

*Martyn Cooper, Head of Year 7*

# Brakenhale School Year 8 News



Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been an incredibly busy first term. It has been my first term in post as Head of Year 8 and it has been an eye-opening experience. There have been so many things that have happened that have made this term the best I have had since becoming a teacher 4 years ago and I have the amazing students in Year 8 to thank.

So many students have received letters and certificates because of Vivo points and attendance. We have so many exceptional students in the year group and their attitude to school and learning deserves to be celebrated. Parents' evening was the highest attended we have ever had and the atmosphere was so positive. It was so pleasing to see the feedback forms that parents had completed.

The Christmas Market was very well attended by Year 8 students. They baked their own biscuits and ran their own stalls. Year 8s have been so proactive in whole school events. They threw themselves into their inter-house competitions, have taken part and supported the music and dance shows and taken so many visitors on school tours.

The Year 8s asked for a school disco and I was only too happy to hold this for them. It was a great way to end the first half-term and it was so nice to see the students enjoying themselves.

As the Year 8s have done so well and the parents evening was so well attended, we decided to reward them all with a movie afternoon in this final week. Sometimes this job has challenging days, but I couldn't be happier that I am Head of Year for this group of amazing young people. I look forward to the next two terms and the years ahead.

I hope you all have a very well deserved rest over the winter break and hope to see you all back safely on the first day.

*Mr Hicks, Head of Year 8*



# Brakenhale School Year 9 News



Dear Parents/Carers,

Can I firstly just say what an absolute pleasure it has been to work with you over the last term. There have been many highs, and a few lows, but with the season that is in it, let us focus on all of the positives.

At the beginning of the year you were set the target of 96% attendance. This is a target 1% above the national target of 95%. Currently the attendance for our year group stands at 94.8%. This is a great achievement so far and highlights the commitment you have to your education at our school. Heading into the Spring and Summer terms where there will be less colds and flus flying around, I can only envisage us achieving our target which is a testament to all of the hard work done by you all.

My biggest highlight of the year so far was delivering the assembly which was supposed to be twenty minutes on personal hygiene. That took a back seat as we ended up only doing it for 8 minutes. This is because we had a special visitor join us. Mrs. Coley came in to spread the Christmas cheer around by handing out over 70 positive achievement letters. This on top of the 40+ letters I handed out for positive behaviour, it really was an enlightening experience for me. I spend so much time dealing with negative incidents from a small number of students, it opened my eyes to the fantastic achievements of the students that get it right everyday they proudly put on their pristine uniforms.

So to all of you, I want to wish you a very happy festive season. Make sure you spend plenty of time with the people you care about and spread around the random acts of kindness over the festive season. Keep yourself safe and don't do anything silly and I look forward to seeing you all back rested, happy and healthy in January.

Kind regards

Mr N O'Donoghue  
Head of Year 9  
[nodonoghue@brakenhale.co.uk](mailto:nodonoghue@brakenhale.co.uk)

Miss L Rushby  
Deputy Head of Year 9  
[lrushby@brakenhale.co.uk](mailto:lrushby@brakenhale.co.uk)

# Brakenhale School

## Year 10 News



Dear Parents and Carers,

As our longest term draws to a close I get the chance to write to you once more to celebrate the successes of our students.

As you will of course know, the new GCSEs are in full swing and it has taken some adjustment to adapt to the demands of the new courses. Most students have done this quickly and are producing wonderful work that highlights their potential.

I asked teachers to share some positives about teaching Year 10 this year and below are a selection of their comments and praise:

- Mr Hicks wanted to thank a number of students who came and helped him raise money for the Identity group.
- Mr Jackson-Sankey was very proud of the Year 10 football team for getting so far in the National Cup - the furthest a Brakenhale team has ever got!
- Miss Willimott was delighted with her Health and Social Care class who have been amazing. She also particularly praised Asha Munissi, Amy Cogdon, Lydia Drakou, Ayanna Ilagan, Zoe Patterson, Chloe Hawkins and Claudia Periquito for always being there for extra-curricular activities and matches.
- Ms Jacob wanted to say well done to Ethan Harrison and Finn Surman for scoring well on a recent test.
- Miss Danset-Sales wished to congratulate the following girls on working incredibly hard in her languages class; Kayleigh O'Connor, Chloe Hawkins and Lydia Drakou.
- Miss Barnwell has seen big improvements in her Year 10 science class with real progress being made.
- And of course my History class are also doing really well!

