



Dear Parents/Carers

Wow what a start to 2020! Very few young people and staff will ever have the privilege of moving into a brand new school, but Brakenhale students had just this on Thursday when they arrived to their new building. Seeing the students' faces as they were all waiting outside yesterday was fantastic and I have to be honest it was all very emotional and somewhat nerve wracking.

Our staff have been working incredibly hard in the background to ensure that it was ready for them, many had already worked over 60 hours on site by the close of play yesterday. The camaraderie with #teambrokenhale has been superb, from carrying over 1000 chairs to the classrooms along with desks and equipment to various parts of the school, staff unpacked over 1500 crates to get as prepared as possible. A big thanks to all the staff for their efforts and particularly those that worked tirelessly over the Christmas Holidays. Mr Elsey and Mr Murray were working up to Christmas Eve and were back in again on January 2nd and if it wasn't for them I doubt we would have been able to open. I would also like to thank the Wates team for all their help and support and look forward to working with them during the next phase of development, the demolition! A big thank you also to all the parents for messages of support and good luck and the lovely feedback we received yesterday.

The students all had tours in their tutor groups and an assembly from myself on day one, the new bleacher seating in the hall is definitely a hit! Over the next few days we will be tweaking the lunch queue and practicing emergency procedures as well as the flow around the building. Initially this seems to be working well, which is a relief for all of us.

We are now working through various minor snags and hiccups that only come to light when everything is up and running and I continue to value your feedback and support in order for us to improve things further.

I have had a number of requests for tours around the new building from parents and I am pleased to confirm that on Tuesday 21st January myself and the senior team will open the school between 6.30pm and 7.30pm in order for those parents who wish to come and look around to do so. This event will be for parents/carers only as we anticipate a high volume for uptake. More details to follow on the arrangements of this event.

Fab:

- Just thought I'd let you know that the highlight of my day was hearing a student in my Year 11 Art class. She spoke so highly of the new build, she was beaming, saying "I LOVE the new building." It was absolutely brilliant, she had the hugest smile and was clearly very happy!
- A huge thank you to you all for taking my son (and many others!) away for his first experience of skiing - he has had an absolutely fantastic time and can't wait to go again! It's a huge commitment from you all, taking time out from your own lives and away from your families and as parents we are hugely grateful for the opportunity you have given our son. We wish you all a very happy and relaxing Christmas and look forward to the new year in the new school!
- Recently my son went on the Ski trip, and I would just like to say that he had a fantastic time. You may have heard he wasn't very well out there towards the end and was actually taken to hospital, but this did not stop him from coming home and saying what a great time he had, and the memories he made will last forever. The skiing and all the evening activities sounded amazing and he loved every bit of it. As a parent I would just like to say a big thank you to all the staff who put all their effort into this trip not only before they went but whilst they were out there too. We feel so lucky that such an incredible opportunity was offered to our son, it was worth every penny and we are already looking forward to the next one!

- I wanted to drop you a short note to thank you, Mr Spaul and the rest of the teaching staff who ran the Ski Trip in December. My daughter told me, and I quote "It was the best thing I have ever done!" - that's about as good as an endorsement can get! Seriously though she had a wonderful time and was made to feel at ease and comfortable by the great teaching staff. She loved every minute of the skiing and we felt totally at ease here too because the quality of the communication before and during was so good.

Drab:

- Who decides how long homework should take? Our children tell us it should only take half an hour (depending on what it is) but it seems to take much longer. We are unsure how some of it gets complete in this time frame.

Please contact the individual teacher who set the homework for guidance.

- As much as my children have all said how amazing the new school is, they have concerns as do I over the communal/unisex toilet situation. I think this very odd and I'm not very comfortable with the thought of male and females not having separate toilets. Can I assume that staff toilets are also unisex?

The toilets are not unisex there are separate cubicles for boys and girls which are clearly marked. The staff, however, do have unisex toilets which are also the accessibility toilets.

Staff member of the week:

Mr Boucher	Sir lent another student his own trainers so he could take part in PE.
Mr Boucher	He always knows what to say in any situation to help and support. He explains things so even if you are in trouble you understand why and helps you improve for the future.
Miss Wilhelmy	For marking my photography sketchbook so thoroughly and giving great feedback!
Ms Lane	Gave her time to talk about apprenticeships with my daughter and I and gave some really good information and advice.
Mr Green-Nickel	He is always there for everyone and greets you by the door.
Mrs Coley	For having improved the school so much.

