

Brakenhale School Parent News

16th March 2018



Dear Parents/Carers

We have been on tenterhooks this week as we have been waiting for final confirmation that all contracts had been signed and funds released for our new build plans. This has now been received and the build will be starting from today, Friday 16th March, it's full steam ahead and incredibly exciting. I am meeting with the project team this afternoon to finalise the schedule of works for the next four weeks and I will keep you fully updated with developments. All students and staff have been spoken to about the necessary changes during the project and I have no doubt that they will be sensible and supportive throughout.

On Wednesday we had the DofE awards presentation evening. We had a fantastic turn out of parents and students, all those who completed were in attendance. Mr Hicks and Mrs Daniels have worked incredibly hard to make DofE a thriving activity at Brakenhale and it was just lovely to see it recognised. The students were presented with their certificates and badges and there are some photos further on in the parent news for you to see. A representative from DofE headquarters was a guest and she was incredible impressed at the 90% completion rate (national average 50%) and the large number of student participants. On Saturday 24th March our Year 10 and 11 students who are going on to do the Silver award will take part in their practice expedition.

This week has also seen Year 11 complete their second PPE week and they have been focused and determined to use this last period of practice examinations to really help and guide them for their final exams which start in less than 25 school days. Next week we have our Year 12 & 13 students starting their PPE week. They have all been studying very hard and the results should speak for themselves. Good luck to all of them!

Our Fab & Drab initiative has continued to prove both successful and very useful and I am very grateful for your continued support with this. With reference to the Drab comments, actions taken this week include:

The Year 8 toilets, taps and soap have been fixed.

One way system, for the new build to help need corridors and stairs wider – we are developing a new system for safe movement around the school during the build period.

The Café is too expensive – we regularly monitor prices and they are in line with all other schools, the best value for money is the meal deal which is £2.30 and includes a generous main meal portion and a desert.

Students of the week are:

Ewan Coyle Year 7 – He always has good manners, always covers break duty when it is his turn with a smile and even brought a friend to assist with drinks duty when it wasn't his day. He persistently helps out as a student ambassador.

Hannah Franklin Year 11 she received the Gold Award in the Maths Challenge which means she is in the top 1% of participants and this puts her at 0.1% of Mathematician's in the country. As a result she has been awarded a scholarship at a prestigious summer school.

Ethan Nunn Year 9 – Ethan took the time to set up all the lights in the Drama studio without being asked. He is a real star!

Staff member of the week goes to Mrs Duddy, comments include:

'She really helped me out when I was upset, I can't thank her enough 😊'

Quote of the week this week is from Stephen Hawking as a testimony to the life of this incredible man:
'Remember look up at the stars and not down at your feet.'

Jane Coley, Headteacher

Weather Warning



Just as we thought that Spring was on it's way this week, there has been a sharp drop in the temperature predicted for the weekend and the possibility of snow. We would like to remind students to wear appropriate clothing for the weather including a black coat, scarf and gloves. During this cold period, we will be once again be making indoor provisions for students at break and lunch-time.

We plan to stay open whatever the weather and all staff will try to get to work, but please check the Bracknell Forest website (below) in the event of exceptional heavy snowfall and listen to the local radio stations for alerts. If there is no alternative but to close the school information will be communicated by Schoolcomms via text and email, our School website:

<http://brakenhale.co.uk/>, Bracknell Forest Council website: <http://www.bracknell-forest.gov.uk/schoolclosures> and Local radio stations – Heart FM and Radio Berkshire

Brakenhale Rebuild - update



Finally, all the necessary paperwork has now been completed and we have received the green light on the rebuilding programme for Brakenhale School today we have fenced off parking at the front of the school ready for the contractors to move on site from Monday.

As advised previously, there will be changes to site access which will involve blocking off the Rectory Lane entrance for cars and pedestrians. All access will be via the Conningsby Road entrance. I would ask that wherever possible you avoid bringing cars on site, as I'm sure you can imagine, logistically this is going to be a challenge!

