

# Brakenhale School Parent News

8<sup>th</sup> December 2017



Dear Parents/Carers

We are now on the final countdown to Christmas and I know that many students and staff alike are getting very excited about hearing Santa's sleigh bells!

This week we have given out the letters for our winners of the Christmas Card competition. The winning entry was by Shanika-Mai Whitaker with an outstanding design that embraced all cultures, however, all the entries were of a top quality standard and I am very impressed by the number of students who made the effort to enter the competition. All entries received house points.

Year 11s have now completed their PPE exams and can finally relax in time for Christmas. Thank you to all the students for taking this seriously and making sure they put 100% effort in and to all the staff who made this run as smoothly as possible.

On Monday we had a dance show organised by some of our Post 16 students. The show was broken into 2 sessions and students from across the year groups were involved. There was a huge turnout, meaning that we did, in fact, run out of tickets! Thank you to all the staff and students for their hard work in ensuring this show was successful, particularly Miss Haley and Mrs Raby.

Today we have had Dr Philip Lee, our local MP, at the school working with our Post 16 students discussing his role and their view of politics. It was a very engaging session and our students asked a number of thought provoking questions. It is always a pleasure to welcome Dr Lee as he is a great supporter of the school.

Many of our students enter National competitions and do very well but to win one is a huge achievement. So, massive congratulations to Brandon Payne who has won a national film competition for his own short film which he wrote and shot alongside Danielle Rabulan, also in Year 11. More details to follow with links to the film.

Next week is the final run up to the end of term. On Monday we have the Music evening and if you would like tickets please contact the school as soon as possible. Many of our students will be showing off their skills that they have been working hard on this term. Can I also ask you to read carefully the school communication that we will be sending out today with regard to arrangements in case of adverse weather condition as I am aware that the forecast is currently predicting snow for next week. Hopefully, this will not cause any disruption to the school day but please can I ask that students are all sent into school with appropriate clothing, in particular black coats.

On Friday we will be changing the times of the day in order to allow the students to finish at 12.05pm. This will also be Christmas Jumper day. Students can wear a Christmas Jumper for a donation of £1 which will be donated to Save the Children.

### Students of the week:

Ethan Nunn for Key Stage 3 - for working all day on Monday to set up the lighting for the Variety show, learning how it worked, and for running the lighting independently for both shows in the evening.

Brandon Payne and Danielle Rabulan for Key Stage 4 – for winning a national film competition, as detailed above.

Chloe Johnson for Post 16 – who worked tirelessly on the variety show, setting up lighting, looking after students backstage and performing.

Have a good weekend and wrap up warm!

Best wishes

*Jane Coley, Headteacher*

## WINTER MUSIC SHOW



**11th December - Main Hall  
6pm - 8pm**

### FEATURING:

PROPAGANDA DECLAN GOSNEY CONOR O'GRADY  
CHLOE HAWKINS COURTNEY LITTLE BRANDON PAYNE  
ROXIE SHERATT DANIELLE RABULAN OLIVIA HUMPHERY  
TYLER PETFORD ELLIE COOPER ZOE JACKSON OLLIE BALL  
SEAN FUNANI ZOE CARTER JAIME ROBINSON  
AND MANY MORE...

## What's on next week

Monday 11 <sup>th</sup> December	<b>Winter Music Show, 6-8pm</b>
Tuesday 12 <sup>th</sup> December	<b>Presentation of Awards</b>
Friday 15 <sup>th</sup> December	<b>Christmas Jumper day</b> <b>Last day of term for students, school closes at 12.05pm for students</b>

## 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 & Second in Science
- PE Teacher with Specialism in Science
- Assistant Caretaker
- Teaching Assistant
- Safeguarding Administrator
- Midday Supervisor

The EAL department is also looking for a Romanian-speaking volunteer to support students within the department. Please contact Miss Cmok at the school if you are able to help or would like more information.

## Christmas Jumper Day

We are delighted to be supporting the Save the Children charity Christmas Jumper Day on:

**Friday 15<sup>th</sup> December**

For a donation of £1 students can wear their Christmas jumpers over normal school uniform. Please note that all other uniform must be worn as usual.



## Art in Action

### The Creative Process - Art and Design Study Day for Post 16

On Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> December Mrs Hemmings and I were very fortunate to be able to take our Art and Photography students to London this week to participate in a study day at the Emmanuel Centre, organised by The Creative Process.

