



Dear Parents/Carers

This week has been the first full week back after the Christmas Holidays and the term has started extremely positively. Students are all working really hard and we are very impressed by their focus and engagement.

Our Year 11 students have been taking Health and Social Care BTEC and National IT exams this week, they have applied themselves very maturely to the revision sessions and approached the examinations with real determination. Our Sixth Form students have also been taking their Pre Public Examinations along with Health and Social Care BTEC and the Functional Skills Maths exam. Both the external and internal tests are a key part of the students' final preparations for their June examinations and overall BTEC grades and as with the Year 11 students those at Post 16 have approached this stressful time with real focus and a positive learning attitude. A number of Year 12 students sat Maths and English GCSE resit examinations in November and the results were published this week. Despite even higher grade boundaries we were delighted that so many of them have now achieved the magic level 4 (equivalent to an old style GCSE C Grade) and above.

Year 8 have had their outward-bound trip this week and they had a fantastic time. I would like to express my thanks to Mr Kingston and Miss Rushby who gave up their entire week to accompany the students, including camping out all night on the Welsh mountains on Wednesday, lots of pictures to follow! Today sees the start of Year 8 Book Look week and I would urge parents/carers to look through the work that your child brings home to see how they are getting on. As always, feedback from these events is very useful.

Students of the week this week are as follows:

Alice Macdonald and Celestine Asare in Year 8 – For their amazing support in the LRC every lunch and break time.

Harry Hales in Year 11 – for using his extensive IT knowledge to support the whole school IT system and work alongside the IT technicians to ensure that the student perspective is always covered;

As mentioned last week, this week we have introduced the 'Staff member of the week' nomination and our first winner is Mrs Harbour, who continually goes about her job in a professional way, as summed up by the Year 10 student who nominated her: *"Although all of my teachers at school are motivating, Mrs Harbour is so motivating, especially when Maths is hard and sometimes I almost give up. She also engages with our class making Maths a more enjoyable lesson. Thanks Miss!"*

The PTA has a meeting on Tuesday evening at 7.30pm and I would like to take this opportunity to invite anyone who is interesting in joining to attend. All parents/carers are welcome.

Finally, Thursday is parents' evening for our Year 8s. We would encourage attendance at this evening as it is a really good opportunity to understand how your son/daughter is progressing by speaking directly to their teachers.

Our quote of the week for next week is **'We are all of us stars and we deserve to twinkle'** – Marilyn Monroe. It is really important that all of our young people have a sense of positivity about themselves and that we do all we can to develop and promote this.

Have a great weekend!

Jane Coley, Headteacher

## What's on

This week

Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> January

Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> January

**Year 8 Book Look Week**

**PGL Revision Trip Information Evening, 7-7.30pm**

**PTA Meeting, 7.30pm**

**Year 8 Parents' Evening, 4-7pm**

## 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
- Midday Supervisor

## Year 8 Book Look Week



Next week is Book Look Week for Year 8.

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 8 parents' evening on Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> January 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*

## Lost Property



We have accumulated a very large quantity of lost property recently.

On Monday and Tuesday next week, between 3 and 4pm, students and parents are welcome to come and look through lost property for any missing items.

Please come into school via the Coningsby gate – we will have the lost property under the shelter of the Heads of Year office.

*Mrs McCroire, Curriculum Support Assistant*

## 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<sup>th</sup> March ~ 9.30-11am**

**Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> May ~ 1.30-3pm**

**Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> June ~ 9.30-11am**

Brakenhale School  
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tgosling@brakenhale.co.uk

High Expectations and Challenge for All

## Supporting Thames Valley Air Ambulance

Thank you to everyone who has 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.



