

Brakenhale School Parent News

22nd September 2017



Dear Parents/Carers

This week has ended on a real high after our incredibly successful open evening last night. I could not have been prouder of the staff and students at Brakenhale for the way in which they presented the school and talked so passionately about all the lovely things that go on here. Over 100 students volunteered to be tour guides and they were simply amazing, a credit to the school, themselves and their parents. Visitors on the evening spoke so warmly about them and they represented the school and all we stand for perfectly. I have no doubt that Year 7 2018-19 will again be a full year group with a waiting list. For the next three weeks we will be running school tours almost every day and I am really looking forward to showing prospective parents the way in which our students engage in their learning and focus on their work.

We have had a very positive response to our invitation to parents and the local community to come along on Monday at 6pm to hear Dean Beadle, a national presenter on autism. If you would still like to reserve a place at this event, please contact the school office, this is a free event.

At the beginning of next week I will be putting the school improvement plan for this academic year along with our self-evaluation of last year on the website. We will send a schoolcomms message to alert you that this has been done, but please do take some time to read through these documents. Your feedback is always helpful and guides us in moving the school forward.

Have a lovely weekend.

Jane Coley, Headteacher

What's on next week

Monday 25 th September	School Tours start (9.15-10.45am) Dean Beadle Autism Presentation for Parents – 6-7pm Year 13 Parents' Information Evening: UCAS and Next Steps – 6.30-7.30pm
Tuesday 26 th September	European Day of Languages
Thursday 28 th September	Welcome to Sixth Form Year 12 Parents' Information Evening – 6.30-7.30pm

A very warm welcome to our school PTA



All parents and members of the school community can get involved in the PTA. Even if they only have a small amount of time available, all parents are automatically members when their children join our school.

The PTA exists to provide closer links between home and school. It is a fun way to bring staff, parents and students together in support of a common goal. We run events such as School Discos, a Christmas Market, Summer Fair stall, Bingo Evening and Race Night, and support school events and evenings with refreshments.

We meet on a Tuesday once every half term from 7.00 pm. If you think this is something you would like to know more about, please come along to our next meeting. Alternatively, if you would like further information, please contact the school.

Our first meeting this year will include a **CHEESE & WINE EVENING**, including light refreshments, on **Tuesday 3rd October 2017**

This will be a chance to see how the PTA runs, meet our Senior Leadership Team, key people in the PTA and other parents.



Parent Support Group

at Brakenhale

Wednesday 11th October
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 Tracy Gosling, our Family Support Advisor will meet you.



Future Meeting Dates:

Friday 1st December ~ 9.30-11am
 Thursday 1st February ~ 1.30-3pm
 Monday 19th March ~ 9.30-11am
 Wednesday 2nd May ~ 1.30-3pm
 Wednesday 27th June ~ 9.30-11am

Brakenhale School
 Rectory Lane
 Brocknell
 Berkshire
 RG12 7BA
 01344 423041
 tgosling@brakenhale.co.uk

High Expectations and Challenge for All

Dance

Dance Company 2017

This year we are launching five new dance companies within the school. Each company has different entry requirements and will work towards different performance opportunities.

All companies will start the first week in October.

The Mini's	Year 7 Girls Dance Company. Open to Year 7 students interested in dance.	Friday after school 3:05 - 4:05 in the Movement Studio. Starts Friday the 6th of October.
DARK MATTER	Year 7, 8 and 9 Boys Dance Company. Audition only*	Audition date Tuesday the 3rd of October after school, 3:05 - 4:05 in the John Nike Studio. Rehearsals every Tuesday from the 10th of October in the John Nike Studio, 3:05 - 4:05
AURORA	Year 8 and 9 Dance Company. Open to students in Years 8 and 9 who are interested in Dance.	Monday after school 3:05 - 4:05 in the Movement Studio. Starts Monday the 2nd of October.
TERRANOVA	Year 10 - 13 Boys Dance Company. Invite only*	Thursday after school 3:05 - 4:30 in the Movement Studio. Starts Thursday the 5th of October.
FREE FALL	Year 10 - 13 Girls Dance Company. Invite only*	Tuesday after school 3:05 - 4:30 in the Movement Studio. Starts Tuesday the 3rd of October.

* students do not need to prepare anything for auditions, please have PE kit/dance wear

* invites will be emailed to students school accounts

Please see Miss Haley if you have any queries regarding the above Dance companies.



