

# End of Year News

July 2016



Dear Parents/Carers

As we are at the end of the Summer term I wanted to take the opportunity to write to everyone to say thank you very much for your help and support this year. Your feedback is invaluable in helping me to make continual improvements.

It has been an extremely busy term during which the school continues to move forward at a rapid pace with a full intake for September 2016 which has not happened for nearly two decades.

## **ACHIEVEMENTS**

I have been extremely proud this year on a weekly basis to be able to update you on so many outstanding student achievements. It is with great pleasure that I have been able to send home so many letters thanking young people for their work and contributions to the school and I very much look forward to doing this next year.

I am always really keen to know about student achievements outside of school so please make me aware if your son or daughter has been involved in anything extracurricular.

## **UNIFORM**

I would like to thank you all for your support in ensuring that students continue to uphold our very high standards of uniform, behaviour and punctuality. Regarding uniform, the students overall continue to look extremely smart and represent the school so well. If there are any issues with uniform that have been highlighted this half term please ensure that these are rectified across the holiday. In particular, please can I remind you that all shoes should be polishable and logo free, including brands such as converse. It is extremely important to myself and staff that students continue to model our high expectations. As of April 1<sup>st</sup> we have gone online for uniform purchases, although you are currently still able to purchase from our uniform shop. Please refer to the schoolcomms from Mr Hartley last week with instructions regarding open hours and the ordering of uniform.

## **THANK YOU AND GOODBYE**

This term we are saying goodbye to a number of teachers and support staff who are moving on to other schools for promotions, or leaving us to go on to other exciting opportunities.

To each and every one of them our heartfelt thanks for all they have done for Brakenhale and our students. I do hope that all staff leaving us have thoroughly enjoyed their time with us, felt valued by myself and their colleagues and have grown and developed professionally in readiness for their next steps. The enjoyment of our jobs is not only the work that we do but the people that we work with and from all of us to all of those that are leaving a huge thanks for being such great colleagues.

## **Therefore it's goodbye and thank you to.....**

Mr Wood (change of career), Mr Higgins (Promotion), Mr Tkaczyk (relocation to Devon), Miss Catanach (new opportunity at a local school), Miss Khamou (promotion), Mr Graham & Miss Jennings (moving to Singapore), Mr McCauley (moving to UAE), Miss Goldswain (new opportunity at a local school), Miss Carpenter (change of career – teaching the hearing impaired), Miss Brewer (relocating to Southampton), Mr Humber (new opportunity at a local school), Mr Roberts (relocating to Wales), Mrs Forbes (break away from teaching), Mrs Clifton – Science technician (Change of career).

We also want to wish **Miss Martin and Mr Cooper** all the best as they are both getting married to their partners over the Summer holiday. Congratulations and Good Luck for the future.

We have recently appointed fifteen new members of staff who are joining us after the Summer break.

Mrs Whybra	Maths Teacher	Has completed her PGCE and spent some time of this with us in January
Mrs Tobin-Desson	MFL Teacher	Joining us from Keep Hatch Primary
Mr Smith	D&T Teacher	Joining us from the Salesian School
Mrs Wilkins	Maths Teacher	Joining us from Hawley Primary School
Miss Barnwell	Science & Music Teacher	Joining us from St Pauls CofE School
Mr Bell	Business Studies Teacher	NQT
Miss Loj	History Teacher	
Mr Marshall	Science Teacher	
Miss Atmaja	Science Teacher	
Mrs Hemmings	Art Teacher	Joining us from Edgbarrow School
Miss Wilhelmy	Photography Teacher	Joining us from Bracknell & Wokingham College
Mr Piers	Cover Supervisor	
Mrs Ruck	Behaviour Support Teaching Assistant	
Mrs Fotheringham	Teaching Assistant	
Mr Elsey	Site Manager	

### **USE OF SCHOOL SITE AND SPORTS FACILITIES**

I would like to make a plea that students do not come onto the school site during the holidays, evening or weekends to use the playing fields or to sit around on the school benches. I know for a large number of students this would not be their option of choice, but a small minority of students cannot stay away. We have lettings during these times which mean that the gates are sometimes open and therefore people can wander into school. I am just wary that we do not want people climbing onto roofs or hurting themselves in any way and therefore all activities on the school site must be supervised so I would ask that students do not come onto the school site for any reason unless they are here for a supervised activity.