Quote of the week:

'Together may we give our children the roots to grow and the wings to fly'.

My very best wishes,

Jane Coley, Headteacher

What's on next week


Monday 13th January

Year 12 & 13 PPE Exam Week

Thursday 16th January

Year 9 Injections

Year 9 Options Evening, 6-8pm



Rotary YOUNG WRITER COMPETITION


*There are **three stages** to the competition:*

1. Local heats
Organised by our local Rotary club
2. District finals
Organised by Rotary districts
3. National Final and overall winners

Your first deadline:
Friday 31st January 2020
All entries to Mrs Lewis

Age ranges

Intermediate 11 to 13 years old
Senior 14 to 17 years old
Please state at the top of your entry.



The Competition guidelines

To produce a written or typed story in prose entitled '**Connections**'. The written entry could be fiction or non-fiction, a story or a poem, as long as the piece relates to the theme.

How long? An A4 page or up to 500 words.

Welcome to our New Building

We are absolutely delighted to be finally in our wonderful new school. From its first baby steps over 3 years ago, to the handover this week, we have been on a rollercoaster journey which has culminated in a wonderful learning environment for our students. With huge thanks to the builders, Wates, and our extremely hard working infrastructure teams, for getting us to this point.

Whilst the old building is being cleared and demolished we will have restricted access to the school building so please bear with us during this time. Students should enter the site via the gates and path between the Drama studio and PE changing rooms. Visitors are required to sign in at main reception and should therefore use the entrance from Coningsby and the blue hoarding tunnel next to the Student Support Centre.



Pride of Bracknell Forest

The Pride of Bracknell Forest Awards will take place on 29th May 2020, so be sure to mark it in your diary!

If you would like to nominate anyone or promote the nominations page within your local network, please visit the website: <http://prideofbracknell.com/nominate/>

Tools for Learning

Student tools for learning are now sold from Mrs McCrorie in the new Heads of Year office in our new building. You will still be able to purchase tools for learning online via parentpay and collect them from main reception.

Tools for Learning will be available to purchase before school from 8.20am to 8.35am and then during tutor time until 8.55am.

They will also be available during break time, 11 to 11.25am.

Emergency pencil cases to borrow for the day will also be available from the Heads of Year office during morning tutor time.

School Uniform Reminder

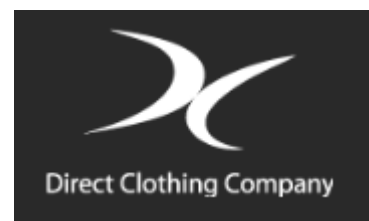
Please remember that we no longer have a uniform shop on site.

You can purchase uniform online from The Direct Clothing Company:

www.thedirectclothing.co.uk

Telephone: 01344 872299

Email: brakenhaleuniform@hotmail.com and sales@thedirectclothing.co.uk



Student and Parent Support

You can find out more about the **BBC 'Own It' app** on our Student Support Centre page of the website:

<https://brakenhale.co.uk/pastoral-support/student-support-centre/>

There is also a link to the BBC's dedicated area too.

We have also recently added the **Parent Info feed** from the CEOP's website to our Student Support Centre page of the website. This shares valuable information about children and online activity.

<https://brakenhale.co.uk/pastoral-support/student-support-centre/>



Parent Info is a free service that shares articles, tips, expert advice and resources designed to help parents keep up with what their children are doing on-line. Parent Info is a collaboration between CEOP and Parent Zone.

