



Dear Parents/Carers

We are rapidly heading towards half term, which marks the halfway point in the Academic year but also a time of development and challenge. This week has seen significant communication from yourselves and students responding to our 'Fab and Drab' initiative as well as our staff member of the week. I have been overwhelmed by the level of feedback that I have received. Members of staff have all been informed of their nominations and it has an extremely positive effect on their morale, so a huge thank you from me. I have been in consultation with staff this week to find solutions to the issues raised in the 'Drab' feedback and you will see the progress that I have made on this below:

1. Toilets - comments on improving the toilets have been passed on to our Site Team who have done a significant amount of maintenance;
2. Pushing and shoving on the stairs and in the corridors - I have implemented a system outlined below of the golden tickets which will encourage students to behave appropriately. I have also moved some tutor groups in afternoon registration from key areas where congestion has been noted and I will continue to monitor the situation;
3. Litter - we have purchased some more litter bins in order to ensure there is always a bin close to hand to get rid of rubbish, this is having a significant impact on the state of our corridors already;
4. Sixth Form study area should be a quiet area - we have now introduced an additional silent study room specifically for Sixth Form students;
5. Lunch queue - I have monitored this area during the week and I will be putting additional staffing in and around the queue.

From Monday we will be introducing our 'Standards Fortnight', where there will be an increased focus on students complying with the basic non-negotiable rules and behaving respectfully towards each other and staff. We have introduced a golden ticket initiative and students doing the right thing in lessons and during break and lunchtime will be issued with a ticket which will be rewarded with house points. Hundreds of students every single day conduct themselves beautifully and they must be rewarded and recognised for this. Our motivational quote next week is 'You have brains in your head, you have feet in your shoes, you can steer yourself any direction you choose' and students will be encouraged to take responsibility for their own actions and hopefully this will lead to lots of golden tickets.



The student who has really shown that they can get it right this week and been awarded the accolade 'Student of the week' is as follows:

Emily Lamb in Year 11 - Emily has not only shown how conscientious she is in all of her lessons, but has also used her entrepreneurial skills to create confectionery cones to sell in order to raise money for her World Challenge expedition which has a significant volunteering element involved in the trip. She has advertised events such as Christmas and Summer fetes on self produced leaflets and Facebook and has raised an amazing £1750.00 towards the trip.

Our staff member of the week is Miss Wilhelmy. Miss Wilhelmy has received a number of very positive comments including 'she is an amazing photography teacher who always spends time helping us', 'she always understands and makes our lessons interesting', 'she gives us amazing feedback which helps us to develop our learning'.

We have recently had our A Level results published by the Government and it shows us to have the highest 2017 results of any state school in the local authority by a considerable margin and you will have received a detailed communication about this from myself this afternoon. These were the first cohort of students to take examinations under a curriculum that was devised and implemented by the current senior leadership team and really shows the success of the changes we have made. Our current Year 11 students will be the first to sit GCSE exams after selecting their options since the new curriculum and teaching changes that we have implemented, so we look forward to impressive results in the summer.

Jane Coley, Headteacher

What's on

Thursday 1st February

Year 9 Options Evening

Friday 2nd February

Parent Support Group Meeting, 1.30-3pm

Current Vacancies

We have the following exciting opportunities at Brakenhale. Please see the website for more details.

<http://brakenhale.co.uk/about/vacancies/>

- Exam Invigilator
- Science Teacher

Parent Support Group
at Brakenhale

Friday 2nd February
1.30pm to 3pm

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:

Monday 19 th March ~ 9.30-11am	Brakenhale School Rectory Lane Bracknell Berkshire RG12 7BA 01344 423041 tgosling@brakenhale.co.uk
Wednesday 2 nd May ~ 1.30-3pm	
Wednesday 27 th June ~ 9.30-11am	

High Expectations and Challenge for All

Brakenhale Presents...

THE NEXT GENERATION
SCHOOL of ROCK
THE MUSICAL
SCHOOL PRODUCTION

BASED ON THE PARAMOUNT MOVIE WRITTEN BY MIKE WHITE
MUSIC BY ANDREW LLOYD WEBBER LYRICS BY GLENN SLATER SCRIPT BY JULIAN FELLOWES

Performances in the main hall
Wednesday 7th February, 6pm
Thursday 8th February, 6pm
Tickets £2 each, available on Parent Pay

Vacancy for a Parent Governor

This is a very exciting time to be a member of our committed and friendly governing body. The school has become the first choice for parents in the community and is continuing to thrive within the Greenshaw Learning Trust. We are looking forward to the start of the new building programme and even more to its opening towards the end of 2019.