## **IMPORTANT FUTURE DATES**

Please see below a reminder of a few important dates coming up after the holidays.

<b>Inset days:</b>	Thursday 1 <sup>st</sup> & Friday 2 <sup>nd</sup> September
<b>Return to school:</b>	Monday 5 <sup>th</sup> September arrive at 8.30am
<b>Whole School Photos:</b>	Thursday 8 <sup>th</sup> September
<b>Year 6 Introduction Evening:</b>	Tuesday 13 <sup>th</sup> September
<b>Early Closing:</b>	Tuesday 20 <sup>th</sup> September
<b>Open Evening:</b>	Tuesday 20 <sup>th</sup> September
<b>Year 8 HPV Injection:</b>	Thursday 22 <sup>nd</sup> September
<b>School Tours:</b>	Thursday 22 <sup>nd</sup> – Friday 30 <sup>th</sup> September
<b>PTA Year 7 disco:</b>	Thursday 6 <sup>th</sup> October
<b>DofE Silver Practice Expedition (tbc):</b>	Thursday 13 <sup>th</sup> – Sunday 16 <sup>th</sup> October
<b>PTA Year 8 disco:</b>	Thursday 20 <sup>th</sup> October
<b>Half Term:</b>	Monday 24 <sup>th</sup> October – Friday 28 <sup>th</sup> October
<b>Book Look Week Year 11:</b>	Monday 24 <sup>th</sup> October – Friday 28 <sup>th</sup> October
<b>Return to school:</b>	Monday 31 <sup>st</sup> October
<b>Year 13 Parents Evening:</b>	Thursday 3 <sup>rd</sup> November
<b>UKMT Senior Maths Challenge:</b>	Tuesday 8 <sup>th</sup> November
<b>Year 12 Safe Drive Stay Alive:</b>	Wednesday 9 <sup>th</sup> November
<b>Year 10 Parents Evening:</b>	Thursday 17 <sup>th</sup> November
<b>PTA Christmas Market:</b>	Thursday 24 <sup>th</sup> November
<b>PTA Meeting:</b>	Tuesday 6 <sup>th</sup> December
<b>Dance Show:</b>	Wednesday 7 <sup>th</sup> December
<b>Year 8 Parents Evening:</b>	Thursday 8 <sup>th</sup> December
<b>Music Show:</b>	Thursday 15 <sup>th</sup> December
<b>End of Term:</b>	Friday 16 <sup>th</sup> December early close

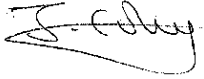
## **PTA**

I would also like to thank our PTA for all their hard work in fundraising this term. We have had a number of activities including a successful race night. We look forward to seeing you at our future events at the school.

## **FINALLY**

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a very happy, safe and restful Summer break and I look forward to working with you all in the future. Please do continue to provide me with your feedback, it is invaluable in helping me to move the school forward.

Best wishes

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jane Coley', written in a cursive style.

