

Brakenhale School Parent News

1st December 2017



Dear Parents/Carers

In the run up to the end of term and more importantly the Christmas holidays we have had a very busy week this week.

Year 11 have been sitting their PPE's again this week, they have all managed to embrace this in a very mature fashion. They have treated these exams as if they were the real thing and we have been very impressed with their attitude towards them. We also saw the first PPE for the Year 10 students in RS. All the students handled this very well despite some very visible nerves! Well done Year 11 & 10 students.

On Thursday evening we had the PTA Christmas Fayre. It was extremely busy with many students and their parents in attendance. There were lots of games and stalls and a number of staff who helped to organise the events. A great time was had by all with lots of laughter and festivities. Thank you to all the staff, students and the PTA for their help. We will be drawing the raffle at the end of next week.

Today we had the Sixth Form Taster day. Our students who are planning on joining us in the Sixth Form were able to see what a day in the life of Post 16 was all about. They thoroughly enjoyed it and it was a welcome change after all of their exams this week and a real opportunity for them to really focus on their futures. There will be more PPE's for the Year 11's so they need to give it one last push before winding down for Christmas. In a feedback survey that we took at the end of the day, over 90% of the students said it was a really positive day.

Next week we really start to count down towards the end of term but as I have told students in my assemblies all this week these last two weeks are still important school days where we will be fully focused on learning. It has been a real pleasure in these assemblies to be able to give out so many positive letters to so many students who continue to get everything right all of the time.

Our student of the week winners this week were:

Charlotte Hawthorne Post 16 - for her continued positive attitude in all of her subjects and her ongoing commitment to the school. For helping out at open evening and presenting proposals to the Headteacher for raising money for the school.
Joseph Saul KS4 - for his excellent attitude towards revision, most notably for the incredible hours spent on Tassomai.
Lorna Heron-Buxcey KS3 - For consistently having a positive attitude to all that she does, and exemplifying the high standards and expectations of a Brakenhale student.

Please wrap up warm this weekend!

Best wishes

Jane Coley, Headteacher

What's on next week

Monday 4 th December	Variety Show
Friday 8 th December	Parent Support Group – 9.30-11am

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

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.

Year 11 Sixth Form Experience Day



On Friday the Year 11's enjoyed the day in the Sixth Form centre having taster lessons in subjects they may choose to study next year at Brakenhale and beyond



Christmas Jumper Day

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

Friday 15th 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.



Save the Children
CHRISTMAS JUMPER DAY

Parent Support

Parent Support Group

at Brakenhale

Friday 8th December
9.30am to 11am

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:

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

High Expectations and Challenge for All

Parenting Workshop



Managing Challenging Behaviour

Covering:-

- Building a positive relationship with your child
- Setting boundaries
- Behaviour management techniques
- A chance to chat to other parents and share ideas and tips

Wednesday 13th December 2017
6.30pm – 8.30pm

Please contact - Tracey Gosling
Family Worker
The Brakenhale School
01344 423041 x374
tgosling@brakenhale.co.uk

Health Zone

Can we please remind parents that they need to complete and return our medication consent form for ANY medication your son/daughter requires in school.

Students should not carry medication with them in school unless it has been authorised by the Health coordinator.

Forms can be found in the Health Zone on the school website: (<http://brakenhale.co.uk/pastoral-support/health-zone/>) or in hard copy form at main reception or the Medical room.

Mrs M Ball, Health Coordinator

Arts Update

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

Variety Show and Winter Music Show



Due to popular demand, tickets for the Variety Show are now SOLD OUT

Miss Haley, Head of Drama and Dance



Literacy Challenge

This week's punctuation challenge involves proof reading this extract from Oscar Wilde's "The Canterville Ghost" and adding the twelve missing pieces of punctuation.

as Canterville Chase is seven miles from ascot, the nearest railway station Mr Otis had telegraphed for a waggonette to meet them, and they started on their drive in high spirits. It was a lovely July evening, and the air was delicate with the scent of the pinewoods Now and then they heard a wood-pigeon brooding over its own sweet voice, or saw, deep in the rustling fern the burnished breast of the pheasant Little squirrels peered at them from the beech trees as they went by, and the rabbits scudded away through the brushwood and over the mossy knolls, with their white tails in the air As they entered the avenue of canterville Chase however, the sky became suddenly overcast with clouds, a curious stillness seemed to hold the atmosphere a great flight of rooks passed silently over their heads, and, before they reached the house, some big drops of rain had fallen

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

Mr H Smith, Literacy Lead

PTA Update

Thank you to everyone for your continued support and to all those who joined us on Thursday for our annual **Christmas Market**. We once again had a wonderfully festive occasion and on behalf of the PTA I would like to say an enormous thank you to everyone who helped and supported the Christmas Market on Thursday evening. Mr Cooper (Head of Year 7), together with his tutors and student helpers successfully ran a number of stalls, including Mystery Bags, Hoopla, Guess the Number of Sweets, and Guess the weight of the giant Christmas Pudding. A number of other staff and parents came and supported the event and lent a helping hand where needed, with a special thank you to Mrs Theal, Miss Manisier, Mr Hicks and Mrs Palmer who ran the Tombola, and not forgetting the fantastic Site Team for all their behind-the-scenes setting up and breaking down. They will be moving tables in their sleep!