Parents' Evenings 2019-20

Thursday 23 rd January	Year 9 Parents' Evening (X), 4-7pm
Tuesday 28 th January	Year 9 Parents' Evening (Y), 4-7pm
Thursday 27 th February	Year 8 Parents' Evening, (tbc)
Thursday 26 th March	Year 11 Parents' Evening, 4-7pm
Thursday 23 rd April	Year 7 Parents' Evening, 4-7pm

<https://brakenhaleschool.parentseveningsystem.co.uk/>



Parents Evening System

New Literacy Achievement Points

Isn't it about time students were rewarded for learning new words and improving their spelling? Isn't it about time students were rewarded for their speaking and listening and efforts with improving their work? We welcome the new literacy achievement point. In lessons, students can now be rewarded for their literacy efforts and successes. Here are some ways students can receive them:

- Correct spelling of a keyword
- Correct use of a keyword in their writing
- Correct use of a keyword in verbal communication
- Accurate use of punctuation and capital letters

As this is brand-new, we are starting to trial it so this list may grow and change over time. Don't worry - We will keep you up-to-date along the way. Any feedback, please do let us know.

Mrs D Lewis, Literacy

Fundraising



Please click here to see our fundraising video on YouTube: [Brakenhale Unlocking Potential Fundraising Video](#)

Please click here to see our BBC News film: [Brakenhale School on BBC News](#)

New fundraising page: [Virginmoneygiving](#)

Brakenhale's all-things fundraising/new build webpage: <https://brakenhale.co.uk/about/new-build/>



Thank you to everyone who supported the Rotary Christmas draw by purchasing raffle tickets over £800 was raised and will be put to good use in our new building – the draw is on Monday 16th December at 8pm and winners will be advised accordingly – good luck!

Feedback Initiative

We would encourage you to submit your views and feedback at any time, and we look forward to hearing from you regularly.

Electronic submission:



[Fab](#)



[Drab](#)

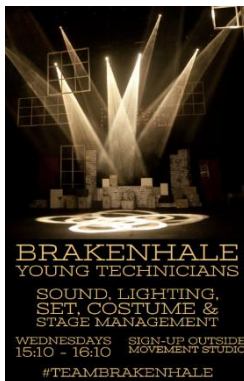


[Staff Member of the Week](#)

Performing Arts

Extra Curricular Dance Timetable

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Break time	Open for rehearsals all years	Year 9 -13 rehearsals	Open for rehearsals all years	Year 9 -13 rehearsals	Closed
Lunch time	Open for rehearsals all years	Year 9 -13 rehearsals	Open for rehearsals all years	Year 9 -13 rehearsals	DARK MATTER
After School 3:05 MS	STREET C^o. (MS) Charley, Tiegan, Dani & Macey Open to all years DARK MATTER (JNS) Dance Company & Lauren	DANCE CLUB (MS) Mrs Duffy & Emily Open to Year 7		AURORA Dance Company (JNS) Mrs Duffy & Ellie Open to Year 9 and invite only Year 8	Free fall Dance Company (MS) Mrs Duffy Year 10 - 13 Dance <i>Starts 29th of November</i>



A massive congratulations to our students past and present who performed in this year's pantomime 'Aladdin' at South Hill Park. Emma Warner in Year 11, Lauren Williams in Year 12 and Kier Buist, past student. The highly regarded production was entertaining and a massive hit with audiences, completing a sold out run of lots of performances throughout December. We hope you managed to go and see it over the festival period - well done Brakenhale stars!

Mrs Duffy, Head of Performing Arts

Attendance

We believe that high attendance is essential in order for students to make good academic progress and to feel that they are active members of the school community, involved not only in lessons but also in the extra-curricular activities that are so important to their wellbeing. Students can keep track of their attendance in their planner.

Should you have any questions or wish to discuss any issues that may be preventing regular attendance or causing lateness, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Mrs Silvey, Attendance Officer

Attendance is never easy to push forwards as a school, we often have to have difficult conversations and parents understandably can be defensive. As a parent myself I do know that sometimes children get ill and some absence is inevitable but as a fellow parent can I urge



you to do everything you can to ensure your son/daughter gets into school as often as possible. Sometimes that will mean making yourself unpopular with your children, sometimes that will mean asking for help from the school but it is so absolutely worth it. Research confirms a strong link between good attendance and good results and students who are continually around 90% attendance will always struggle to completely understand lessons because they miss one lesson every two weeks. It builds up; 20 days a year, 100 days across 5 years. How can you expect a student to get a great grade when they have been missing so many key lessons? High attendance is also a great habit for life- reliability, positivity and resilience are just the skills that so many employers are looking for. For those students in their examination years please make 2020 a 100% year, because on August 22nd when it is GCSE results day they will be so pleased they did.