There were 4 exciting speakers (including Zandra Rhodes), who each gave a talk about their work, their inspirations and their processes, providing a unique insight into their practice. This gave our post-16 students the opportunity to collect primary research material for their studies and hopefully to gain new inspiration for their own art and photographic projects.

The students themselves were a joy to take out, demonstrating the best of Brakenhale school, showing enthusiasm and enjoyment of the day and the opportunity to photograph the Christmas lights of London on their way back to the station!

*Miss Wilhelmy and Ms Hemmings, Art/Photography Teachers*



## Dr Philip Lee – MP for Bracknell Forest

### Sixth Form Q&A (Questions and Answers)

Dr Lee took time out of his schedule to visit the Sixth Form on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> December. Dr Lee spent some time briefly outlining his role as MP and as a serving minister before taking questions from the floor. The Sixth Form had been using this week to prepare for Dr Lee's visit through tutor time discussions and activities. As a result, some great questions were asked which covered a wide spectrum of issues.

These included:

- North Korea
- Tuition fees
- Public transport fares
- Teacher salaries
- The difficulty of young people buying houses
- Funding for the Arts and school curriculum focus on Maths and the Sciences
- Police funding and public safety



In our role of preparing young people to be active and engaged members of society this event was a great success. The Sixth Form were focused, listened incredibly well and composed really thought provoking questions. We hope for it to become an annual event.

*Mr Hartley, Deputy Headteacher*



## Arts Update

### Variety Show

Congratulations to the students who performed in our first ever Brakenhale Variety Show! This event was planned, organised and led by our Year 13 dance students Fay Beesley, Chloe Johnson and Kieran West. Students worked incredibly hard to get the event on its feet and make it a success. Year 12 Drama and Dance students were a brilliant support, as was Ethan Nunn from Year 9, who coordinated the fantastic lighting for both performances. Audiences saw a range of acts including dance, drama, singing and magic! Thank you for all the positive feedback and support from parents, we look forward to seeing you at future events.

*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*

## Literacy Challenge

This week's punctuation challenge involves proof reading this extract from Charles Dickens' "A Christmas Carol" and adding the twelve missing pieces of punctuation.

The door of Scrooges counting-house was open, that he might keep his eye upon his clerk who in a dismal little cell beyond, a sort of tank, was copying letters Scrooge had a very small fire, but the clerks fire was so very much smaller that it looked like one coal. But he couldnt replenish it, for Scrooge kept the coal-box in his own room; and so surely as the clerk came in with the shovel, the master predicted that it would be necessary for them to part. Wherefore the clerk put on his white comforter, and tried to warm himself at the candle; in which effort not being a man of strong imagination, he failed.

"A merry christmas, uncle! God save you" cried a cheerful voice It was the voice of Scrooge's nephew, who came upon him so quickly that this was the first intimation he had of his approach

"Bah!" said scrooge. "Humbug!"

he had so heated himself with rapid walking in the fog and frost, this nephew of Scrooge's, that he was all in a glow; his face was ruddy and handsome; his eyes sparkled and his breath smoked again.

You can find the corrected copy towards the end of this newsletter.

*Mr H Smith, Literacy Lead*

## Health Zone

As advertised last month, School Aged 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.

These Year 9 vaccinations will be taking place on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> January 2018. Could parents please return the consent forms to school as soon as possible, thank you.

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

*Mrs Ball, Health Coordinator*

## PTA Update

### Christmas Raffle Prize Winners

Thank you to everyone who has purchased raffle tickets. The tickets were drawn by Mr H Thomas (Assistant Headteacher) and prizes will be available for collection from school from lunch time on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> December 2017 from main reception.

Congratulations to all the winners and thank you to everyone who supported the PTA Christmas Raffle. Please see the winning tickets below:

Prize list:	Winning Ticket
1 <sup>st</sup> Prize: Luxury Food Hamper	AB 104998 blue 131
2 <sup>nd</sup> Prize: Christmas Hamper	AB 156855 pink 126
3 <sup>rd</sup> Prize: Cordless Digital Telephone	AB 888461 blue 324
4 <sup>th</sup> Prize: Zizzi's voucher	HF4C TW4D pink 974
5 <sup>th</sup> Prize: Body Massager	AB 472554 white, blue edge 434
6 <sup>th</sup> Prize: Nando's voucher	AB 888461 blue 374 Lewis Egham
7 <sup>th</sup> Prize: Yankie Candle Holder	AB 888461 blue 356
8 <sup>th</sup> Prize: Candy Floss Maker	HF4C TW4D pink 969

