

Brakenhale School Parent News

21st October 2016



Dear Parents/Carers

I cannot believe that we have now reached the end of our first half term of the academic year. It has been such a busy 7 weeks and I know that the students and staff and no doubt yourselves are all a little tired and jaded at this point!

It has been an incredibly successful half term and the students have achieved so much and have thrown themselves into the life of the school in so many different ways. Just because this has been the last week of half term has not stopped them from continuing with a whole range of different activities and opportunities.

We have had Dr Joe Organ back in from Oxford University to speak to students this week as well as a team of trainers to work with Year 12 on high aspirations and their futures. The Magistrates team have been in to talk to our Year 8 students about the debating competition and work has begun in earnest on putting together a team for this great event. I led a team of 6 governors around the school on Wednesday to monitor Behaviour for Learning as part of our School Improvement Plan and they were delighted with the work they saw young people completing in the classroom and the sensible way in which they conducted themselves around the school. Last night saw our first disco of the year for Year 8 led by Mr Hicks and his team and it was a great success. It's so lovely to know that young people can come on site after school hours and join together as year group community to have such fun together and of course that we have so many staff willing to give up an evening to support such events. We have all sorts of events and activities lined up for next half term and I hope that the students and yourselves have a restful and peaceful half term ready to start again on Monday 31st October.

Thank you for your continued support and feedback across the last 7 weeks, it is much appreciated and I look forward to working with you all next half term.

Best wishes

Jane Coley, Headteacher

#challengeforall

What's On Next Week: Year 11 Half Term Study Sessions

Please remember that staff will be running study sessions for Year 11 over October half term for various subjects.

- Monday: Business Studies priority / Health & Social Care / BTEC Sport / GCSE PE PEPs for non-Business students (am)
- Tuesday: Maths 11XY5 / 11XY6 (am)
- Wednesday: Graphics (am only) / RM – 10am – 12noon
- Thursday: French / Spanish priority / Photography – 9.30 – 12.30
- Friday: GCSE IT (am) / Computing (pm) / Drama (all day)
- Saturday: French / Spanish – 9.30 – 12.30

The morning sessions will run from 9am to 12midday and afternoon sessions from 1pm to 4pm unless otherwise specified. If students have full day sessions these will be from 9am to 4pm, they should please bring a lunch with them.

Mr P Gibson, Deputy Headteacher

What's On After Half Term

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Tuesday 1 st November | PTA AGM and monthly meeting |
| Thursday 3 rd November | Year 13 Parents' Evening |

Please join us on Tuesday 1st November for the PTA AGM. We are also seeking nominations for committee positions.

Bag2School

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 items over half term and help us raise money.



The Brakenhale School

**RECYCLE
YOUR OLD CLOTHES, SHOES
AND ACCESSORIES.**

We are once again collecting old clothes, shoes and accessories to help raise money for the school via the PTA.

Please start collecting your unwanted items ready to bring in to school in November.

We will be giving out bags to students and they are also available from main reception, or put your items in a black bin bag.

Please contact Sarah Hartley at the school if you have any questions.
shartley@brakenhale.co.uk



Thank you for supporting the school!

RECYCLE!

Don't send your unwanted items to landfill...

The more bags you bring the more money we raise for the school.

The following 'good quality' items are accepted for RE-USE:

- ✓ Men's, Ladies' and Children's clothing
- ✓ Paired shoes (tied together or elastic band around)
- ✓ Handbags
- ✓ Hats
- ✓ Bags
- ✓ Scarves and ties
- ✓ Jewellery
- ✓ Lingerie
- ✓ Belts
- ✓ Soft toys

Not accepted:

- ✓ Duvets, bedding, blankets and household linen
- ✓ Pillows and cushions
- ✓ Carpets, rugs and mats (including bath, shower and toilet mats)
- ✓ Curtains
- ✓ Towels
- ✓ Soiled, painted, ripped or wet clothing
- ✓ School uniforms
- ✓ Corporate clothing and workwear
- ✓ Textile off cuts, yarns or threaded material

Thank you for supporting the school!