## Year 8 Aberdovey Trip

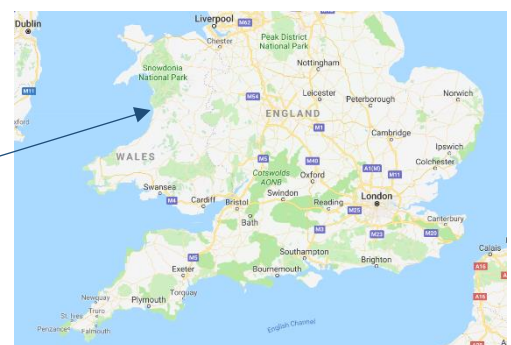
We have had an amazing week in the Welsh Mountains with 11 very lucky Year 8 students. The week started off with the students navigating their way to Aberdovey on the train. The following day we all plunged into the freezing mountain waters for some gorge walking. Mr Kingston and Ethan were brave enough to complete the 40-year tradition of the jetty jump!

On day 3 the group climbed Cadair Idris, up to the 'bottomless lake'. 650m of climbing in the sunshine to enjoy some amazing views of the surrounding countryside. That night we camped out at the foot of the mountain in sub-zero temperatures!!!! Amazing star gazing at night with a shooting star show to finish off a great day of exploring.

Day 4 was our final day of activities with many facing their fear of heights to complete the high wire Jacobs ladder challenge. All this was topped off perfectly with a night-time beach bonfire and a chance to reflect on all the personal achievements of the week.

Mr Kingston and myself would like to thank each member of the group for their outstanding resilience during a challenging week. Everyone achieved beyond their own expectations and have hopefully gained memories that will last a lifetime.

*Miss Rushby and Mr Kingston*



## Arts Update

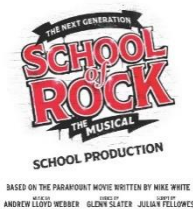
### Dance and Drama News

We are delighted that Year 13 student Kieran West has been offered and accepted a place at Northern School of Contemporary Dance for the BA (HONS) Dance course. He auditioned against 700 other students worldwide to gain one of 70 places to study at the prestigious institute. The school is internationally recognised for its excellence and is one of the top 3 institutes in the UK. We are incredibly proud of the progress Kieran has made throughout his time at Brakenhale and are incredibly excited to see what the future holds for him.

We are also pleased to announce that Year 13 Dance and Drama student Chloe Johnson has been offered a place to study Musical Theatre at Chichester University. Chichester University has gained national recognition for its arts provision, including its excellent industry links, facilities and forward thinking courses. We are incredibly proud of Chloe for successfully auditioning and gaining a place on this exciting and competitive course.

*Miss Haley, Head of Dance and Drama*

### School of Rock



The cast continue to impress staff with their effort and talent!

Rehearsals for our whole school Music, Dance and Drama extravaganza 'School of Rock' are on Wednesdays and Thursdays after school, from 3.05pm to 4.30pm.

The performances are due to take place on Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> and Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> February. Not long now!

*Mrs Raby, Teacher of Dance and Drama*

## PE News

As we are coming to the end of our first full week of 2018, it has been a quieter one for the PE department as we have not started extra-curricular clubs yet!

We have had around 16 Year 10 students out today at a Primary School Athletic Competition. They have been leading the event. The full write up will follow in next week's parent news.

**Extracurricular Clubs** will start on TUESDAY 16<sup>th</sup> JANUARY. Please make sure you have seen the new timetable and come along to a club.

Our extra-curricular reward trip will be taking place on Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> January and we will be heading to Birmingham to watch the British Finals for both Men and Women. It is a brilliant day out. Make sure you are turning up to clubs so you are selected for the next reward trip.

### Fixtures for next week

- Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> January - Year 10 Football v St.Barts @ Home
- Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> January - Year 11 Football v Charters @ Home  
Year 7 Football v Dittion Park @ Away
- Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> January - Year 8 Football v Ranelagh @ Bracknell Town Football Club

### Upcoming Dates for Leaders and Young Ambassadors

- Friday 19<sup>th</sup> January - Year 10 Athletic Leaders @ Bracknell Leisure Centre - Round 2
- Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> January - Young Ambassadors @ Theale Green School - All day
- Friday 26<sup>th</sup> January - Year 9 Athletic Leaders @ Bracknell Leisure Centre