Jane Coley  
Headteacher

# YEAR 7

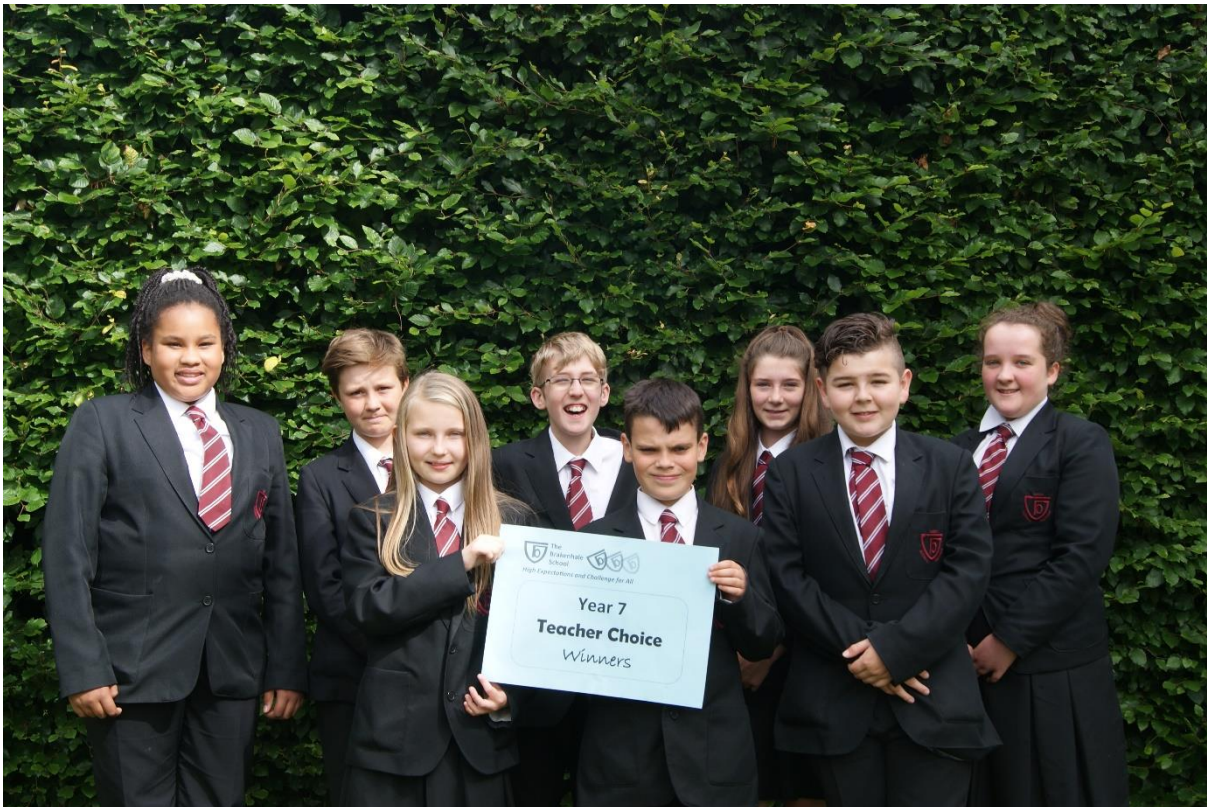
We hope your son/daughter have had a brilliant start to their education at the Brakenhale School.

Students have achieved a huge number of academic and sporting successes.

Students have persistently worked hard this year throughout all of their lessons. When students achieve well they earn Vivo's, which can be spent on prizes within school. The year 7 students were the highest scoring students in the school. The top 10 students were as follows who deserve massive congratulations for the persistent hard work and effort.

1. Bethany Brazier
2. Amber West
3. Davina Baker
4. Sophie Kempson
5. Millie Baseley
6. Archie Kumar
7. Kirsty Ruff
8. Teegan Kirkland
9. Leanne Palmer
10. Benjamin Mancini

In celebration of the student's successes an awards evening was held to celebrate the students' fantastic commitment over the academic year in various subjects. Choosing the students who won these awards is always hard for staff when so many students deserve them for their persistent hard work and effort.



In June a number of year 7 students undertook a residential trip to Liddington where students learnt to work as a team overcoming many activities and fears they had not encountered before. Students undertook activities such as abseiling, canoeing, raft building to sliding down 20 metre zip wires!



Recently a number of students have been working with the Fusion project run by Bracknell Forest council. The programme has been designed to support young people during this transition in school. It provided opportunities for the year 7 students to develop key life skills and tools and encourages them to engage with their community through Social Action projects. We look forward to seeing what the project will look like in the new academic year in Wildridings.

We have been very lucky this term to have a number of speakers coming into the school leading assemblies with the year 7 students. We have had speakers from various companies, to important talks about road safety and the dangers of smoking. Students have had the opportunity to meet an Olympic volleyball player, Chris Gregory who gave an aspirational talk to students about his life story and how you can overcome many obstacles, promoting key ideas of effort and how through determination and effort you can overcome any obstacle and succeed in your dreams.



A number of students have represented the school and region at various sporting events, some of the notable achievements include Ricky Osei and Lilly Kenneavy who have represented the county in athletics this summer term. It was a pleasure to see some real stand out stars compete in various sporting events for the school over the academic year. One student really stood out epitomising the key ethos of effort and raising one's aspirations in Jordan Travers, receiving the sportsman of the year award from school for his persistent effort and determination in regards to all the sports and activities he has undertaken this year.

Throughout the year it has been a pleasure to witness the talent of some of our young people in regards to their music, dance and drama. We have seen some fantastic showcases of their work through the various

shows put on throughout the year. It has been a joy to see some year 7 students take part in dance shows such as the Bird with Boy, a national production being aired at South Hill Park.