I have spoken to all students during special assemblies on Monday to explain the changes which will overall be minimal. There will be different social areas at break and lunch time and a new queuing arrangement for the dinner hall. We are only losing 3 classrooms during the works and we can easily accommodate this but there will be some changes to the one way system in the corridors. The only other change will be a slight shortening, for a trial period, of break and lunchtime by 5 minutes in order to add in travel time between lessons. My primary concern is that the building works do not disrupt learning time hence my decision to do this. Students will need to get used to the new one way systems and queuing systems and I do not want lessons shortened because of this.

The 18 million pound building project is the result of 3 years very hard work of campaigning to ensure the young people at Brakenhale School, now, and in the future get the very best learning environment that they so very much deserve. I give you my full assurance that this will not detract from the learning in the classroom and the opportunity for all students to achieve their potential.

Please do not hesitate to contact me with any queries or concerns.

Ms J Coley, Headteacher

Brakenhale New Build Project - Fundraising

We need your help to raise £50,000 - needed by September 2019!!!!

I am proud to tell you that Jamie Prior and Ciaran Cullen, two of our boys in Year 8, are going to do a sponsored 10k run on 8th April for our cause. This is not an official event but will be overseen by Jamie's Mum.

Come on parents, if the kids can do it, so can you!!!!

We are in the process of setting up a Just Giving page but for the time being, Jamie and Ciaran will be using paper sponsorship forms and I will be checking them and keeping you informed of how much money they raise. Please sponsor them if you can.

We have two more weeks for Waitrose shoppers to support us. The other two charities that shoppers can choose to put their green disks in are well known national charities and so we may be the 'under dogs' but please give your support and spread the word if you can.

Other events coming up:

- Mr Thomas (Assistant Headteacher) is going to run the Stockholm marathon
- Mr Basara-Hamilton (and his wife, but I am not sure if she knows yet) are going to do a sponsored 71 mile bike ride

I hope that seeing the activity on the site will motivate you to talk to your friends and colleagues about how you could help your school.

With thanks

Karen Roche, Chair of the governing body - fundraising@brakenhale.co.uk



£50k

£10

Young Scientists



We would like to say a big thank you to Morrisons at The Peel Centre in Bracknell for stepping in to help us out with a donation of fish head for our Sixth Form Biology students who were dissecting the heads as part of their A Level studies.

I'm very grateful for the support from the local community to help support our students education. In 10 years of science education, this was the best dissection I've been part of!

*Mr J Radcliffe
Head of Science*

Academic Success

Brakenhale had some more great news this week as two of its academic stars were rewarded for their hard work and talent.

In Year 10 Hannah Franklin was recognised for very high-level mathematical ability. After sitting the UK Mathematics Trust Intermediate Challenge last month, Hannah was awarded a gold award. However, she was also entered into the next level of challenge, 'the kangaroo', for those students across the country with the very highest gold awards. In addition, the school received an invitation for Hannah to attend a UK Mathematics Trust Summer School for the very best mathematicians nationally. Hannah would like to study Maths in the future and hopefully at Oxford or Cambridge. It is wonderful to see students at Brakenhale firstly achieving so highly against their national counterparts but secondly with such high aspirations.



In Year 12 Jordan Penn has been awarded a place at the Oxford University Summer School, UNIQ. Competition for places on these courses is fierce so we are delighted that Jordan has been successful. Jordan has already been on two-day courses to Oxford for Maths and Material Science so far this year but is determined to immerse himself further in the Oxbridge experience so he is ready for a strong UCAS application in the autumn. Jordan has 10 A*s from GCSE and is always looking to source and research new information to enhance his understanding of his studies. He is a great example of what a post 16 student should be!

