

# Brakenhale School Parent News

25<sup>th</sup> November 2016



## Communications

Could we please remind Parents/Carers that during the school day teachers are busy teaching classes and if you wish to make contact with members of staff, either for a meeting or for a telephone conversation, please email your contact details and the nature of your enquiry to: [mainreception@brakenhale.co.uk](mailto:mainreception@brakenhale.co.uk) and mark it for the relevant teacher's attention.

Appointments for meetings with members of staff should be **made in advance** of coming into school. Thank you.

Dear Parents/Carers

This week has been one filled with a range of activities for young people across the school. Last night saw a hugely successful PTA Christmas market which to date has raised over £1,100.00. Raffle tickets are still available for the amazing hamper which is on display in reception. My sincere thanks to the PTA team and the school staff who arranged and ran the evening without them it would not have been possible.

Yesterday also saw Year 7 spending the whole day together with a team from Learning to Work carrying out the 'minivan' project. The students were fully engaged throughout the day and it was a privilege to hear the top 3 'companies' standing on stage and explaining their project to all of their peers. Fantastic work from Year 7!

Year 7 also excelled in the Youth Speaks competition along with our senior team from the Sixth Form. Mr Sinclair took the young people through their paces and they received congratulations from the head judge. Please see the write up below.

Year 9 have been busy this week completing their internal exams which they took very seriously and Year 11 will be doing the same next week.

Finally, a lovely piece of news, Mrs Isherwood welcomed her baby girl into the world this week.

Best wishes

Jane Coley, Headteacher

#challengeforall

## Tools for Learning and Planners

**THE BRAKENHALE SCHOOL**  
*High Expectations and Challenge for All*

### Tools for Learning

To be ready for school you need to be ready to learn.  
Make sure you are always equipped with the correct tools for learning.  
Independence brings success!

- Brakenhale School Bag and Exercise Books
- Large Pencil Case, clear if possible
- Three Black or Blue Pens
- HB Pencil
- Rubber
- Pencil Sharpener
- 30cm Ruler
- Protractor
- Highlighter Pen
- Scientific Calculator
- School Planner
- Coloured Pens/Pencils
- Glue Stick
- KS3 Art Book

The Brakenhale School®

Thank you for your continued support in our Tools for Learning initiative. With full pencil cases students are ready to learn when they arrive in the classroom. Your support in this has been crucial in allowing our teachers to focus all of their time on teaching. We will be doing a big push on this initiative with checks in the week beginning December 5<sup>th</sup>.

Could parents please ensure that all students have all the items required at the beginning of each week. If a student does not have all their equipment they will be required to purchase anything that is missing from the stationery shop in school. As previously advised, these items are supplied at cost price, please make sure students have a small amount of change for any items they need.

Please can I also ask that you are signing the student planner each week. This act allows you to keep an eye on your son/daughter's homework and how they are using the planner. Please feel free to comment in the planner about the quantity and quality of homework being set as this provides the school with feedback on the quality of teaching and learning.

Thank you once again for supporting our drive on these initiatives. It is because of our continued insistence on high expectations that Brakenhale is now in the top 10% of schools nationally for pupil progress.

Mr Hartley, Deputy Headteacher

## Youth Speaks

On Monday 21<sup>st</sup> November the school entered the 'Youth Speaks' competition for the first time, this year hosted by St Georges School in Ascot. We entered teams into both tiers of the competition. The first team was made up of Arthur C (chairperson), Ethan V (main speaker) and Luke T (vote of thanks). The boys represented the academy extremely well and were commended by the judges. They were the only Year 7 team competing in a category that went up to Year 9! They were not at all out of place and captivated the audience with a fantastic presentation about the dangers of trending.

The senior team comprised of 3 students from our Year 13: Ryan L (Chairperson), Laura M (Main Speaker) and Georgina C (vote of thanks). The group delivered a fascinating presentation on the power of laughter that was confidently and eloquently delivered in what could well have been quite a dauntingly large theatre! The team did extremely well and were runners up to a very polished performance from St Mary's School in Ascot. The head judge even made special mention of the Brakenhale team in his concluding speech and came up to us at the end to acknowledge that there had only been one point in it!

Everyone who took part was a real credit to the school and demonstrated the strength and depth of talent within the school. It undoubtedly raised the status of Brakenhale within the local community and imprinted our mark on the competition as a force to be reckoned with. We look forward to next year's competition.

