

Brakenhale School Parent News

1st July 2016



Dear Parents/Carers

As you will see from this week's edition we are certainly not winding down towards the end of term, quite the opposite!

Year 7 returned from their first residential on Sunday having thoroughly enjoyed themselves and Year 8 have set off this afternoon for their weekend away. It is so lovely that we have staff and students who run and participate in these trips which in the past have not happened.

All year groups have had an assembly this week from the local police force led by PC Hillman. Students were given excellent advice with regard to social media and keeping themselves safe.

Year 11 had their final assembly and prom this week which are detailed below. They were an absolute credit to the school and the number of staff who completed a 15 hour working day on Thursday to attend was real evidence of the commitment to the young people. The photo booth company who we hired, "Lucy's Booths", commented that they were the best behaved young people that they had ever worked with at a prom!

We are now looking forward to the Dance Show on Tuesday and induction days for Year 6 students on Wednesday and Thursday.

Please continue to send in any ideas and or feedback.

Best wishes

Jane Coley
Headteacher

#challengeforall

Brakenhale is an inclusive, safe environment

I'm sure you are aware that last week, in a referendum, the UK voted to leave the European Union. As a result of this vote, there has been an increase in incidences of racism across the country. Leaving the EU does not mean that anyone has the right to victimise and abuse people who have come to this country - from the EU or further afield.

As a school we pride ourselves on being an inclusive, safe and tolerant environment for all students from all races and backgrounds. Anyone who behaves in a racist or xenophobic way towards another student, member of staff or member of our community will face serious consequences including exclusion from school and the potential involvement of the police.

If you have any concerns about yourself, or someone else, being the victim of hate crime then this website has some useful information about getting help and reporting abuse (<http://www.report-it.org.uk/home>).

The result of the referendum does have implications for us all - but we all still have the responsibility to make sure we treat each other with dignity and respect.



Year 7 Residential Trip: PGL Liddington

Last weekend 66 Year 7 students attended a residential to PGL Liddington with the Year 7 team.

Students undertook various activities over the weekend and some of the real highlights included the canoeing and raft building activities; some students even managed to fall off their fantastic rafts and canoes! There were also members of staff who couldn't resist a plunge.

Another real highlight was the abseiling and the zip wire. To watch students overcome some real fears and watch their delight after making it back to earth was a joy to behold.

Students developed many skills which will be invaluable throughout their lives.

Some of these skills included independence, leadership, perseverance, communication, organisation and initiative.

All of these skills we are keen to develop as a school which are fundamental to their PiXL Edge programme they are all undertaking.

The students worked extremely hard over the weekend and had a great time. We are looking forward to taking students on future trips and developing these skills further and seeing them grow into young adults.

Mr Cooper, Head of Year 7



Year 11 Leavers' Assembly & Prom

We have now said goodbye to our Year 11 students, with their Leavers' Assembly taking place on Wednesday 29th June and the Prom on Thursday 30th June.

Mr Beukes gave an emotional goodbye speech to the students on Wednesday, and the students in turn brought him to tears!

On Thursday, the Hilton St Anne's Manor hotel hosted the event of the year – the Prom.

The venue was beautifully decorated in a classic combination of black and gold balloons, table decorations and lights.

The students arrived in a wide selection of vehicles, ranging from classic cars, motorbikes, limousines and the obligatory 'Party Bus', bringing with them a rainbow of colours with their gorgeous array of smart suits and highly colourful and be-jewelled dresses.

Mrs Coley said

"It really was an excellent evening and the kids absolutely did us proud. They looked amazing and they were beautifully behaved, really mature and sensible as they arrived and a little overwhelmed by the occasion!"



Sports Round-up

Sports Leaders at the Primary Schools' Athletics Championships

On Tuesday 28th June, twelve Year 9 students from Brakenhale School volunteered to help with the running of the annual Primary Schools' Athletics Competition, held at Bracknell Leisure Centre. This event hosts all the local primary schools in the area and offers a wide range of athletics events, both track and field, for local young aspiring athletes to compete in.

Our Year 9 leaders were split into groups of three and were assigned to the shot-put, long jump, cricket ball throw and rounders ball throw events for the afternoon. The feedback from both teachers running the events and from parents spectating the events in relation to our young leaders was fantastic. Our leaders were continually praised for their ability to organize students, record scores and help with the equipment, and the event organizer thanked the students for their hard work, commenting that they were a credit to the school in their conduct, enthusiasm and attitude towards the event, helping the day run smoothly and without any issue.

Perhaps most fitting of our students' efforts during this event was from a spectating parent watching their son compete in the shot-put event. The father commented that the continual support, encouragement and coaching given by our students to his son was inspiring, enabling the student to throw the shot-put further in each of his 3 throws. He accredited his progress to our students and a very proud parent passed on their sincere thanks for the progress his son had made and for the big smile on his son's face.

