

Brakenhale School Parent News

5th January 2018



Dear Parents/Carers

Welcome back! I hope you all had a great Christmas and New Year and that each of you feels rested for the term ahead. This week, although short, has definitely been busy and the students and staff have hit the ground running. I would like to thank you for ensuring that students have returned back to school in the right frame of mind and following the uniform policy.

I have spoken to all students this week in assemblies about coping with change. This term will see many new initiatives as well as potential changes of sets and teachers. We always encourage students to face change positively but to come and talk to us when they are struggling. In terms of change we have decided to introduce a 'motivational quote of the week' in order to focus the whole school on one key philosophy. This will be displayed on the front door and on our reception TV every Monday and we will also reiterate this during our assemblies. Next week the quote is 'Be an opener of doors' - Ralph Waldo Emerson. I have spoken to students about this and I am encouraging them to not only open doors for others in the practical sense but also to have an open mind about change and about learning in general. We are also introducing certificates for house points (the old achievement points). 50 points is Bronze, 100 Silver, Gold 150 and for the top 5% in each year group there will be a Platinum award at the end of the academic year. We are really keen to make sure that all students are rewarded for their progress and efforts and we will continue to focus on ways to do this.

A further new initiative which will launch next week is our reading in tutor trial which starts with Year 9. This is an exciting project whereby tutors will be reading 3 mornings a week to their tutor groups who will all have a copy of the same book to follow. Other schools within the Greenshaw Trust have adopted the programme with very positive impact so if it goes to plan we will be looking to roll out to all year groups.

Today our Year 11 students received their PPE (pre public exams) results. This was organised so that they had an envelope under their chairs containing their results which mimicked the system used to distribute GCSE results on the day. We had lots of happy students and we were able to talk to students directly where they had not achieved their full potential, to discuss the interventions that we will now be putting in place. Year 11 will also start their BTEC exams next week and we wish them the best of luck.

Finally, Friday sees the start of Book Look week for our Year 8 students and we would urge parents/carers to ask their children about seeing their books. It is as always vital that we receive feedback on this as we use this to improve the quality of our marking.

Best wishes

Jane Coley, Headteacher

What's on

Monday 8 th January	Aberdovey Trip – selected students Sixth Form Pre Public Exams PPEs Year 9 Immunisations
Friday 12 th January	Year 8 Book Look Week

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
- Teaching Assistant
- Safeguarding Administrator
- Midday Supervisor

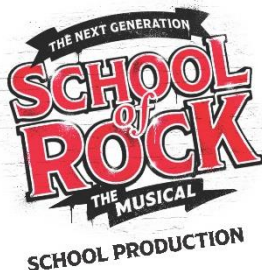
Arts Update

Dance and Drama News

The Dance and Drama department would like to send a big congratulations to Keir B and Emma W for their performances in the South Hill Park pantomime Beauty and the Beast. Both students have been involved in performances throughout December and over Christmas time. Thank you for representing the school and department in such a positive way!

Miss Haley, Head of Dance and Drama

School of Rock



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

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 7th and Thursday 8th February. Not long now!

Mrs Raby, Teacher of Dance and Drama

PE News

@brakenhalePE

Welcome back, the PE department hope you have had lovely and restful break.

Our new extra-curricular timetable starts on Tuesday 9th January. Please check it out and come along!

We also have our reward trip to the Basketball Finals coming up on Sunday 28th January. Check your emails to see if you are one of the lucky ones who have been invited. If you haven't don't worry about it, come along to as many extra-curricular clubs this term and see where the next reward trip will be!

Next week we have the following fixtures:

Thursday 11th Jan - KS3 and KS4 Boys and Girls v Edgbarrow @ Home

Friday 12th Jan - Year 10 Leaders - Primary School Athletics - 9am -3pm @ 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

<p>TUESDAY HOCKEY - ALL YEARS - LWI HANDBALL - ALL YEARS - JBO NETBALL - ALL YEARS - LRU U15 FOOTBALL - CMY</p> 	<p>WEDNESDAY TABLE TENNIS - ALL YEARS - WYE U14 FOOTBALL - JBO GIRLS FOOTBALL - ALL YEARS - CMY U16 FOOTBALL - PGI + RBE (GRASS PITCH)</p> 
<p>THURSDAY U13 FOOTBALL - WYE U12 FOOTBALL - RBE TEAMBOLINING - ALL YEARS - LWI BADMINTON - ALL YEARS - LRU DRY SKIING (SKI TRIP ONLY) - FEB AND MARCH</p> 	<p>FRIDAY GCSE REVISION BTEC CATCH UP YEAR 10 +11</p> <div style="font-size: small; text-align: center;"> support grammar notetaking exams revision guidance essay skill describe </div> 

@BRAKENHALEPE

News from our School Houses



A reminder to all students that the House competition to design your House logo and mascot nickname is currently open.

Deadline for entries is Friday 26th January.

