

Brakenhale School Parent News

15th July 2016



Dear Parents/Carers

It has certainly been a week where high expectations and challenge have been illustrated throughout the school, no more so than at the Summer awards evening held on Wednesday. It was lovely to see so many students and their families watching with great pride as they received rewards and recognition for their outstanding achievements this year. We were privileged to have Toby Garbett, an Olympic rower and two-time World Champion, as our guest speaker who further inspired students to continue challenging themselves.

We have also had a number of speakers in school this week including Oxford University who last week spoke to Year 8 and this week to Year 12. Furthermore, we were joined by staff from KPMG the accountants to talk to students about the opportunities available to them.

A group of year 9 and 10 students were also given the opportunity to be a part of HEON, Higher Education Outreach Network, which has resulted in thirty of them now being mentored by undergraduates. The presenters commented on how lovely the students were and how much better their engagement, focus and attitudes were compared to most schools they visit. I am very proud to be the Headteacher of a school that recognises so much young talent and is now providing continued opportunities for this to be developed.

On a practical note please can I remind you that Monday is alternative curriculum day. The majority of our students are on trips and those remaining behind will be involved in a variety of different activities, it will be non-school uniform for all students.

On Tuesday morning we hope to be able to run Sports Day after it was unfortunately rained off on Monday, therefore it will be non-uniform in the form of PE kit and house colours. Students will then all be involved in the final school assembly of the term before lunch and dismissed at 12.05pm.

I will send out a final newsletter next week.

Yours sincerely

Jane Coley
Headteacher

#challengeforall

Oxford University come to Brakenhale

On Friday 8th July Dr Joe Organ from Brasenose College, Oxford University (@brasenoseneews) visited Brakenhale. This was a part of a programme of events designed to broaden student's horizons and make them aware of the opportunities available to them. A group of 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

Maths Marathon

On Wednesday afternoon, Anthony Olatunji and Emma Horn in Year 7 competed in the annual Learning To Work Maths Marathon and were up against some of the highest achieving schools in Berkshire. They scored highly in the individual round and did excellently in the team round.

After an intense two hours, the pair were awarded SECOND PLACE - only 5 points behind the winners. This was an absolutely incredible achievement for them both.

The students also got to hear from two different engineers about how they use maths in their current jobs. The talks were very inspiring and all listeners were transfixed. This was an excellent opportunity for two of our young people to go and showcase their mathematical ability and raise their aspirations even higher.

Mr Hicks, Maths Teacher

Duke of Edinburgh Award

Well done to the Year 11 students who all successfully completed their Bronze Duke of Edinburgh award and GCSE PE trekking moderation.

5 groups ventured out into the Chiltern Hills for a 2 day 2 night trek. Unlike their Windsor Great Park practice expedition the sun came out and despite getting lost a few times, aching muscles and many blisters the groups were outstanding on the trip.

Congratulations on your achievements.

Miss Rushby, Miss Willimott, Mr Beukes and Mr Jackson-Sankey



High Expections, Challenge and Success

Today students from Year 9, 10 and 12 were visited by Kevin Gaskell about High Expectations, Challenge and Success.

Kevin has led three iconic car brands, Porsche, Lamborghini and BMW. After driving the turnaround at Porsche and leading 5 years of record growth at BMW he was recognised as one of the UK's 'top 40 leaders under 40'. He founded epyx Limited, which became market leader for automotive e-commerce solutions. He was Global CEO of EurotaxGlass's Group where his team created a world leader in electronic data. He now acts as Chairman and investor to a number of growing companies, one of which won the 'UK FastTrack Award' as the best private equity investment of the year. With his son he has walked to both the North and South Poles and climbed some of the world's highest mountains to fund the building of a cancer treatment centre.

His message that regardless of your starting point or background, success is available to you if you just commit to it, build a team and have fun in your work was highly motivational and gave his audience a lot to think about. After the talk, Kevin took questions from the students and teachers and said he was really impressed by the questions from the students.

Mrs Powell, Assistant Headteacher



Art Exhibition

On Thursday afternoon the Art department put on a stunning display of art in various mediums from all year groups.



Year 10 Interviews

On Friday 8th July, 25 volunteers from a wide range of global and local businesses, and from charitable organisations, came in to give our Year 10s interview experience. They were overwhelmingly impressed with how our young people presented and spoke about themselves and their ambition. One interviewer stated how they were "So very satisfied that the future of our community and country are in their hands". From this very successful event we have already had offers of work experience and also placements in the charity sector.



From Xena Richardson (10B):

"The interview trial day for Year 10 went surprisingly well from what was expected. The majority of students were very nervous and didn't know what to expect, including myself. However, the people who came to interview were very patient and understanding, whilst being professional. I thought that the mock interviews were very helpful and a good insight into what we all have to expect. They also told us all the things we would have to do for a real interview; things like researching into the business. Overall, the experience went very well and was helpful for our future."

