



Dear Parents/Carers

This has been the final week before the much needed half term break. Students and staff alike are looking forward to time to rest and recharge. Let's hope that the snow stays away!

We have had an exceptionally busy week this week, starting with the Year 12 Parents Evening. This was very well attended with lots of positive conversations.

Year 11s have been put through their paces this week during their Options week. They have focused daily on the options they have selected in order to ensure they are exam-ready.

After a whole day rehearsing on Tuesday the students finally got to do a performance of 'School of Rock' to a live audience on Wednesday. Some local primary schools had been invited to come and see the show in the morning. The children were very excited and the feedback was that they thoroughly enjoyed it. I know it only served to make our students more excited to give their evening performance.

On Wednesday and Thursday the culmination of their efforts resulted in outstanding performances on both days. Indeed on Thursday, as it all came to an end, there were a lot of tears of happiness, tinged with sadness at the prospect of it all being over.

Our students were exceptional and I would like to thank each and every one of them for their outstanding achievements. I would also like to thank our student ambassadors for giving up their time to support the show and last, but not least, all of the fantastic staff, most notably Mrs Raby, Miss Haley, Mrs Hope, Mr Duffy, Mr Dale and Mrs Duddy, for giving up their free time to make the event possible. Brakenhale hasn't had a whole school show for a decade and it is further evidence of the school's transformation. As one parent has commended on the 'fab' page "I thought it was a real reflection of the regeneration of Brakenhale School". You all deserve a round of applause and to make the most of the upcoming break!

Our Student of the week this week is:

Keir Buist: for being the most incredible lead in School of Rock and for inspiring the rest of the cast.

Our Staff member of the week is:

Mrs Fotheringham: on two occasions in the past two weeks she has driven the school minibus at the last minute, one being at a weekend, to enable our students to go on valuable trips. This nomination is best summed up by the following comment: "Always looks out for the students and goes above and beyond to make school life easy for so many."

Our Fab & Drab comments continue to come in and as a result we have undertaken the following:

- Ms Coley to take time out to teach some lessons.
 - I am going to try to do this at least once a fortnight! The first week after half term I am scheduled to take a Year 7 English class.
- Show my Homework is not always consistently used and PDF versions of homework would be useful. In addition, can there be a button for parents to click to acknowledge they have seen the homework.
 - We have spoken with all staff to remind them of the expectation surrounding Show My Homework and to try and add PDF versions. We have contacted the company who run the platform and they are looking into the possibility of the acknowledgement button.

We start back after half term with the Year 9 Book Look week, this will be followed by Parents' Evening on Thursday. Please can I remind all students to ensure they have their tools for learning prepared for when they return to school.

Our motivational saying during the first week back is:

'If you don't give anything, don't expect anything. Success is not coming to you, you must come to it.'

Have a restful half term break.

Jane Coley, Headteacher

What's on

Monday 12 th to Friday 16 th February	Half Term
Monday 19 th February	Year 9 Book Look Week
Thursday 22 nd February	Year 9 Parents' Evening

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

Year 9 Book Look Week



Book Look Week for Year 9 will start after half term on Monday 19th February.

During Book Look weeks, exercise books/folders will be sent home with students for parents to see their son/daughter's work and how they are progressing in their subjects. You will have the opportunity to discuss your child's books at Year 9 parents' evening on Thursday 22nd February where we look forward to your feedback.

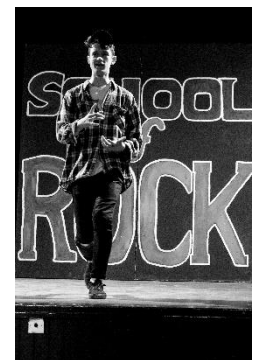
Could we please ask that parents and students ensure that they bring their books back to into school after taking them home.