Students should email or deliver in person their design to their Head of House:

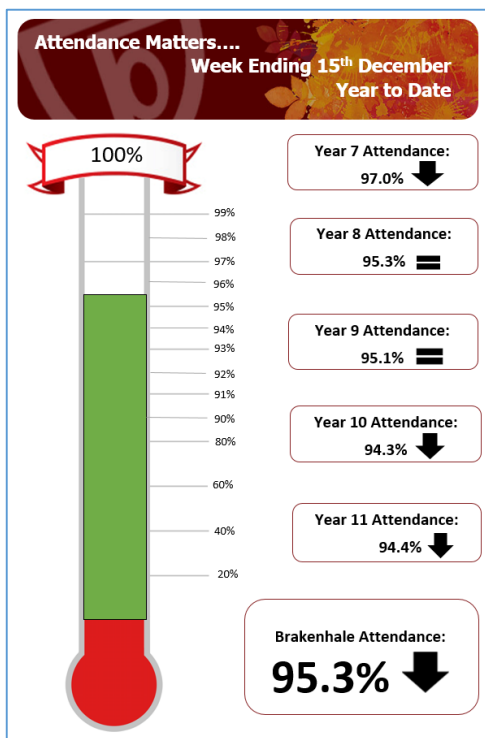
- SWINLEY - Miss Raby (Drama)
- JENNETTS - Mr Duffy (Music)
- TEMPLE - Miss Haley (Dance)
- FARLEY - Mr Bell (Business)

Winners will be announced in House assemblies at the end of this half term. We look forward to receiving your creative masterpieces!

Mr Yeates, Head of PE

Attendance

This Year so far



Happy New Year!

I hope that the students are rested, ready for the next term and eager for this term's attendance challenge!

For this spring term, at the front of the student planners there is a section that highlights the student's attendance and how they can positively effect this in the coming term. We have set all of the students an incentive to achieve 100% attendance this term. Any student achieving 100% attendance from the 3rd January to the 28th March will be entered in to a draw to win cinema tickets before the Easter break!

Any students that are persistently absent (below 90%) will be set individual challenges with incentives to improve over the coming week and these will be tailored to the individual to ensure that they are achievable.

We have made such a brilliant start to this academic year, working together to encourage students to school more often.

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 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

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

Health Zone

Can we please remind Year 9 parents that the Immunisation team will be returning to offer the school leaver booster dose of tetanus, diphtheria and polio (Td/IPV) and a dose of Meningitis ACWY (MenACWY) to all Year 9 students. There will also be catch-up immunisation for students who have not received 2 doses of the MMR vaccinations when they were younger.

These Year 9 vaccinations will be taking place on Monday 8th January 2018. Consent forms should have been returned to the Health Coordinator in the medical room.

If you have any questions or concerns please do not hesitate to contact our Health Coordinator at school on 01344 465049.

Mrs Ball, Health Coordinator

Examinations Update

The Sixth Form will be sitting their Pre Public Exams next week in the main hall:

	Monday 8 th Jan	Tuesday 9 th Jan	Wednesday 10 th Jan	Thursday 11 th Jan	Friday 12 th Jan
Period 1	Yr 13 – Maths C1 1 Hour 30	Yr 12 English (6) 1 Hour 30	Yr 12 Media (8) 2 Hours	Yr 13 Psychology(8) 2 Hours	Yr 13 Geography (4) 1 Hour 30
	Yr 12 Product Design(4) 1 Hour 30	Yr 13 – English (3) 3 Hours	Yr 13 Maths C3 1 Hour 30	Yr 13 Geography (4) 1 Hour 30	Yr 12 Criminology (24) 1 Hour 30
Period 2	Yr 13 English (3) 2 Hour 30	Yr 13 Biology(3) 2 Hours 15	Yr 13 TT(7) 2 Hours	Yr 13 – Mechanics 1 (1)	Yr 13 Computer Science (4) 1 Hour 30 Paper 2
	Yr 12 Biology (11) 1 Hour 30	Yr 13 Further Pure 2 (1)	Yr 13 Statistics 2 (1)	Yr 12 Economics (6) 1 Hour 30	Yr 13 – Maths C2 1 Hour 30
Period 3	Yr 12 – English (6) 1 Hour 30	Yr 13 Chemistry(3) 2 Hour 15	Yr 13 Chemistry(3) 1 Hour 30	Yr 13 Physics(2) 2 Hour 15	Yr 13 Physics (2) 1 hour 30
	Yr 13 Chemistry(3) 2 Hour 15	Yr 12 Physics(3) 1 Hour 30	Yr 13 Psychology(8) 2 Hour	Yr 12 Geography (13) 1 Hour 30	Yr 13 Economics (2) 2 Hour
Period 4	Yr 12 Chemistry (9) 1 hour 30	Year 12 Psychology(7) 1 Hour 30	Yr 13 History(5) Late Tudors 1 Hour 30	Yr 12 Business Studies(6) 2 Hour	Yr 13 French(1) 2 Hour
	Yr 13 Further Maths (1)	Year 13 Computer Science(4) Paper 1 1 Hour 30	Yr 12 History(3) 1 Hour 30	Yr 13 Biology (3) 1 Hour 30	Yr 13 Biology(3) 2 Hours 15
			Yr 12 Computer Science(3) 1 Hour 30		Yr12 Functional Skills Maths Actual Exam
Period 5	Normal Lessons				

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 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 - 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 to effortlessly help raise money for the school!



Future Diary Dates

Tuesday 16 th January	PTA Meeting
Thursday 18 th January	Year 8 Parents' Evening, 4-7pm
Tuesday 23 rd January	Assemblies led by Reading University
Thursday 1 st February	Year 9 Options Evening
Wednesday 7 th February	School Show – School of Rock
Thursday 8 th February	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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High Expectations and Challenge for All