The students are a fantastic asset to the school and we look forward to them helping in the successful running of many more sporting events.

Chris Vaal, Leisure Development Manager for Bracknell Forest Council sent his thanks to Mrs Coley:

"We held our Primary Schools Athletics Championships yesterday, which is run as part of the Young People in Sport Scheme. I "borrowed" students/young leaders from [local secondary] schools to help the officials measure, time and record the different events. As you know I have used your students before and once again the current crop did not disappoint. They worked really well assisting the officials and encouraging the children whenever they could. They were a credit to themselves and to your schools. I would have no hesitation in asking for their help in the future. Thank you very much."

Mr Boucher, PE Teacher



Road to Rio

Well done to our Young Ambassadors who organised and ran a successful multi-sports event for local primary schools. The event was a showcase of the Olympic values in the run up to the Rio Olympics. Our Sports Captains also joined in on the day and won the Olympic value of 'Equality'.

In the month leading up to the event all 7 students have been wearing pedometers and recording their distances in an attempt to 'walk to Rio'. Distances were combined across all local primary and secondary schools and ended with a final walk around Bracknell athletics track to achieve the distance.

Our three Young Ambassadors have also been selected to attend a national Young Sports Ambassadors training at BCA with the aim of organising and running a multi-athletics event for local students. Well done to these students on their efforts and achievements so far.

Miss Rushby, PE Teacher



Sports Round-up

Reading & District Schools' Athletics Finals

This week both the girls' and boys' Under 14 teams competed in the Reading and District Schools' Athletics finals in Reading.

The teams both finished 5th overall, with Lynford S being awarded best performance in the 100m final with a time of 9.8 seconds.

Mr Yeates, Head of PE

Wheelchair Sport

A selected group of Year 7, 8 and 9 students enjoyed a fantastic day of wheelchair sport at East Berkshire College as part of a Unified Sport project Brakenhale are in partnership with. The students received coaching in wheelchair tennis, wheelchair basketball and wheelchair rugby. The aim of the event was to highlight the opportunities available to play regardless of your ability.

Students were also lucky to meet Montell Douglas - former GB 100m record holder and Olympic and Commonwealth gold medal winner. Montell shared her story of how she became an Olympic athlete despite a career ending injury. Her story was one of inspiration about being told that she would never run again and then going on to win a gold medal 8 months later.