We had a fantastic selection of stalls selling items such as handmade gifts, jewellery, sweets and cupcakes, leather goods, Christmas decorations and clothing.

Thanks to everyone we raised an amazing £1,385.36 on the night which is a fantastic effort - well done.

Miss Manisier, PTA Link

Christmas Raffle

We will continue to sell tickets for our Christmas Raffle next week before the draw next Friday, 8th December 2017. Please support the PTA and send in money with your child to purchase the raffle tickets. All proceeds go directly back into supporting the school.

Prizes include a Christmas food hamper, Candy Floss maker, Body massager and Cordless phone set, and there will be several other prizes as well, including restaurant vouchers, cinema tickets, and gift cards.

The 5 tutor groups that sell the most tickets will be given a certificate, tub of sweets for their tutor group and house points will be awarded.

Year 11 Exams

Year 11 Pre Public Exams: The Year 11 Pre Public Exams will continue next week with options subjects, followed by our Sixth form taster day on Friday.

Brakenhale School Year 11 Pre Public Exams (PPEs) – November/December 2017					
	Monday 4 th December	Tuesday 5 th December	Wednesday 6 th December	Thursday 7 th December	Friday 8 th December
Period 1 & 2	Normal Lessons				
Period 3 & 4	OPTION A Art - All day Friday A02 Bus Studies 2 x 1 Hour Economics 2 x 1 Hour Geography 2 x 1 Hour History 1 Hour 15 plus 45 min Spanish 1 Hour 30 HSC Resit students 1 Hour Photography - All day Friday B17	OPTION B Bus Studies 2 x 1 Hour Engineering TBC French 1 Hour 30 Geography 2 x 1 Hour Graphics 2 Hours History 1 Hour 15 plus 45 min HSC Resit students 1 Hour BTEC Drama 2 Hour practical exam in L01	OPTION C BTEC Bus Studies 1 Hour Com Science 1 Hour Engineering TBC Food Nutrition 1 Hour 45 French 1 Hour 30 Geography 2 x 1 Hour History 1 Hour 15 plus 45 min Media No Exam Spanish 1 Hour 30 OCR National 1 Hour	OPTION D BTEC Sport 1 Hour Bus Studies 2 x 1 Hour RM 2 Hours Dance GCSE 2 hour practical exam in MS with ARA Geography 2 x 1 Hour ICT 1 Hour Music GCSE 1 Hour L51 GCSE PE 1 Hour Spanish 1 Hour 30 BTEC Dance 2 hour practical exam in JNS with CHL Music BTEC TBC	Art all day Exam in A02 Photography all day Exam in B17
Period 5	Normal Lessons				

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 so far! I managed to get down to watch the Year 9s play and I could see how hard you were pushing yourselves. I didn't get to see the Year 8 teams play but I've heard some really positive things from both teams!

Remember to support your house members and work together to be the best students you can be. If you're not sporty, that's okay. You have your own strengths so play to them. Wow your teachers and keep earning those points.

The top Farley house point leader has remained the same from last week, which shows how hard she is working. At 71 house points, that's amazing! Remember, the first to 100 house points gets a prize. If this can be done by Christmas, you'll get a bigger prize!

Mr Bell, Head of House



Jennetts

This week saw the first sports inter-house competitions, and I was fortunate enough to be able to come along and cheer on Jennetts for all the year groups participating. At the time of writing (Wednesday evening), things are looking good. We've won the Netball in Year 9, came second in the Netball in Year 8 (separated only by goal difference), and the Rugby teams have done really well too.

A massive well done and thank you has to go to our house captains, Ethan Vine, Alice MacDonald, Skye Reed and Kayleigh Leishman, who have been brilliant in organising things, but also for getting stuck in with the Netball and Rugby too - thanks, guys. I have seen some quite amazing things from year 8 and 9... Daisy Jones was on fire and scored what must have been 1000 points in Netball, Celestine Asare scared the life out of me by falling over, Skye, Kayleigh and Nikesha were a force to be reckoned with and Alicia Tsatsu's victory song and dance was quite something. Josh Parker, Adam Shill, and Daniel Hamed were fearless in the Rugby, and were putting tackles in left, right, and centre on lads that were much bigger than they were! Well done Gents.

