

# Brakenhale School Parent News

23<sup>rd</sup> September 2016



Dear Parents/Carers

It has been an excellent week for us at Brakenhale with all sorts of exciting events going on.

Our open evening on Tuesday night was our most successful ever with over 650 people visiting us. The feedback has been extremely positive and, most rewarding, have been the comments made about the students at Brakenhale. The way in which they represented the school and themselves was exceptional. We are so lucky to work with such a fantastic group of young people.

Yesterday, we welcomed our local MP Dr Phillip Lee and the Government Minister for schools Mr Nick Gibb, both of whom wanted to come and tour the school and to see for themselves the outstanding progress that our young people are making.

They were both very complimentary about what they saw, in particular the focus and engagement of students, the pride they clearly held in their school and their very respectful attitude.

Furthermore, we are now beginning our two week programme of school tours and again every classroom we go to reflects the high expectations that we promise and very positive behaviour for learning.

Both myself and the team at Brakenhale School continue to be immensely proud of everything that we are achieving together.

Yours faithfully

Jane Coley, Headteacher



**#challengeforall**

## Invigilators Needed

We are looking for volunteers to help us in school to invigilate some school examinations that are fast approaching. Our students are soon to be sitting their mock examinations in Year 11, 12 and 13, which is vital practice and experience for what is to come in June 2017. We also have some resits of actual GCSE Maths and English examinations.

Our students are amazing young people to work with and they will certainly appreciate the help and support that they get during these stressful events. It would be fantastic if you could help us during the exams. This would involve helping get the students organised as they sit down, ensuring they all have correct equipment, distributing exam papers, supporting them during the exam themselves if they have a question and collecting papers at the end.

We and the students would be exceptionally grateful if you could spare just a little amount of time. It maybe that you are available for just one morning or one afternoon session and that is absolutely fine. Training will be given and there will be an experienced lead invigilator present.

DATE	Exam	AM (9:00 – 11:30am)	PM (1:00 -3:00pm)
Monday 31 <sup>st</sup> Oct – Friday 4 <sup>th</sup> Nov	GCSE Maths and English Resits	✓	
Tuesday 8 <sup>th</sup> Nov	Maths Challenge	✓	
Monday 14 <sup>th</sup> Nov – Friday 18 <sup>th</sup> Nov	Year 12/13 Practice Exams	✓	✓
Monday 28 <sup>th</sup> Nov - Friday 2 <sup>nd</sup> Dec	Year 11 Practice Exams	✓	✓

If you think you can help, please email our exams manager Mrs Seymour on [sseymour@brakenhale.co.uk](mailto:sseymour@brakenhale.co.uk) giving your full name, contact details and when you are available.

Many thanks,

*Mr H Thomas, Assistant Headteacher*

## Open Evening

We were delighted so many prospective parents came along to check out our school on Tuesday, and a big thank you to all the staff and students who put on splendid displays in their classrooms and acted as tour guides.



Parents and students looking to come up to secondary school next September can also join us for Year 6 Tours from 9.15am to 10.45am between Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> September and Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> October by telephoning the school to book a place.



Staff, together with the Head Boy and Girl and Deputy Head Boy and Girl, were on hand to welcome the visitors and the main hall was overflowing for Mrs Coley's first talk and almost as full for the second one.



Classrooms and other areas all over the school were set up to showcase all the different subjects and activities that the school has to offer. Tours were rounded off with a visit to the dining hall where refreshments and samples of our extensive menu and homemade cakes were on offer, with help from the PTA.

Other highlights included the Duke of Edinburgh Award Programme which is proudly offered to Year 9, 10 and 11 students, as a popular Award that looks great on any application for colleges, universities and future jobs. Mr Hick, displayed photos from previous expeditions, together with some of the tents and other camping gear that is used.



Staff were also available in the Student Support Centre to answer questions about student support and SEN. Prospective parents and students were given the opportunity to meet with the Safeguarding Manager, SENCO, Student Support Co-ordinator, Family Support Worker, Nurture Group Co-ordinator and our Healthcare Co-ordinator.

