



Dear Parents/Carers

It has been another really positive week for Brakenhale with our school tours continuing and our students showing what hard working young people they are; feedback from prospective parents continues to be extremely positive. On top of this we have had a wonderful write up in the Bracknell and Wokingham News from the press office of our local MP, Dr Phillip Lee – I have attached this to the newsletter this week so please have a read! Further to this, next Friday afternoon we are hosting a tour of the school for local councillors, so they too can come and see first-hand the great work that is going on across the school.

It has also been a busy week for Year 11 who have been consolidating their preparation for their Science coursework and today they have spent 5 hours together as a cohort planning and completing this. They have done extremely well and all credit to the students and to the Science department led by Mr Radcliffe for all their work on this.

We have now completed over 50% of this first half term and I am really proud of the way our students have returned to school and the way that Year 7 have settled in.

Kind regards

Jane Coley, Headteacher

#challengeforall

Dyslexia Awareness Week

Next week, Monday 3rd October, is Dyslexia Awareness Week.

Dyslexia is a complex, varied and challenging condition, which can impact on many aspects of a person's life. Dyslexia Awareness Week is an ideal opportunity to raise awareness for both students and ourselves about this condition.

Resources have been shared within school and teachers have been challenged to teach one lesson next week without using any written words. It is hoped that removing the written word from lessons and using the spoken word, pictures and sound only will remove some barriers against learning for students with dyslexia.

Mr S Read-Linton, Access & SEN Intervention Co-ordinator



PSHE & The Rotary Club

The Rotary Club are very active in India where they offer free immunisation against polio for children. As a result of a global immunisation program some diseases, including Polio, are almost wiped out. The Crocus was chosen as the purple colour matched the dye painted on the fingers of children who have been immunised. The Bracknell branch of the Rotary Club are donating 1000 purple crocus bulbs to plant, one for each of our students, as part of our PSHE (Personal, Social and Health Education) scheme looking at the various ways that the school can engage in charity work. They will be planted on the site this autumn and will bloom in early spring.



Mrs G Powell, Assistant Headteacher

Parent Support Group

The first Parent Support Group will be meeting on Thursday 13th October at Brakenhale between 9.30am and 11am.

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.

There will be future dates throughout the year:

- Wednesday 7th December
- Friday 3rd February
- Wednesday 22nd March
- Friday 12th May
- Tuesday 22nd June

Mrs T Gosling, Family Support Advisor,

Miss C Gill, Safeguarding & Intervention Manager

Parent Support Group

at Brakenhale

Thursday 13th October
9.30am to 11am

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:

Thursday 13th October ~ 9.30-11am
Wednesday 7th December ~ 1.30-3pm
Friday 3rd February ~ 1.30-3pm
Wednesday 22nd March ~ 9.30-11am
Friday 12th May ~ 9.30-11am
Tuesday 22nd June ~ 1.30-3pm

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High Expectations and Challenge for All

Student Voice & Student Council

Student Voice is a way of empowering the students to have a say in their school. It is used to enable students to have choices and influence decisions that affect their time at Brakenhale. Our mission this year is to raise the profile of the student voice across the school, collaborating with them to make a better school for all. The student voice campaign is fronted by the Head boy and Head girl, both of whom have a passion and ambition to let all students' voices be heard. Keep a look out for updates on what the student voice have been up to.

The first student council meeting is due to be held on Thursday 13th October. All tutors discuss with their tutees the agenda, which will be split into 3 main areas:

1. Learning and Teaching
2. School grounds and accommodation
3. Learner Wellbeing

The tutor representatives will take notes of the points raised from the tutor group to take to the Year Council meeting, which will be held by Assistant Heads of Year before Friday 7th October. The two school council representatives will then take the points raised to the school council meeting which will take place on Thursday 13th October. The first meeting this year is being held off-site.

Miss C Thomas (Teacher in charge of student voice)



Dance



Extra Curricula Dance Timetable:

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Break 11:00 – 11:20	Open for rehearsals	Dance club (MS) Emily and Tegan For Years 7 and 8 – learn a new dance	Dance project (MS) Lauren Williams By invitation only	YOGA/MEDITATION (MS) Miss Haley Year 11 only	Closed
Lunch 1:25 – 1:55	Open for rehearsals	Street Dance (MS) Jade and Jaime Open to everyone, learn commercial/street dance for the Xmas show	Open for rehearsals	Open for rehearsals	Closed
Evening 3:15 – 4:15	Year 10 GCSE Dance (MS) Miss Haley Year 10 study session and extra support	GCSE & BTEC REHEARSALS <i>Years 10, 11 & 12</i> (MS and JNS) Miss Haley Open session for GCSE and BTEC students to revise or rehearse and gain further help	GCSE & BTEC REHEARSALS <i>Years 10, 11 & 12</i> (MS and JNS) Miss Haley Open session for GCSE and BTEC students to revise or rehearse and gain further help	DANCE COMPANY (MS) Miss Haley The dance company perform at school dance shows and South Hill Park's 'Lift Off'. There are a limited number of places available. <i>Audition on Thursday 6th October, see poster for more details.</i>	Year 11 GCSE Dance (MS and JNS) Miss Haley Year 11 study session and extra support or rehearsals

The **Brakenhale Dance Company** performs at school dance shows and the Lift Off Dance Festival at South Hill Park each year. The Company is made of students from each year group who show potential in contemporary dance and choreography. Every year there is an audition in October to select dancers for the company - there are only a limited number of spaces.