The Brakenhale School, Rectory Lane, Bracknell





The Brakenhale School

Christmas Market

Thursday 24th November 2016
7pm - 9pm

Please come along with your family and friends to support this event and have fun shopping for Christmas Gifts.



Donations only
for Entry

If you or a friend would like a stall please contact Miss Manisier
or email jmanisier@brakenhale.co.uk

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 include stalls selling all sorts of things:

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

Year 10 Information Evening – 19th October

It was wonderful to see over 70 students represented by their parents and carers at the Year 10 information evening held on Wednesday. Feedback from the event was extremely positive and many felt they now understand the journey their child is on over the next two years. If you haven't already, we would be most grateful if you could complete and return the feedback form that was sent out by schoolcomms.

A copy of the presentation given on the evening can be found on our website in the Year 10 section [here](#).

If you have any questions about the event or the GCSEs your child is embarking on, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Mr Gibson, Deputy Headteacher

Sixth Form Lumina Personality & Leadership Workshops

This week saw all of Year 12 participate in an exciting opportunity. All of the students completed a workshop with Lumina Learning, a company that specialises in psychometric profiling and leadership development. The students completed an extensive personality analysis questionnaire prior to the workshop. This questionnaire was turned into a detailed report that provides an accurate, personalised portrait focusing on increased self-awareness and practical development points to assess and improve communication, teamwork and leadership.



The sessions were designed to give the students greater self-awareness and understanding of themselves. It also examined how you can use your personality strengths to your advantage and also develop other parts of your behaviour.

Lumina are a global company who have recently worked with leadership teams at Adidas, Tesco and the Dallas Police Department so we knew we were in esteemed company! One student, after the Tuesday session, reported that the personality portrait was 100% accurate but it was a revelation "It was me completely, but nobody had ever written it down before".

It is hoped the students and tutor teams can use this information as the students plan their career moves over the next fifteen months and it can help them to choose the best pathways.

Mr Hartley, Deputy Headteacher

Oxford University comes to Brakenhale

On Thursday Dr Joe Organ from Brasenose College, Oxford University (@brasenosenews) visited Brakenhale. This continued our programme of events designed to broaden student's horizons and make them aware of the opportunities available to them. A group of Year 11 students were given a talk about university life in general and the opportunities it could offer them. Alongside this the students were given an insight into Oxford University and its policy of widening participation and encouraging students from all backgrounds to apply.



The students came away from this event understanding that if they work hard, do well in their GCSEs and show an academic curiosity and passion for learning and knowledge beyond the classroom a place at this prestigious university could be theirs.



Mr Hartley, Deputy Headteacher

Year 8 Disco – 20th October

Last night we had the Year 8 disco and we had almost 70 students attend. We decided to do this to reward students for their efforts in the first half term back.

It was an absolute blast and all students let their hair down and enjoyed themselves. A special thank you to the PTA for organising the disco and for the huge number of staff who volunteered to stay and help support the event.

It has been a very long half term and we are all looking forward to the break. However it was an absolute pleasure to spend this bit of extra time enjoying our evening with the students outside of the classroom hours. It was a delight to see them bonding as a year group and just having fun!

I am still as excited to be Head of Year for these students as I was on day one. I hope to have future events similar to last night as their behaviour and conduct was exceptional.

I hope they told you at home about the fun they had. Brakenhale is more than just learning in the classroom and I hope that all students that attended enjoyed themselves as much as we did.

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



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

Fire Station Open Day – Activities during Half Term

Bracknell Fire Station are running an open day on Tuesday 25th October 2016 from 10am to 4pm. As it's half term they are running an event that gives the local community somewhere to go for a bit of fun. There will be demonstrations involving fire scenarios, vehicle extrications and chip pan explosions as well as having some of their larger vehicles on display. There will be concession stands, a bouncy castle and various static displays to entertain and educate.

DWM Sawkins, Stn 16 Blue Watch, Bracknell Fire Station

FIRE STATION OPEN DAY



COME AND VISIT YOUR LOCAL FIRE STATION!