We received some fantastic feedback from parents who attended.



We have heard good things from friends but are even more happy now we have heard Mrs Coley's positive talk about the school.

Everything was exceptional and very positive.

Good friendly staff and pupils. The teachers were very helpful and students engaged.

The students certainly were confident and happy, their manners excellent, a real credit to the school. The rooms looked fun, interesting and at the same time we could see the drive and ambition to succeed. Very impressed.

## Request for Materials

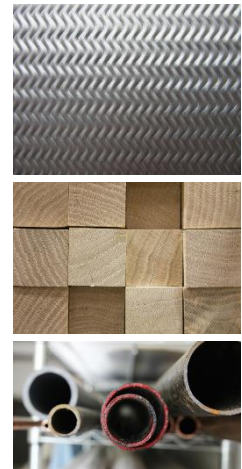
My name is Mr Smith, and I am an experienced teacher new to Brakenhale this academic year, working within the Design & Technology department. These are exciting times for the school; having achieved fantastic results in 2016, the school is very rapidly moving towards being one of the most successful schools in the area, but in order to keep this improvement going, we as a school cannot stop developing. In the technology department we are struggling with finance (as are most schools) and therefore materials/resources. I am therefore sending out this plea to parents and the wider community to see if you can help and if you don't ask you don't get!

Please, if you have any excess material, such as wood, metal or plastic, that is in a usable state, e.g. sheet/planks/rods/tubes that are not required, could we have them? Alternatively, if you work for a company in one of the industries that produce or use the above and are willing to donate sheets or even offcuts, then that would be fantastic. We have started two new courses this year in Year 10 - Construction and Engineering - and any help we can give the young people in their learning would be hugely appreciated and materials can be a big part of this.

Finally, we are currently looking to move a table saw and Planar/thicknesses. If you have any expertise in electrics or extraction systems, and are willing to donate some of your time to the school, then please get in touch, either with myself or Mrs Coley (Headteacher). With that in mind, if you have any skills that could benefit Brakenhale and the students, and are willing and able to help, then please get in contact.

Apologies for the list of requests, but as you know parents can make a massive difference to school life. Thanks again for your time and I look forward to hopefully hearing from some of you.

Mr Smith, Design & Technology Teacher, [jsmith@brakenhale.co.uk](mailto:jsmith@brakenhale.co.uk)



## European Day of Languages



European Day of Languages is next week, on Monday 26<sup>th</sup> September. The school had a brilliant buzz last year for this event and we are looking forward to repeating a similar vibe again this year.

The Languages department will be handing out stickers for the day, saying "Speak to me" in a variety of European languages. Different subjects will be endeavouring to include anything 'European Language' related in their lessons to help raise the profile of the day.

If parents can think of any way in which to support this event please contact me via email on [fslade@brakenhale.co.uk](mailto:fslade@brakenhale.co.uk).

Thank you in advance for your support.

Mr Slade, Head of Languages





## BBC Filmmaking Competition - First Prize

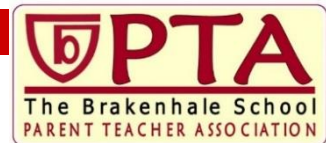
Two of our Year 10 students Brandon P and Kyle S have won first prize in the BBC Filmmaking Competition 'Film of the Month', in support of the UK wide BBC Get Creative campaign <https://www.intofilm.org/theme/14>

Here is the link to their film: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DbvP6DvVfpE>

The Film of the Month competition celebrates exceptional young filmmaking talent from across the UK. Filmmaking is more accessible than it ever has been, and that is illustrated in the quantity and quality of the entries received every month. Film of the Month is open to all young people aged 5 to 19 across the UK: <https://www.intofilm.org/competitions/1>



## PTA



### PTA Upcoming Events:

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

We look forward to welcoming you to our future events.