Prize list:	Winning Ticket
9 <sup>th</sup> Prize: Tropical Organic Facial for 2 (voucher)	AB 888461 blue 436
10 <sup>th</sup> Prize: Small Food Hamper	AB 888461 blue 335
11 <sup>th</sup> Prize: Pizza Hut voucher	AB 888461 blue 341
12 <sup>th</sup> Prize: Family ticket to Coral Reef	AB 104998 blue 137
13 <sup>th</sup> Prize: Family ticket to River & Railway Museum	AB 104998 blue 155
14 <sup>th</sup> Prize: The Look Out Discovery Family ticket	AB 888461 blue 498
15 <sup>th</sup> Prize: £15 Entertainer voucher	AB 472554 white, blue edge 421

**News from our School Houses**



**Farley**

I'd like to say a massive well done to everyone who has played in the inter-house competition. It was a great event, and it's been so lovely to hear from you how much you liked it and how hard you tried!

We have a little over a week until the end of term when we break up for the holidays. It's crazy to think about how fast this term had gone! We're 1/3 through the year!

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

Next week we've got our house assemblies, so it will be great to share some of the success which we have had this term. Keep it up until the end and get as many points as you can!

The top Farley member is Victoria T in 7N, who remains ahead by 6 points.

*Mr Bell, Head of House*




**Jennetts**

Not long left now!

I am really looking forward to getting together as a group again for our House Assembly next week, and to celebrate all of the successes for the term.

Look forward to hearing about our 'Outstanding Achievers', 'House Heros' and the overall house standings along with lots of other shout outs. I won't reveal our highest achieves here, as I think it would be best to build the suspense for next week!

There is only one more week to go from here, so please don't let your standards slip, and continue to be the best you can be!

*Mr Duffy, Head of House*

**Swinley**

Hello Swinley! You have almost made it, only one more week left until the Christmas holidays! You have all been exceptional this year so far and it has been an absolute delight to watch it all as your Head of House. The only thing I can ask is that we continue to put in the effort to continue this positivity all the way until the end of term.

We have a few special things to include this week, so I will start by reminding everyone we have our second house assembly next week. This will be a great opportunity for all of us to celebrate the tremendous successes that Swinley have had since September and to formally introduce to everyone the House Captains and Vice Captains.

Secondly, we included the results from our Year 8 and 9 house competitions last week but we were unable to include the Year 7s so here they are... In the netball the girls did the house proud by winning the house competition! Well done girls! The boys also performed admirably in the rugby, finishing second overall.

Finally this week, big congratulations to Ewan C (Year 7) who is our highest climber in the house points table this week! Other notable performances came from Kiera H (highest performer across the school in Year 12), Caitlin H (most points collected in Key Stage 4 this week) and Georgia H, who climbed above 50 house points for the year this week! Well done to you all! #TeamSwinley

*Mr Jackson-Sankey, Head of House*

**Temple**

Well done to everyone involved in the Variety Show on Monday, I was really proud to see so many Temple students sharing their talents with parents and students. My highlights included Kier B as our lead in School of Rock, Ariana K being "over-scheduled", Jeffrey B in Terranova Dance Company, Macey T dancing in Free Fall and Zac B for his dancing, acting and singing (is there anything he can't do?!) Remember involvement in events and shows means more house points, its a great way to gain confidence and experience. Everyone who was involved on Monday will be receiving house points this week, thank you for all your hard work!

I will be seeing you all next week for our House Assembly and I'm really excited to share our top points scorers this half term and our outstanding achievement for each subject - teachers have until Friday to submit this so there is still time to push yourself forward. Stand out and do something amazing! As I write this we have a Temple student who is 2 house points away from 100!! How incredible, I have a feeling they will have hit the 100 mark by next week along with a few more of you and will therefore be getting a very special mention! This is a brilliant achievement and puts us ahead of the other houses - keep it going Temple!

*Miss Haley, Head of House*

## PE News

This has been yet another busy week for the PE department even though we only have a week to go before we break up!

### After-School Clubs Next Week

Next week the only after-school club that will be on is Trampolining - this is due to having to cancel it this week as staff were on a first aid course. There are still fixtures on so please look below to see if you are involved.

The NEW Extra-Curricular Timetable for January will be coming soon!