*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  
 HANDBALL - ALL YEARS - JBO  
 NETBALL - ALL YEARS - LEU  
 U15 FOOTBALL - CMY

WEDNESDAY  
 TABLE TENNIS - ALL YEARS - WYE  
 U14 FOOTBALL - JBO  
 GIRLS FOOTBALL - ALL YEARS - CMY  
 U16 FOOTBALL - P91 + RBE (GRASS PITCH)

THURSDAY  
 U13 FOOTBALL - WYE  
 U12 FOOTBALL - RBE  
 TRAMPOLINING - ALL YEARS - LWI  
 BADMINTON - ALL YEARS - LRU  
 DRY SKIING (SKI TRIP ONLY) - FEB AND MARCH

FRIDAY  
 GCSE REVISION  
 BTEC CATCH UP  
 YEAR 10 +11

support  
 grammar  
 notetaking  
 exams  
 revision  
 essay  
 guidance  
 skill  
 describe

@BRAKENHALEPE

## News from our School Houses



### Farley

Welcome back to all the Farley members. I hope all students have had a lovely Christmas break, and are ready to get back and start the school term. I can't believe that it's already 2018! It's incredible how fast time flies.

So far this term we have had our first member of Farley reach 100 house points, so they will receive a prize. This sets the new target to 150 house points!

Currently, the leaders in each year are:

Year 7 - Victoria T; Year 8 - Luke T; Year 9 - Kayleigh D; Year 10 - Jemma T; Year 11 - Kaitlyn B.

A massive well done to these students. It's great to see their commitment 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, students get house points for joining an after school group and attending. They can gain points, make new friends, and try something new. The new P.E after school timetable has been released, and should be on tutor display boards, so student should check it out and try an activity.

A shout out to Year 8 students in Farley – out of the 7 tutor groups in the year, Farley has either the highest or joint highest points in the tutor group. It really shows that Year 8s are working incredibly hard!

The deadline for the house logo competition for Farley is the 26<sup>th</sup> January, so entries should be submitted as soon as possible. The logo will need to include the word 'Farley' and have a picture of a fox on it. Other than that, it is up to each individual. Students don't need to be amazing at art to do this. It can be hand-drawn or they can base it off pictures they find. Just make it their own. House points will be awarded just for entering, and the winner will get extra points and an additional prize. Please hand them in to reception or to myself in B16 or the Business and ICT staff room.

Finally, I hope all of Farley have a fantastic week, and settle back into the school routines. If anyone has any ideas of what they can do to gain extra house points then they can come and see me.

*Mr Bell, Head of House*



### Jennetts

Happy new year Team Jennetts!

And a happy new year it is indeed... We start the year having finished last year IN FIRST PLACE! Imagine that! I'd like to say really well done to absolutely everyone in achieving such a great total - everyone has contributed at least 1 house point over the first term, so Jennetts members can all feel a sense of pride in what they have achieved so far; well done. We don't stop there though, and there are no prizes for first place at Christmas!

We have our Logo Competition in full swing, so please make sure, if students are artistically inclined (and even if they are not!), that entries are handed in to me. Our house sports team name is 'The Jennetts Dragonflies', so the design of our logo should be based around that. Hand them in by the 26<sup>th</sup> January, and we will announce the winners in the next House Assembly during the week of the 5<sup>th</sup> February.

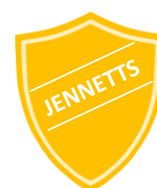
We had our 'House Heros' certificates handed out during our last house assembly, but the totals are changing all the time. Here are the leaders in each of the year groups at the moment:

Year 7: Petra-Louise M - Year 8: Celestine A (beating Alice M by 1 point!) - Year 9: Kayleigh L - Year 10: Emily C - Year 11: Sarah D - Post 16: Faye B.

It is tight at the top though so it's all to play for Jennetts! Well done to everyone above. Now, it might just be me, but I don't see any boy's names there - raise your game gentlemen!

It's been an absolute pleasure so far, keep up the good work!