Mrs G Powell, Assistant Headteacher

Performing Arts News

The Dance, Drama and the Music departments would like to congratulate the cast of School of Rock for their amazing performances this week. The students performed to over 300 primary school children from the local area on Wednesday morning before their two evening performances to parents, staff and students. The energy was fantastic and the commitment since September has been amazing.

Thank you to everyone who came to support the show and all the staff who contributed to its success.



Miss Haley & Mrs Raby, Drama and Dance

Enrichment Dance Timetable

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Break time 11:00 - 11:25	Open for rehearsals	Year 10 - 13 rehearsals	Open for rehearsals	Open for rehearsals	CLOSED
Lunch time 1:25 – 1:55	Dance Club (MS) Ellicia Darby Open to all	DARK MATTER (MS) Dance Company Associates/invites only	Contemporary (MS) Lauren Williams Open to all	DARK MATTER (MS) Dance Company Associates/invites only	Year 11 GCSE/ BTEC Support (MS) Miss Raby & Miss Haley
After School 3:05 onwards	Cheer (MS) Kiera and Kier Audition only AURORA Dance Company (JNS) Chloe Johnson Open to Year 8 & 9 girls 3:05 until 4:15	DARK MATTER Dance Company (MS) Auditioned company only 3:05 until 4:05 Year 12 Rehearsal Space (JNS)	Dance Rehearsals (MS) Dance chorus rehearsals 3:05 until 4:30 Year 10 – 13 Rehearsal Space (JNS)	LIFT OFF PROJECT (MS) Miss Haley Invitation only 3:05 until 4:30 Disney Show Rehearsals (JNS) Alex Elsey For Year 7 & 8 students	The Mini's (MS) Fay & Chloe Open to Year 7 girls 3:05 until 4:05 Year 10 – 13 Rehearsal Space (JNS)



Free Fall and Terranova to start officially next term

Science summer schools for Year 9, 10, 11 and 12

Are you a science superstar? Why not apply to attend a FREE summer school at Imperial College London. All of the schools run in July 2018 and will give you a real taste of life at one of the world's best universities! The deadline for all applications is the 5th of March, and some eligibility criteria do apply. Contact Miss Metcalfe for questions and support with your application.


To apply: <https://www.imperial.ac.uk/be-inspired/student-recruitment-and-outreach/schools-and-colleges/students/on-campus-activities/summer-schools/>

Contact: emetcalfe@brakenhale.co.uk

Year 9 Engineering Summer School	Year 9 girls are invited to join us to explore the breadth of engineering disciplines available at Imperial, working in groups and supported by undergraduate mentors, you will tackle a range of engineering challenges, using your knowledge of maths, physics, chemistry and biology. This course is fully funded by Imperial's Faculty of Engineering (travel not included) so eligibility criteria apply. Non-residential	16 – 20 July 2018
Year 10 Insights into Science and Engineering Summer School	Get ready for an action-packed four days that lets you explore subjects you already know, including Biology, Chemistry, Physics and Maths, in new, exciting ways. Take part in hands-on practicals and workshops in real Undergraduate labs with some of Imperial's finest academics and students as try your hand at a number of different disciplines. This programme is fully-funded so eligibility criteria apply. Residential	24 – 27 July 2018
Year 11 Project STEM Summer School	Explore the leap from GCSE science to studying it at A-level in this action-packed programme. Choose to focus on biology, chemistry or physics as you tackle problems in a similar way to university groups, with as much hands-on exposure to labs as we can fit in. You'll also get to experience university life through a series of social activities. This programme is fully-funded so eligibility criteria apply. Residential	2 – 6 July 2018
Year 12 Engineering Summer School	Get a taster of engineering at university, with the chance to try subjects which you may never have previously considered. Working in subject streams, you'll use the week to tackle challenges within the applicable engineering disciplines, with plenty of support from our undergraduate mentors. This programme is fully-funded so eligibility criteria apply. Residential	10 – 13 July 2018