### Football

#### Year 11

On Friday 1<sup>st</sup> December, the Year 11 football team made history playing in the 5<sup>th</sup> round of the National Cup for the very first time. Their opponents that day were Little Heath School from Reading, the same side who knocked Brakenhale out in the 3<sup>rd</sup> round of last year's competition by 7 goals to 1 and went on to reach the final where they narrowly lost on penalties. Brakenhale knew going in that this was going to be a tough test.

The game started well, with Brakenhale arguably the better side overall and certainly the side who were creating more opportunities. Tom and Vittorio both came close hitting the bar and outside of the post respectively. Just before half time Little Heath took the lead through a well worked counter attack down the right hand side.

The second half started in a similar fashion with both sides having good reason to believe they were the better side and early on Joe O forced his way into a good shooting position with some quick feet and poked a shot underneath the goalkeeper. 1-1. The Brakenhale boys had worked tirelessly in their pressing but were unfortunately caught out by two moments of brilliance from the Little Heath midfield. The first a long raking pass to play their forward through on goal from a Brakenhale corner and the second an exquisite chipped reverse pass over our centre backs, again for the centre forward to tuck away. The boys continued to fight and managed to get a goal back through Tom N late on but the task proved too much. 3-2 the final score. An excellent campaign and cup run nonetheless by a team that will go down in Brakenhale history!

#TeamBrakenhale #HistoryMakers

#### Girls Football

On Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> December, the Under 13 Girls played host to Holyport College in a football fixture. Both sides are very new teams at the respective schools and both performed admirably. Brakenhale were dealt an early blow, losing their goalkeeper due to injury and as a result played the remainder of the game with only 8 players. It was a very even game in which both teams had limited chances, largely due to some brilliant defending from Becky W on our side and the Holyport defenders. The midfield battle that followed was equally as even as Libby S, Tia J and Summer M coped well with the physical Holyport pressure and Brakenhale eventually ran out 1-0 winners thanks to a superb free kick from Chloe S. An excellent effort from the girls considering they played almost the entire game with one less player! A special mention should go to Lilly W for an outstanding performance in goal! Well done to all the girls involved! #TeamBrakenhale #TheseGirlsCan #BrakenhaleLionesses

### Badminton - Write up from Rushby

An outstanding first badminton fixture from the Key Stage 3 and 4 girls and boys last week.

There were some stand-out performances from the KS4 boys who narrowly missed out on victory overall, well done to Tom and Toby and Dan and Toby for winning their doubles games. A special well done to the KS4 girls - Amy, Asha, Emily and Claudia who triumphed over Ranelagh, winning 4-1 on games and scoring 96 points.

Well done to the KS3 boys and girls who played very well against some very strong players from Ranelagh. Ellie Y in Year 7 represented Brakenhale for the first time in Badminton - well done!!

### Reward Trip

Over the next week the top 15 students who have attended the most extra-curricular clubs and fixtures will be receiving a letter containing details of the reward trip, which this term is to the British Basketball Cup Finals in Birmingham. If you would like any details about the reward trip please email me.

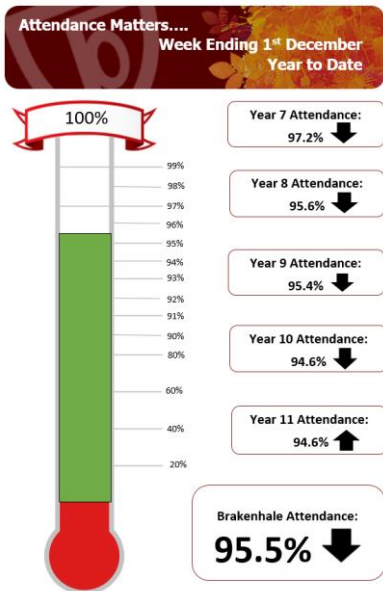
### Fixtures for Next Week

- Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> December - Badminton v Egbarrow @ Home
- Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> December - U13 Girls Football v Holt @ Home
- Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> December - U15 Girls Football @ Bulmerse (Woodley Goals) 9am - 3pm

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

# Attendance

## This Year so far

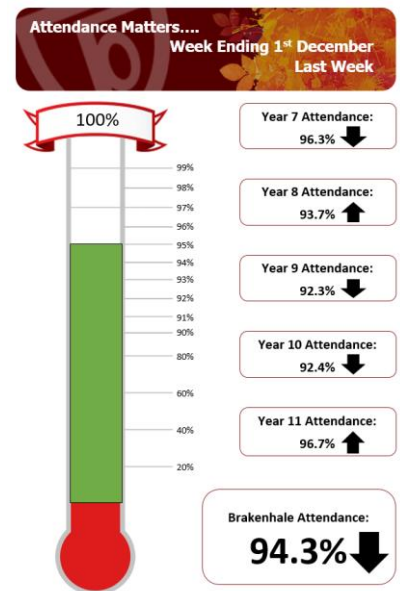


Year 11's were completely focused on exams last week making it the best week that they have had for attendance so far this year. Tutor group 11A were so motivated that they achieved 100% last week!