We have a vacancy for a parent of a student currently in Years 7 to 13 and I urge you to consider becoming part of our team. As a 'local governing body' within a multi-academy trust, we have fewer responsibilities than maintained schools. We meet only as a full governing body and do not have committees. This means that we meet as a whole group just six times a year. In addition we undertake activities as individuals or small teams of 'lead governors'.

There are many reasons why you might consider doing this. It is a great opportunity to 'give back' to the community that, as parents, you are part of for seven years of your child/children's lives. In addition, you will be involved in steering the future of the school and will gain a clear understanding of your child's education without relying on your son or daughter to tell you!

I seriously hope you will take the next step to find out more by contacting me at kroche@brakenhale.co.uk, or our clerk ddeykin@brakenhale.co.uk.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Karen Roche, Chair of Governors



Enrichment Dance Timetable

Starting from Monday 29th January

	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)	School of Rock 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 Eelsey 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

Miss Haley, Head of Dance and Drama

Consent for Medication

Can we please remind parents to use the consent for medication form which is available from main reception and can be found on the school website in the 'health zone' : <http://brakenhale.co.uk/pastoral-support/health-zone/>

Medication needs to be labelled with the student’s name and in the original box. The medication needs to be delivered to main reception who will send it to the medical room or the student can do this themselves during morning tutor.

No medication is to be carried in school by students unless authorised.

Thank you for your continued support.

Ms Ball, Health Coordinator

THE BRAKENHALE SCHOOL
High Expectations and Challenge for All

Medication Consent

This form must be completed by Parents/Carers

Student name: _____ Tutor group: _____
 Date of birth: _____
 Address: _____ Postcode: _____

Medication	Instructions

Contact information in emergency

Name: _____
 Contact no.: _____
 Relationship to student: _____

I understand I must deliver the medication personally to the school medical team, and that signing this form authorises the school to administer medication as prescribed.
 I accept this is a service that the school offer, and are not obliged to undertake.
 I understand I must notify the school of any change in writing

Signature: _____ Date: _____
Parent/Carer

This form must be signed before any medication is administered

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 (to 24th January)

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

- ✓ The food offered during break and lunch is amazing.
- ✓ The communication from school to home is exceptional -really appreciate the weekly newsletters from both the school and year group, plus emails that are sent to inform of any other goings on. Thank you!
- ✓ The LRC has been amazing in supporting daughter with her homework and studies. It massively reduces pressure and stress at home - thank you!
- ✓ My daughter is reading Charles Dickens and quite enjoying it despite initial reservations! A positive endorsement of your new reading initiative!
- ✓ Support system in place for students
- ✓ The teachers are always there for you whenever you need them.
- ✓ The benches in the Year 7 garden.
- ✓ Good learning facilities.
- ✓ The uniform
- ✓ I'm so pleased with this school, as a team you are passionate about the children and their education, the teaching standards are high and the teachers have a great relationship with the pupils. Parent and school interaction is fantastic and informative and you are fantastic at managing negative behaviour and pupil support!
- ✓ Amount of homework given
- ✓ I'm really happy with my daughter's progress at Brakenhale. I have noticed such a difference in her since she started in September. I highly recommend to other parents when they ask about the school.

News from our School Houses

Farley

It's been amazing to see so many lovely, diverse and creative entries for the house logo competition from Farley members.

So far this term we already had the lovely Victoria T in year 7 hit the 100 house points target, so this sets the new target to 150 house points! I'm sure Farley are working hard; it's really about going above and beyond, about trying to be the best they possible can. Currently, the leaders in each year are:Victoria T – Year 7, Muriel M – Year 8, Kayleigh D – Year 9 , Tegan R – Year 10, Asha M – Year 11. Well done to these students. I'm very proud of these individuals, and I'm sure the friends and families will be supportive too. It is really fantastic to see their progress, and how much they are contributing to Farley and the school.

I've been speaking to some students, and I'm very impressed with how active they are in extra-curricular activities. Remember, house points are awarded for joining an after school group and attending. So, not only do students gain points, but they can make new friends, try something new and develop skills. The new PE after school timetable has been released, and should be on tutor display boards, so check it out and try an activity. Our Year 8 tutors have the highest scoring house overall as Farley which shows that Year 8 students are working incredibly hard!

If your child does not attend an extra-curricular club I'd love for you to encourage them to do so. If they cannot do after school, ask them to see me and I can get them to do lunch or before school activities to gain points! We all can work together to make Farley house the best possible house it can be!

Finally, I hope all of you have a fantastic week. If anyone has any ideas of what they can do to gain extra house points then come and see me.

Mr Bell, Head of House



Temple

A big thank you for all the entries to our logo competition which has now closed. I am really looking forwards to judging this next week and selecting the design that will represent our house.

