



Dear Parents/Carers

Thank you so much for bearing with us at the end of last week with 'Snow Gate'. A decision to shut the school is an extremely difficult one to make and it was not one that I took without significant thought. We have had an extremely busy week as we have tried to catch up on the two lost days from last week in an attempt to minimise any impact on learning and progress.

Year 11 Parents' evening was rescheduled from last Thursday and took place last night. We had an impressive turn out and lots of positive feedback on our take away card initiative. I am aware that Year 11 are really feeling the pressure and stress of their upcoming examinations and I am very grateful for all the support that is being offered both at home from you as parents and from the staff at school. It is this continued support that I know will enable the students to achieve their potential.

Yesterday we also hosted a prestigious economics conference, with local schools sending many of their Post 16 students to gain from this experience. Yet again, Brakenhale School is at the forefront of Post 16 provision and our results are testimony to this. I have thoroughly enjoyed interviewing, alongside Mr Dale and Mr Hartley, all of those youngsters who wish to stay on with us into the Sixth Form next year. I feel great pride in their ambition and maturity and the way in which they have developed with us. It is fantastic that so many are going to stay on and continue their successful learning journey at Brakenhale.

Last night our Year 10 Handball team became 2018 Under 15 Berkshire Champions. This is an outstanding achievement and our huge congratulations go to all the students involved and the staff who have trained and supported them. A full write up can be seen further on in Parent News.

I hope that you will all have read the communication that I sent out yesterday with regard to the imminent start of our building project; although there is a lot to organise it really is an exciting time for the school. Some parents have queried the five minute reduction in lunch time and I would like to reassure you that any changes are firstly on a trial basis and secondly they are put in place to minimise any impact on learning. We have reviewed the queuing system, staffing allocation and the way in which we serve the food and we believe that this will significantly speed up the process. We are also purchasing a number of vending machines which will dispense sandwiches, cold drinks and fruit. These will be linked to the biometric payment system and will only be turned on during break and lunch time.

Continuing the topic of feeding back, I have received some comments on the drab feedback form in relation to students understanding about how much is left on their lunch account. Students are able to find this out very easily by placing their thumb or finger on the machines located in main reception and the LRC. We have also been asked about behaviour points which are applied in error and I can confirm these can be removed - if you have any queries about this please contact the main office for help. Finally, I have received a query about Parents' Evening timings and a suggestion that we shut early on these days. I do understand, as a working parent myself, how difficult it is to take time away from work to attend events such as Parents' Evening; however, I would be unable to justify losing six hours of learning time across the year for this. Any parent who is unable to attend Parents' Evening should contact the main office and we will of course work with you to accommodate meetings with staff outside of the designated evening.

Our Student of the week this week is: Stephanie Dundon in Year 8 who has been an outstanding school ambassador and yesterday helped enormously at parents' evening and supported with great kindness another student – well done Stephanie.

Our Staff member of the week is Miss Danset-Sales. Comments include: 'For helping us in class when we don't understand the work.', 'For always supporting me with my learning.'

Our motivational saying for next week is: 'Look for something positive in every day, even if some days you have to look a little harder'.

Please continue to ensure students wrap up warm next week as we are expecting it to remain cold initially.

Jane Coley, Headteacher

What's on

Monday 12th March Camera Club, lunchtime, everyone welcome.

Wednesday 14th March Duke of Edinburgh Celebration Evening

Please note that STEM Club is not currently running but will return within the next few weeks - Miss Metcalfe, Science Teacher

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

Brakenhale New Build Project

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

Hot off the press..... we have been accepted by Waitrose to be one of their 'Community Causes' for this month. Please make sure you place your green disks, given at the checkout, in the box – you will see the Brakenhale logo at the top. Tell your friends, colleagues, relatives and neighbours to do so too.

Many thanks to Waitrose for being the first company to support us.

Karen Roche, Chair of the governing body

fundraising@brakenhale.co.uk



Economics Seminar

Brakenhale was delighted to welcome **EconplusDal** to the school on Thursday 8th March. EconplusDal offers a wide range of services to help student maximise their performance in Economics.

Throughout the day Mr Dal delivered 6 hours of intensive Economics knowledge and exam technique to our Year 12 and 13 economists. This was a fantastic opportunity to hear from a leading Economics practitioner and we are proud to have hosted an event which saw nearly 90 students from Edgbarrow, Gordons, The Holt and Ranelagh attend.

