

Brakenhale School

End of Term Parent News

15th December 2017



Dear Parents/Carers

We are finally at the end of our first term of 2017-18. This year has gone very quickly! We have been working right up to the very end of the week and a number of events have taken place. Monday night saw the ever-successful Music concert with a large number of young people showcasing their talents. We are very lucky to have such confident students willing to get up on stage and entertain us, in addition such great staff in Mr Duffy and Miss Hope to encourage and support them.

House assemblies have taken place across the week with large numbers of students being rewarded for the contributions they have made to their house. I would like to take the opportunity to say a big thank you to Mr Yeates who has set up our new system along with our four Heads of House; Mr Duffy, Miss Haley, Mr Jackson-Sankey and Mr Bell. Although we are all very sad to see Mr Jackson-Sankey leaving, we are incredibly pleased that Ms Raby will be taking over as Head of Swinley House from January.

On Thursday afternoon over 200 students from Year 7, 8 and 9 were treated to a film, popcorn and drinks to acknowledge and celebrate their success across this term. So many young people get it right every single day and it is extremely important to me that they are recognised for meeting our high expectations.

This morning we held our Christmas assemblies, unfortunately until we complete the new build we do not have a space big enough for the whole school to come together, so we had to run the assembly twice. It is always a lovely occasion and to see students singing and dancing and celebrating the end of term in such a positive way really is heart-warming. Mr Dale dressed as Santa and Mrs Palmer as his elf were a real highlight, however, even they could not beat the staff Christmas song, our very own rendition of the twelve days of Christmas. I am very fortunate to work with colleagues who are happy to embarrass themselves in order to make our students laugh, and we definitely did this!

Students of the week:

Key Stage 3: Aaqilah Chowdhury - For feedback received from the South Central Ambulance Service about her bravery in supporting the medical staff when a member of her family was rushed into hospital last week: *'We needed someone to come with us to continue the translation of our questions, which were varied and medically complicated. Aaqilah volunteered straight away, but expressed concern that it could impact on her attendance at school the next day; I assured her that the school would understand in these circumstances. Aaqilah was both a massive credit to her family and her school.'*

Key Stage 4: David Wooldridge in Year 11 - He was brilliant at doing the sound engineering bits and setting up for the music show, is doing fantastic engineering work and is helping other students in the class when they are finding things difficult! He is always really lovely and is never on the log but this week he has gone beyond!

Post 16: Chloe Johnson - For her help setting up the lights for the music show.

Thank you for all of your support this term and I wish you all a safe, restful and Happy Christmas and look forward to working with you all in 2018.

Best wishes

Jane Coley, Headteacher



What's on

Monday 18 th , Tuesday 19 th December	Inset days, no school for students
Wednesday 20 th December to Tuesday 2 nd January	Christmas Holidays
Wednesday 3 rd January	Start of Spring Term

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

Christmas Jumper Day

We were delighted to support the Save the Children charity Christmas Jumper Day today. There were many colourful and fun jumpers on show and we will let you know how much we raised next term.



Christmas Card Competition

Thank you to everyone who entered our Christmas card completion. The standard was very high and it was extremely difficult to choose a winner.

Well done to Shanika-Mai in Year 7 who produced this year's Christmas card image, and a huge well done to all the runners-up: Jessica, Clara, Kelis and Ewan in Year 7 and Stephanie in Year 8.

Supporting the Community

In November there was a devastating house fire in Quintilis, which you might have seen in the local news.

The house owner was attending the Blaze Martial Arts club at the school when she received the awful news that her house was burning. The Club wanted to do something to help the family at Christmas as they lost everything in the fire. The school lent the hall to the Club on the last Saturday of November free of charge for an event they held to help raise some money for the family for Christmas. They managed to raise £1700 for the family!

Site Team

Poppy Appeal

Members of the public wear the paper poppy on their chest as a symbol of Remembrance: to remember the fallen Service men and women killed in conflict.

Last month we helped raise £102.12 for the Poppy appeal – well done.

By donating to The Royal British Legion via the Poppy Appeal, you are helping them to help those in need within the Armed Forces community. They provide support for members of the Royal Navy, British Army, Royal Air Force, veterans and their families.



