



Dear Parents/Carers

It feels as if we have been back for more than a week after half term so much is happening and is due to happen across the coming weeks! We have been monitoring our School Improvement Plan this week and updating our progress towards all our targets. Once this has been looked at by governors at the termly Full Governing Body Meeting, I will make sure this is sent out to you all. We also have Year 11 Book Look week coming up and I would really appreciate you completing the feedback forms that go with this. Miss Baveystock has written a detailed piece about this below. In order to improve marking, we really would like your views. On that note, I spent an hour with the Head Boy/Girl team this week discussing all the feedback that the school council gave to them just before half term. I was so impressed with the quality of comments and ideas that were raised by all the reps from across all year groups and I will be trying to put into action their suggestions across the next few weeks. I think the visit of the Mayor to some members of the school council has clearly had a positive impact! Today Miss Douse has taken a group of aspiring Year 11 students on a course to further develop their skills and expectations for their future. She will prepare a write up for next week but she came back so proud of our young people and the way in which they engaged with the speakers and represented the school.

Finally I wanted to let you know I have delivered assembly's to all year groups this week on 'Kindness' and having a 'Positive Outlook', this will be a real focus for us in the lead up to Christmas.

I wish you all a pleasant weekend.

Best wishes

Jane Coley, Headteacher

#challengeforall

What's On Next Week

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|------------------------------------|--|
| Monday 7 th November | • Book Look Week for Year 11 |
| Tuesday 8 th November | • UKMT Senior Maths Challenge
• Sixth Form Open Evening, 6.30pm |
| Wednesday 9 th November | • Year 12 Safe Drive Stay Alive trip (Reading) |

Book Look Week for Year 11

Next week is Book Look Week for Year 11. During Book Look weeks, exercise books/folders will be sent home with students for parents to see the quality of marking and how their child is progressing in their studies.

Could we please ask that parents and students ensure that they bring their books back to into school after taking them home.

Book Look Weeks for subsequent year groups will be as follows:

- Year 10: Monday 23rd January
- Year 9: Monday 30th January
- Year 8: Monday 8th May
- Year 7: Monday 17th July

Miss Baveystock, Assistant Headteacher



Sixth Form Open Evening

Our Sixth Form Open Evening will be taking place on Tuesday 8th November 2016 at 6.30pm. This is an excellent event and one which is the first step towards the exciting futures of our students here at The Brakenhale School. The results last summer were a huge step forward and saw our progress scores exceed or match all of the schools in Bracknell Forest.

The Open Evening is very much a fact finding event to give Year 11 students and parents the opportunity to understand what we have to offer and to explore their subject and course choices. Current students and subject staff will be on hand to speak to about what the subjects are like and what we can offer.

Students should bear in mind questions such as:

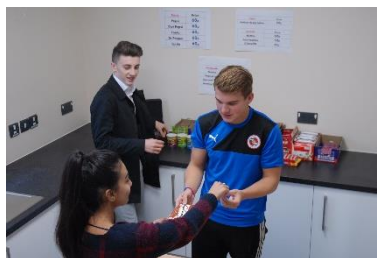
- Which universities courses could I do with this job?
- Is this qualification recognised by employers in this field?
- Will this science subject help me to become..... or go to university to study course
- What subjects do I need to be an architect (for example)?
- What apprenticeships will I be able to apply for from this subject?
- How many hours a week do we study this for?

The evening will begin at 6.30pm with a presentation in the Main Hall from the Sixth Form leadership team and the Head Boy and Girl. In the Sixth Form Centre subject staff and students will be in attendance and there will be stalls on each subject along with information and advice and some of the teaching materials we use.

Students should spend some time thinking about which courses and which course combinations are the best for them. The PPE (mock) examinations week beginning 28th November and the Sixth Form Choices Day on Friday 2nd December will also help inform choices and give students the opportunity to sample some real post 16 course experiences.

The deadline for Sixth Form applications is Monday 9th January 2017, followed by interviews in the weeks after February half-term.

