

Brakenhale School Parent News

9th September 2016



Dear Parents/Carers

Welcome back to the new school year.

It has been a really busy week for everyone involved in the school including you all as parents and carers. Students have started back with positive attitudes and a really enthusiastic approach to their studies which has been lovely to see. Of course we have had a few teething problems and again I am really sorry to anyone who has been affected by a blazer issue in Year 7 and I hope that we have now rectified this. I have met with a number of parents this week to talk through individual student issues and I would encourage you to contact the school to meet with Heads of Year and the Senior leadership Team if you believe that we can help your child's learning in any further way. I will be sending out the School Improvement Plan next week to all parents so that you are aware of the areas that we will be focusing on this year and opportunities for you to be involved in the continued rapid progression of the school.

We have also been celebrating today that we have been officially recognised as being in the top 10% of schools nationally for Progress. This is an outstanding achievement and I would like to thank all staff, parents and governors who supported Year 11 in this fantastic achievement. I have no doubt that we will continue to go from strength to strength this year.

I hope you all have a restful weekend and that students come back just as positively on Monday as they have this week.

Yours sincerely

Jane Coley
Headteacher

#challengeforall

Tools for Learning

Thank you so much for your support in our new Tools for Learning initiative. Well over 90% of students have full pencil cases and are, as a result, 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.

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

Thank you once again for supporting our drive on this. 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

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

GLUE

The Brakenhale School ©

Results

Sixth Form GCE Results – 18th August

We are delighted with our A-Level, AS Level and BTEC results this year. The school's continued resurgence is confirmed by these results. We are particularly pleased that in every single measure there has been an increase in attainment and progress on previous years. Some of our key results are listed below.

- At A*-B we achieved 53% compared to 43% in 2015 including BTEC equivalents. A 10% increase.
- At A*-C we achieved 73% compared to 60 % in 2015 including BTEC equivalents. A 13% increase.
- The A*-E pass rate was 100% up from 95% in 2015 which is particularly satisfying. A 5% increase.



It has been a huge team effort and I am so grateful to the teaching staff, tutors and parents who have all pulled together, endured the stress and provided the support and encouragement necessary to make these fabulous results a reality.

We are sure that this momentum and constant drive for improvement will be continued across all key stages and this will enable our students to achieve their potential.

Year 11 GCSE Results – 25th August

We are also delighted with our 2016 GCSE results, which show clear evidence of the value that we are adding to the educational outcomes of our students and improvements across all measures.

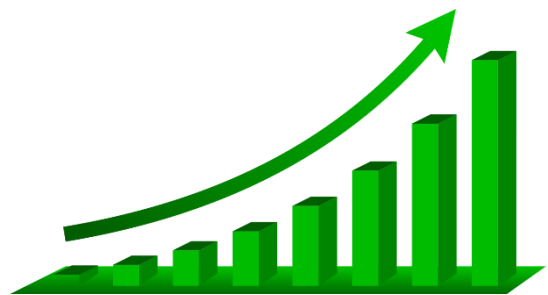
Progress and Attainment 8 are new government reporting tools.

Our Progress 8 score of 0.52 is an outstanding achievement. This demonstrates that on average students leaving Year 11 from Brakenhale achieved over half a grade higher than what was expected for a student of similar ability nationally. This is approximately half a grade higher than the 2015 results.

Our Attainment 8 score was 4.84 which equates to a C grade meaning that on average across all subjects our students achieved the national benchmark of a C. This is a whole grade higher than the 2015 results.

We have had further success with our 5 A*-C including English and Maths which has increased to 53% and as in line with last year we expect this figure to increase further subject to a number of appeals. We believe that this figure tied in with our Progress and Attainment 8 figures fully demonstrate the impact of our high expectations and challenge agenda.

Furthermore our GCSE results along with our A Level results show clearly the rapid progress that Brakenhale is making. We would like to congratulate all our students on their well-deserved success and thank the teaching staff and of course the parents who have guided and supported them.



Jane Coley, Headteacher

Dance

As part of our dance partnership with Berkshire County Dance Company Youth a group of our Year 10 students have been working with professional choreographer Luke Brown to create a dance work.

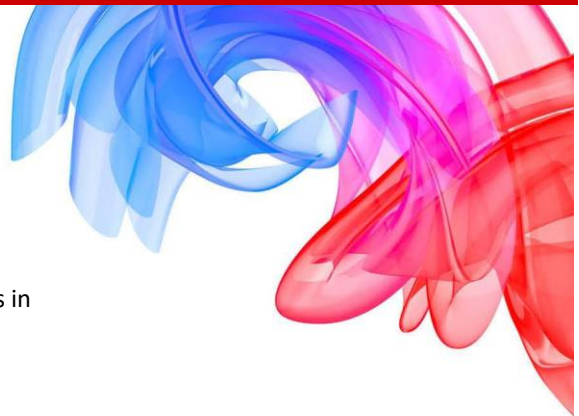
They will be performing the work as a curtain raiser for his show 'For You I Long the Longest' on Tuesday 13th September at South Hill Park. We would like to congratulate Emily, Charisse, Chloe, Catlin and Harley for attending rehearsals over the summer and working so hard on the project, in blistering heat at times and we are looking forward to the performance next week.

Some of our Berkshire County Dance Company Youth students; Kieran, Lauren and Emily will also be performing.

And well done to Year 11 student Kier who performed in Peter Pan at South Hill Park over the Summer as a lost boy - he was fantastic. Two talented ex-students also performed as a lost boy and a superb Wendy.

Miss Haley, Head of Dance

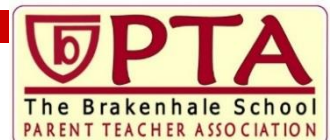
British Gymnastics



One of our Sixth Form students Lewis C has been selected to represent Great Britain in the TeamGym European Championships in Slovenia this October.

We are very proud of his achievement and wish him all the best.

PTA



PTA Upcoming Events:

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

Parental Assistance

The PTA would like to arrange a School Disco for Year 7 and 8 students. If anyone has any contacts who have equipment and would be able to volunteer their services as a DJ for this worthy cause, it would be much appreciated. Please contact the school reception who will provide further details.

PTA Committee

Extra Curricular Events

PE Extra Curricular Activities



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)	T02	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

Tuesday 13 th September	Year 6 Information Evening for Parents from 7pm
Monday 19 th September	Student Finance talk for Year 13 Parents at 6pm
Tuesday 20 th September	Early closing for students at 1.05pm Year 6 Open Evening for Parents and Students from 6.30pm
Wednesday 21 st September	Late start for students: Registration at 9.40am Year 13 Geography Fieldwork Trip (tbc)
Thursday 22 nd September to Wednesday 5 th October	School Tours 9.15 to 10.45am
Monday 26 th September	Sixth Form Mocks start
Tuesday 27 th September	Year 11 Geography Fieldwork Trip (tbc)

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/schooltermandholidaydates>

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