The whole school musical 'School of Rock' tickets are on sale via parent pay with several Temple students involved either performing or supporting, this is a fantastic event for our school and the first of its kind in five years- we really hope to see you there. Tickets will be purchased under a student name and for each ticket they will earn a house point.

With House assemblies fast approaching I am looking forward to sharing the positives of the year so far with our Temple students including their individual house points.

Our top earns are currently:

Year 7 - Rebecca W, Year 8 - Zach B, Year 9 - Victoria M, Year 10 - Abbie W, Year 11 - Jeffrey B, P16 - Kieran W and Chloe J - tied at 111!!!

Miss Haley, Head of House

Swinley

What a fantastic week for the Swinley students! I would like to congratulate Conor O in Year 10 who at the weekend, along with his band "Red Tape Resistance" won the Rock Week competition at the Acoustic Couch. Please keep me updated with the students out of school successes so that we can share their achievements. Thank you to all the students for their entries to the House Logo competition, winners will be announced in the House assemblies next week.

Congratulations to our House Point winners this week:

Year 7 Ellie Y, Year 8 Shah C, Year 9 Tiana B, Year 10 Lauren W, Year 11 Emily L, Year 12/13 Kiera H.

Mrs A Raby, Head of House

Jennetts

Hello Jennetts Parents,

This week we have had entries for our Logo competition and they look amazing, a huge thank you goes to any students who have submitted entries, and to parents for encouraging this; watch this space for the entries names, runners up and winners!

The week after next we have our house assemblies and I'm really looking forward to getting together and celebrating our successes. Because of this, I am going to hold on to the top achievers to build some suspense - It is tight at the top!

Mr Duffy, Head of House

PE News

This week has been another busy week for the PE department, with a change of clubs and period 6 lessons starting. Please make sure you have seen the new extra-curricular timetable and turn up to a club.

Just a reminder, these are the clubs that have changed:

- U13 Football will be moving to Tuesday
- Handball will be on Wednesday Lunchtime
- U14 football will be moving to Thursday
- There will be no GCSE or BTEC revision on Fridays

Reward Trip

On Sunday we have our first extra-curricular reward trip of the year to the Barclay Card Arena to watch the Mens' and Womens' British Basketball Finals. It is going to be a brilliant day, photos will appear on twitter and the full write up will be in next week's parent news.

Remember if you want to be involved in the next reward trip, please make sure you are attending as many clubs as possible.

Today we have has the Year 10 leaders out again, leading the local Year 7/8 indoor athletics competition as well as the Year 5/6 indoor athletic finals. More details and the results from our Year 7/8 competitors to follow in next week's parent news.

This week our Young Ambassadors Emily, Hannah and Miriam have had two meetings, where they got to meet the other young ambassadors as well as start their qualification. They also had a training day at Theale Green School in Reading, where they had a range of workshops on how to lead and run a successful event. I look forward to them putting their knowledge to the test when they organise a school event.

Athlete of the week

This week our athlete of the week is awarded to Reece P. He was a vital part of the Year 10 football team winning their game last week and scoring a hat-trick. Well done Reece.

Fixtures for next week

- Tuesday 30th Jan - Year 10 Football v Cox Green @ Home
- Thursday 1st Feb - Inclusive Zone Wheelchair Basketball @ Kennet School 12.30 -2pm - more details to follow.
Year 8 Football v Egbarrow @ Edgbarrow

Miss L Willimott, Lead Coordinator of Girls PE and Teacher in Charge of Health and Social Care

PE EXTRA CURRICULAR

MONDAYS - STAFF MEETINGS

TUESDAY
 HOCKEY - ALL YEARS - LWI
 NETBALL - ALL YEARS -LRU
 U15 FOOTBALL - CMY
 U13 FOOTBALL - WYE

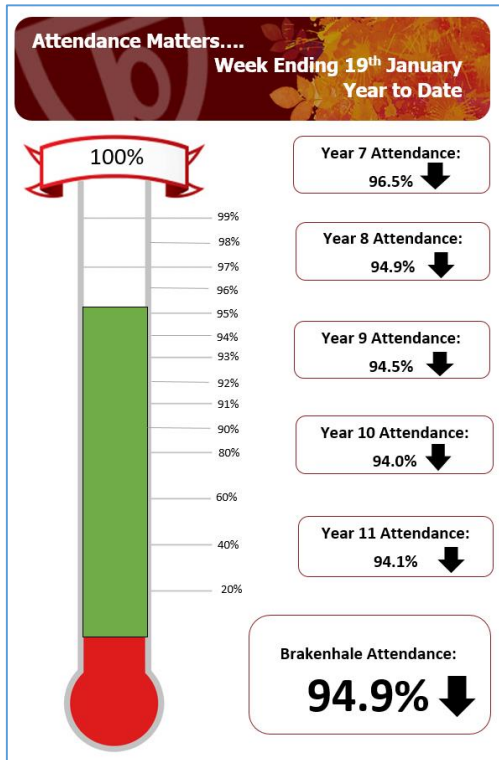
WEDNESDAY
 TABLE TENNIS - ALL YEARS -WYE
 GIRLS FOOTBALL - ALL YEARS - CMY
 U16 FOOTBALL - PSI (GRASS PITCH)
 LUNCH - HANDBALL -JBO