We've also had students being wonderful ambassadors for the school at sporting events, in school events and in particular being tour guides for visitors to the school. Additionally, there are a large number of students who have achieved 100% attendance so far this year which is a big boost for the school - the more they're here, the more they learn!

A particular mention goes to Chloe Hawkins for holding a cake sale back in October which raised £60 for the Motor Neurone Disease Association, along with her friends Asha, Amy, Courtney and Katie. This clearly shows the calibre of student we have in Year 10 and how they consider others through their thoughts and actions.

When we return from holidays we continue apace with the work begun this term. May I remind you to encourage students to be prepared for their lessons, punctual to school, and ready to learn from the very first day back. From experience a smooth start back from the holidays helps maintain a positive learning environment for everyone.

As ever, we are very proud of the achievements of our young people. Nonetheless, we are very happy to entrust them back into your care for the next couple of weeks to enjoy a restful and recuperating holiday.

On behalf of myself and the Year 10 team, have a very merry festive season!

*Phil Benson, Head of Year 10*

# Brakenhale School Year 11 News



Dear Parents/Carers,

We have come to the end of a very long but also very successful term for Year 11 students, and we have much to celebrate. Students have done well so far, and we applaud them for the successes they have had this term.

Year 11 students' focus this term has been to build on the firm foundation they have set in recent years, and be more secure in getting ready for their upcoming exams in the Summer term. This involves staying behind after school in different subject areas to complete various tasks, working with their tutors to access different revision skills and techniques, attending half term and Saturday sessions, working through their first set of PPEs, having their first 'results day' experience, as well as supporting each other in many different ways.

Students' success and achievements have not been limited to the academic. I had the sincere pleasure of watching students perform in both the Dance Show and the Music Show. I can honestly say that when the Year 11 students were on, they dominated the stage. All eyes were transfixed on these students, even when they performed as part of a group. I am truly proud of how well students have done. A huge thank you to the members of staff who have worked with these students and help them secure this achievement.

Students will be off until the 4<sup>th</sup> January for a much deserved break, but we urge you to ensure that they do some revision during this time. I know it is family time and it's the festive season, but with only twelve full weeks left before some students start doing some exams, some students will find that so far this year, they have had more time in school than they have left before exams. They have this one opportunity to get these much deserved and all important grades and we need to support them in their preparation.

We would also encourage students to think about their personal organisation over the holidays, and ensure that they return fully equipped to learn with the appropriated tools, but also in the correct school uniform. Please be reminded that as it continues to be cold, students need black / dark coats for the season. Time spent sorting out equipment, books and uniform eats into learning time which is very valuable, particularly in Year 11

As a year team, we are incredibly proud of the young men and women that we care for, and the progress and achievements they have made so far. With GCSEs around the corner, we all wish every student, and their families, an enjoyable Christmas holidays and look forward to welcoming students back in January.

*Miss Douse and the Year 11 Team*

# Brakenhale School Sixth Form News



Dear Parents/Carers,

At the end of a long term the Sixth Form have much to celebrate. In academic, sporting and creative arenas our students have achieved enormous success.

In sporting terms, we have seen great progress both from individuals and the student body as a whole. The Sixth Form Football team have punched above their weight, making the second round of the cup against larger institutions. The team also acquitted themselves well in matches against Bracknell & Wokingham and Edgbarrow Schools only losing in the last moments of these games.

We have also seen the development of the Staff vs. Sixth Form sporting competition. In the football the staff held on against a superior student side and the students have already requested a rematch. In the netball the height of Mr Mullett proved the decisive factor as the staff gained a lead and his goal defence kept the students a bay.

On an individual note Lewis Clothier in Year 13 worked extremely hard and was selected to represent Great Britain at the European Gymnastics Championships. His effort and focus resulted in the most complete performance on the team.