PE Update

Please check out our new extra curricular timetable. The clubs will start on Tuesday 14th January so make sure you turn up to as many as you can.



P.E. EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES
Half Term 3 - 2019-2020

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
LUNCH (1315-1345) Trainers needed to participate	Table Tennis All Years Sports Hall FGR	Indoor Cricket All Years Sports Hall MPO	A LEVEL PE Revision Year 13 Room TBC MPO	Basketball All years Sports hall MPO	GCSE PE Revision Year 11 Room TBC MPO
AFTER SCHOOL (1505-1630) Full kit needed to participate ***4pm finish for Trampoline***	No clubs due to staff meetings	Netball All years Sports hall/courts LWI Football (Mixed) Years 7 and 8 Astro MPO & CMY	Badminton (Mixed) All years Sports Hall CPI ***3.30pm start*** Trampoline (Mixed) All years Trampoline Centre JBO & LRU Rugby (GIRLS) All years Astro/grass FMA	Girls Cricket All years Sports hall MPO Football Years 9 and 10 Astro JSP JBO CMY Boxing/Fitness (Boys) All years Gym ABI ***3.30pm start***	P6 PE Exam Course Study Sessions BTEC L2 and L3 catch up (Y10-13) GCSE Revision (YR 10) A Level PE Revision (Y13) Your PE teacher/s will confirm these sessions, if they apply to you.

Sessions may be postponed on a weekly basis due to staff meetings which take place in line with the school calendar – please check the school weekly bulletin to confirm on a weekly basis.

All of these sessions are **open**, with all students in the listed year groups welcome.

AM Sessions are only for certain students (KS4&5) and only certain mornings – please draw this to their attention

ME in PE Assessment criteria: Spring Term

Students will be assessed in the following 2 areas this term:

- Physical ME (assessed every term (1, 2, 3), all throughout out the year)
- Thinking ME (assessed term 2 - January to March)



'ME in PE'

	PHYSICAL
1	Executes the correct technical model for core skills in an isolated situation
2	Works in lesson to show effects of short term exercise on the body
3	Takes part in a tactical scenario set up and delivered by the teacher
4	Executes the correct technical model for advanced skills in an isolated situation
5	Executes the correct technical model for core skills in a conditioned situation
6	Works in lesson to show effects of steady state exercise on the body
7	Takes part in a tactical scenario taught by the teacher
8	Executes the correct technical model for advanced skills in a conditioned situation
9	Executes the correct technical model for core skills in a fully competitive situation
10	Works in lesson to show the effects of long term exercise on the body
11	Sets up and takes part in a tactical scenario on own
12	Executes the correct technical model for advanced skills in a fully competitive situation

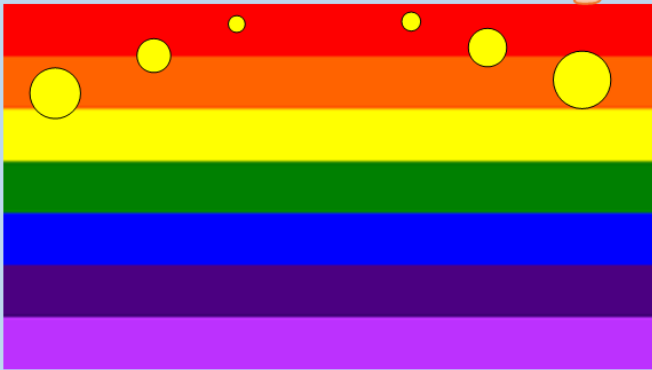
'ME in PE'

	THINKING
1	Thinks of basic ways/ideas to increase creativity of own work
2	Thinks of basic ways/ideas to increase creativity of others' work
3	Makes basic comments on own work (positive and constructive)
4	Makes basic comments on other people's work (positive and constructive)
5	Thinks of imaginative ways/ideas to increase creativity of own work
6	Thinks of imaginative ways/ideas to increase creativity of others' work
7	Makes competent comments on own work (positive and constructive)
8	Makes competent comments on other people's work (positive and constructive)
9	Thinks of complex ways/ideas to increase creativity of own work
10	Thinks of complex ways/ideas to increase creativity of others' work
11	Applies ideas/thoughts/comments to own work (positive and constructive)
12	Applies ideas/thoughts/comments to other people's work (positive and constructive)

Identity

Everyone is welcome 😊

A space to be free and be you.



