

# Brakenhale School Parent News

15<sup>th</sup> September 2017



Dear Parents/Carers

It is hard to believe that we have now almost completed two weeks back at school and this has certainly been a packed week. Wednesday night Ms Douse, the Year 8 team and the Student Support team led an excellent evening for parents of students in Year 8. The advice and guidance that they gave on internet safety, dealing with teenagers and supporting your child's learning, was invaluable and many parents commented on how much they had gained from the evening. If you were unable to attend and would like some information please contact Ms Douse.

Yesterday 90 Year 11 students spent a very successful day in Windsor gathering data to help support their GCSE Geography course. Their behaviour and towards their learning was impeccable, more evidence of 'Team Brakenhale' in action! Yesterday also saw the final presentations from the two contractors bidding to build our extensive, and very expensive new buildings. Both teams have put forward extremely exciting projects and once we know on 4<sup>th</sup> October which team has been successful I will of course let you know and share the plans with you.

We have had some lovely feedback this week from parents about the behaviour of our students both within and outside of school. It is great to hear and see our students representing us so well. A great example of this is from Lily-Mai in Year 8 who is having her hair significantly cut and then donated to The Princess Trust. This is such a selfless act to help others and I am sure you will agree truly reflects the community spirit of our students.

Next Thursday is our Open Evening and is one of the most significant events in the school calendar. Thank you so much to all of the students who have already agreed to be guides and help out on the night. If your son or daughter is available to help please can you encourage them to speak to their tutor. Last year we had over 470 applications for 210 places, a real example of how far the school has come and real evidence that it is the community school of choice.

Have a lovely weekend.

*Jane Coley, Headteacher*

## What's on next week

Thursday 21 <sup>st</sup> September	<b>Year 6 Open Evening – 6 to 8.30pm</b> <b>School closes early for students at 1.05pm</b>
Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> September	<b>School starts late for students at 9.40am</b>

## #BE PREPARED!



Get into the good habit of putting out your uniform, checking your timetable and packing your bag the night before.

This will help you arrive at school with the correct uniform, tools for learning and equipment such as PE kit, Food Technology ingredients, completed homework and other necessary items to make sure you are ready to learn as soon as the school day begins.

## New House System

The new House System has been launched for the new academic year and students have been allocated houses which are reflected in their planner colours.

The four House names below have been chosen from suggestions submitted by the staff and students at Brakenhale and have been selected to celebrate the local area.

House Name	Colour	Head of House
Swinley	Red	Mr Jackson-Sankey
Jennetts	Yellow	Mr Duffy
Temple	Green	Miss Haley
Farley	Blue	Mr Bell

The House system will be used in every curriculum area and will become an integral part of school life at Brakenhale. It is widely accepted that a vibrant and successful House system promotes a sense of community and achievement to both students and staff in schools.

Houses will attend half termly assemblies run by their Head of House to celebrate success and enable Houses to embed their team ethos.

To make sure the Houses are clearly visible and celebrated by the school community we have ordered House badges for students to wear on their blazers to make sure their house colours are clearly visible at all times to other students and staff. Badges will be distributed via tutors in tutor time next week.

We thank all parents who have made the £1.50 contribution towards the cost of the badges, but if you have not already done so **payments can be made in cash at main reception, via tutors or online through ParentPay.**

We look forward to sharing the successes of the new and improved House system during the next Academic year!

*Mr W Yeates, Head of PE*

## School Show – School of Rock

We will be holding auditions for the whole school show, 'School of Rock', on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> September 2017 at 3.15pm in the Drama Studio.

Following on from these there will be call backs for main parts on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> September at 3.15pm.

There is a sign up sheet outside the Drama Studio for all students who are interested in being part of this exciting production.

*The Performing Arts Team*



## Attendance

We had a strong start with attendance at 96.6% last week.

Year 7 stormed ahead with 98%, however Year 10 need to refocus on attendance to improve going forward. With regard to individual tutor performance 7H achieved 100% and they enjoyed their small reward in afternoon registration on Monday, whilst 9B, 9K, 9H and 11N all achieved 99% - A brilliant result!



Our target remains 95% this year and I delighted that 'Team Brakenhale' has made such a great start.

There is a huge support network at Brakenhale to encourage and support students in to school, such as a weekly reward for the best tutor group and highlighting excellence with the tutors. This week I spoke to students in the assemblies reiterating the importance of attendance and the positive effect it has on the choices that they make as they go through life. We continue to monitor every student's attendance weekly and we will be discussing this with them. We have also been completing home visits to support students who are finding it difficult to get in to school.

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

Mrs Evans, Attendance Officer

## Brakenhale Canteen

Please see below the menu for next week:

### The Brakenhale School

WEEK COMMENCING :- 18 Sept.

Week 3	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Hot main meal option	British Farm Assured Bolognese	British Farm assured Chicken Tikka	British Farm assured Roast Beef	British Farm assured Chicken Burger	MSC (Marine Stewardship Council) Baked Fish
Hot vegetarian meal option	Veggie Bolognese	Veggie Curry	Spring Vegetables Stir fry	Cheese and Tomato Omelette	Veggie Pizza
Carbohydrate option	Spaghetti Pasta	Rice	Roast Potatoes Noodles	Baked Potatoes Wedges	Baked chips
Vegetables options	Seasonal Vegetables or Salad	Seasonal Vegetables or Salad	Seasonal Vegetables or Salad	Seasonal Vegetables , Baked beans or Salad	Peas, Baked Beans or Salad
Hot Pudding	Cherry Bakewell Tart	Apple and Pear Crumble served with custard	Bread and Butter Pudding	Strawberry Flan	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



**PE News**

Welcome back to the first full week and our first week of extra-curricular clubs. At the time of writing we have had over 80 students attending extra-curricular clubs.

Clubs will start at 3.10/3.15pm and finish around 4/4.30pm. This depends on the club and time of the year.

As we get closer to Christmas our clubs will end earlier due to the light.

Students will not need to sign up to clubs, they will just need to head down to the changing rooms and wait for the member of staff running the club.

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

We look forward to seeing more of you at extra-curricular clubs next week.

**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**

Word cloud: support, grammar, notetaking, exams, revision, guidance, essay, skill, help, an, academic, re, describe

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](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 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](http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk) to effortlessly help raise money for the school!



## Future Diary Dates

Monday 25 <sup>th</sup> September	Dean Beadle Autism Presentation for Parents – 6-7pm
Tuesday 26 <sup>th</sup> September	European Day of Languages
Tuesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> October	PTA Meeting, Cheese & Wine event



## Term Dates

### AUTUMN TERM 2017

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

Term dates for students:

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

Autumn Half Term – Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> to Friday 27<sup>th</sup> October

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*