

Brakenhale School Parent News

8th July 2016



Dear Parents/Carers

We have had a very successful week on a number of different levels. Year 8 returned on Sunday from their residential trip on a real high having had a fantastic weekend away. Mr Dean came back very sunburnt!

Year 10 today have shown themselves to be mature and responsible young adults during their interviews. We have had amazing feedback from all the volunteers and the students amazed us all with how smart they looked.

Year 8 have had a busy week with some of them going to Microsoft on Monday and others having an inspirational talk from Dr Joe Organ from Brasenose College Oxford.

Our Year 6 students joining us in September had two exciting induction days with us on Wednesday and Thursday and they are all very much looking forward to joining us, particularly so they can continue to eat the food in the canteen.

Please do a sun dance for us on Sunday night as Monday is our annual Sports Day. This is a real chance for the school community to come together and participate in a range of different activities. Students may wear their PE kit for the day and should wear something in their house colour. Students not wearing PE kit must be in school uniform.

Yours sincerely

Jane Coley, Headteacher

#challengeforall

Microsoft Visit

On Monday July 4th 28 students from Year 8 and 9 visited the Microsoft UK headquarters at Thames Valley Business Park in Reading. The purpose of the visit was to show the students the work of Microsoft, explore current technological innovations and demonstrate to the students just how fun work can be.

The students split in two groups with the students going on a tour of the headquarters for part of their visit. Here they saw how the numerous cafes, gymnasias, a GP surgery, dental hygienist, library, table tennis and pool tables support the workers in staying healthy, fit and productive. However, the highlight was the gaming and Minecraft area which can be used for meetings, relaxation and competitions. The students' perception of the work environment will never be the same again!

The second half of the visit was all about new ideas and the students were given a presentation about the new Microsoft Holo Lens, the way cloud storage will dominate computing soon and some of the most recent applications of webcam technology. Some great questions from the students followed with one sharp student asking the Microsoft team the advantages of using the Microsoft Azure package versus Amazon Web Systems!

Our partnership with Microsoft is a most positive one and we intend to repeat the trip with Year 11 in the Autumn term along with some other activities. Microsoft are keen to work with Brakenhale, recognising that they are developing positive relationships with both future customers and the potential employees of the future. As a school we are keen to develop this partnership as it really helps students to aspire to work for a cutting edge blue chip company like Microsoft and realise that with the right approach they can be a part of it. The key message we came away with was that **knowledge, passion and attitude** can lead to a job in such an exciting work place.

Mr Hartley, Deputy Headteacher



Mobile Phones

With the wearing of the Summer uniform it has been noticed that more students are placing their mobile phones in their top pockets of their shirts instead of in their bags as per the school rules.

Please could you remind your child that if phones are seen in their pockets they will be confiscated and the student will be issued with a detention. Mobile phones should be in bags or inside pockets of their blazers at all times during the school day.



Year 8 Residential Trip: PGL Liddington

Year 8 students also travelled to Liddington, Swindon for the weekend of Saturday 2nd and Sunday 3rd July, following in the footsteps of Year 7.

Saturday 2nd July - Group 4

After our first night with very excited students and a good breakfast, Group 4 tracked down to the archery field. We started off with a demonstration and we were then let loose with the bow and arrows. The students all did really well but Mrs Theal missed her first target completely!

We then played group games aiming our arrows at colours on the target to win utensils to eat our lunch with; only 2 students managed to get all the utensils, so the rest of us had to improvise!

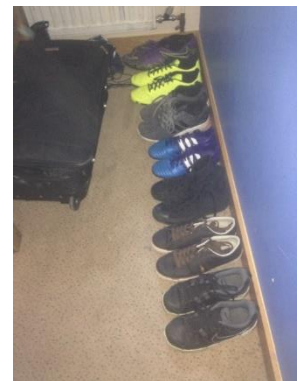
The last game we played was boys against girls. After each student had fired their 2 arrows there was a draw so we needed to choose our best player on each side, with the girls choosing Lucy and the boys choosing Cassy. The competition was very close but eventually the boys won. Well done!

This was our first activity of the weekend and it was great fun. The group had a wonderful time and were a credit to the school.

Saturday Morning Room Inspection

The room inspection was won by the four boys who took all their pairs of shoes between then and lined them up so neatly; We were never aware that boys needed that many shoes!

Mrs Theal, Saturday Group 4 Leader



#Stem

A group of Year 11 and 12 girls attended a trip to 'Girls in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths)' in Taplow on Thursday 7th July. This was an exciting opportunity for the girls to attend a seminar and participate in activities relating to careers in the STEM sector, working hard together, learning how they can help create tomorrow. #STEM



Mr Swynford-Lain, Science Teacher



Thames Valley Police Open Day

The annual Thames Valley Police Open Day is taking place on Saturday 6th August this year.

As usual, there will be all sorts of displays, talks, exhibits and activities for all the family, running throughout the day at Sulhamstead Police Training Centre, near Reading (RG7 4DX).

The Force Open Day helps to promote greater understanding of the work of the various departments and specialist roles within the Force.