Mr Hartley, Deputy Headteacher



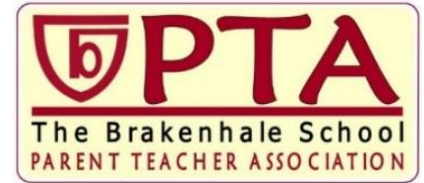
PTA

PTA Upcoming Events:

PTA Unwanted Clothes Collection up until Thursday 17th November

Christmas Market: Thursday 24th November

PTA Meeting: Tuesday 6th December



PTA AGM Meeting 1st November

Thank you to everyone who joined us on Tuesday for our AGM. Mrs Coley sent her apologies but thanked via her report the PTA for the fantastic job they do. She also made the suggestion, to encourage new members and increase attendance, of meeting once every half term as opposed to monthly; this was voted as an excellent idea. A member of SLT will attend each meeting and the Chair of the PTA will meet regularly with Mrs Coley outside of the meetings to get an update on school issues and discuss key ideas. The committee was successfully dissolved and the new committee duly elected:

Committee Roles

Chair: Mrs Leahy
Vice Chair: Mrs Heaffey
Treasurer: Miss Manisier
Secretary: Mrs Reed

Additional Roles

Publications & Marketing: Mrs Hartley
Hospitality & Facilities: Mr Hicks

Bag2School

Clothes and Accessories RECYCLING

We are once again collecting old clothes, shoes and accessories.

Bags are available from school, please bring donations to main reception until Thursday 17th November.

Sort out all your old and unwanted and help us raise money.



Christmas Market - Thursday 24th November

Our exciting annual Christmas Market will be taking place on Thursday 24th November.

Please join us with family and friends, stalls will be selling all kinds of different items and produce, such as:

Make-up products; Hair accessories; Gifts and Christmas decorations; Gadgets; Jewellery, including glass; Handmade cards; Aloe Vera products; Needlecraft; Cakes and other food products; Handmade toiletries; Books ... and many others

If you are interested in running a stall, or know someone who would like to be there, please contact the school.



IDENTITY: LGBT Student Support at Brakenhale

This week we are so proud to say we have been contacted by the Local Authority because our work with our LGBT students has been brought to their attention.

The Bracknell Forest Joint Strategic Needs Assessment team have been developing their website and updating information and have included a section about Identity - the LGBT drop-in we have at Brakenhale.

Although this website's main audience is service commissioners in health and social care, we are thrilled that the work we are doing is being recognised and displayed in this way.

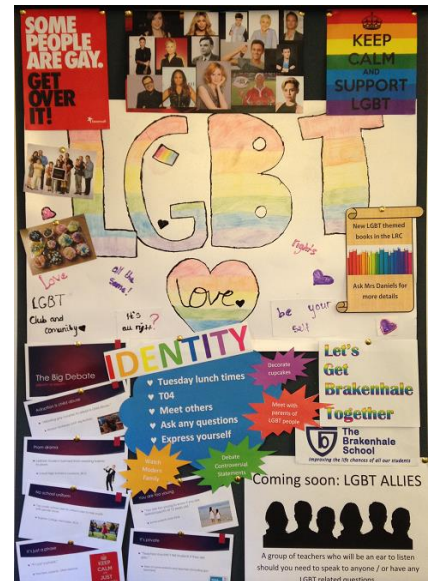
As the website states, we are looking to achieve the Stonewall Bronze School Champions Award this academic year. Our longer-term goal is to encourage other local schools to do exactly the same thing to celebrate the diversity and promote the tolerance and inclusivity of all students in their communities.

Please find the website via the link below. Our work is mentioned further down the page under a section called 'Prevention, Care and Support'.

<http://jsna.bracknell-forest.gov.uk/people-places/vulnerable-groups/lesbian-gay-bisexual-and-transgender-lgbt-people>

If you have any questions or comments please feel free to email the school at identity@brakenhale.co.uk.

Mr Hicks, Head of Year 8, Duke of Edinburgh Award Co-ordinator, LGBT Co-Ordinator



Duke of Edinburgh Award

Letters regarding the Duke of Edinburgh Award for Years 9, 10 and 11 have now gone home via schoolcomms.

All students in Years 9 and 10 are invited to take part in the Bronze Award. Students who have already completed their Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award are invited to now start their Silver Award.

The Duke of Edinburgh programme last year was a huge success and we have the largest number of completed awards the school has seen in recent years. The students who completed their bronze award all had a terrific time on their camping expeditions and this, together with all the other work they did to gain this award, will help build up their CVs, applications and personal statements in the future.