Biology challenge: open to Year 8, 9 and 10



Biology Challenge

Does your biology knowledge put David Attenborough to shame? Are you interested in representing your school at the Institute of Engineering and Technology, London? Sign up to take part in the Biology Challenge, a national competition for schools. You can win a Bronze, Silver or Gold certificate and free membership to the Royal Society of Biology's online hub. For more information or to sign up, contact Miss Metcalfe.

emetcalfe@brakenhale.co.uk

Encouraging an interest in biology beyond the school curriculum Stimulating curiosity about the natural world

Open to all pupils in:

- Y8/Y9/Y10 in England and Wales
- Y9/Y10/Y11 in Northern Ireland, and
- S1/S2/S3 in Scotland

Gold, Silver and Bronze Award Certificates will be posted to schools and top scoring pupils.

The entry fee is only £30 per school for an unlimited number of participants.

Registration closes: 23rd February 2018
Competition dates: 6th - 26th March 2018

Biology Challenge is an online competition which consists of two 25 minute papers to provide schools with flexibility and maximise participation.

Further details and a registration page can be found at: www.rsb.org.uk/challenge

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. Please see a round up of Fab things below, and I have outlined the progress we are making on Drab items at the beginning of this newsletter.

Ms Coley, Headteacher



FAB

Round-Up (1st to 7th February)

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

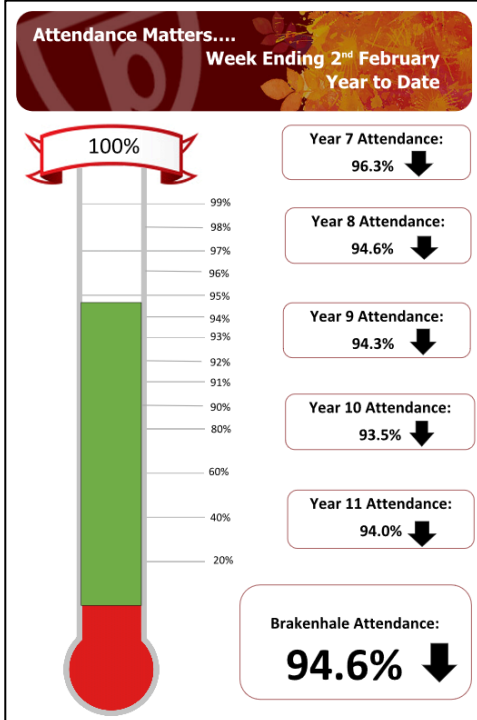
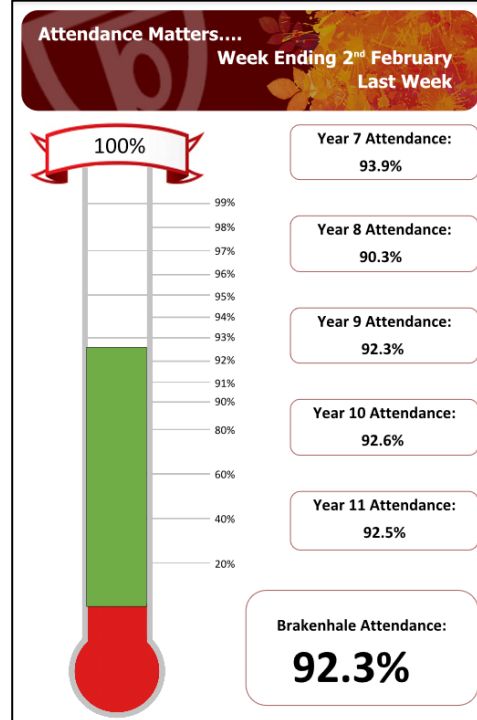
- ✓ The Year 11 VIP room is a great idea. A place to relax during a stressful exam time.
- ✓ Mrs Coley taught my daughter for the last 15 minutes this afternoon, her words were "she was fab and made everything really clear so I understood, I wish she could teach more often". It might be an idea to teach more classes if it can be fitted in to the headteacher's busy schedule as it obviously works and I bet it makes a change too for her, well done to Mrs Coley.
- ✓ The information on influenza. Thank you, this was very helpful 😊
- ✓ The school is approachable and good at getting back to you.
- ✓ It is such an extraordinary idea to have an inspirational 'quote of the week' every week along with a very convincing assembly by a SLT member of what to do and what not to do, linking to the quote. I think this idea has really persuaded and inspired students to do the right thing inside and outside of school. I thank the SLT for committing to display inspirational quotes every week, along with an assembly, for students to be inspired by.