What do we do?

- Discuss recent issues – locally and globally
- Task Master
- Quizzes
- Speed friending
- Film nights

We meet every Friday lunch in F10

With Mrs Lewis and Miss Bunkell



**BRAKENHALE
SITE IS A
NO SMOKING
ZONE**

BE PART OF THE ROYALS FAMILY




BRAKENHALE

OUR FIXTURES

LUTON TOWN	Sat 9 th Nov, 3pm	Coupon code: BHS-1920-1
	Booking deadline: Thu 7 th Nov, 3pm	
DERBY COUNTY	Sat 21 st Dec, 3pm	Coupon code: BHS-1920-2
	Booking deadline: Thu 19 th Dec, 3pm	
NOTTINGHAM FOREST	Sat 11 th Jan, 3pm	Coupon code: BHS-1920-3
	Booking deadline: Thu 8 th Jan, 3pm	
BRENTFORD	Sat 21 st Mar, 3pm	Coupon code: BHS-1920-4
	Booking deadline: Thu 19 th Mar, 3pm	
SWANSEA CITY	Sat 2 nd May, 12:30pm	Coupon code: BHS-1920-5
	Booking deadline: Thu 30 th Apr, 3pm	

BRACKENHALE has teamed up with Reading FC to bring you the magic of football and matchdays with special ticket prices starting from as low as £2 per person. Buy your ticket and enjoy a day at Madejski Stadium.

What's more, by purchasing a ticket through this scheme, your School will receive 25% cashback, and be in with a chance to win:

- 🎟️ A player visit for your School
- 🎟️ An invitation to an exclusive Meet the Players Evening
- 🎟️ Signed merchandise and lots more

TICKET PRICES per person

Adults	£15
65 and over	£10
18-24	£8
17 and Under	£5
12 and Under	£2

TO BUY

- 📍 Visit ticketing.readingfc.co.uk and enter the coupon code at checkout to redeem the offer and secure your ticket
- ☎️ Contact our Ticket Office on 0118 968 1313

Please ensure you buy before the listed deadline

*Prices and Seats subject to change and availability respectively. T.M. Supply. Seating available in the Eastroom/Dalen Family stand

Brakenhale School Lottery

Congratulations to the prize draw winners.

Thank you to everyone who has signed up to our school lottery. We are continually looking to increase new members each month, so if you have not signed up yet now is your chance to do this.

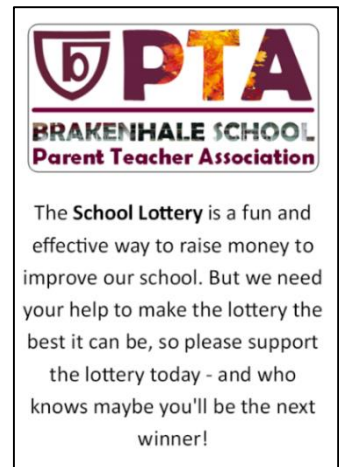
There is a weekly draw in which you could win a prize (approximately £20 depending on participants, which increases the more members we have). Plus you have a weekly chance to win up to £25,000.

There is also a chance to win restaurant vouchers this summer.

Click on the link today and join up:

[Support the Brakenhale Lottery](http://www.yourschoollottery.co.uk)

You have to be in it to win it.



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](#).



Events and Notices

BRAKENHALE SCHOOL
High Expectations and Challenge



Weekend Astro Pitch Deal



Brakenhale School would like to offer local sports clubs reduced weekend rates on our sand filled astro pitch. We offer Half and Full pitch rentals
Please Contact:
apecock@brakenhale.co.uk
to find out more!