The highlight of the day was certainly the 'nuggets' he delivered on key topics although I am sure the students may argue that the selfie opportunities at the end trumped that!

Mr Gibson, Deputy Headteacher



The Year 7 Disco will be taking place on Wednesday 28th March – tickets are £3 on parent pay.

Mr Cooper, Head of Year 7



PTA Funding

Funding for Performing Arts

The performing arts faculty were fortunate enough to be able to use the money granted by the PTA for a mixing desk which was used for the first time for the School of Rock musical before half term, and will be used going forward for Music, Dance and Drama performances.

Mr Duffy and the performing arts team are delighted as it is a really effective piece of equipment which will certainly make life much easier from now on! Thank you.

Mr Duffy, Head of Music



Revision Resources

A huge thank you to the PTA who have funded the revision aid GCSE POD for our Year 11 students. Within the first hour of launch over 35 revision podcasts had been viewed and this number continues to rise. It has been a winner of the Education Investor Award and in the Technical Innovation Top 50 Products in 2017. I truly believe this will add massive value to our Year 11 students and I would like to say a huge thank you to the PTA for agreeing to fund this year's subscription.

Mr Gibson, Deputy Headteacher

Dance News

Edinburgh Fringe Festival

Kier Buist, our leading man from School of Rock, has been snapped up by director Mark Hooper to be part of his Edinburgh Fringe Festival tour this summer. Keir will join a small cast of actors working on the AnimAlphabet the Musical, he will be paid as a professional actor for the rehearsal and performance period of the project. Congratulations Kier!!

Audition Opportunity

The prestigious Royal Shakespeare company are looking for boys and girls to play Matilda, Bruce and other schoolchildren for the tour of Matilda The Musical.

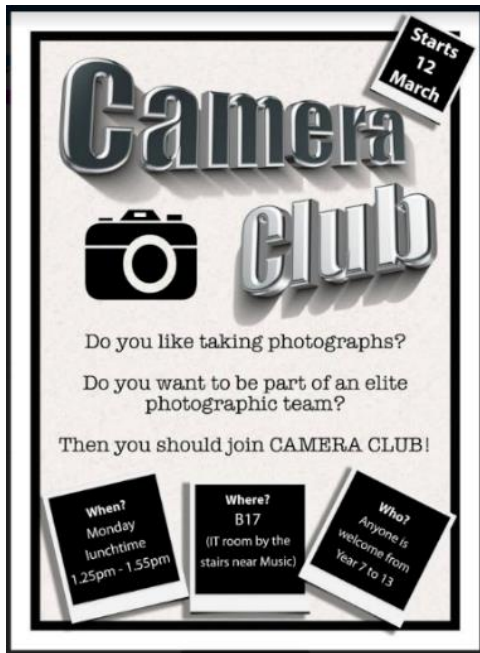
The stage musical is an adaptation of the Roald Dahl classic and has been wowing West End audiences for six years. Please see the following link for more information <https://www.familiesonline.co.uk/local/south-east-staffordshire/in-the-know/the-rsc-is-looking-for-kids-to-play-matilda-and-her-classmates>

South Hill Park

Students from Year 9 to 13 attended a dance trip to South Hill Park last Tuesday to see Joss Arnott Triple Bill. The students really enjoyed the performances and had the chance to ask the choreographer questions at the end.

The curtain raiser for the company was performed by Berkshire County Dance Company Youth and included three of our very own Brakenhale students- from Year 10 Lauren W and Emily C, and from Year 8 Alice M. Their performance was highly mature and skilled, a real highlight to the evening!

Miss Haley, Head of Dance and Drama



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

Lost Property



We are now distributing a large number of lost property items each week to the rightful owner but in order to be able to do this please put student names on items and if a child is missing anything please encourage them to go to the Head of Year Office where we will help to try and track items and make a note of what is missing.

Mrs McCroire, Curriculum Support Assistant

Clothes Recycling

Brakenhale School

RECYCLE YOUR OLD CLOTHES, SHOES AND ACCESSORIES.

We are again collecting old clothes, shoes and accessories to help raise money for the school via the PTA.

Please start collecting your unwanted items ready to bring to school by Thursday 3rd May.