Arts Update

Dance and Drama News

A big thank you to all the students who performed as part of the Christmas Assemblies this Friday; Terranova, Dark Matter, Year 12 Dance and Year 9 Hairspray. It is fantastic to have you representing the dance department in such a positive way to the whole school. Your hard work and dedication is appreciated and I hope you enjoyed your performances.

Congratulation to Fay B in Year 13, who has auditioned and gained a place for next year at Creative Academy to study a Foundation Degree in Dance. Creative Academy is a vocational school with fantastic industry links and a growing reputation, based in Slough. We wish Fay every success with her future studies!

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.

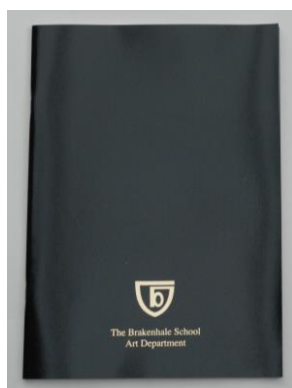
Mrs Raby, Teacher of Dance and Drama

Be Prepared!

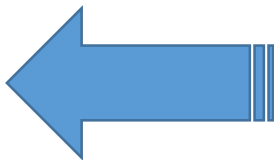


Remember to check your Tools for Learning over the Christmas break and restock any missing items.

School Office



Please don't forget that all students need to make sure they start the spring term with Art sketch books if they don't already have one. These cost £1 and are available from the print room.





The Brakenhale School
High Expectations and Challenge for All

Tools for Learning

TOOLS and EQUIPMENT for LEARNING

- Filled Pencil Case
- Scientific Calculator
- Brakenhale Art Book for Key Stage 3
- Subject Specific items for Key Stage 4
- Student Planner
- Brakenhale School Bag and Exercise Books





TOOLS FOR LEARNING PENCIL CASE

- Large Transparent Pencil Case
- 30cm Ruler
- 3 Black or Blue Pens
- HB Pencil
- Rubber
- Pencil Sharpener
- Glue Stick
- Highlighter
- Protractor
- Coloured Pencils (or Pens)



Having the right school tools makes the work neater and lessons start quicker.

A Message from the English Department

In our push to continue to raise the achievements of students in English Language and English Literature, the English Department are setting homework on Show My Homework to be completed during the winter holiday.

This homework will be set by Miss O'Brien for Key Stage 3 and Mr Anderson for Key Stage 4 (even if they are not the teachers for your child), so we ask that all parents keep a lookout for homework for all students of English Language and Literature.

The English Department



Health Zone

As advertised last month, the School Aged Immunisation team will be returning to offer the booster dose of tetanus, diphtheria and polio (Td/IPV) and a dose of Meningitis ACWY (MenACWY) to all Year 9 students.

These Year 9 vaccinations will be taking place on Monday 8th January 2018. Could parents please return the consent forms to school as soon as possible if they haven't already done so, thank you.

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

Mrs Ball, Health Coordinator

PE News

I cannot believe that it is nearly Christmas! The PE department has been just as busy this week with two fixtures, one for the U13 girls football team and another for the U15 girls football team. Write ups for these will appear in the first edition of parent news for 2018!

Extra curricular

The new extra curricular timetable is now out, this will start from Monday 8th January.



We look forward to seeing as many of you there as possible.

Details of the reward trip will be coming soon! Please keep a look out on your emails but only if you are a chosen one!

The PE department wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Let's see what 2018 will bring for @brakenhalePE

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 - LRU
 U15 FOOTBALL - CMY

WEDNESDAY
 TABLE TENNIS - ALL YEARS - WYE
 U14 FOOTBALL - JBO
 GIRLS FOOTBALL - ALL YEARS - CMY
 U16 FOOTBALL - P&I + 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
 guidance
 essay
 skill
 describe

@BRAKENHALEPE

News from our School Houses



Farley

We've made it to the end of term! It's been a great start to the school year, and I'm very proud of how hard you all have been working!

I would like to say thank you to everyone who was in the Farley assembly on Wednesday. You were all so encouraging to the students who were called to the front. It was fantastic to see how you were supporting your fellow house members.