Overall we slipped backwards with all other years taking a slight tumble meaning that we are back to 95.5% which although is not as good as we have been is still 1.1% better than at this time last year.

Thank you for what you are doing to support the students getting here more often, every day will really make a difference to the results they leave Brakenhale with.

## Last Week



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](mailto:schoolattendance@brakenhale.co.uk)

Mrs Evans, Attendance Office

# Brakenhale Canteen

Please see below for our menu next week for Monday and Thursday.

We have now closed booking for our Christmas meals next week and we are looking forward to celebrating with Years 7, 8 and Sixth Form on Tuesday and Years 9, 10 and 11 on Wednesday. The Deli area will be open both days for JPs, Panninis, Sandwiches/Rolls, Pizza etc. for students who have not purchased the Christmas meal.

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



The Brakenhale School					
WEEK COMMENCING : 30 OCT, 20 NOV, 11 DEC, 15 JAN, 5 FEB					
Week 1	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Hot Main Meal	British Farm Assured Beef Stroganoff	British Farm Assured Chicken Balti	British Farm Assured Honey Roast Gammon	British Farm Assured Beef Cottage Pie	MSC (Marine Stewardship Council) Battered Fish
Hot Vegetarian Meal	Courgette & Mushroom Stroganoff	Vegetable Balti	Roasted Sweet Tomato & Peppers Pasta	Vegetarian Quorn Cottage Pie	Veggie Pizza
Carbohydrate	Rice	Rice Naan Bread	Roast Potatoes	Creamy Mash Potato	Baked Chips
Vegetables	Seasonal Vegetables	Seasonal Vegetables	Seasonal Vegetables	Seasonal Vegetables	Peas, Baked Beans or Salad
Hot Pudding	Sticky Toffee Apple Sponge served with Custard	Belgium Waffles served with chocolate custard	Mixed Fruit Crumble served with custard	Chocolate Tart served with fresh cream	Drop Pancakes served with maple syrup

We have available every day

- Yogurt bar for breakfast
- Salad bar where you build your own salad
- Homemade bread

We use locally sourced ingredients when available and in season

All our menus are nutritionally analysed to ensure they meet and in most cases exceed The School Food Standards

## 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!





Literacy Challenge: the corrected text:

The door of Scrooge's counting-house was open, that he might keep his eye upon his clerk, who in a dismal little cell beyond, a sort of tank, was copying letters; Scrooge had a very small fire, but the clerk's fire was so very much smaller that it looked like one coal. But he couldn't replenish it, for Scrooge kept the coal-box in his own room; and so surely as the clerk came in with the shovel, the master predicted that it would be necessary for them to part. Wherefore the clerk put on his white comforter, and tried to warm himself at the candle; in which effort, not being a man of strong imagination, he failed.

"A merry Christmas, uncle! God save you!" cried a cheerful voice. It was the voice of Scrooge's nephew, who came upon him so quickly that this was the first intimation he had of his approach.

"Bah!" said Scrooge. "Humbug!"

He had so heated himself with rapid walking in the fog and frost, this nephew of Scrooge's, that he was all in a glow; his face was ruddy and handsome; his eyes sparkled, and his breath smoked again.

## Future Diary Dates

Monday 18<sup>th</sup>, Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> December

**Inset days, no school for students**

Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> December to Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> January

**Christmas Holidays**

Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> January

**Start of Spring Term**

### Term Dates

#### AUTUMN TERM 2017

Term dates for students:

Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> September – Friday 15<sup>th</sup> December 2017

Christmas Holiday for students – Monday 18<sup>th</sup> December to Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2018

#### SPRING TERM 2018

Term dates for students:

Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> January – 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 – 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 (date to be confirmed)

Bracknell Forest term dates can be found on their website:

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

**#challengeforall**

**Brakenhale School, Rectory Lane, Bracknell, Berkshire RG12 7BA**

**☎ 01344 423041 ~ ✉ mainreception@brakenhale.co.uk ~ 🌐 www.brakenhale.co.uk**

*High Expectations and Challenge for All*