Miss Rushby, PE Teacher



Rounders

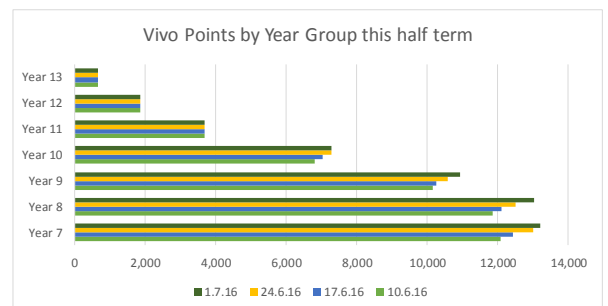
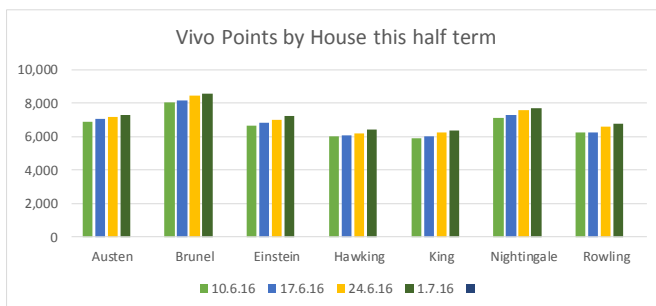
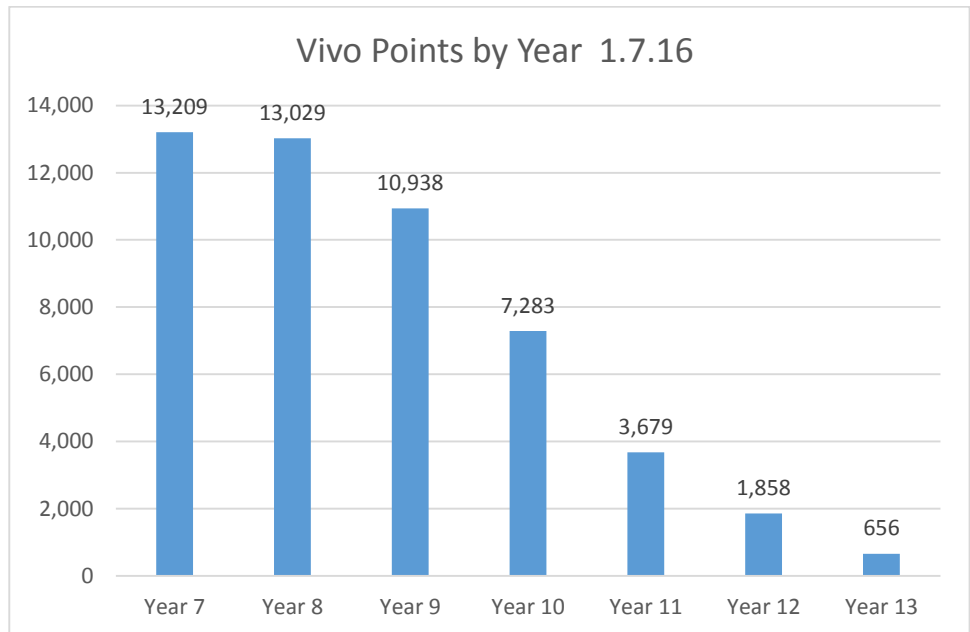
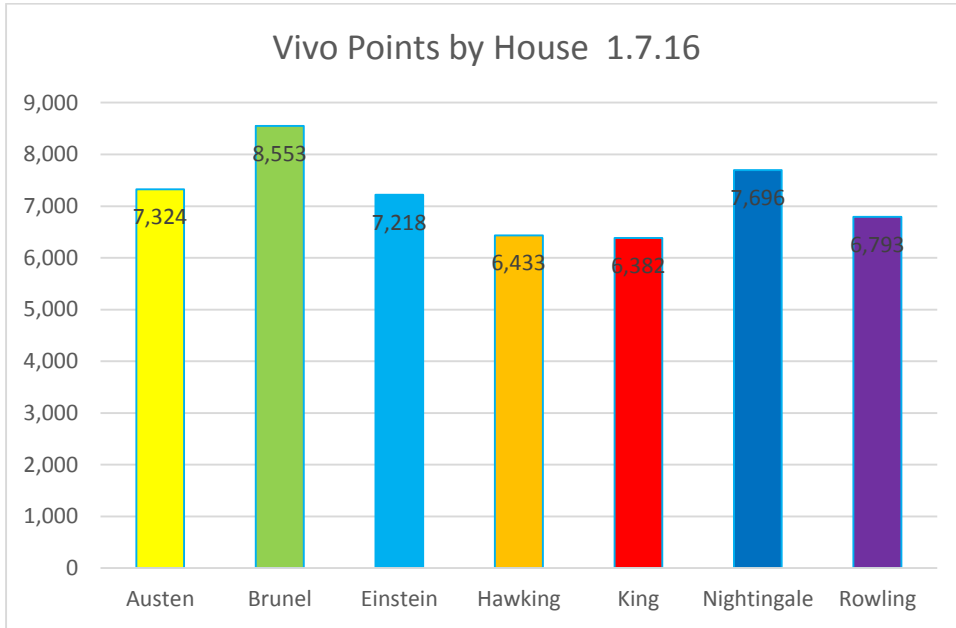
Well done to our Year 7 and 8 rounders team who were victorious against Edgbarrow in their final game of the year. We look forward to seeing the girls playing again next year together with any new players who are always welcome to attend.

Miss Rushby, PE Teacher



Vivo Rewards

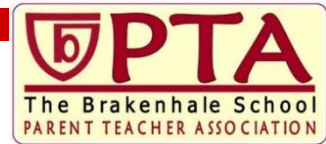
Total points by House and by Year group up to Friday 1st July, together with a comparison for this half term.



PTA

PTA Upcoming Events:

Tuesday 5th July: July PTA meeting
 Saturday 23rd July: Stall at Bracknell Lions Bracknell Show



Recent Event:

Thank you to all those who supported the PTA Race Night evening and Raffle at the weekend. It was an excellent evening and enjoyed by all those who attended.

The Race Night and raffle made a profit of £500 in total, with the Hamper raffle raising £200 of this total. The winners were:

- £75 Garden Vouchers Mr Leahy
- Wine & Chocolates Mr Sawyer
- Red Wine Ms Leahy
- Lookout Tickets Mr Richard
- Wine & Chocolates Mr Leahy
- Ice Skating Tickets Mr Hazlet
- Wine Ms Baveystock
- Mystery Bottle Bag Ms Lewis
- BBQ Mr Shaw
- Marvellous Festival Tickets Ms Palmer
- Toiletries Mr Sawyer
- Wine & Chocolates Mr Bradley
- Chocolate Mr Mullett
- Chocolate Ms Bardwell

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has supported the PTA this year and the hard working committee members.

Miss Manisier

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.

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

Friday 1 st to Sunday 3 rd July	Year 8 Residential trip
Wednesday 6 th & Thursday 7 th July	Year 6 Transition days
Thursday 7 th July	Year 6 Transition Information Evening
Monday 11 th July	Sports Day
	Look Book week for Year 10
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/schooltermholidaydates>

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

☎ 01344 423041 ~ ✉ mainreception@brakenhale.co.uk ~ 🌐 www.brakenhale.co.uk