It was lovely to end the term on so many positive points, and I really hope that we can continue this into the next term.

Remember, the first to 100 house points gets a prize!

The leaders in each year are: Victoria T – Year 7, Muriel M – Year 8, Kayleigh D – Year 9, Lacie E-S – Year 10 and Kaitlyn B – Year 11

Over the holidays, get thinking and designing those logos for Farley. Remember, it needs to include the word 'Farley' and have a picture of a fox on it. Other than that, it is up to you. I'm sure you'll do great. You'll get points for entering, and the winner will get extra and a prize. I've already had some great entries!

Have a lovely break, and I wish you all a very merry Christmas!



Mr Bell, Head of House

Jennetts

This has been our finest week yet, Jennetts. I'm proud. I had an absolutely brilliant start to my Tuesday because I got to talk to you as a group in the main hall for our assembly, and I really enjoyed it; I hope you did too. We were celebrating the successes of the term, and there were so many! Overall, we won the Rugby and Netball sports competitions, we came second in the outstanding achievement points, and we have the winner of the Christmas card competition in our house; congratulations Shanika-Mai, and also to Jessica and Clara who achieved runner-up places. I really appreciate and value the effort that is going into these house events; thank you.

We had performers in the music show on Monday evening as well, and a huge well done to Grace H, Ellie C, and Tyler P for their amazing performances - you were brilliant and we have a very talented house indeed!

Please see the table below for all the students that have produced outstanding work, and have been singled out by their teachers. What a great list. Really well done and I'm proud of each and every one of you. It's great to see that so many of you are doing outstanding things in your subjects.

Our house point total has SIGNIFICANTLY increased over the last few weeks, and here are the top point earners in each year group:

- Yr 7: Clara H
- Yr 8: Celestine A
- Yr 9: Kayleigh L (just overtook Leanne P!)
- Yr 10: Emily C
- Yr 11: Amy D and Harrison H

and our year group with the most house points is... Year 7!

Really well done. A special mention must go to Celestine A, Alice M, Leanne P, Kayleigh L and Ethan V - you guys are our top earners overall, and have all got over that 100 mark!!

We have turned our focus now to the logo competition, and seeing as we won the Christmas card competition, I see no reason why we can't win this too! Our team name for our sports franchise is 'The Jennetts Dragonflies', so get on it and start designing us some logos to use!

Thank you for a brilliant term - I hope you all have a fantastic winter break. We will see you next year!

Mr Duffy, Head of House

Swinley

We've made it!!! Thank you for an amazing term Swinley House, capped off by an awesome assembly on Thursday. It really did fill me with pride to be able to recognise so many of you for the great things you've done so far this year! Both individually and collectively you have all done yourselves proud and because of your efforts, we are top of the House Points Leader board and the first house to reach 8000 points! A special mention to Ellie Y who is the first student from Swinley to reach 100 points individually and who is the highest points scorer in the whole school so far this year!

Another well done to those who won an outstanding achievement award for a subject this half term, it is such an incredible thing to be highlighted for and shows that all your hard work is recognised. Please see the table below for all the winners, and what a list that is!

We also had some fantastic entries for the Christmas Card Competition, 16 in fact, and of those 16 we had a runner up place - well done Ewan.

I also announced the House Logo Competition on Thursday. It would be great to see as many of you as possible working on these designs over Christmas ready for we come back. Remember, the design must fit onto a crest or shield, must include our house colour and our house's iconic Bracknell animal - the squirrel!

Finally, I announced that Mrs Raby will be the new Head of House for Swinley after Christmas as I venture on to pastures new. It has been an absolute delight to be your Head of House and I hope that you continue to impress and excel long into the new year. Keep up the good work team!

I hope you all have a fantastic Christmas break and come back rested and ready keep hold of our position as the top house.

#TeamSwinley #SwinleySquirrels

Mr Jackson-Sankey, Head of House

Temple

Thank you for an amazing assembly on Monday Temple House! It was fantastic to catch up with you all and share our achievements and news from the past few weeks. Although we might not have achieved the success we wanted from the inter house rugby and netball competition or the overall outstanding achievement points for this half term we were the first house to have a student reach 100 points! Congratulations to Daisy B for being the first student out of the whole school to reach 100! Closely followed by Rebecca W - how brilliant! I'm really looking forward to more Temple students hitting 100 points – it's closer than you think, keep up the hard work. Well done to those who did win outstanding achievement for a subject this half term, it is such an incredible thing to be highlighted for and shows that all your hard work is recognised.