The next academic year will bring many exciting opportunities both academic and pastoral in supporting your son/daughter to achieve and go on to do great things.

Students will continue with their PiXL Edge, which is a framework to develop and accredit student's attitudes, attributes and skills essential for employability and life. Below you will find listed some key dates for the beginning of the next academic year:

- Monday 5<sup>th</sup> September: Return to school. Please remember to be on school site in full school uniform by 08.30.
- Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> October: Year 8 Disco, 18.30-21.00

The end of this year brings new exciting changes where Mr Hicks will be the new head of year as of September.

Mr Hicks Quote:

*"I have been a tutor for 7H for the best part of this year and also taught two different Year 7 Maths groups. It has been a pleasure to see the students grow in maturity and confidence since the transition days last year which was when we first met. I am incredibly excited to be taking on this new role as Head of Year and guiding the year group through their next step in secondary education. I look forward to meeting many of you at events next year, building a strong partnership with you all in order to support your children and together we will help them get the very best experience from Brakenhale."*

Supporting Mr Hicks will be Miss O'Brien. If you have any questions regarding the next academic year please feel free to contact the following members of staff:

Head of Year 8: Mr Daniel Hicks: [dhicks@brakenhale.co.uk](mailto:dhicks@brakenhale.co.uk)

Assistant Head of Year 8: Miss Donna O'Brien: [dobrien@brakenhale.co.uk](mailto:dobrien@brakenhale.co.uk)

I would like to thank you all for your support this academic year and wish your sons/daughter great academic and sporting success. I feel happy to leave them in the capable hands of Mr Hicks and Miss O'Brien. It has been a pleasure working with you.

Martyn Cooper and Laura Ball  
Head of year 7 and Assistant Head of Year 7

# YEAR 8

As we come to the end of a busy year, I would like to say how much I have enjoyed seeing how our students have grown in character and skills since September. The vast majority have worked hard over the course of the year and I know they have set themselves up for success in year 9, as parents you should be immensely proud of their achievements. So many students have shown excellent attitude to learning and I would like to congratulate them all. The following students in particular have been mentioned by their teachers:

KENNEDY-GREEN Dylan  
LEIVERS Liam  
MILES Harry  
WILLIAMS Lauren  
DE RAMON PEREZ Carmen  
HAMMOND-  
BAVEYSTOCK Ella  
THOMPSON Jemma  
WALSH Sophie  
BOJDA Sophie  
TALAVERA Faye

Good attendance is key to successful learning with many students achieving over 95%. In particular, I would like to thank the following who, at the time of writing, have had close to or 100% attendance. They are Rajal Bhatti, Daniel Bradley, Charlotte Burge, Yanni Drakos, William Evans, Nathaniel Field-Williams, Sean Funani, Ellis Hopkins, Rebecca Kennewell, Luke Meakins, Julian Navarro, Amy Peters, Jacob Poole, Tegan Roberts, Emma Rogers, Hope Rue, Ellie Shepherd, Lauren Williams, Jake Wilson and Yanick York.

The support of their tutors has been invaluable and I would like to personally thank them. I would like to thank Miss Jennings, Miss Goldswain, Miss Khamou, Mr Graham and Miss Carpenter who are moving to new jobs in different parts of the world. I would also like to thank Miss Haley and Mr Anderson for their hard work and Mr O'Donoghue for his support as assistant head of year. I will be taking a 1 year break as head of year to support the science department and I know that Mr O'Donoghue is more than capable of leading the year group through year 9 and the challenges that it will bring.

There have been many successes throughout the year from excellent sporting achievements in football and rugby, dance shows and performances, music recitals as well as academic successes in all subjects. There are some incredibly talented dancers in year 8 and Miss Haley has gone above and beyond to support and nurture their talent. This has led to excellent performance both in school and the public area. Students Luis Bhutta, Eden Gagliano, Clancy Osei, Adam Prince, Alfie Lampton, Jack Turnbull, Lester Dumfeh and Tyler Petford should be congratulated.

A number of our year 8 students were given the opportunity to visit the Houses of Parliament and learn about our democracy and government. It gave students a fascinating insight and one which most people do not get the chance to see.

Year 8 students were entertained by the poet John Hegley who read a range of his work. 30 students who had taken part in a poetry competition and readathon were lucky enough to be involved in a poetry workshop. Feedback from John Hegley was very positive. He took the time to say how impressed he was with the standard of their behaviour and participation. He also commented that the poetry produced in the workshop was some of the best he had seen from school visits.