I feel so passionate about the opportunities that the Duke of Edinburgh Award provides for students, the confidence it builds and the doors it opens. We have 84 spaces this year for the Bronze Award and I would like to see every space taken.

Please email me on dhicks@brakenhale.co.uk if you have any questions about the award or would like more information about the Duke of Edinburgh programme. The deadline for deposits is soon however: Wednesday 16th November for Years 9 and 10, and Thursday 1st December for Year 11.

Mr Hicks, Head of Year 8, Duke of Edinburgh Award Co-ordinator



Year 11 Options Week & Science ISA

Week beginning 14th November is an important week for our Year 11 students. On Monday 14th they will sit their Science ISA for Additional Science and this will be followed by the first options week of the year where full days are spent in their optional subjects to support them with Controlled Assessments and Exam Preparation. The programme for the week is as follows:

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|--|----------|---------------------------------------|----------|
| • Monday 14 th November: | ISA | • Thursday 17 th November: | Option D |
| • Tuesday 15 th November: | Option A | • Friday 18 th November: | Option C |
| • Wednesday 16 th November: | Option B | | |

Mr Gibson, Deputy Headteacher

PE News @brakenhalePE

Welcome back!

We have had a busy start to the half term with 110 students taking part in extra-curricular clubs and fixtures (at the time of writing and its only Wednesday!)

Clubs Next Week: Please note that there will be **no clubs on Thursday 10th November** due to whole school training.

Netball

This week the year 7s had their second set of matches against Ranelagh. The players did an excellent job and both groups worked well as teams.

The scores were 11-1 to Ranelagh for the A team, with Jess Deverell as Player of the Match and 7-4 to Brakenhale for the B team, with Sophie Hatch as player of the match.

Fingers crossed we build on our results against Edgbarrow this week (Thursday 3rd November - this had not been played at the time of writing, report to follow next week).



Rugby

We had 12 leaders attend the Year 3/4 Tag Rugby Competition at Great Hollands Recreation Ground on Tuesday and they all were amazing. We have been known for producing some excellent leaders and they did not let us down.

A massive congratulations and thank you go to: Joao Ferreira, Cerys Kerrigan Jones, Claudia Periquito, Harry Clabburn, Charlie Moss, Tom Nower, Toby Gennery, Kian Leahy, William Heath Turrell, Dan Limbu, Jamie Forde, Michael Adams and Kai Meggison.

Also on Tuesday, Year 10 had a rugby match against Edgbarrow. The opposition didn't bring a full team so we gave them a player to even the game up and it was a good game as a result of this. We won 21-19 with Tom Nower (x2) and Dan Limbu scoring tries and Tom Nower with 3 conversion.

Man of the match was awarded to Tom Nower.

Keep up the good work Year 10s.



Fixtures for the Week beginning 7th November

Tuesday 8 th November Year 10 Rugby v Garth (Home)	Wednesday 9 th November Year 8 & 9 Netball v Garth (Away)	Friday 11 th November Year 7 to 9 Cross Country Relays
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Miss L Willimott, Lead Coordinator of Girls PE and Teacher in Charge of Health and Social Care

Lost Property

Please remember to name all items of uniform and other equipment – any named lost property will be returned to students. Any unnamed items will be disposed of after 2 weeks.

Future Diary Dates

Monday 14 th November	Start of Sixth Form PPEs (Mock exams) Year Science ISA Day followed by Option Subjects Week
Thursday 17 th November	End date for Collection of Unwanted Clothes/Accessories for Recycling Year 10 Parents' Evening
Monday 21 st November	Start of Year 9 Internal Exams
Thursday 24 th November	PTA Christmas Market
Monday 28 th November	Start of Year 11 PPEs (Mock exams)
Tuesday 6 th December	PTA Meeting
Wednesday 7 th December	Dance Show
Thursday 8 th December	Year 8 Parents' Evening
Thursday 15 th December	Music Concert
Friday 16 th December	Last day of Autumn Term

Term Dates 2016-17

Inset Days: Monday 19th and Tuesday 20th December 2016
Tuesday 18th April 2017

AUTUMN TERM 2016

Monday 5th September – Friday 16th December 2016

Monday 19th and Tuesday 20th December 2016 **Inset Days**

Autumn Half Term - Monday 24th to Friday 28th October 2016

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

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High Expectations and Challenge for All