NOS National Online Safety

7 questions to help you start a conversation with your child about online safety

#WhatUpWednesday

- Which apps/games are you using at the moment?**
Do you play games, watch YouTube, listen to music, use social media, or use any other apps? What are they? How often do you use them? Do you know what they are used for? Do you know what they are used for? Do you know what they are used for?
- Which websites do you enjoy using and why?**
Do you go to websites? What are they? How often do you go? Do you know what they are used for? Do you know what they are used for? Do you know what they are used for?
- How does this game/app work? Can I play?**
Do you play games? What are they? How often do you play? Do you know what they are used for? Do you know what they are used for? Do you know what they are used for?
- Do you have any online friends?**
Do you have any online friends? What are they? How often do you talk to them? Do you know what they are used for? Do you know what they are used for? Do you know what they are used for?
- Do you know where to go for help?**
Do you know where to go for help? What are they? How often do you go? Do you know what they are used for? Do you know what they are used for? Do you know what they are used for?
- Do you know what your personal information is?**
Do you know what your personal information is? What are they? How often do you use it? Do you know what they are used for? Do you know what they are used for? Do you know what they are used for?
- Do you know your limits?**
Do you know your limits? What are they? How often do you use them? Do you know what they are used for? Do you know what they are used for? Do you know what they are used for?

www.nationalonline-safety.com Twitter: @nationalonline-safety Facebook: /nationalonline-safety Phone: 0800 344 8001

Put a spring in your step this New Year at Blaze Martial Arts



Free trial lesson: Come down and try it. No obligation. Get a free uniform when you join.

Come along, make friends, learn a new skill and have some fun!

- Established 16 years
- Improve fitness, stamina, coordination and flexibility
- Classes in Ascot, Windsor, Bracknell & Wokingham
- Helps confidence, respect and self discipline in children
- Dedicated classes for all ages
- Learn to defend yourself
- Highly qualified instructors

Telephone us: 01344 874031
www.blazemartialarts.com




Could you care for another child?

There are local children in need of loving homes

Did you know you can foster alongside parenting your own children? We'll help you to consider all options, especially around age differences.

In addition, Bracknell Forest Fostering offer up to £425 per week (per child), specialist training and a huge amount of support.

Check if you are eligible to foster on our website:
www.bracknell-forest.gov.uk/fostering



If you are experiencing a mental health crisis and need support, you can

text YM to 85258

YOUNGmINDS Crisis Messenger

YM aim to connect every texter to a trained volunteer in less than 5 minutes to provide support in a crisis. They will listen to you and help you think through how you're feeling, and will aim to help you take the next steps towards feeling better.


Free, 24/7 crisis support across the UK

Texts are free from EE, O2, Vodafone, 3, Virgin Mobile, BT Mobile, GiffGaff, Tesco Mobile and Telecom Plus

This service is powered by YM's trusted partner Crisis Text Line




WIN £5,000 for your school's library



Visit our website for a chance to win a massive £5,000 of National Book Tokens for your school – enough to buy hundreds of new books for the library!

You'll also be in with a chance of taking home £100 of National Book Tokens just for you.

Spread the word: share with teachers, school staff and parents – the more entries for your school, the higher the chance they'll win!

NATIONAL BOOK TOKENS

Inspiring a lifelong love of reading

Enter at nationalbooktokens.com/schools

Terms and conditions apply

Future Diary Dates

* Please note that all events may be subject to change

Thursday 23rd January

Year 9 X Parents' Evening



Deputy Headteacher
 Assistant Chef
 Maths Teacher
 Geography Teacher
 Head of Geography

Please visit our website for more details:
<https://brakenhale.co.uk/about/vacancies/>

Term Dates

Term Dates 2019-20

SPRING TERM 2020

Term dates for students:

Thursday 9th January to Friday 3rd April

Spring Half Term – Monday 17th to Friday 21st February

Last day of Spring Term for students – Friday 3rd April

Easter Holiday: Monday 6th April to Friday 17th April

(Good Friday 10th April, Easter Monday 13th April)

SUMMER TERM 2020

Term dates for students:

Monday 20th April to Friday 17th July

Summer Half Term – Monday 25th to Friday 29th May

(Bank Holiday – Friday 8th May and Monday 25th May)

Last day of Summer Term for students – Friday 17th July

(Inset Days: Monday 20th and Tuesday 21st July)

Bracknell Forest term dates can be found on their website:

<https://www.bracknell-forest.gov.uk/schools-and-learning/schools/term-dates>



#challengeforall

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High Expectations and Challenge