*Mr Duffy, Head of House*



## Swinley

I am delighted to be introducing myself as the new Head of Swinley House.

Last term was a real success for our House both in terms of points awarded for excellent work and for success in the sporting competitions. I was also incredibly impressed with the number of Swinley students who were nominated for achievement awards across the different subjects.



I have already started to receive entries for the logo competition, and look forward to making the final decision with our art teachers; don't forget the deadline is Friday 26<sup>th</sup> January.

In a bid to get to know the students in my Swinley House a little better, I would like to encourage them to contact me with any achievements in and out of school, so that we can share the excellence within our House.

Congratulations to the following students for achieving the most house points to date:

Year 7: Ellie Y - Year 8: Travis T - Year 9: Tiana B - Year 10: Lauren W - Year 11: Emily L - Year 12/13: James M.

Looking to this new term, we need to continue to work hard in lessons to achieve those all important House Points. Keep up the good work.

*Mrs Raby, Head of House*

## Temple

Welcome back Temple House! I hope students had a fantastic break and rest because they need to be ready to work their socks off this term.



We really need to catch up with house points, we have gone from a position of strength to chasing behind the other houses. I know we can do it and I know we can get ourselves back into our rightful position of first place. Keep earning those points and push a little more - every point counts!

The logo competition deadline is the 26<sup>th</sup> January and I need as many entries as possible - I already have some beautiful submissions, thank you to those who have entered. I now want more of the Temple students to get involved and produce something that will represent our house and animal.

As always I am super impressed with our individual house points, here are the top earners for each year group;

Year 7 - Rebecca W, Year 8 - Zach B, Year 9 - Victoria M, Year 10 - Abbey W, Year 11 - Jeffrey B, Sixth form - Chloe J.

*Miss Haley, Head of House*

## Year 11 Extra Study Support

In order to support students to achieve their potential in the summer exams, from Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> January we will be introducing daily period 6 additional study support sessions, from 3.05pm to 4.05pm.

This initiative will give students the best possible chance of success in their final exams in May/June. The new GCSEs our students are sitting in the summer are more demanding and this programme will ensure content is fully covered and sufficient time is given for revision and exam preparation in the run up to May.

We appreciate your continued support.

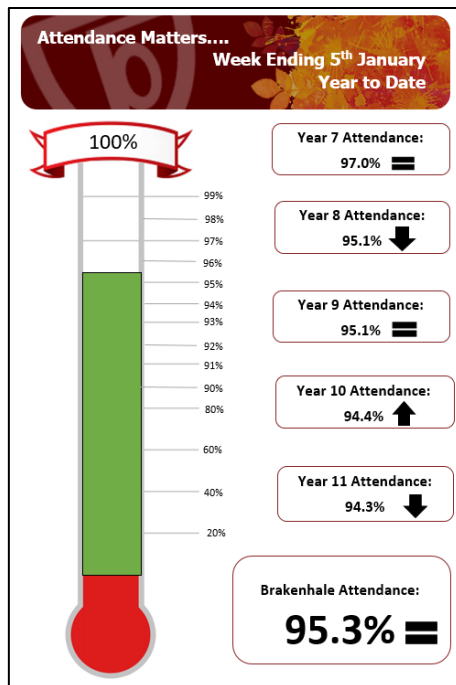
A schoolcomms message has been sent out to all Year 11 parents explaining how this support will work. If you have any questions or concerns please do not hesitate to contact me at school.