Year 8 students have been involved in workshops with visitors from Microsoft, Oxford University as well as whole year events ranging from risky behaviours to career choices. For me however, the highlight was the very successful trip to PGL Liddington in July where so many students were able to push themselves to achieve things that they never thought they could. As always, the students' behaviour was a credit to the school. I would like to thank Mr O'Donoghue, Miss Carpenter, Miss Goldswain, Mrs Theal, Mr Dean, Miss Gill and Mr Boucher who all took time to support the year group and take part in the activities.



Finally, I would like to wish you all a relaxing summer holiday and I look forward to seeing everyone back in September ready for all the new challenges the year will bring.

Mr James Swynford-Lain  
Head of Year 8

# YEAR 9

At the end of a long year, Year 9 have much to celebrate. In academic, sporting and creative arenas our students have achieved enormous success.

In sporting terms both girls and boys have excelled. The boy's football team made it to the final of the County Cup, narrowly losing in a tight match. The girl's rounder's team did superbly and were awarded the team of the year award by the PE department. There has also been success within athletics, with several students being ambassadors at a recent primary event, with our students being particularly praised.

In creative subjects I had the enormous pleasure of attending the summer music concert. It was an honour to see so many students performing with such talent, and so fearlessly! The dance department has also been busy with students taking part in several performances. We also held an art exhibition which was another showcase of the year group's creative talent.

Academically this has been another strong year. Many students have participated at maths event and taken part in trips to further their understanding, such as the recent visit to Microsoft and 3M.

We have enjoyed taking students away, and the recent Bushcraft Residential trip has been a particular highlight for me.

The Summer Awards ceremony took place last week which was a really special occasion. We had lots of award winners across the academic, sporting and creative subjects, and it was a real delight to see those students recognised for their hard work.

With a nod towards next year we would ask that from September a real effort with attendance is made. With the linear nature of their GCSE courses having high attendance (95% and above) is incredibly important. It was explained to the students last week that 90% attendance over a year equates to a whole 4 weeks of school missed. Needless to say, it is very important attendance is as high as possible in order for all students to meet their potential.

We would also encourage students to think about their personal organisation over the summer. All our young people will need to come to school with the correct uniform, and the right equipment for all their lessons. Time spent sorting out equipment, books and uniform eats into learning time which is very valuable, particularly at KS4.

Penultimately, we say some congratulations, and some goodbyes. We wish Miss Martin all the best as she gets married very soon and hope her wedding day goes well! Lastly, we say goodbye to Miss Catanach who leaves for pastures new. She will be missed very much.

The whole year team are incredibly proud of the young men and women that we care for, and the progress and achievements they have made since beginning Year 7, three years ago. With GCSEs around the corner, we all wish every student, and their families, an enjoyable summer holidays and look forward to welcoming you all back in September.

Mr Benson and the Y9 Team



Y9 girls at 3M for International Women's Day



Y9 Mock Trial Group



Y9 Bushcraft Survival Trip

# YEAR 10

As we approach the end of yet another school year, I would like to take the opportunity to thank you all for your help, support and interest this year. We have had another very busy and successful year in school and you, as partners in the education of your children, deserve much of the credit for that. It is hard to believe that we have completed year ten, and your children have only a few school months to go before they have completed secondary education. With this in mind it is important to highlight some of our successes in year ten as we plan for year eleven.

A number of students were involved in various activities and competitions throughout the year, and in doing so have helped to create many opportunities for themselves. Students were highly successful in the ICT and Computing SISCO and Maths competitions and did themselves as well as the school proud. Opportunities have been created for students through the Top Universities Conference in London, as well as mentoring by University students for different groups of students. We have had great successes in regional and national Sporting activities, as well as dance Competitions. We also had a successful Mock Interviews where over twenty volunteers from the community gave their time to support our students in this process, which has resulted in a number of students being offered opportunities to broaden their horizons and support in achieving their career goals. We also had very successful Dance and Music shows during which students showcased their talents. The year ten students were graceful in their performances. All of this was made possible by the commitment and dedication of your children and our staff and with your support.