We had some fantastic entries for the Christmas Card Competition including two runner up places - well done to Stephanie D and Kelis C, I'm very proud of you both! It was also a pleasure to see so many of you performing in the music show on Monday night including our Year 11 House Captain and Vice Captain, Yousuf M and Danielle R. We have such talented and dedicated students in Temple, it makes me feel very lucky!

I announced the House Logo Competition on Monday and have already had some amazing entries, remember each entry will give us more house points, this is your chance to have your work showcased as part of Temple House. The local animal that represents us is the stag and I'm really looking forward to seeing even more creative designs involving this iconic animal.

I hope you all have a fantastic Christmas break and come back rested and ready to take back our lead.

Top points:

- Year 11: Jeffrey B
- Year 10: Abbey W
- Year 9: Victoria M
- Year 8: Zach B
- Year 7: Daisy B

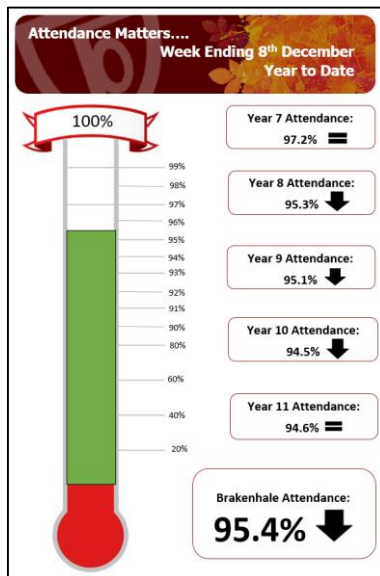
Miss Haley, Head of House

These are the students that have produced outstanding work, and have been nominated by departments. They have all received 10 house pnts for this.

Farley		Jennetts	
Summer H Sandia L Victoria T Hrisitina M Anezka C Muriel M Luke T Ben C Joshua M Harry P Ben G Jemma T Lacie E Charlotte B Rhiannon P Mirian A Marius B Sean F Daniel B Vallerie T Kaitlyn B Lauren B Maisie J Ayanna I Ellie C Jordan R Declan G A special mention to Ayanna who was nominated twice!		In KS3: Lily W in PE Petra M in Music Katie R in Science Rory C in Maths Callum D in English Ronnie E in Science James H in ICT and MFL Alice M in Dance Ethan V in Dance Leanne P in Drama Yassine A in D&T Chloe R in Geography Justin N in PE Billy P in Music Archie K in Maths In KS4: Emily C in PE and Dance Ellie C in Science Isobel W in Geography Sarah A in MFL Tyler P in Music, MFL, BTEC Technology, and BTEC Engineering (Go Tyler!) Claudia P in PE Katie C in Music Jasmine W in Art Amy D in Science Sarah D in BTEC engineering Adam F in English Harrison H in Media Charlie S in Graphics	
Swinley		Temple	
Year 7	Dance - Ellie Y Art - Ellie Y PE - Harry C	ICT - Bella H Geography - Ryan S	Year 7 Maths - Keira L Year 7 English - Eleanor W Year 7 Art - Emmanuel C Year 7 Music - Kai H Year 7 Dance - Leo C Year 7 D&T - Edward B Year 8 Maths - Ashleigh H Year 8 English - Olivia S Year 8 Science - Sally T Year 8 Music - Connie B Year 8 Geography - Zach C Year 8 Mfl - Stefano B Year 9 PE - Victoria M Year 9 Dance - Bella H Year 9 English - Seb H Year 9 Music and MFL - Erin B Year 9 ICT - Chloe R Year 10 Business Studies - Lauren J Year 10 Art - Dylan K Year 11 Drama - Charlie W Year 11 Art - Jeffrey B Year 11 Geography - Yousef M Year 11 Business Studies - Tom N Year 11 Mfl - Lucas N Year 11 Food Tech - Alyssa W Year 12 Drama - Billy C Year 13 Music - Kieran W Year 13 Dance - Fay B Year 13 Drama - Chloe J Year 13 Geography - Drew L
Year 8	Art - Bartek G Science - Jackson M Geography - Kayleigh D	MFL - Yaa A D&T - Millie S Music - Callum O	
Year 9	Art - Romy M English - Tiana B D&T - Simranjit K	Science - Alina B Maths - Pixie W Geography - Anthony O	
Year 10	PE - Ellis H Dance - Clancy O Maths - Ellicia D Graphics - Luke M Business Studies - Clancy O	Music - Jamie R Art - Laurita L Geography - Jake W Food - Louise R Photography - Will E	
Year 11	Photography - Brandon P RM - Jordan L Graphics - Raven C	BTEC Engineering - David W Food - Jacob R MFL - Georgie H	
Year 12	Music and Health & Social Care - Jess P Dance - Jade A Art and Geography - Daisy K D&T - Robbie H		
Year 13	Business Studies - David B Maths and Science - James M PE - Cerys K		