*Mr Sinclair, English Teacher*



## Year 10 Mentoring Evening

On Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> November we launched an exciting initiative for a selection of students in Year 10. The process is linked to academic mentoring to ensure they achieve their true potential and involves 5 successful business men and women who will speak at each of 5 sessions throughout the year about the students' performance in school. To add to this experience we have asked them to mentor the same students in launching a business in the summer term with the view to making a profit for a charity or a local good cause.

We will update you with more information in January following our second meeting.

*Mr Gibson, Deputy Headteacher*

## Year 7 Mini Vans Project

Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> November brought the exciting Mini-Van project to school, where all Year 7 Brakenhale students embarked on the adventure of creating their own business empire!

We felt very privileged to have the support of Bracknell Forest and Honda in the running of and support of this event.

Teams started the day creating plans whilst developing their designs for their business model. There were a range of great ideas involving the use of IT sales, food and confectionary to sports equipment. Teams then proceeded to develop their products whilst working collaboratively as a team to ensure their products made a profit. It was great to see students working so well together and able to communicate effectively with their peers but also with members of the Honda and Bracknell Forest teams.



Student teams sold their mini vans to the Honda team using their amazing skills of persuasion to ensure their group made the most profit!

At the end of the day all the teams presented their business models to the Bracknell Forest and Honda representatives. There were some great speeches but three which really stood out.

Pictures of the top three teams can be seen below. The teams all produced outstanding business ideas and delivered speeches of the highest calibre.



The overall winning team can be seen on the right; they gave a speech of a truly fantastic quality. They were very lucky winners of a number of goodies from Honda.

To not disappoint any of the students who took part and produced some great work throughout the day, Honda very kindly donated a goody bag to every student.

A massive thank you go to the Honda and the Bracknell Forest Learning to Work team in the delivery and support provided to give our Year 7 students the opportunity to take part in such a great event.



*Mr Cooper, Head of Year 7*

## PTA Christmas Market

On behalf of the PTA I would like to say an enormous thank you to everyone who helped and supported the Christmas Market on Thursday evening. Mr Cooper (Head of Year 7) and Mr Hicks (Head of Year 8), together with their tutors and student helpers successfully ran a number of stalls, including Mystery Bags, Hoopla, Human Bingo, Higher or Lower, Guess the Number of Sweets, Buzzer Game, Biscuit selling and Pin the Nose on Rudolph. A number of other staff and parents came and supported the event and lent a helping hand where needed, with a special thank you to Mrs Theal, Mrs Palmer and Mr O'Donoghue (Head of Year 9) who ran the Tombola, and not forgetting the Site Team for all their behind-the-scenes setting up and breaking down. They will be moving tables in their sleep!

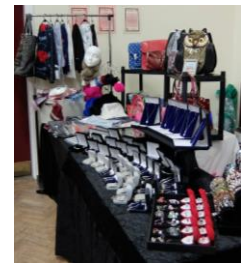
We had a fantastic selection of stalls selling items such as handmade gifts, jewellery, fudge and cupcakes, leather goods, Christmas decorations,



We will be continuing to sell Christmas Raffle tickets via main reception and tutors until Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> December.

Thank you to everyone we raised an amazing £1100 on the night which is a fantastic effort - well done and thank you everyone.

*Miss Manisier, PTA Link*





What a fantastic two weeks we have had in the PE department - we have had 11 fixtures!

Numbers in extra-curricular clubs have fallen a little in the last week so please can we try and push our students to attend these. Sadly cross country and Year 10 rugby have now finished and will no longer be on. However the rest of the clubs are still running.

I will start off with the **Netball News**. We have had 7 teams playing over the last 2 weeks.

Year 8 and 9 went off to Garth Hill on the 9<sup>th</sup> November and it was a very chilly day. All the girls played fantastically however Garth must have had a fewer extra practices than us as both teams beat us. All of our girls were brilliant and didn't let their heads drop throughout the game.

The Year 8 score was 23-0 with Romy Hutchins as Player of the Match. The Year 9 score was 21-3 with Ella Baverstock-Hamilton as Player of the Match.

Year 10 played Garth on the 15<sup>th</sup> November and put up a good fight, especially as they had to play both their Year 10 and Year 11 team. They worked extremely well and improved throughout the game. The final score was 30 - 6 which did not reflect the game as there was some beautiful play by the year 10s. Both the Year 11 and Year 10 team picked Players of the Match so well done to Grace Piotrowski and Zoe Patterson.