THURSDAY
 U14 FOOTBALL - JBO
 U12 FOOTBALL - RBE
 TRAMPOLINING - ALL YEARS - LWI
 BADMINTON - ALL YEARS - LRU
 DRY SKIING (SKI TRIP ONLY) - FEB AND MARCH

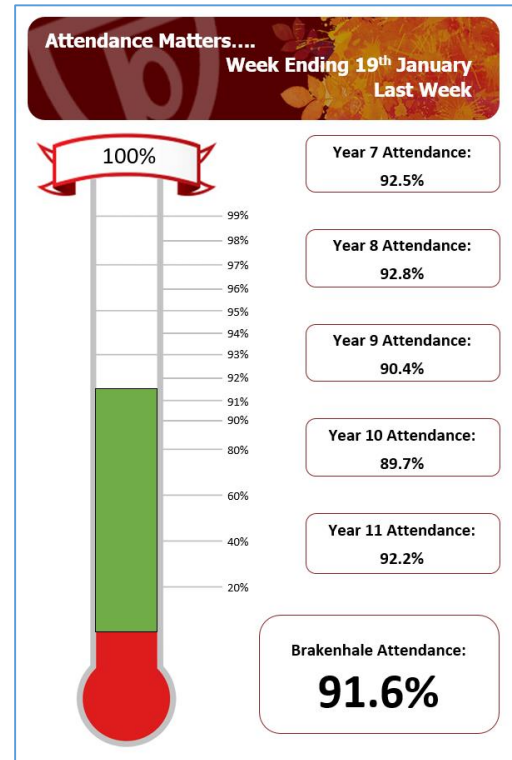
@BRAKENHALEPE

Attendance

This Year so far



Last Week



Last week's attendance took a tumble and we finished on 91.6%, however that was better than last year by half a percent. Year to date we tumbled below our target of 95% finishing the week on 94.9% but again we are still 1% ahead of this point last year.

We still have plenty to celebrate; we have 645 students whose attendance is above 95% which is 93 more students than last year and 227 100%ers, which is exactly 100 more students than last year!

Students arriving late have been on the increase recently. Students should be in tutor by 8.40am and the student gates will be shut by this time, meaning students have to come through main reception, earning them a detention. Please can I ask for your support to encourage students to school in good time to arrive at school on time for tutor and to avoid having lunchtime detentions for lateness.

I really appreciate that you are contacting me to keep me up to date with appointments, illness and reasons that students are not in school, please don't stop! You can contact me via text, email or by calling in, but please do not leave the same message on all three!

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



If you have any unwanted Christmas gifts we would be grateful if you would consider donating them to the Parent Teacher Association. We can then use these gifts to help raise funds through school raffles or as prizes at events where we hold our very popular Tombola stall.

Your unwanted gifts can generate funds for the PTA, which we then pass onto the school to benefit our children.

If you have any suitable items, please drop them into main reception. Thank you.

Parenting Workshop at the Open learning centre

Tuesday 20th February 6.30pm - 8.30pm

Self Esteem

- What is self esteem?
- Exploring why having positive self esteem is important?
- How can we help our children grow in their self esteem?

To book a place please email tgosling@brakenhale.co.uk or contact T Gosling (FSW) on 01344 465045



Easy Fundraising!

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



School Lottery

Don't forget to join up and purchase your tickets to start helping our school. If you haven't signed up now would be the time. This is an easy way to help us to make money for the school and be in with a chance for winning. Thank you to all who have bought tickets and who continue to support the school.

So far we have raised...

Since we launched the lottery in March last year we have raised the fantastic amount of **£976** for the school.

Why not join today and not only will you be in with a chance of winning in the weekly prize draws but you will be helping to raise money for the school at the same time.

Click here to [Support the Brakenhale Lottery](#)

Our School Lottery is a fun and effective way to raise money to help improve our school but we need your help to make it the best it can be.

Why not join now!



Future Diary Dates

Wednesday 7 th February	Whole School Show – School of Rock
Thursday 8 th February	Whole School Show – School of Rock
Monday 12 th to Friday 16 th February	Half Term

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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