*Mr A Hartley
Deputy Headteacher*

PSHE – Child Sexual Exploitation

On Thursday this week, PSHE was devoted to informing the students of Child Sexual Exploitation: the ways it can occur, how to recognise it, the potential risks and how to seek help. The students discussed and evaluated the use of social media - from Instagram to gaming and how to protect themselves from grooming. The lesson also discussed the dangers and implications of sexting. Child Sexual Exploitation Awareness Day is Sunday 18th March.

*Mrs Powell Assistant Headteacher
Ms Gill – Student Support Manager*



Duke of Edinburgh

Duke of Edinburgh's Award Training Day

After our scheduled training day being postponed due to the snow days a few weeks ago, we were delighted to be able to reschedule the training for Wednesday this week. BXM Expeditions came in to deliver sessions to our bronze and silver students on first aid, expedition equipment, how to pack a rucksack, using gas stoves, suitable expedition food, map reading and preparing route cards. The students had an enjoyable day and we look forward to their upcoming practice expedition.



D of E Awards Evening

On Wednesday 14th March we were pleased to welcome our successful Silver and Bronze Duke of Edinburgh's participants to a presentation of their certificates and celebrate their achievements. 34 out of 38 of last year's bronze participants have completed the award meaning we have a pass rate of 89%. A national target each year is 50% so we are extremely proud of our students. They have shown tremendous dedication to their volunteering, physical and skill sections. Families were invited and we were pleased to have in attendance Ms Coley, Mr Thomas, Mrs Daniels, Antoinette Ackuaku (Vice-Chair of Governors) and Natasha Read (Operations Manager for DofE

Head Office). A huge congratulations to all participants.

Last year Brakenhale saw their first ever group undertake the Silver Duke of Edinburgh's Award. Viktoria Petrova and Callum Richards, who have since started their post-16 education elsewhere, came back for the event and collected their awards.

This year, Bracknell Forest have made the decision to not renew their licence with the Duke of Edinburgh's Award. Brakenhale has made the decision to register with the charity as their own Licenced Organisation. It was a privilege to have Natasha Read from the charity to present Ms Coley and myself with a certificate and plaque for the school.

It has been an honour to work with all the students completing their award last year and I very much look forward to working with this year's students in completing their bronze and silver awards.



Sixth Form Options Week

The Sixth Form saw its normal timetable suspended this week as the build up to the end of the year intensified. All students studied their subject for a full day which allowed staff to do extended activities such as exam questions, walking talking mocks, practical experiments, extended rehearsals and more workshop time.

The attendance for the week has been much enhanced and the students seem to have immersed themselves in the experience. One or two are a little fatigued by the end of the week as the free periods and travel time breaks they normally get have disappeared however, the academic benefits have been tangible. The students are now very ready for their PPEs next week and the final push on their BTEC courses.

Standards Fortnight

We will be holding another Standards Fortnight beginning on Monday 19th March and running until Thursday 29th March. A copy of the expectations booklet has gone out via a separate e-mail.

The previous Standards Fortnight was incredibly successful in February. It gave us the opportunity to recognise when students were doing the correct thing and over the 10 school days it was running 1,600 golden tickets were awarded. At the same time, we really focused upon getting it right in terms of uniform, tools for learning, punctuality, language and focus in class. We definitely noticed an all-round improvement in student conduct as a result of this push.

We hope to see your Gateway APP notifications fill up with positives over the next two weeks!

Mr Hartley, Mr Cooper, Miss Douse, Mr Hicks, Mr O'Donoghue, Mr Benson

Creative Writing Competition

**CREATIVE WRITING COMPETITION FOR SECONDARY SCHOOL STUDENTS
AGED 11 - 18**

**Opportunity to win £250 - £100 - £50 and a possibility of being
published in an anthology of short stories regardless of whether you
win or lose!**



Students are invited to enter **Stranger Sagas**, the latest, fantastic creative writing competition from Young Writers - for further information please see Mrs Cresswell.