Attendance

This Year so far



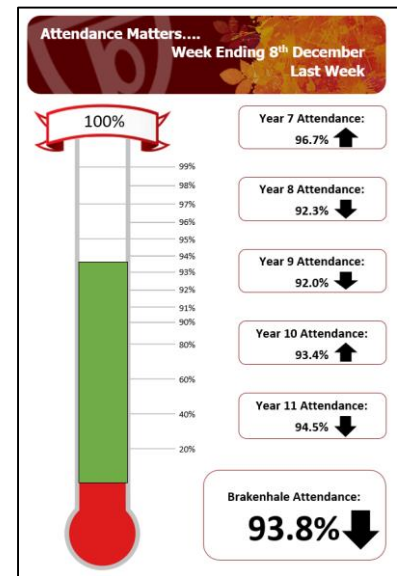
In our end of term round up these are the scores on the doors!!
 Top Tutor: 7B – 97.9%
 Top Year Group: Year 7 – 96.7%

We have had a very good term with regards to attendance, we started really strong and dwindled off towards the end but we finished on 95.4% not only above our school target of 95% also a 1.1% increase on last year. I am hoping for another really strong start to the year, so rest up and take care of yourselves ready to come back fighting fit in January! In our last assemblies of the year we will be awarding an amazon voucher in a draw of students with 100% attendance, Congratulations.

We should not forget to mention the students that haven't got 100% attendance this year but who have worked incredibly hard to be in school more often, your efforts don't go unnoticed!

Next term will see us continuing to champion attendance; we will be rewarding students that have improved their attendance and also rewarding students that achieve 100% in the spring term.

Last Week



In our end of term round up these are the scores on the doors!!
 Top House: Swinley – 95.8%
 100% attendance : 296 Students

As always thank you for your continued support. Should need support or help with 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

I want to say a huge thank you to our chef and his team for feeding 280 students and 45 staff over the two days of our Christmas Lunches, I hope all your sons and daughters enjoyed the Christmas lunch as much as we did.

Due to the possibility of late deliveries at the start of term on the 3rd January 2018 we have amended our published Week 2 Menu :

- Wednesday : Beef or Chicken Burgers with Spicy Wedges and Sweetcorn
- Thursday : Spaghetti Bolognaise
- Friday : Fish 'n Chips

We will also be adapting our main menu from the following week, to remove some of our less popular dishes. These will be sent out the first week of term.

Hope you all have a Happy Christmas and New Year.

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 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

Monday 8th January

Aberdovey Trip – selected students

Friday 12th January

Year 9 Immunisations

Tuesday 16th January

Year 8 Book Look Week

PTA Meeting

Term Dates

AUTUMN TERM 2017

Term dates for students:

Tuesday 5th September – Friday 15th December 2017

Christmas Holiday for students – Monday 18th December to Tuesday 2nd January 2018

SPRING TERM 2018

Term dates for students:

Wednesday 3rd January – 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 – 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 (date to be confirmed)

Bracknell Forest term dates can be found on their website:

<http://www.bracknell-forest.gov.uk/schooltermandholidaydates>

#challengeforall



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