- Meet your local firefighters and enjoy some exciting demonstrations
- See our different vehicles and equipment
- Food and bouncy castle available

FUN FOR ALL THE FAMILY

Bracknell Fire Station
Downshire Way
25/10/16
1000hrs-1600hrs

ROYAL BERKSHIRE
FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE
www.rbfrs.co.uk

[@RBFRSofficial](#)
[RoyalBerksFRS](#)

Dining Hall Menu for Halloween



HALLOWEEN
31ST OCTOBER 2016

- SPOOKY SOUP**
PUMPKIN
- DEVILISH DISH**
CHILLI CON CARNE
SERVED WITH RICE
OR NACHOS
- WITCHES DISH**
STIR FRY
VEGETABLES
&
NOODLES
- MYSTERY DESSERT**
CHOCOLATE FUDGE
SPONGE &
CUSTARD
- TRY OUR SPOOKY JACKET
POTATOES
HOT & COLD FILLINGS OR
OUR ZOMBIE PANINIS
WITH A RANGE OF
DIFFERENT FILLINGS

£
2.20

31 October
Brakenhale

Come and
join us for some
spooky tastes!

PE News

Another busy week for the PE department with lots of fixtures and clubs! We have had over 120 students participating in various events and activities.

Cross Country

On Tuesday we saw the final round of cross country, with both boys and girls competing at the same event. All the 15 students that went competed well and put in 100% effort. They are improving their scores each week!

In the Year 7/8 boys event there was over a 110 runners and 80 girls in the 7/8 girls event! Our boys did extremely well.

Massive congratulations to Elissa Fotheringham, Lily Knowles, Chelsea-Ann Leigh, Georgia Hughes, Chloe Chatterton, Celestine Asare, Ella Benson, Ariana Koskla-Reyers, Archie Johnston, Daniel Bradley, Luke Williams, Harley Smith, Joe Mortan and Thomas Basara-Hamilton.

Football

On Friday we saw the first of the of our staff v Sixth Form competitions. It was a great game with the Sixth formers taking an early lead, only to be drawing 1-1 just before half time.

The second half was just as entertaining with the Sixth formers taking the lead again; then with 5 minutes to go the students lacked discipline and let the staff have a penalty! The score ended 2-2!

Thank you to everyone who came to support and a big thank you to Mr Jackson Sankey for organising the event as well as James Cross (and his Nan) for providing cakes for the cake sale. They raised £160 for Mental Health Awareness.

Rugby

Year 10 had their first rugby match this week and they beat a much improved and tougher Sandhurst 26-7.

The team showed great commitment and effort in defence and everyone put in tired hard. Mr Boucher is very proud of you all.

The tries came from Daniel Limbu x2, Tom Nower and Jaime Forde

Tom Nower made 3 out of 4 conversions

MOM: Tom Nower and Daniel Limbu

Well done!

Trampolining

Schedule for after half term:

- Thursday 3rd November Y side (E,N,H)
- Thursday 10th November X side (B,R,A,K)
- Thursday 17th November Y side (E,N,H)
- Thursday 24th November X side (B,R,A,K)
- Thursday 1st December Y side (E,N,H)
- Thursday 8th December
 - Sign up on Thursday 8th break time (maximum 24 students)

Please check the above schedule to see which days you can attend.

A big thank you again to our drivers; this week, Mrs Fotheringham.

Fixtures for the Week beginning 31st October

| | | |
|--|---|--|
| <p>Tuesday</p> <p>Year 10 Rugby Game v Edgbarrow (Home)</p> <p>Rugby Leaders at Great Hollands Rec (10am -2pm)</p> <p>Year 7a and b + 8 Netball v Ranelagh (Away)</p> | <p>Thursday</p> <p>Year 8 Rugby v Sandhurst (Away)</p> <p>Year 7a/b Netball v Edgbarrow (Home)</p> |  <p>@brakenhalePE</p> |
|--|---|--|