Extra Curricular Dance Timetable

Starting from Monday 2nd October

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Break time 11:00 - 11:25	CLOSED	Open for rehearsals	Open for rehearsals	Open for rehearsals	Open for rehearsals
Lunch time 1:25 – 1:55	Open for rehearsals	Open for rehearsals	Stretch & Limbering (MS) Fay Beesley Open to all	Street Dance (MS) Tiegan & Charlie Open to all	Open for rehearsals
After School 3:05 onwards	AURORA Dance Company (MS) Miss Haley & Kiera Hopkins Open to Year 8 & 9 girls	FREE FALL Dance Company (MS) Miss Ovens Invitation only DARK MATTER Dance Company (JNS) Miss Haley Audition only	School of Rock Dance Rehearsals (MS) Miss Haley Dance chorus rehearsals	TERRANOVA Dance Company (MS) Kieran West Invitation only	The Mini's (MS) Chloe Johnson & fay Beesley Open to Year 7 girls

Miss Haley, Head of Dance and Drama



Attendance

Although it was another strong performance last week where we achieved 96.1% we have slipped back from the previous week.

Year 10's attendance in particular has taken a tumble; please think about moving medical appointments to the afternoon. In the morning the register closes at 9:30am and arriving after this time impacts on attendance figures. Leaving after 1:25pm will minimize the impact on learning as well as ensuring that full registration marks are achieved for that day. As always, please provide an appointment slip to allow me to authorise the absence.

On a more positive note 723 students have achieved 100% attendance so far this term!

As always please get in touch if there is anything that we can do to support you by telephone on 01344 465050 or by email on schoolattendance@brakenhale.co.uk



Mrs Evans, Attendance Officer

Brakenhale Canteen

The Brakenhale School

WEEK COMMENCING: 4-SEPT, 25-SEPT, 16-OCT

Week 1	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Hot main meal option	British Farm Assured Lasagne	British Farm Assured Chicken Balti	British Farm Assured Honey Roast Gammon	British Farm Assured Beef burger in a Bun	MSC (Marine Stewardship Council) Battered Fish
Hot vegetarian meal option	Roast Tomato Frittata	Vegetable Balti	Vegetable Chilli Beans	Veggie Burger	Veggie Pizza
Carbohydrate option	New Potatoes	Rice Naan Bread	Roast Potatoes Rice	Baked Potatoes Wedges	Baked Chips
Vegetables options	Seasonal Vegetables	Seasonal Vegetables	Seasonal Vegetables	Seasonal Vegetables	Peas, Baked Beans
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

Stem Club

YOU ARE
INVITED

**STEM
CLUB**



3.05PM
to
4.05PM

**EVERY
WEDNESDAY
IN S21**

MISS METCALFE

PE News

This week has been amazing for extra-curricular clubs we have had 213 students taking part!

Please encourage students to attend clubs as we have fixtures starting next week.

Trampolining Club

Trampolining is always a popular club and for safety reasons we cannot have too many students in the centre at once – there is a maximum of 60 students.

You will now need to sign up for Trampolining Club, this will be done on a Wednesday for the Thursday Trampoline club. You will need to sign up at the PE office.

Signatures in Planners

Remember students need to have their extra-curricular timetable (inside the back cover of planners) signed by parents. If they do not they will not be able to attend the club!

PE EXTRA CURRICULAR

MONDAYS - STAFF MEETINGS

TUESDAY
 CROSS COUNTRY/FITNESS- ALL YEARS - EJA
 RUGBY -YEARS 9+10 - JBO+MKI
 NETBALL -ALL YEARS -LWI +LRU + THA

WEDNESDAY
 BADMINTON - ALL YEARS - LRU
 FOOTBALL (INVITE ONLY YEAR 10+11) - WYE +EJA

THURSDAY
 TRAMPOLINING -ALL YEARS- JBO + LWI
 RUGBY - YEAR 7 + 8 - RBE + WYE

FRIDAY
 GCSE REVISION
 BTEC CATCH UP
 YEAR 10 +11

@BRAKENHALEPE

support
grammar
notetaking
exams
revision
guidance
skill
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Fixtures

Next week we have the following fixtures:

Tuesday 26th September	Year 8 Rugby Tournament at Edgbarrow
	Girls Cross Country at Highdown School
Thursday 28th September	Boys Cross Country at Highdown School

Good luck to everyone taking part.

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

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 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.



We have now raised almost £550 for the school since we launched the lottery in March this year, which is fantastic, and with only 38 supporters. Imagine how well we could do with a few more participants!

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 an Amazon Echo Dot. 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](http://easyfundraising.org.uk) way with one of their 3083 shops and sites they give [easyfundraising](http://easyfundraising.org.uk) 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](http://easyfundraising.org.uk) 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](http://easyfundraising.org.uk) 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](http://easyfundraising.org.uk) App, perfect if you like to shop on the go and available completely free of charge from your App store. Now you can not only 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 3 rd October	PTA Meeting, Cheese & Wine event
Thursday 5 th October	Ski Trip Evening for Year 8 and 9 parents – 6pm



Term Dates

AUTUMN TERM 2017

*Inset Days: Friday 1st and Monday 4th September
Inset Days: Monday 18th and Tuesday 19th December*

Term dates for students:

Tuesday 5th September – Friday 15th December 2017

Autumn Half Term – Monday 23rd to Friday 27th October

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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