A tantalizing selection of story starters will be supplied, intended to inspire students to write a mini-saga, a story written in just 100 words! Each story starter sentence can be interpreted as the students wish, so how will they develop the story? What genre will students choose to write in? After all, every great story deserves a great ending...

A great opportunity for anyone with an imagination.

The adventure may start here but it ends with you!

Mrs Cresswell, Head of English and Media

PE News

This week the PE department have enjoyed the better weather and we are looking forward to the summer term!

We have a busy week next week with a number of fixtures and inter-house competitions as well as Sports Relief.

Inter-House Competitions

The terms inter-house competition will be football for the boys and bench ball for the girls. There will be two teams for each house competing to win. This time, we will be adding the results a little bit differently as we will be including the results from the step challenge for Sport Relief to the bench ball and football results. To get an overall winner for each year group.

The step challenge will be to see how many steps you can get within the hour - boys you will be walking around the astro and girls you will be walking around the netball courts. The step challenge will only be for the students who are not taking part in the bench ball or football tournament.

Please can I remind you that everyone should be bringing in their PE kit as they will either be playing or walking.

The competition will happen on the following dates during P5:

Tuesday 20th March - Year 9

Wednesday 21st March - Year 8

Thursday 22nd March - Year 7

Sport Relief

As well as the inter-house competitions, we will be holding a Staff v Students Rounders Match after-school on Friday 23rd March. Everyone is welcome to watch. Spectators will be charged 50p. Obviously if you want to donate more that would be amazing.

Please come, support us and donate money to Sport Relief.

Match Reports

On Monday the year 10 football team were up against Maiden Erlegh and despite a great start going 2-0 up through Lester & Clancy, unfortunately a loss of concentration saw us go in 2-1 in front.

Second half started as first half finished and lack of concentration in a 3 min spell saw us 3 -2 down, this then fired us in to life and work rate effort and commitment increased and we created a number of chances that we failed to complete with their keeper making a couple of good stops to deny Lester.

A match report for the Year 8 Football tournament will come in next week's parent news.

Fixtures for next week

We have a very busy week for fixtures next week.

Tuesday 20th March - Year 7 Football v Charters @ Charters

Year 10 Football v Garth @ Home

Wednesday 21st March - Year 7/8 Girls Football v St Crispin's and Sandhurst @ St Crispin's

Year 10 Football v Piggott @ Piggott

Thursday 22nd March - Year 9 Football v Emmbrook @ Home

Year 7 Football v LVS @ LVS

Miss Willimott, Lead Coordinator of Girls PE and Teacher in Charge of Health and Social Care
Mr Yeates, Head of PE

Feedback Initiative

In our efforts to continually improve Brakenhale School for the whole community, we have introduced a new forum where you have the opportunity to provide feedback on the things we get right and where you think we could improve.

We now have a “Fab” and “Drab” box located in our main reception where you can leave your comments (anonymously or with contact details if you would like a response).

Alternatively, you can click on the links below to submit your thoughts electronically. We welcome views from both parents and students so please encourage students to share their views as well.

In addition to the above we have also introduced a “Staff Member of the Week” recognition scheme where you or your students can nominate a member of staff who is exceeding your expectations – once again please use the link below or the box in reception.

Electronic submission: [Fab](#) [Drab](#) [Staff Member of the Week](#)

We would like this to be an ongoing initiative and would encourage you to submit your views and feedback anytime, we look forward to hearing from you regularly.