*The PTA Committee*

## Extra Curricular Events

### PE Extra Curricular Activities



We have had an excellent start over the last two weeks for our extra-curricular activities programme, with over 250 students attending the various clubs across the week. If students haven't managed to get along to a club this term yet don't worry; just turn up next week! We look forward to seeing as many as possible. Let's keep the momentum going and see if we can get even more students along next week!!! See you then!

### Non-Sporting Extra Curricular Activities

DAY	TIME	CLUB	YEAR GROUP	LOCATION	TEACHER IN CHARGE
Monday	3.05 – 4.00	Homework Club	All Years	LRC	Miss Daniels
Monday	3.10 – 4.15	Dance Technique & Creative	Years 9/10	Movement Studio	Miss Haley
Monday	3.10 – 4.15	Tech Club	Years 7/8/9	T05	Mr Mitchell
Monday	3.20 – 4.20	EAL Homework Club	All Years	Connexions Room	Miss Cmok
Tuesday	1.30 – 2.00	Identity – LGBT Group	All Years	T04	Mr Hicks
Tuesday	3.05 – 4.00	Homework Club	All Years	LRC	Miss Daniels
Tuesday	3.10 – 4.10	ICT catch-up	Year 10	B14	Mrs Jacobs
Tuesday	3.10 – 4.10	Public Speaking Club	Years 7 – 11	C26	Mr Sinclair
Tuesday	3.10 – 4.10	Catering – Master Chef	Years 10/11 (Catering classes only)	TO2	Ms Shayanewako
Tuesday	3.20 – 5.00	Computer Science catch-up	Year 11	B12	Ms Shaughnessy
Wednesday	1.30 – 1.55	Meditation & Yoga	Year 11	Movement Studio	Miss C Haley
Wednesday	3.05 – 4.00	Homework Club	All Years	LRC	Miss Daniels
Wednesday	3.10 – 4.00	Art Club	Years 7/8/9	AO2	Miss Willhelmy/ Mrs Hemmings + Sixth Form students
Wednesday (starting 21/9)	3.15 – 4.15	STEM Club	All Years	SF03	Miss Langille
Thursday	3.05 – 4.00	Homework Club	All Years	LRC	Miss Daniels
Thursday	3.05 – 4.00	Business BTEC catch-up	Year 11	B15	Miss Morgan
Thursday	3.10 – 4.30	Dance Company (selected by Audition)	All Years	Movement Studio	Miss Haley
Thursday	3.10 - 4.10	Forensic Science Club	Year 9	S11	Miss Barnwell
Thursday	3.20 – 4.20	Young Interpreters Club	All Years	Connexions Room	Miss Cmok
Thursday	3.30 – 6.00	GCSE ICT catch-up	Year 11	B11	Mr Thomas
Thursday	3.10 – 4.10	Maths FUNBUS	Years 12/13	M14	Mr Dean / Miss Thomas & Mr O'Donoghue
Friday	3.05 – 4.00	Homework Club	All Years	LRC	Miss Daniels

Please check with the Teacher in Charge for start dates.

## Diary Dates

Until Wednesday 5 <sup>th</sup> October	School Tours 9.15 to 10.45am
Monday 26 <sup>th</sup> September	Sixth Form Mock exams start
W/C Monday 3 <sup>rd</sup> October	SEN Dyslexia Awareness Week
Wednesday 12 <sup>th</sup> October	Year 11 Information Evening 7pm
Thursday 13 <sup>th</sup> October	Year 7 Information & Meet the Tutor Evening
Friday 14 <sup>th</sup> October	Non-Uniform Day for Jeans for Genes and Daisy's Dream
Wednesday 19 <sup>th</sup> October	Year 10 Information Evening 7pm
Thursday 20 <sup>th</sup> October	PTA Year 8 Disco

### Term Dates 2016-17

*Inset Days: Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> and Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2016  
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: Wednesday 21<sup>st</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)*

#### 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