

# Brakenhale School Parent News

2<sup>nd</sup> December 2016



Dear Parents/Carers

There may only be two school weeks left till Christmas, however, it would almost seem to be our busiest time of the term.

Year 11 students sat their Pre Public Examinations this week and were a credit to themselves in the examination hall with their level of focus and engagement. Today they have been following a Post 16 curriculum as part of our new initiative 'Post 16 Curriculum Taster Day'. This has involved the students attending lessons in those subjects that they think that they would like to choose at Post 16 as well as some students following our new level 2 pathway with sessions offered by apprenticeship provision and Bracknell and Wokingham College.

Continuing on the Post 16 topic we would like to congratulate Mr Dale, Head of Sixth Form, who this week has been awarded his Masters in Philosophy. A real example of how education never stops!

We have had lots to celebrate this term and I am in the process of giving out over 500 letters to students across Years 7 to 11 who have shown exemplary behaviour this term. Some students will also receive letters from myself about their excellent progress shown through their grade report and in addition Heads of Year will be giving out over 150 letters to those students with high achievement points this term. We have also started a new initiative this week focusing on positive phone calls and congratulation postcards. Every member of staff will be making at least one phone call a week and giving out at least one postcard.

I have also been delighted by the entries for the Christmas card competition and the winner, Stephanie Dundon in Year 7, will now have her fantastic card printed and sent to a wide range of people in the local community. Well Done Stephanie!!

I look forward to the last remaining 10 school days before the Christmas holidays which hold lots of opportunities for young people to showcase their talents in the dance and music shows and through presentation evening.

Best wishes

*Jane Coley, Headteacher*

**#challengeforall**

## A Festive Thank You

We would like to thank Oaktree Garden Centre very much indeed for their kind donation of Christmas lights, decorations and a fabulous Christmas tree for our Student Support Centre.

The students in The Bridge spent a delightful break time decorating their area and it was an absolute delight and privilege to be able to watch their beaming smiles as they did it.

*Mrs Coley and Mrs Palmer*



## Sixth Form Art & Photography Trip to the Tate Modern in London

On Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> November, a group of Year 12 and 13 students who are studying A Levels in Art and/or Photography had the opportunity to go to the Tate Modern in London to see 'The Radical Eye' exhibition. This exhibition is a once-in-a-lifetime chance to see one of the world's greatest private collections of photography, which has been brought together by Sir Elton John over the past twenty-five years.

It was a cold but sunny day, so the group walked along the Southbank and took lots of photographs as inspiration and research for their individual projects, as well as a few 'selfies'! The group posed for a photograph with a random 'gonk' and some Christmas trees – part of London's Christmas celebrations. After the exhibition, students walked around the Tate Modern and looked at the art and then visited the Christmas market, before heading home. It was a highly successful day and was thoroughly enjoyed by everyone.



*Miss Wilhelmy and Mrs Hemmings, Art & Photography Teachers*

## Biscuit Making

On Wednesday last week, eighteen of our Year 8 students stayed behind after school to bake biscuits with Miss Langille, Miss Loj and Miss Manisier. The biscuits they made and decorated were absolutely beautiful and they were sold at the PTA Christmas Market. The majority of these students also came to the Christmas Market to help run stalls and take part in the evening. It is so heart-warming to see this level of engagement from our young people towards our wider school community activities and events.



Year 7 and 8 are also working towards gaining awards with Pixl Edge. This award allows students to document and evidence examples of their leadership, communication, resilience, initiative and organisation. This is an ideal opportunity that the students have embraced and can now put towards their Pixl Edge awards.

*Mr Hicks, Head of Year 8*

The **Pixl**Edge

## EAL Class Show My Homework

Extra curricular homework is set regularly for selected EAL students to improve their performance. Students are part of the EAL Study Support class, under Year R, and they should log in to find the relevant homework. Please do not hesitate to contact me if any students have difficulty accessing the homework.

Miss Cmok, EAL Coordinator



## Year 11 Pre Public Exams PPEs (Mock Exams)

We have been very impressed with how well our Year 11 students have approached their pre-public examinations this week. The exams will finish next week with the final two – Art and Photography - on Monday and Tuesday.

Please continue to support/encourage/push students in their revision to ensure that the results are a true reflection of their ability.

### Year 11 PPE Timetable

<b>Monday 5<sup>th</sup> December</b>	Art – All day
<b>Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> December</b>	Photography – All day

Mr Gibson, Deputy Headteacher

## Parent Support Group

Our next Parent Support Group will be meeting next week on Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> December at the school between 1.30 and 3pm.

If you would like to come and meet our Family Support Worker and other parents to discuss all aspects of living with teenagers, please join us.

We will be meeting on further dates during the year, in February, March, May and June.