Ms Coley, Headteacher



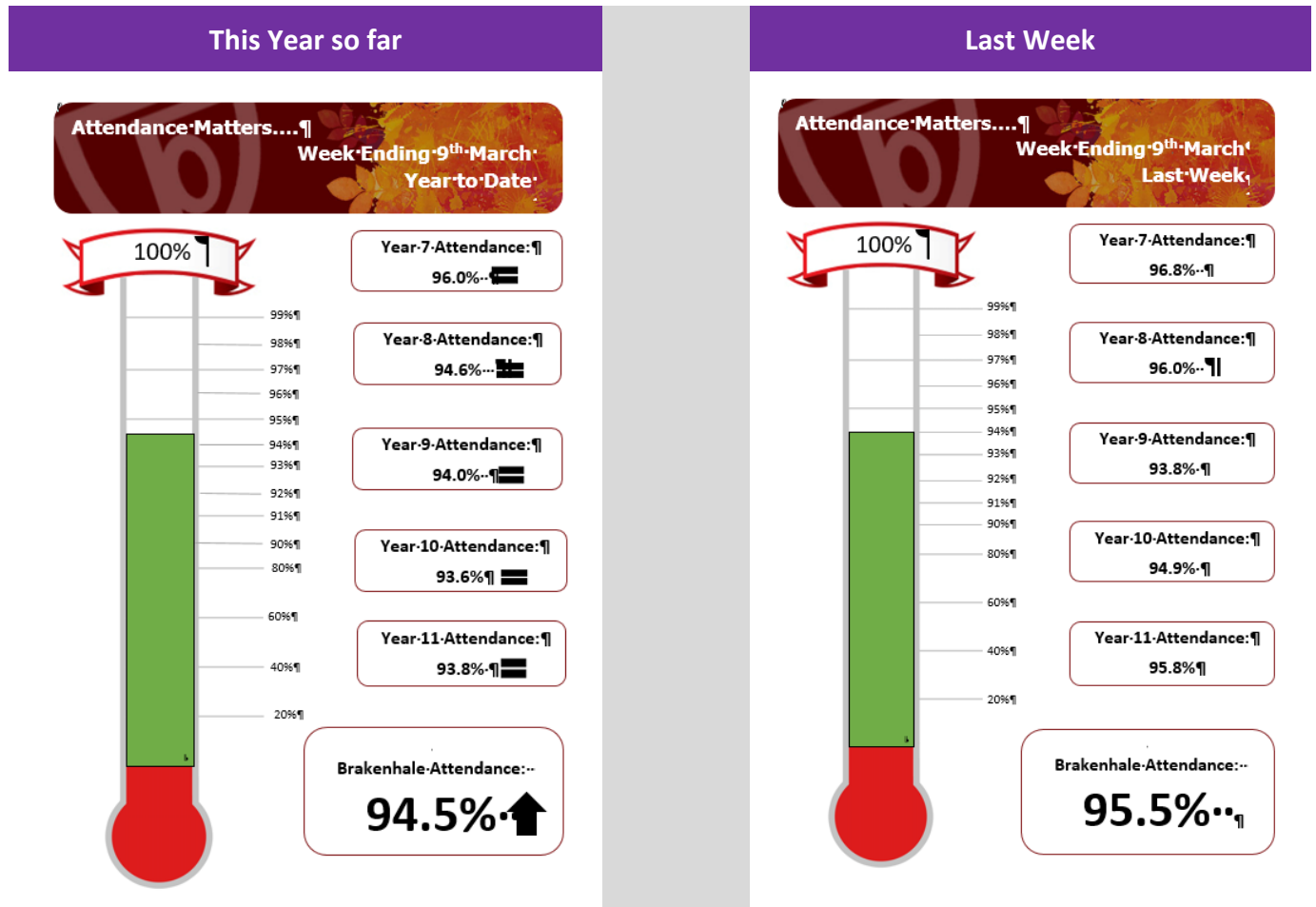
FAB

Round-Up (8th March to 15th March)

You think we are doing great at the following things at Brakenhale:

- ✓ The takeaway cards introduced at parents' evening are a great idea. They have given my son clear targets for each subject and it also means we know exactly how we can help him.
- ✓ I phoned the school to leave an important and exciting message for my son and asked if they could get that message to him. Better than delivering it written down, he was requested to go to main reception where the message was delivered to him personally. Thank you so much for that. It made a huge difference to his day and also the way that he managed his emotions. 10/10
- ✓ Food
- ✓ Lost Property- there are always lost and found items labelled -that can be looked through
- ✓ Lots of push towards good behaviour
- ✓ Excellent DofE awards night - Well done !