Easy Fundraising!

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



Attendance

This Year so far	Attendance really doesn't look very positive from the posters this week, however year to date we are still 1.2% better than at this point last year!! This is a fantastic achievement, Thank you!	Last Week												
<div style="background-color: #800000; color: white; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> Attendance Matters.... Week Ending 2nd February Year to Date </div>  <table style="width: 100%; margin-top: 10px;"> <tr> <td style="border: 1px solid #ccc; padding: 5px;">Year 7 Attendance: 96.3% ↓</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="border: 1px solid #ccc; padding: 5px;">Year 8 Attendance: 94.6% ↓</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="border: 1px solid #ccc; padding: 5px;">Year 9 Attendance: 94.3% ↓</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="border: 1px solid #ccc; padding: 5px;">Year 10 Attendance: 93.5% ↓</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="border: 1px solid #ccc; padding: 5px;">Year 11 Attendance: 94.0% ↓</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="border: 1px solid #ccc; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> Brakenhale Attendance: 94.6% ↓ </td> </tr> </table>	Year 7 Attendance: 96.3% ↓	Year 8 Attendance: 94.6% ↓	Year 9 Attendance: 94.3% ↓	Year 10 Attendance: 93.5% ↓	Year 11 Attendance: 94.0% ↓	Brakenhale Attendance: 94.6% ↓	<p>We have been taking a zero tolerance approach to late arrivals to morning registration during this term. Compared to last year we have almost 100 less instances of lateness which equates to an extra 18 hours of learning.</p> <p>With this in mind we want to encourage Students to continue this improvement further and from the beginning of next term all lateness to school will attract a same day lunchtime detention.</p>	<div style="background-color: #800000; color: white; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> Attendance Matters.... Week Ending 2nd February Last Week </div>  <table style="width: 100%; margin-top: 10px;"> <tr> <td style="border: 1px solid #ccc; padding: 5px;">Year 7 Attendance: 93.9%</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="border: 1px solid #ccc; padding: 5px;">Year 8 Attendance: 90.3%</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="border: 1px solid #ccc; padding: 5px;">Year 9 Attendance: 92.3%</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="border: 1px solid #ccc; padding: 5px;">Year 10 Attendance: 92.6%</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="border: 1px solid #ccc; padding: 5px;">Year 11 Attendance: 92.5%</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="border: 1px solid #ccc; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> Brakenhale Attendance: 92.3% </td> </tr> </table>	Year 7 Attendance: 93.9%	Year 8 Attendance: 90.3%	Year 9 Attendance: 92.3%	Year 10 Attendance: 92.6%	Year 11 Attendance: 92.5%	Brakenhale Attendance: 92.3%
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I hope that you all have a restful half term break and hope that we all manage to shake the bugs that are going around.

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 £976.80.

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](http://www.yourschoollottery.co.uk)

You have to be in it to win it.



Future Diary Dates

Tuesday 27 th February	PTA Meeting, 7pm
Wednesday 28 th February	Duke of Edinburgh Presentation Evening, 6.30pm
Thursday 1 st March	Year 9 & 10 Maths Challenge
	Year 11 Parents' Evening
Sunday 4 th March	Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Practice Expedition
Thursday 8 th March	Year 7 Parents' Evening, 4pm

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

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High Expectations and Challenge for All