We will be giving out bags to students and they are also available from main reception, or you can put your items in a black bin bag.

Please contact Sarah Hartley at the school if you have any questions.
 shartley@brakenhale.co.uk

Thank you for supporting the school!

Brakenhale School, Rectory Lane, Bracknell

Brakenhale School

RECYCLE!

Don't send your unwanted items to landfill... The more bags you bring the more money we raise for the school.

Visit www.bag2school.com for more information.

The following "good quality" items are accepted for RE-USE:

- ✓ Men's, Ladies' and Children's clothing
- ✓ Paired shoes (good together or elastic band around)
- ✓ Handbags
- ✓ Hats and bags
- ✓ Scarves and ties
- ✓ Jewellery
- ✓ Lingerie and socks
- ✓ Belts
- ✓ Soft toys
- ✓ Household linen
- ✓ Curtains
- ✓ Towels
- ✓ Bedding (bed sheets, pillow cases and duvet covers)

✓

Please note that the following are not accepted:

- Diapers and Blankets
- Pillows and cushions
- Car mats, rags and mats (including bath, shower and toilet mats)
- Solid games
- Ripped or wet clothing
- School uniforms with and without logo
- Corporate clothing and wearables
- Toxic, off cut, yarns or threaded material

✗

Bags are available from main reception, or put your items in a black bin bag.

Thank you for supporting the school!

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.

Supporting Thames Valley Air Ambulance

Thank you to all the students, parents and staff who have been collecting clean plastic milk bottle tops and used stamps to help raise money for the TVAA Thames Valley Air Ambulance.

If you would like to help this cause, please send in your bottle tops (any colour, but please only clean **milk** bottle tops) and used stamps.

Bottle tops and stamps are being collected in the Heads of Year Office or Main Reception.

Many thanks.

Mrs McCroire, Curriculum Support Assistant



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 Creswell, Head of English and Media



CPR Awareness

Can I please inform parents that we will be starting a CPR awareness training with equipment and guidance from the British Heart Foundation. The sessions start with Year 9 during PSHE classes.

If you have any questions please contact me, Ms A.Ball, Health Coordinator on 01344 465049 or via email medical@brakenhale.co.uk

Can I also remind parents that students must hand in all medication to the medical room - this includes paracetamol and ibuprofen. A medical consent form must also be completed. Medication carried around by students has to be agreed in advance by the Health Coordinator.

Ms Ball, Health Coordinator



Nation of Lifesavers

British Heart Foundation

PE News

This week has been a chilly one for the department but even so we have seen an inter house competition taking place. The result will be announced in next week's parent news.

On Tuesday, we had a blizzard during our extra-curricular clubs. The students were loving life by playing football and hockey in the snow.

On Friday 23rd February, 17 Year 9 students went to Bracknell Leisure Centre to lead the Year 3 and 4 indoor athletic event. They were all fantastic and did Brakenhale proud. They had a range of roles from time keeper, score keeper to encouraging the teams as they were competing. They had a very professional approach to the event and this continued from the morning session into the afternoon session. The organisers of the event were very pleased with their contribution and effort. Everyone was amazing, with all of them having stand out performances. I am looking forward to working with the leaders again in the further. Well done to everyone involved.

Brakenhale U16 v. Maiden Erlegh

The Under 16s won in their league tie this week against Maiden Erlegh in a tightly contested fixture. Owen M opened the scoring with a fine effort on the second half, M.E hot back with 2 goals in quick succession to make it 2-1 before a penalty made it 2-2 in a very even game.

M.E. then scored again to make it 3-2 and it looked as if it was all over. Tom N and Kamil S had different ideas though and both scored in a crazy 5 minutes!

Final score: U16s 4, Maiden Erlegh 3

Berkshire Under 15 Handball Tournament @ Bohunt School 8th March 2018

The Under 15 boys competed on Thursday 8th March in the Berkshire Handball tournament at Bohunt School run by Reading Handball club. The boys had an excellent tournament and finished the day unbeaten! They beat Garth Hill, Charters A and B, Langley Academy and Maiden Erlegh twice to be crowned Berkshire school champions! They will now go on to represent the county at the Regional finals held in Surrey in May.

Ellis H was voted player of the tournament and was tournament top scorer on the day. A number of the players were scouted for Reading Handball club, including Jack C (GK), Joe J, Clancy O, Reece P and Ellis H.