This year there is a competition for young people to design the livery on the side of a community police car – please see the website for more information (<http://www.thamesvalley.police.uk/newsevents-pressreleases-item.htm?id=336774>).

At the Open Day itself, parking is available on a first-come, first-served basis. Disabled parking and wheelchair access is available. No dogs are permitted on site, except guide dogs. Food and refreshments are available on-site (cash only).

Admission 10am to 3.30pm.



#TVPopenday

OPEN DAY

**SATURDAY 6 AUGUST
10AM – 4PM**

See the police helicopter and team
Meet the mounted and dog sections
Learn about different departments
Tour the police museum

Come and join us at Thames Valley Police Training Centre at Sulhamstead near Reading (RG7 4DX)

FREE ENTRY

No admission before 10am, last entry 3.30pm
Parking available on a first come first served basis
Disabled parking and wheelchair access
No dogs permitted on site, except guide dogs
Food available on site, cash only.

www.thamesvalley.police.uk/openday

Year 10 Trip to the Globe Theatre

On Friday 24th June, the English department organised a visit for Year 10 students to the Globe Theatre in London to see a spectacular performance of Macbeth in order to help us with our GCSE English Literature exam. We were situated in the standing area of the theatre where we had a great view of the stage and really got a feeling of what it was like when Shakespeare performed his original play back in the Jacobean era. It really felt like we went back in time; it had such an old-style atmosphere which is what makes it such a unique theatre.

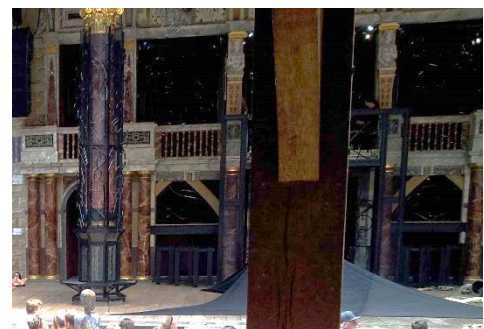
The play was set up very well and it was easy to understand as it followed the original script. The acting was outstanding! Real tears were cried from Lady Macbeth which made it so realistic and believable. Macbeth and Banquo were also brilliant and credible characters.

There was a lot of interaction with the audience as the actors mentioned modern themes (a joke about Donald Trump for example) and this made the performance more entertaining. One downside, however, was that some of the actors played many different characters which was confusing for the audience. On the positive side though the actors also moved in between the audience making it feel like we were in the play itself! The singing and the music that took place during particular scenes and interludes was also good.

Overall, it was an outstanding play and we were very lucky to be able to go and see it. The only tips we would give are: get to the front of the yard so you don't get tall people standing in front of you or in future, if taking other year groups (which you should!) consider getting seats! We had to stand up for three hours but it was definitely worth it!

Contributors: Olivia McNaney, Jordan Chaplin- Smith, Cerys Higgins, Jaime Leishman, James Walford, Ewan Gennery, James Fallows, Robbie Harrison.

Mrs Jackson, English Teacher



Sports Day

Sports Day is being held this year on Monday 11th July 2016, on our school field. Field events will be held separately for each year group: during periods 1,2 and 3 and are Long Jump, High Jump, Javelin and Shot Put.

The track events will be a whole school event starting at 1pm (after an early lunch) and a small number of classes will continue for those who are not involved in the events or in the support of Sports Day.

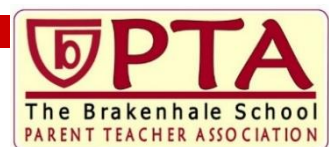
This year students will compete in their tutor groups (houses). All students are encouraged to support their House on the day and come in the correct House colours. Students should wear PE kit and a house-coloured top. If students are not taking part in any events and do not want to wear house colours with PE kit they must be in full school uniform – no jeans/inappropriate clothing.



Look out on @brakenhalepe for sports day pictures and results!

Mr W Yeates, Head of PE

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 'Hook a Mystery Bag' stall, there will also be activities such as Archery, Arts & Crafts, Face Painting, Bouncy Castle, Fair rides, Raffle, Arena displays and many more, together with a wide choice of Food stalls.

From 5.30pm onwards there will be an Elvis impersonator so please feel free to bring a picnic and enjoy the music.

Please join us.

PTA Committee

FREE ENTRY!
Bracknell Lions Present:
Bracknell Show

Fun day out for the family!
 Support local charities!

LIONS INTERNATIONAL

Sat 23rd July 2016
Wildridings Playing Fields
 12-5pm

Bring your own picnic & live music from 5:30pm

Have-a-go Archery
Food stalls
Arts & crafts
Bouncy castle
Face painting
.....and much more!

@BracknellLions
www.bracknellforestlions.org.uk/bracknellshow.html
www.facebook.com/Bracknellforestlions

Diary Dates

Monday 11 th July	Sports Day
Tuesday 12 th July	Music Show, 6-7pm
Wednesday 13 th July	Summer Awards Evening
Thursday 14 th July	Year 6 Coffee Morning, 9.30am
Thursday 14 th & Friday 15 th July	Year 9 Residential trip
Monday 18 th July	Alternative Curriculum day
Tuesday 19 th July	Last day of term

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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