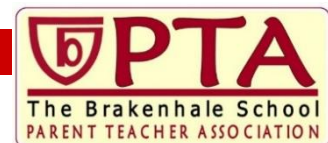
Miss L Willimott, Lead Coordinator of Girls PE and Teacher in Charge of Health and Social Care

Match Report by Mr Jackson-Sankey – Staff v Sixth Form Football – Friday 14th October

Friday saw the kick off of the Brakenhale Staff vs Sixth Form series. The series sees 5 clashes of epic proportion across 5 different sports all in the name of charity and this first encounter didn't disappoint. It was a well contested match, played in fantastic spirit and started at an incredible pace. Both sides were feeling each other out before a free header from a cross saw the Sixth Form take the lead. 1-0 the half time score. Changes at half time saw the introduction of Mr O'Donoghue, who soon levelled with a fantastic strike past the goalkeeper. The Sixth Form retook the lead against the run of play 15 minutes before the end, a deflected effort leaving Mr Beukes stranded in the staff goal. With time ticking away, the staff threw caution to the wind and used all their experience to throw everything at the Sixth Form. A ball out wide to Mr Duffy and an early cross led the game saving moment, a foul in the box, PENALTY! With 2 minutes to go Mr Boucher stepped up and slotted home, 2-2 the final score. A fair result. Well done to both teams for producing an entertaining game and raising money for the Mental Health Foundation. Staff M.O.T.M - Mr Hartley, outstanding at centre back!



PTA



PTA Upcoming Events:

PTA Unwanted Clothes Collection up until Thursday 17th November

PTA AGM: Tuesday 1st November, followed by the monthly meeting

Christmas Market: Thursday 24th November

PTA Meeting: Tuesday 6th December

PTA Annual General Meeting (AGM) Tuesday 1st November 2016 at 7pm

All parents and members of the school community can get involved in the PTA. Even if you only have a small amount of time available, all parents are automatically members when your children join our school.

The PTA exists to provide closer links between home and school. It is a fun way to bring staff, parents and students together in support of a common goal. Currently, we have raised sufficient money to purchase sustainable benches to improving the outside space for students and we are looking at funding requests from departments.

We meet on the first Tuesday of each month from 7pm in the Student Support Centre.

The Annual General Meeting (AGM) of The Brakenhale School PTA, will take place on Tuesday 1st November 2016. The evening will commence at 7pm with the PTA Annual General Meeting, followed by the monthly PTA meeting in the school's Student Support Centre. Refreshments will be provided.

The PTA plays a vital part in the school community and all parents/carers and staff, as members of the PTA, are invited to support the AGM. This is your chance to hear and see how the funds you have helped to raise have been used for the benefit of the students at our school. Without the PTA there would be no school discos, no Christmas Market or events such as Quiz Night, Bingo Evening or Race Night and less money raised to support projects such as the purchase of the new school minibus and improved outdoor spaces for the students. The school values all the effort and hard work of the PTA to raise money for the school's benefit.

Future Diary Dates

| | |
|--|---|
| Monday 24 th to Friday 28 th October | Half Term |
| Tuesday 1 st November | PTA AGM and monthly meeting, 7pm |
| Thursday 3 rd November | Year 13 Parents' Evening |
| Tuesday 8 th November | UKMT Senior Maths Challenge |
| | Sixth Form Open Evening |
| Wednesday 9 th November | Year 12 Safe Drive Stay Alive trip (Reading) |
| Monday 14 th November | Start of Sixth Form PPEs (Mocks) |
| Thursday 17 th November | Year 10 Parents' Evening |
| Monday 21 st November | Start of Year 9 Exams |
| Thursday 24 th November | PTA Christmas Market |
| Monday 28 th November | Start of Year 11 PPEs (Mocks) |
| Tuesday 6 th December | PTA Meeting |
| Thursday 8 th December | Year 8 Parents' Evening |
| 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: Wednesday 21st 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)

SUMMER TERM 2017

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

Bracknell Forest term dates can be found on their website:

<http://www.bracknell-forest.gov.uk/schooltermandholidaydates>

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High Expectations and Challenge for All