Well done to all the players involved.

Brakenhale Fitness Suite

Thank you to all the parents who have very kindly donated equipment to the school in an attempt to get a fitness suite up and running at the school. We are very nearly there and it is looking great in the old classroom A04!

Particular thanks goes to Caroline Reed who has given up a lot of time and supplied a whole gym's worth of equipment to the PE department. Thank you

Hopefully the room will be ready to use for students and staff before the end of the month so watch this space!

Athlete of the week

This week Athlete of the week is awarded to Josh B for being man of the match in the U13 fixture against Sandhurst and having a brilliant attitude. Well done Josh!

Fixtures for next week

Monday 12 th March	U15 Boys Football v Maiden Erlegh @ Home
	U13 Boys Football v Ranelagh @ Ranelagh
Wednesday 14 th March	U16 Boys Football v Charters @ Home
Thursday 15 th March	U12 Boys Football v Charters @ Charters
	U16 Boys Football v Forest @ Home

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



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

- ✓ The Year 7 female toilets have been fixed.
- ✓ The Student Support Centre
- ✓ Miss Loj – she is overall an amazing teacher. She’s helped a lot by making revision material and always preparing us for the real exam.
- ✓ Mr Hick – he is funny.
- ✓ There is lots of help available.

Brakenhale Canteen

Please see our menu for next week. We will be celebrating St Patrick’s Day on Thursday.

A meal deal costs £2.30, which includes a main meal and pudding. If students prefer just to have the main meal, this costs £1.90.

Mrs Silvey, Catering & Enrichment Manager

The Brakenhale School					
Spring 2018					
Week 2	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Hot Main Meal	British Farm Assured Beef Chilli Con Carne	British Farm Assured Chicken Korma	British Farm Assured Roast Chicken Breast	St Patrick’s Day Special Menu: Irish Stew	MSC (Marine Stewardship Council) Battered Fish
Hot Vegetarian Meal	Macaroni Cheese	Veggie Curry	Mexican Veggie Burrito	Winter Vegetables & Potatoes Irish Cake	Cheese Omelette
Carbohydrate	Rice Garlic Bread	Naan Bread	Roast Potatoes	Champ Potatoes	Baked chips
Vegetables	Seasonal Vegetables	Seasonal Vegetables	Seasonal Vegetables	Seasonal Vegetables	Peas, Baked Beans or Salad
Hot Pudding	Apple Crumble served with custard	Chocolate and Banana Sponge	Raspberry and Coconut Crumble	Chocolate Cake served with custard	Baked Mixed Fruit Pie served with fresh cream

We have available every day

- Yogurt bar for breakfast
- Salad bar where you build your own salad
- Homemade bread

We use locally sourced ingredients when available and in season

All our menus are nutritionally analysed to ensure they meet and in most cases exceed The School Food Standards

Attendance

This Year so far		Last Week
<div style="background-color: #4a4a9a; color: white; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> Attendance Matters.... Week Ending 2nd March Year to Date </div>	<p>This term I will be meeting with families that are struggling to maintain attendance at an acceptable level and making plans with them to improve attendance until the end of the school year.</p> <p>If you feel that there is anything I can help you with in regards to attendance please don't hesitate to get in contact me and we can work on a solution together.</p>	<div style="background-color: #4a4a9a; color: white; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> Attendance Matters.... Week Ending 2nd March Last Week </div>

Year to date Year 7 are doing a fantastic job with attendance at 96% although last week's was way below what we know Year 7 can do! Year 8 and 10 have also moved the Year-to-Date number up this week due to fabulous attendance last week, they clearly love being out and about in the snow!!

As always, thank you for your continued support. Please, if you are having any problems encouraging your child to school, do get in touch and we will support you in any way we can. Should you need support or help with any other issues that are affecting attendance then please do not hesitate to get in touch by telephone on 01344 465050 or by email on schoolattendance@brakenhale.co.uk

Mrs Evans, Attendance Office

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.

Future Diary Dates

Monday 19 th March	Parent Support Group
Friday 23 rd March	Year 10 and 11 Duke of Edinburgh Silver Practice
Wednesday 28 th March	Year 7 Disco

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/schooltermmandholidaydates>

#challengeforall

Easy Fundraising!




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



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

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

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