Attendance



Last week was a much better week for attendance, as a school not only did we exceed our target of 95% we were also ahead of this week last year by one percent. This is a fabulous result and I am hoping that we continue this way. This brilliant result has nudged our year to date number up slightly and we have maintained our increase on this point last year.

Last week superstars were Year 11 achieving 95.8% which is a huge turn around for them. The exams really focusing them on making the most of the learning opportunities in the last few weeks! Year 10 were so close to achieving 95% and missed out by a whisker. This week Year 10, you can do it!!

Year 9's attendance leaves little to the imagination but we are working hard behind the scenes to support this year group and hope that they will be up there with the rest of the school in the next few weeks.

Year 7 as always a fantastic result of 96.8% being the top year group in the school, but Year 8 are really giving them a run for their money with 96%. I think that next week Year 8 might be at the top.... Watch this space!

As always please don't hesitate to get in touch on 01344 465050 or email me at schoolattendance@brakenhale.co.uk

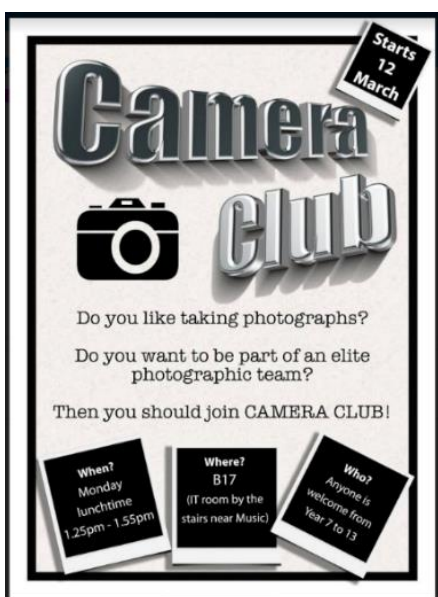
Mrs Evans, Attendance Office

Current Vacancies

We have the following exciting opportunities at Brakenhale. Please see the website for more details.
<http://brakenhale.co.uk/about/vacancies/>

- Science Teacher
- Psychology Teacher
- Art Teacher
- Maths Teacher
- English Teacher
- Head of Year

Coming up



Camera Club Starts 12 March

Do you like taking photographs?
 Do you want to be part of an elite photographic team?

Then you should join CAMERA CLUB!

When?
Monday
lunchtime
1.25pm - 1.55pm

Where?
B17
(IT room by the stairs near Music)

Who?
Anyone is welcome from Year 7 to 13

Camera club will start on Monday 12th March at lunchtime - everyone is welcome!
 Mrs Wilhelmy, Photography Teacher

Parent Support Group
at Brakenhale

Monday 19th March
9.30am to 11am

Please come and meet our Family Support Worker and other parents to discuss all aspects of living with teenagers. Refreshments will be provided.



Please come to main reception where Tracey Gosling, our Family Support Advisor will meet you.

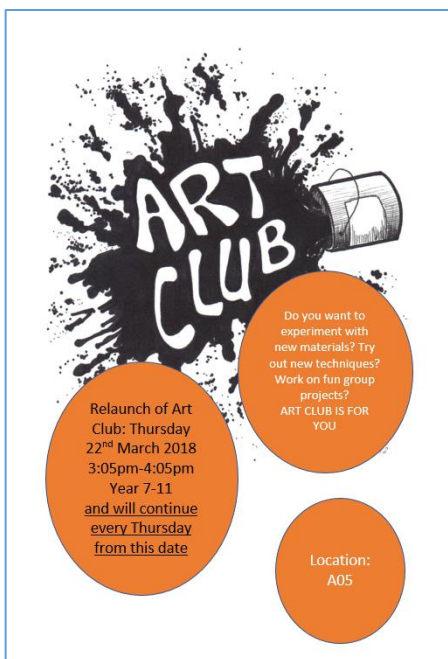
Future Meeting Dates:

Wednesday 2nd May ~ 1.30-3pm

Wednesday 27th June ~ 9.30-11am

Brakenhale School
 Rectory Lane
 Bracknell
 Berkshire
 RG12 7BA
 01344 423041
 tgosling@brakenhale.co.uk

High Expectations and Challenge for All



ART CLUB

Do you want to experiment with new materials? Try out new techniques? Work on fun group projects? ART CLUB IS FOR YOU

Relaunch of Art Club: Thursday 22nd March 2018 3:05pm-4:05pm Year 7-11 and will continue every Thursday from this date

Location: A05



Wednesday 28th March 2018

Brakenhale School PTA

Year 7 DISCO

Main Hall

7.00-9.00pm

Drinks and Snacks will be on sale

£3.00

ENTRY BY TICKET ONLY

Clothes Recycling



Clothes Recycling Initiative

We are once again collecting your unwanted clothes, shoes, accessories and other household items for recycling. Please see our flyer for more details of items that are collected or visit <http://uk.bag2school.com/what-we-collect>

This time the collection will be a **House Competition!** When you bring your bags to main reception you will be asked to add your student's name (and tutor and house if you know them) to a list with the number of bags you have brought. The more bags the more house points! So get spring cleaning and send us all your unwanted clothing items.

We will be offering bags to students to take home, or you can put your items in an ordinary bin liner or other plastic bag.

Please bring all bags to main reception. We will be collecting until Thursday 3rd May.

Brakenhale PTA School Lottery

Thank you to everyone who has signed up, so far we currently have 44 signed up members. The amazing news is that since this has started in March 2017 it has raised almost £1000.

We are looking to increase new members each month. If you have not signed up yet now is your chance to do this.

There is a weekly draw in which you could win a prize currently £20 (this increases with the more members we have). Plus you have a weekly chance to win up to £25,000.

Click on the link today and join up: [Support the Brakenhale Lottery](#)

You have to be in it to win it.



Easy Fundraising!

Don't forget to shop through www.easyfundraising.org.uk to effortlessly help raise money for the school!



Future Diary Dates

Monday 19th March **Parent Support Group 9.30 - 11am**
 Wednesday 28th March **Year 7 Disco 7 - 9pm**

Term Dates 2017-18

SPRING TERM 2018

Term dates for students:
 Wednesday 3rd January to Thursday 29th March
 Spring Half Term – Monday 12th to Friday 16th February
 Easter Holiday – Friday 30th March to Friday 13th April

SUMMER TERM 2018

Term dates for students:
 Monday 16th April to Friday 20th July
Inset Day: Monday 23rd July
 Summer Half Term - Monday 28th May to Friday 1st June
 Summer Holiday for students – Monday 23rd July to Tuesday 4th September
(Inset Days: Monday 3rd and Tuesday 4th September)

Term Dates 2018-19

AUTUMN TERM 2018

Term dates for students:
(Inset Days: Monday 3rd and Tuesday 4th September)
 Wednesday 5th September to Thursday 20th December
 Autumn Half Term – Monday 22nd to Friday 26th October)
(Inset Day: Friday 21st December)
 Christmas Holiday for students – Friday 21st December to Friday 4th January 2019

Bracknell Forest term dates can be found on their website:
<http://www.bracknell-forest.gov.uk/schooltermandholidaydates>

#challengeforall

Brakenhale School, Rectory Lane, Bracknell, Berkshire RG12 7BA
 ☎ 01344 423041 ~ ✉ mainreception@brakenhale.co.uk ~ 🌐 www.brakenhale.co.uk

High Expectations and Challenge for All