Mrs T Gosling, Family Support Advisor

Miss C Gill, Safeguarding & Intervention Manager

## Parent Support Group

at Brakenhale




### Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> December 1.30pm to 3pm

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

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

**Future Meeting Dates:**

**Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> February ~ 1.30-3pm**

**Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> March ~ 9.30-11am**

**Friday 12<sup>th</sup> May ~ 9.30-11am**

**Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> June ~ 1.30-3pm**

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

High Expectations and Challenge for All



**PE News**

**@brakenhalePE**



**Year 7 Football Tournament**

Congratulations to the Year 7 boys on their performance last night at Bohunt School, Wokingham in the County 5 aside tournament. They got through the group stage unbeaten against Charters, Furze Platt and Bohunt, and played eventual winners, LVS in the semi final. LVS narrowly won 2-1 so we played in a 3<sup>rd</sup> /4<sup>th</sup> place play off against Holyport College. We beat Holyport 1-0 so finished the tournament in 3<sup>rd</sup> place overall out of 10 teams.



Great performance from the boys to finish above some very strong opposition.

*Mr Yeates, Head of PE*



**Brakenhale PE Extra Curricular**

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
<b>AFTER SCHOOL 3:10 - 4:30</b>	<p><b>Netball</b> Year 9 and 10 Miss Rushby and Miss Willimott</p> <p><b>Year 10 Football</b> Mr Jackson-Sankey</p>	<p><b>Badminton</b> All years Mr Yeates</p> <p><b>Year 9 Football</b> Mr Jackson-Sankey</p>	<p><b>Rugby</b> Year 9 Mr Beukes</p> <p><b>Handball</b> All Years Mr Boucher</p>	<p><b>Rugby</b> Year 7 + 8 Mr Yeates + Mr Jackson-Sankey</p> <p><b>Trampolining</b> <b>Beginners and Squad</b> Mr Boucher + Miss Willimott</p>	<p><b>GCSE Revision/ BTEC Catch up</b> Mr Yeates + Miss Rushby + Mr Beukes</p>

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

**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*

## What's On Next Week

Tuesday 6 <sup>th</sup> December	<b>PTA Meeting</b>
Wednesday 7 <sup>th</sup> December	<b>Parent Support Group</b> <b>Dance Show</b>
Thursday 8 <sup>th</sup> December	<b>Year 8 Parents' Evening</b>

## Upcoming Events

### Dance Show – Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> December

Including performances from Years 7, 8, 9, 10, 11 and 12 Dance classes, The Brakenhale Dance Company, Street Dance Group, 'Unknown' Boys Dance and the new Year 7 Dance Company.

*Miss Haley, Head of Dance and Drama*

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

With performances from students across the whole school.

*We will be selling programmes and refreshments at both of these events.*



Wednesday the 7<sup>th</sup> of December  
6:00 – 7:30PM in the main hall  
£1 per adult, students and children free



### The Brakenhale Winter Music Show



Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> December, 6:00 -  
7:30pm in The school's Main Hall

Entrance is £1 per family and there will be  
refreshments available



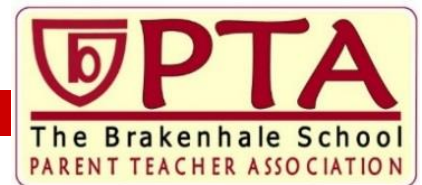


## Vacancies

We currently have the following support staff vacancies in school:

- **Teaching Assistant**
- **Sixth Form Administrator**

We have exciting opportunities for an experienced, committed and enthusiastic Teaching Assistant and Sixth Form Administrator. 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.



## PTA News

### PTA Upcoming Events:

Christmas Raffle: Up until the end of term – tickets available from main reception and via tutors

PTA Meeting: Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> December

 A festive poster for the PTA Christmas Raffle. The background is green with white and red floral patterns and colorful Christmas baubles. The PTA logo is in the top left. The text reads:
 

**Christmas Raffle**  
 1st Prize: **Digital Camera**  
 2nd Prize: **Christmas Hamper**  
 (Contents only, worth over £50, in main reception)  
 3rd Prize: **Slow Cooker**  
 More Prizes: **BMW Picture \* Wine & Chocolates Board \* Cava & Crackers \* Bekonscot Model Village Ticket \* Downshire Golf Pitch & Putt Vouchers \* Barrett & Coe Photography Experience \* Venture Photography Voucher \* Mercedes Benz Umbrella \* Lookout Discovery Centre Family Ticket**

£1 a row of tickets

\*Please note that any prize which contains alcohol must be collected by an adult.

## Future Diary Dates

Tuesday 13 <sup>th</sup> December	<b>Presentation Evening to celebrate GCSE and GCE results, by invite only</b>
Wednesday 14 <sup>th</sup> December	<b>Christmas Dinner in the dining hall, by ticket only</b>
Thursday 15 <sup>th</sup> December	<b>Music Concert</b>
Friday 16 <sup>th</sup> December	<b>Last day of Autumn Term for students</b>
	<b>Christmas Jumper Day – raising money for Save the Children £1 donation to wear a decorative jumper for the day</b>
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>
Tuesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> January 2017	<b>First 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>

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

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

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