On 16<sup>th</sup> November our Year 7 and Year 10 team played EP at Brakenhale. It had been a very dark and rainy day but for half of the netball game it was clear. We decided to go ahead with the fixture and both our Brakenhale Teams were winning, then the heavens opened and it was like trying to play netball under water. We abandoned the game but as we had played half the scores still stand. The Year 7 team won 11-0 and the Year 10s won 10-0. We didn't have time for player of the matches as we were all running for cover.

Our most recent game (at the time of writing) was Year 7 and 8 against Sandhurst. Both teams did extremely well despite the cold. All the girls had a lot of enthusiasm. The Year 7s lost 10-0 with Lia Filipova as Player of the Match. The Year 8s won their match 8-5 with Player of the Match going to Romy Hutchins for a second time.

In next week's parent news there will be reports from Year 10's match against Edgbarrow as well as Year 8, 9 and 10 against Ranelagh.

In **Cross country**, on Friday 11<sup>th</sup> November, Mr Yeates took 12 students to South Hill Park to complete the Cross Country Relays where you have a boy and a girl from each year (7-9) competing as one team. All did really well and some experienced a new challenge of racing up-hill which hasn't happened in any of our races yet!

Well done to everyone that went!



## Fixtures for the Week beginning 28<sup>th</sup> November

<b>Wednesday</b> 30 <sup>th</sup> November	Year 7 Football tournament at Bohunt School – 3.30pm-6.30pm	Away
	Year 9 Rugby v Edgbarrow	Home
	Year 12/13 Football at Bracknell Leisure Centre	Away
<b>Thursday</b> 1 <sup>st</sup> December	U13/U15 Girls Football at Woodley 9am-2pm	Away
	Year 7 Rugby v Edgbarrow	Away
<b>Friday</b> 2 <sup>nd</sup> December	Inclusive Zone Basketball at Westgate Slough 10am -3pm	Away

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

## What's On Next Week

Monday 28 <sup>th</sup> November	<b>Start of Year 11 PPEs (Pre Public Exams)</b>
Wednesday 30 <sup>th</sup> November	<b>Sixth Form Art &amp; Photography Trip to the Tate Modern</b>
Friday 2 <sup>nd</sup> December	<b>Sixth Form Taster Day for Year 11 students</b>

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

Next week, commencing 28<sup>th</sup> November, are our Year 11 Pre-Public Examinations which are designed to represent the situations and papers students will face in the Summer of 2016. Please see the timetable below.

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

Mr Gibson, Deputy Headteacher

### Year 11 PPE Timetable

	Monday 28 <sup>th</sup> Nov	Tuesday 29 <sup>th</sup> Nov	Wednesday 30 <sup>th</sup> Nov	Thursday 1 <sup>st</sup> Dec	Friday 2 <sup>nd</sup> Dec
Period 1 & 2	Maths 1 Hr 30	Maths 1 Hr 30	Maths 1 Hr 30	<b>OPTION B</b> Geography (F&H) (26) – 1 Hr 30 History – (22) – 1 Hr 15 French – (26) – 1 Hr 40 Business Studies 1 – (23) -2 <b>Papers</b> 45 mins and 1 Hr 15 Catering - (10) – 1 Hr 15 Graphics – (12) – 2 Hrs RM – (22) – 2 Hrs Business Studies 2– (21) – 1 Hr	<b>Sixth Form Taster Day</b>

<b>Period 3 &amp; 4</b>	<b>English</b> 1 Hr 45	<b>Option D</b> Computer Sci– (15) 1 Hr 30 History – (12) – 1 Hr 15 ICT – (25) 1 Hr 30 Media – (12) No Exam Business Studies 1 (22) 2 Papers 45 mins and 1 Hr 15 Music – (14) – 1 Hr CD *Photography – (21) HSC– (21) – 1 Hr Business Studies 2 (20) 1 Hr	<b>OPTION A</b> Computer Science – (9) 1 Hr 30 Geography(F&H) – (31) 1 Hr 30 Spanish – (18) – 1 Hr 40 Catering – (15) – 1 Hr 15 Music – (14) – 1 Hr CD GCSE PE – (11) 1 Hr BTEC PE – (21) 1 Hr ICT – (21) – 1 Hr 30 History – (17) – 1 Hr 15 Study Support – (6)	<b>OPTION C</b> Geography (F&H) – (28) – 1 Hr 30 Drama– (21) – 2 Hrs GCSE PE – (16) – 1 Hr 30 BTEC PE – (17) 1 Hr *Art – (18) Business Studies 1 (19) – 2 Papers 45 mins and 1 Hr 15 Catering – (15) – 1 Hr 15 Dance – (8) – 2 Hr in D/S Media– (21) No Exam	
<b>Period 5</b>	<b>Biology 1</b> 1 Hr	<b>Chemistry 1</b> 1 Hr	<b>Physics 1</b> 1 Hr	<b>French Listening</b> Higher/ Foundation 45 mins /35 mins	<b>Spanish Listening</b> Higher/ Foundation 45 mins / 35 mins