Our student's creative growth has also been evident this term. The BTEC Media students under Mr Hoey are producing professional quality documentaries. Eliphaz Boateng, Weronkia Bawej and Angila Sapkota in year 13 has used these skills to help in the production of videos for the school through the year. The creative flair has also been evident in Dance. Kieran West, Fay Beesley and Chloe Johnson showed real leadership in helping out in choreographing and leading the end of term dance show. They also produced an excellent piece themselves on the theme of David Bowie. Our drama students have been perfecting their devised piece for performance in the Spring term and have been getting used to the new lighting system with George Hunt supporting the Dance department by designing and running the lights for their show. Our Music students have also been working hard in preparation for the Music show on the 15th of December which will bring the term to a suitable close.

Academically this has been a remarkable term. Our results in the Summer were the best the Sixth Form have achieved and this looks like it will be surpassed by the performance of the students this year. The first Assessment point suggests that our provision will be in the top 25% of the country. The PPE (Pre Public Exams) which were sat in November were taken seriously by the students and the results and the latest report card will be coming home this week,

The students have participated in a number of events this term. We have hosted the Student Finance UK tour, a workshop from KPMG, the University of Portsmouth Criminology Department, Mr Nower from BPP as well as taking the students to Safe Drive Stay Alive, hosting a Lumina workshop on personality and development. We have also had individual department trips across subjects from Art to English.

The students have also been generous with their time in helping the school and the wider community. A large number of student's current act as mentors in the lower school, helping out in lessons and supporting pupils with their studies. Several students have taken this further by volunteering to aid young people in the local community. The students have also represented the school at a number of events including the Open Evening, Sixth Form Open Evening and most recently the Year 11 taster day. Our Head Boy and Head Girl have also played their part helping guide the student council, representing the school during the Year 7 Tours and meeting with the School Minister Nick Gibb.

One final note from me is the pride I have in the student's dedication to their studies. The attendance at Sixth Form is currently at 94% which is well above national average for Post-16 education providers. This is due to the dedication of the students and support from parents.

This autumn has also seen the Year 13 students develop their plans for the future. The University application cycle is well under way and a large number of students have already received offers. We are particularly pleased to announce that students have received offers from a number of prestigious higher education institutions including - Royal Holloway, The University of Sussex, The University of Reading, the University of Southampton, the University of Exeter, Kingston University and Kings College London. Many more students are still waiting on responses from Universities as our young people continue to show how exceptional they are. We are particularly proud to announce that Charley Camp our Deputy Head Girl has secured a place on Future Teachers Scholars after a rigorous application process.

After the Christmas period we will be working with those students who want to follow the apprenticeship route and I am certain that the students will obtain places on challenging and worthwhile schemes offered at some the most prestigious companies in the UK.

The whole Sixth Form team are incredibly proud of the young men and women that we care for, and the progress and achievements they have made. We would like to wish all students and parents a Merry Christmas and a happy and successful new year.

*Mr Dale and the Sixth Form Team*



## Future Diary Dates

Wednesday 4 <sup>th</sup> January 2017	<b>First day of Spring Term</b>
Week commencing 9 <sup>th</sup> January	<b>Year 11 BTEC Exams</b>
Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> January	<b>Year 7 &amp; 8 Careers Day</b>
Week commencing 23 <sup>rd</sup> January	<b>Book Look Week for Year 10</b>
Monday 13 <sup>th</sup> to Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> February	<b>Spring Half Term Break</b>
Friday 31 <sup>st</sup> March	<b>Last day of Spring Term</b>

### Term Dates 2016-17

*Inset Days: Monday 19<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> December 2016  
Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> April 2017*

#### AUTUMN TERM 2016

Monday 5<sup>th</sup> September – Friday 16<sup>th</sup> December 2016

Monday 19<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> December 2016 **Inset Days**

Autumn Half Term - Monday 24<sup>th</sup> to Friday 28<sup>th</sup> October 2016

**Christmas Holiday  
(including Inset days):  
Monday 19<sup>th</sup> December 2016 to  
Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2017**

#### SPRING TERM 2017

Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> January – Friday 31<sup>st</sup> March 2017

Spring Half Term - Monday 13<sup>th</sup> to Friday 17<sup>th</sup> February 2017

**Spring Holiday: Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> April  
to Monday 17<sup>th</sup> April 2017**

*(Good Friday 14<sup>th</sup> April,  
Easter Monday 17<sup>th</sup> April)*

*Please note Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> April is  
an Inset Day*

#### SUMMER TERM 2017

Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> April **Inset Day**  
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



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

**#challengeforall**

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*High Expectations and Challenge for All*