## **Uniform**

Please ensure the children have correct school uniform. This includes the Brakenhale skirt for the girls or tailored trousers and tailored trousers for the boys. All students must have a Brakenhale Blazer and a Brakenhale school bag. These items are available at our school uniform shop and can be ordered online. School shoes must be black polishable shoes, and all students must wear black ankle socks. Our students have been looking very smart when in full school uniform and we thank you for your support with this.

On P.E. days, students should bring Brakenhale PE uniform.

Please make sure all uniform items are clearly labelled. There are several jumpers and blazers at school which have not been claimed by anyone.

We are also asking that, for Health and Safety reasons, jewellery is not worn at school. Students are allowed a stud earring in each ear and wristwatches. Any make up worn must not be noticeable.

## **Attendance**

There is a direct link between attendance to school and progress and achievement. The government has set the minimum attendance rate at ninety percent (90%). Attendance at this level is imperative if your child is to succeed in their final year at Secondary school.

If a child is not coming to school, please ring or send a note with a sibling. Please be aware that it is school policy to contact parents if we have an unexplained absence.

We have made great strides in improving the punctuality of our pupils and we need to maintain this next year. Thank you all for making sure your child attends every day and is here on time.

With about nine school months to go before your child starts his or her GCSE exams, we have to make every minute count. Some subjects will be sending out revision materials over the holidays. Please ensure that your child uses these to support their learning and keep the momentum going.

I want to say a huge thank you to the staff for their commitment and hard work in helping our students to succeed, to the students for making this year successful so far, and to you for supporting your children in their endeavours. Without us working together we couldn't have achieved so much.

Your partnership in this journey is so very important and I look forward to continuing to work with you and providing your child with an education she can be proud of. I hope you all have a wonderful summer and look forward to welcoming your child back in September.

Very best wishes

Miss Douse and the Year Ten Team

# SIXTH FORM

We hope your son/daughter's have enjoyed the year in Sixth Form. This year has been highly successful, the Year 13's have been focused and working hard towards their next steps and the Year 12 students have all taken a very positive next step in their academic pathway.

We started the year with teething troubles in the new Sixth Form Building which the students coped with admirably. Since then they have settled in and made the place their own with a tuck shop and 'interesting' rearrangement of the furniture.

Within the school the students have been able to be involved in a range of events including a workshop on Othello by the Timezone theatre company, talks and activities on next steps from The University of Reading, HEON and QA apprenticeships. We have also had speakers in to talk to students and parents about Oxford, Cambridge and Russell group Universities. The Year 12 students took part in an excellent open day at Birmingham University seeing what a top ranked university is really like.

There have been a range of trips across the year. These have included the Houses of Parliament, The Imperial War Museum, The Globe Theatre, Stratford upon Avon, the British Museum and Brunel University's Annual Sports roadshow. Our girls also took the opportunity to experience the world of STEM at Ditton Manor Taplow.

Our annual Sixth Form Trip was a huge success in February Half term and the students didn't even complain when Mr Dale took them on a walking tour of the City. During the Summer some of the Year 12 students will be participating in World Challenge by going on an expedition to Morocco. They have been involved in fundraising for the trip throughout the year.

All Year 12 students have undertaken an enrichment activity during their school week, aimed at boosting their CV as well as contributing to helping lower school. These activities vary from helping out in subject areas to mentoring students and helping groups of students achieve more in Learning and Inclusion, all of which have been hugely successful so far. A number of Year 12 students have also been out on work placements to gain the day to day experience of the world of work. For some students this has led to opportunities for paid employment during the summer which shows how hard working our young people are.

All students went to the Hexagon Theatre in Reading for the annual Safe Drive Stay Alive show, a hard hitting production aimed at improving road safety amongst teenagers which certainly left a lot to think about. We have also had in visiting speakers on Sexual Health on top of a comprehensive programme of PSHE assemblies and tutor activities.

Finally, the school trip to South Hill Park was a huge success as students turned up in mass numbers to enjoy the sunshine and the company of their fellow peers.

A very encouraging year, we look forward to celebrating with Year 13s on results day and working with Year 12 to make next year even more successful.

Mr T Dale and Mr J Boucher

**Brakenhale School, Rectory Lane, Bracknell, Berkshire RG12 7BA**

**☎ 01344 423041 ~ ✉ [mainreception@brakenhale.co.uk](mailto:mainreception@brakenhale.co.uk) ~ 🌐 [www.brakenhale.co.uk](http://www.brakenhale.co.uk)**

*High Expectations and Challenge for All*