The company rehearse every Thursday after school from 3:05-4:30pm in the movement studio. As part of the company you work as professional dancers would with Miss Haley as your choreographer.



What we are looking for;

- 20 dancers from across Years 8, 9, 10 and 11
- 2 dancers from Year 7 (these are apprentice roles so you can learn how the company works - you will still be involved as a full member of the company)

You need to be;

- Professional; on time, hardworking and focused
- Creative, willing to take risks and confident enough to work with older dancers
- Dedicated; you need to attend EVERY Thursday, be able to perform in the Christmas and end of year shows and able to perform one weekend in March for the Lift Off Dance Festival
- Interested in dance and choreography, ideally with an understanding of contemporary dance

You do not have to be experienced in dance to gain a place, it's about potential.

The Audition

Audition date: Thursday 6th October

3:05 – 4:30pm in the Movement Studio

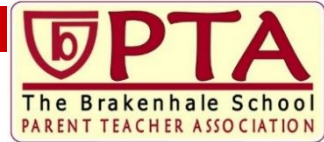
You do not need to prepare anything for the audition, you will learn some dance exercises and phrases of movement and perform them all together as a class.

You will then be given a creative task in small groups where you will create some of your own movement and share this with the class.

The company list will be posted the next day on the movement studio notice board.

Miss C Haley, Head of Dance & Drama

PTA



PTA Upcoming Events:

- PTA Meeting: Tuesday 4th October
- PTA Year 8 Disco Thursday 20th October
- PTA AGM: Tuesday 1st November, followed by the monthly meeting
- Christmas Market: Thursday 24th November
- PTA Meeting: Tuesday 6th December



We look forward to welcoming you to our future events.

Next meeting Tuesday 4th October 2016

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, our efforts are focused on raising money to purchase sustainable benches and improving the outside space for students.

We meet on the first Tuesday of each month from 7pm in The Bridge, which is part of our Student Support Centre. If you think this is something you would like to know more about, please come along to our next meeting on Tuesday 4th October 2016 at 7pm.

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

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 Family Fun Day or Christmas Market and no monies raised to support projects such as the purchase of the new school minibus. As a school we value all the effort and hard work of the PTA to raise money for the school's benefit.

The PTA Committee

Diary Dates

Until Wednesday 5 th October	School Tours 9.15 to 10.45am
W/C Monday 3 rd October	SEN Dyslexia Awareness Week
Tuesday 4 th October	PTA meeting, 7pm
Wednesday 12 th October	Year 11 Information Evening, 7pm An information for Year 11 parents to help them support their children.
Thursday 13 th October	Year 7 Information & Meet the Tutor Evening, 4-7pm An excellent opportunity for parents to meet with their child's tutor, together with other Year Team staff and the SENCO and EAL Co-ordinator.
Friday 14 th October	Non-Uniform Day for Jeans for Genes and Daisy's Dream
Wednesday 19 th October	Year 10 Information Evening, 7pm An information for Year 10 parents to help them support their children
Thursday 20 th October	PTA Year 8 Disco
Tuesday 1 st November	PTA AGM and monthly meeting, 7pm
Tuesday 8 th November	Sixth Form Open Evening The Sixth Form will be open with stalls to visit for all the subjects offered at A Level at Brakenhale. Staff and students will be available to chat about their subject areas and it is an opportunity to get a flavour for the ethos and atmosphere of the Sixth Form. Ensuring students are taking the appropriate course at A Level to match their skills, aspirations and academic passions is one way of ensuring young people remain focused and positive during their time in the Sixth Form.

Term Dates 2016-17

*Inset Days: Thursday 1st and Friday 2nd September 2016
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/schooltermholidaydates>

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Minister impressed with quickly improving school

By Matthew Leung

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PUPILS and teachers at a pioneering Bracknell school were delighted to see the Schools Minister when he toured the site with the town's MP.

Brakenhale Academy, the first non-faith school in Bracknell to become an academy, welcomed Nick Gibb from the Department for Education and MP Dr Phillip Lee.

The pair were shown around the facility by head teacher Jane Coley, who has turned the school around in 18 months from 'requires improvement' to achieving academy status, with sponsorship from the Greenshaw Learning Trust.

Chair of the local governing body Karen Roche also attended the ministerial visit.

Mr Gibb said: "I was pleased to visit the Brakenhale Academy at the invitation of Bracknell's MP, Dr Phillip Lee.

"The school is improving quickly following a change in its leadership team and a renewed focus on high academic standards."

Mrs Coley was pleased that the efforts of herself and her staff were being recognised at the highest levels of government.

"I am proud of the improvements that we have made here at Brakenhale," she added.

Dr Lee highlighted that the changes implemented since April 2015 also reflected upon the town as a whole.

He said: "The amazing work being done at Brakenhale by Jane and her wonderful team is an enormous credit to Bracknell.

"Having visited earlier this year, it is of no surprise to me that the school has continued to flourish and I am sure its burgeoning reputation will only increase as it takes full advantage of its new academy status."



(from l to r) Lewis Clothier, head boy; Rebecca Jones, deputy head girl; Dr Phillip Lee MP; Jane Coley; Nick Gibb MP; Karen Roche, chair of Local Governing Body; Charlie Camp, deputy head girl; Laura Maryon, head girl and Ryan Lodder, deputy head boy