*Mr P Gibson, Deputy Headteacher*

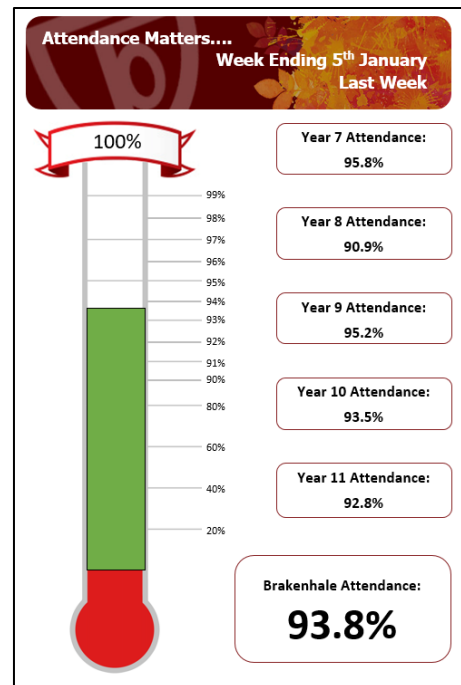


## Attendance

### This Year so far



### Last Week



Our year-to-date attendance result didn't move after our first week of the new term, we held fast at 95.3%. Years 7 and 9 had a fabulous week, achieving our target of 95%, however Year 8 had the most challenging week I have ever seen at 90% and Year 11's attendance was only 92%.

**Year 11 students** only have approximately 14 weeks or 70 days left of school until their exams start in the summer. Every day they are not in school will mean that they are missing out on work that is preparing them for these exams. We want the students to feel as supported as possible and we can only do that when they are in school!

**Year 8 parents**, every mark matters! If students are feeling a bit under the weather, please send them in and rest assured, if they are not able to make it through the day, they will be able to visit the nurse who will support them in anyway she can and get them home to you if she feels they are too unwell to be in school.

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 effecting attendance then please do not hesitate to get in touch by telephone on 01344 465050 or by email on [schoolattendance@brakenhale.co.uk](mailto:schoolattendance@brakenhale.co.uk)

*Mrs Evans, Attendance Office*

## Brakenhale Canteen

A normal 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*



## 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.



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](#)

This term School Lottery are offering the chance to win a family ticket to Warner Brothers Harry Potter Studio Tour. You can find full details on their website.

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!

## Easy Fundraising

With [easyfundraising.org.uk](http://easyfundraising.org.uk) you collect free donations to your selected cause every time you shop. You can make a big difference on everything from groceries to getaways and it doesn't cost you a penny!

When you shop the easyfundraising way with one of their 3083 shops and sites they give easyfundraising a commission for your purchase which is turned into a donation for your selected good cause.

When you visit the website [easyfundraising.org.uk](http://easyfundraising.org.uk) - simply search for the retailer you want to shop with and click out to them using the green 'Go Shopping' button. You will be taken straight to the retailer's website and your experience will be identical as if you had gone there directly but easyfundraising will be able to track your purchase to ensure a donation for your good cause.

You can also install their Donation Reminder - this means a box will appear if you are shopping with a retailer who participates in the Donation Reminder and you don't even need to visit the easyfundraising site! All you need to do is click Activate Donations and any eligible purchase will be recorded for you. Take a look at the Donation Reminder [here](#). The Donation Reminder is supported by Chrome, Firefox, Internet Explorer and Safari but can't work on mobile phones or tablets.

Shopping on your mobile? No problem, for mobile phones and tablets there is the handy easyfundraising App, perfect if you like to shop on the go and available completely free of charge from your App store. Now not only can you shop using it but you can check out your own donation total and see how your cause is getting on too. More information can be found [here](#).

Don't forget to shop through [www.easyfundraising.org.uk](http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk) to effortlessly help raise money for the school!





## Future Diary Dates

Tuesday 23 <sup>rd</sup> January	<b>Assemblies led by Reading University</b>
Thursday 1 <sup>st</sup> February	<b>Year 9 Options Evening</b>
Friday 2 <sup>nd</sup> February	<b>Parent Support Group Meeting, 1.30-3pm</b>
Wednesday 7 <sup>th</sup> February	<b>Whole School Show – School of Rock</b>
Thursday 8 <sup>th</sup> February	<b>Whole School Show – School of Rock</b>
Monday 12 <sup>th</sup> to Friday 16 <sup>th</sup> February	<b>Half Term</b>

### Term Dates 2017-18

#### SPRING TERM 2018

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

#### SUMMER TERM 2018

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

### Term Dates 2018-19

#### AUTUMN TERM 2018

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

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

**#challengeforall**

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