It's been brilliant to come and support you, and absolutely everyone that participated can be proud, and I want to personally thank you for getting involved in the right spirit. Let's hope we can keep it up for the rest of the week!

Mr Duffy, Head of House

Swinley

What a week!

Over the last week the excitement has been building ahead of our first sporting House Competitions!

In Key Stage 3, the boys have been competing in rugby with the girls competing in netball. Tuesday saw the Year 9s up first, with both Swinley teams performing admirably. The girls competed very well in the netball and the boys fielded a strong team that went on to win the rugby competition! A strong start for Swinley!

Wednesday saw similarly strong performances as the Year 8s were able to field Swinley A and B teams. Again the boys performed very well in the rugby and the girls played with great spirit. Everyone involved has done Swinley proud so far. Thursday is when the Year 7s get their turn to compete, their results will be included in next week's report.

Over the competitions so far, it fills me with pride to have seen so many students happy to represent and support their house. I really felt a sense of community growing amongst everyone and I'd love to see this continue moving forward!

Keep it up! #TeamSwinley

Mr Jackson-Sankey, Head of House

Temple

I would like to say a big thank you to all the Year 7, 8 and 9 students who took part in the inter-house rugby and netball competitions this week. I was lucky enough to be able to watch and support our Year 8 students on Wednesday and it was fantastic! It was brilliant to see everyone so involved and focused, regardless of where we come overall in the competition, I was extremely proud of each and every one of you taking part. I wish I could have seen and supported each and every match. A special mention to Dylan Webb with his speedy runs, Jack Moore for some full of tackles, Jess Deverell for her attack, Arianna Koskela and her great energy and House Captain Zac Box for his organisation and positivity. Well done guys, you were fab!

As we are approaching Christmas (only 2 full weeks left!) lets make sure we keep getting those house points in, I would love to be able to announce that Temple are winning in our final assembly! Remember that teachers will be selecting a student from each subject and year for outstanding achievement in the next week - go above and beyond, work your socks off and get your name mentioned!

Miss Haley, Head of House

PE News

This week has been a very busy, cold week and successful week with the first **Key Stage 3 inter-house competitions** of the year.

The term's inter-house competitions were based around the Autumn term sports of Netball for the girls and Rugby for the boys. Each house had two teams battling it out to win the overall points in their year group. This was the first real test for the house captains as they were in charge of organising the teams, and they have done brilliantly. The majority of students have shown real dedication to their house and there has been some fantastic play from some of the students. The stand-out year for participation and kit was Year 8 - well done to Miss Douse and her year team for ensuring they were fully prepared for the house competitions.

Here are the winners:

Year 7 Rugby - **Jennetts**

Year 7 Netball - **Swinley**

Year 8 Rugby - **Farley**

Year 8 Netball - **Farley**

Year 9 Rugby - **Swinley**

Year 9 Netball - **Jennetts**

Year 11 Football

The next round of the Year 11 football competition was completed after-school this week. The write up and the score will be in next week's parent news.

Next Week's Fixtures

Tuesday

Year 10 Rugby v Edgbarrow (H)

U13 Girls Football v Holyport (H)

KS3 Boys and Girls Badminton v Ranelagh (A)

Wednesday

U12 Boys Football - 5 a-side - Bracknell Leisure Centre

Thursday

U13 Girls Football v St Crispins (A)

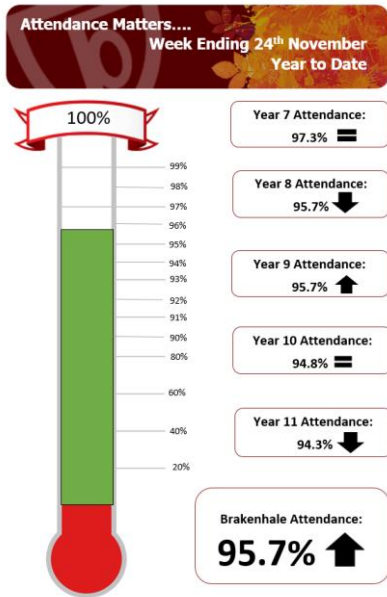
KS3 & 4 Boys v Garth (A)

YA Training Day at Bohunt School - 9.30-3.30pm (invited students only)