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

## Year 11 Study Support Programme

Our study support programme. This is an ideal opportunity for students to get expert help and maximise their chances of success in the summer. Please see the programme below which will resume week commencing 5<sup>th</sup> December on week 2. Almost all subjects are offering these sessions and as such students should remain on site to attend these lessons. Please can I ask for your support in encouraging your child to stay.

*Mr Gibson, Deputy Headteacher*

**Year 11 Study Support Programme – sessions from 3.05pm to 4.30pm**

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<b>Week 1</b>	English	Further Maths (Timetabled Lesson)	Science	Option B	Option A
<b>Week 2</b>	Maths	Further Maths (Timetabled Lesson)	Science	Option D	Option C

## 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



## Parent Zone

### Contact Information

Please ensure that you keep the school updated with any changes to your contact details, in particular email addresses and mobile phone numbers.

We use schoolcomms messages to keep you updated on information regarding your students, if for any reason you are not receiving our messages, please call the school office and we will be happy help.

If we do not hold any email contacts for you this will result in a delay to you receiving messages as paper copies will need to be sent home by post.

### School Gateway App

Please see our website [here](#) for information on downloading the School Gateway App. This App provides you with the opportunity to be able to view your child's achievements and check their weekly timetable.

If you have any problems accessing information, please do not hesitate to contact the school office.

# Schoolgateway

### Biometrics



We use fingerprint scanning at school as a safe a secure way for students to take their books from the library and to purchase their food from the canteen.

If your child has not had their fingerprint taken, they can do this take by going to the Library during break or lunchtimes. They will need to have the consent form completed and signed before the fingerprints can be taken, which you can find on our website [here](#).

## School Dining Hall

The School Dining Hall is open daily for all students from 7.30-8.30am for breakfast food which includes:

- Fresh Fruit / Yoghurts / Cereal / Bacon or Sausage Rolls / Danish Pastries

Other opening times include:

- 11.00 – 11.25 Break-time – an outside cart is also stationed in the playground
- 1.30 Lunch-time
- 3.05 Any unsold food may be purchased at half price

The cost of a hot school meal is £2.20, which includes either a drink or a pudding. A selection of sandwiches, pizza slices, salad and pasta are also available daily.

There are 3 weekly menus which are rotated in order.

## Parent Pay

ParentPay is the easiest way to make payments for your son/daughter's lunch money and any trips your child will be attending. If you do not currently have a login for ParentPay, please contact the school office who will be able to issue you with details. If you are experiencing any problems with your account, please contact us.



Please ensure that sufficient money is added to your child's dinner money account to enable them to purchase their food.

More information is available on <http://brakenhale.co.uk/pastoral-support/parent-zone/>

## Vacancies

We currently have the following support staff vacancies in school:

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

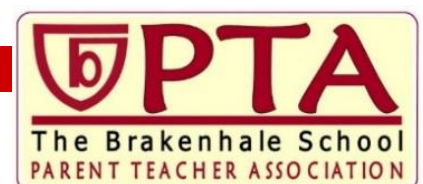
We have exciting opportunities for an experienced, committed and enthusiastic Teaching Assistant and Sixth Form Administrator. The successful candidates will join a team of teachers who are passionate about engaging and inspiring young people in their learning. We are looking to recruit colleagues with 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





## Future Diary Dates

Tuesday 6 <sup>th</sup> December	<b>PTA Meeting</b>
Wednesday 7 <sup>th</sup> December	<b>Dance Show</b>
Thursday 8 <sup>th</sup> December	<b>Year 8 Parents' Evening</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> , Tuesday 20 <sup>th</sup> December	<b>Inset Days</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**

*High Expectations and Challenge for All*