Many thanks to all the companies who supported us and the student to give them this fantastic opportunity: QA Learning, the Rotary Club, Black & Decker, Thames Valley Police, Maximizer Software, Santander, EDF Energy, the Army, the School Governors and DHL.

Mrs G Powell, Assistant Headteacher



Sports Round Up



Berkshire School Games Super 6 Golf Final:

Our school Golf team had qualified for the Annual Super 6 Golf Final at Wycombe Heights Golf Club, Wycombe on Tuesday 12th July, part of the Berkshire School Games, an Olympic style County Final in a range of different sports.

Like Sports Day, the day was hit with some torrential downpours, and was cut short due to the weather.

However, the team played on and against Theale Green won in both matches by some margin. Congratulations to Thomas Nower, Ben Lambourne, Kian Leahy and Ella Hammond-Baveystock.

The team also met former GB Olympic Sprinter, Abiodun Oyepitan who signed their school games t-shirts and had pictures with the team.

Young Ambassadors

The Sports Young Ambassadors were also at the event helping marshall and run the workshops at the Berkshire School Games. The students were an excellent example to the younger students and represented the school fantastically well. Well done to Olivia McNaney, Ben Cary and Isaac Ababio.

Isaac is the Mascot with our Golf team!

Sports Day:

The track events will now take place next Tuesday morning 19th July during P1 and P2 following Monday's postponement due to the weather. The standings after the Field events are as follows:

1st	Nightingale	163 Pts
2nd	Einstein	153 Pts
3rd	Hawking	148 Pts
4th	Brunel	146 Pts
5th	Austen	143 Pts
6th	Rowling	136 Pts
7th	King	97 Pts

Mr W Yeates, Head of PE

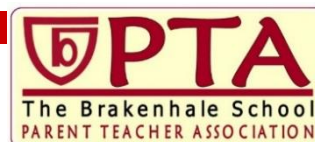
Bird with Boy

Congratulations to our students performing in 'Bird with Boy' Junk Ensembles professional work at South Hill Park this week. The company were impressed with the boys throughout the process, they have been professional and highly dedicated. The performances were a fantastic display of their hard work and focus, audience members commented on how amazing the piece was and the level of performance from the boys. A big thank you to everyone who supported them in this once in a lifetime opportunity.

Anthony Dorrell, Clancy Osei, Luis Bhutta, Lester Dumfeh, Eden Gagliano, Adam Prince and Jack Turnbull.

Miss Haley, Head of Dance

PTA



PTA Upcoming Events:

Saturday 23rd July: Stall at Bracknell Lions Bracknell Show

Next Event:

Brakenhale PTA will be hosting one of the stalls at the up-coming Bracknell Show, organised by the Bracknell Lions.

This family event takes place on Saturday 23rd July 2016 at Wildridings Playing Fields between 12noon and 5pm.

Apart from our Mystery Bags and Bottle Hoopla stall, there will also be activities such as Archery, Arts & Crafts, Face Painting, Bouncy Castle and many more, together with a wide choice of Food stalls.

Please join us.

PTA Committee



Results Days

Thursday 18th August – GCE Results

Year 13

Year 13 results will be available in the 6th Form Common Room from 9.00am on Thursday 18th August.

If you are unable to pick up your results please send in or drop off a stamped addressed envelope clearly marked for the attention for Mrs Seymour GCE Results. If you would like someone else to pick results up on your behalf please provide written authority with full details of that person. Any questions please contact exams@brakenhale.co.uk.

Year 12

Year 12 results will be available in the 6th Form Common Room from 10.30am on Thursday 18th August.

If you are unable to pick up your results please send in or drop off a stamped addressed envelope clearly marked for the attention for Mrs Seymour GCE Results. If you would like someone else to pick results up on your behalf please provide written authority with full details of that person. Any questions please contact exams@brakenhale.co.uk.

Thursday 25th August – GCSE Results

Year 11 results will be available in the main hall from 9am on Thursday 25th August.

If you are unable to pick up your results please send in or drop off a stamped addressed envelope clearly marked for the attention for Mrs Seymour GCSE Results. If you would like someone else to pick results up on your behalf please provide written authority with full details of that person. Any questions please contact exams@brakenhale.co.uk.

Diary Dates

Monday 18 th July	Alternative Curriculum day
Tuesday 19 th July	Last day of term
Thursday 18 th August	GCE Results day for Sixth Form
Thursday 25 th August	GCSE Results day for Year 11

Term Dates 2015-16

For a full list of dates please see our calendar page on the website.

Inset Days: Wednesday 20th, Thursday 21st, Friday 22nd July 2016

Summer Holiday: Monday 25th July to Friday 2nd September 2016

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

Thursday 1st and Friday 2nd
September 2016 **Inset Days**

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