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

Attendance

This Year so far

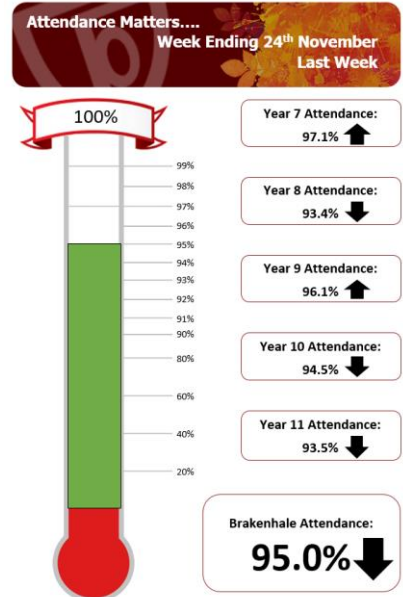


Last week saw our year to date attendance move up again and we are now at 95.7% which is a fabulous result and is a direct result of everyone supporting and encouraging students to attend more often. Thank you!

Last week saw us hit our target of 95% with Year 7 leading the way achieving 97.1% and Year 9 achieving 96.1%. Year 8 were at the bottom of the league table and need an extra push in the run up to Christmas please.

We have had a noticeable rise in students who's parents have called in to say that they are poorly with headaches. This is an ailment that can be medicated before school and should the headache not pass, a visit to Mrs Ball our Health Care Co-ordinator will ensure that a student receives the medical attention they require.

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

Mrs Evans, Attendance Office

Brakenhale Canteen

Please see our menu for next week

A 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.

The Christmas menu has been sent out, together with a google ordering form. Could we please remind parents and students that Christmas lunch (£3) must be pre-ordered and pre-paid by Friday 8th December.

Mrs Silvey, Catering & Enrichment Manager

The Brakenhale School					
WEEK COMMENCING - 4 DEC, 8 JAN, 29 JAN					
Week 3	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Hot Main Meal	British Farm Assured Sweet & Sour Pork	British Farm Assured Chicken Tikka	British Farm Assured Roast Pork	British Farm Assured Chicken & Leek Pie	MSC (Marine Stewardship Council) Baked Fish
Hot Vegetarian Meal	Chinese Spring Rolls	Veggie Curry	Chilli Bean Casserole	Cheese and Tomato Omelette	Veggie Pizza
Carbohydrate	Noodles	Rice	Roast Potatoes	Crushed New Potatoes	Baked chips
Vegetables	Seasonal Vegetables	Seasonal Vegetables	Seasonal Vegetables	Seasonal Vegetables	Peas, Baked Beans or Salad
Hot Pudding	Citrus Cake served with Custard	Apple and Pear Crumble served with Custard	Bread and Butter Pudding	Strawberry Jam Sponge	Double Chocolate Muffin

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

Pre-book your Christmas Lunch

Christmas Lunch Menu for Year 7, 8 & Sixth Form

Tuesday 12th December

Roast Turkey served with Pigs in Blankets, Sage and Onion Stuffing and Cranberry Sauce
or
Spinach and Ricotta Cannelloni

Each of the above served with Roast Potatoes, Carrots, Peas, Brussels

Yule Log and Cream
or
Vanilla Ice Cream
(A bottle of water is included)

£3.00
Dining by ticket only

Pre-book your Christmas Lunch

Christmas Lunch Menu for Year 9, 10 & 11

Wednesday 13th December

Roast Turkey served with Pigs in Blankets, Sage and Onion Stuffing and Cranberry Sauce
or
Spinach and Ricotta Cannelloni

Each of the above served with Roast Potatoes, Carrots, Peas, Brussels

Yule Log and Cream
or
Vanilla Ice Cream
(A bottle of water is included)

£3.00
Dining by ticket only

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!

Literacy Challenge: the corrected text:
 As Canterville Chase is seven miles from Ascot, the nearest railway station, Mr. Otis had telegraphed for a waggonette to meet them, and they started on their drive in high spirits. It was a lovely July evening, and the air was delicate with the scent of the pine woods. Now and then they heard a wood-pigeon brooding over its own sweet voice, or saw, deep in the rustling fern, the burnished breast of the pheasant. Little squirrels peered at them from the beech trees as they went by, and the rabbits scudded away through the brushwood and over the mossy knolls, with their white tails in the air. As they entered the avenue of Canterville Chase, however, the sky became suddenly overcast with clouds, a curious stillness seemed to hold the atmosphere, a great flight of rooks passed silently over their heads, and, before they reached the house, some big drops of rain had fallen.

Future Diary Dates

Monday 11 th December	Music Evening
Tuesday 12 th December	Presentation of Awards
Friday 15 th December	Christmas Jumper day, last day of term for students

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

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

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

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