



Dear Parents/Carers

Year 11 students returned this week to options week which has seen a real focus on their non-core subjects with additional teaching and period 6 lessons. Staff have been busy organising assessment material for Year 11 ahead of their Pre-Public Exams week starting Monday 25th November and large sets of revision books have been ordered ready to hand out to students at the Year 11 Information Evening on Tuesday 12th November.

We also welcomed Year 11 and their parents/carers to our Sixth Form Open Evening last night with over 100 students represented. The evening was a great success with Mr Duffy leading a presentation in the hall and all Departments preparing stalls and information to share - please see below for feedback.

The Year 11 GCSE Economics group benefited from a trip to Panasonic this week, one of many visits we have lined up for all year groups.

Year 7 students have all spent half a day at Oakwood Youth Challenge Centre to help develop their communication and team building skills and boost their confidence. This is the first time we have offered this experience in a number of years and overall it was a huge success.

This week we have also launched our Duke of Edinburgh scheme for students in Years 9 to 13 and we are very excited about the prospect of a new cohort signing up to this challenge. The Christmas Card competition has opened for entries which should be submitted by Friday 29th November. Students will have also brought home raffle tickets from the Rotary Club and we are extremely grateful to you for your support in selling these tickets – the money raised from this raffle will come back to the school for our new build.

We are excited to have received confirmation from Oaktree Garden Centre that they will once again be donating us a Christmas tree for main reception which will be delivered on 22nd November.

We are delighted to advise that we have made some new appointments to join #teambrokenhale this week which include:

- Mrs Vedgen - HR Assistant
- Miss Egbunike - Music Teacher
- Miss Stevenson - Music and Performing Arts Teacher
- Mrs Bury - Hegarty Maths Supervisor
- Mrs Soden - Trips Administrator
- Miss McDonagh - Teaching Cover Supervisor

Staying on appointments I am thrilled to announce that Mr Hartley has been appointed as Headteacher from January 1st 2020 at Chiltern Edge School and there is no doubt that our loss is their gain. Mr Hartley has worked tirelessly for the Brakenhale community over the last 4 years and he will be very difficult to replace.

I would also like to honour the memory of a past Deputy Headteacher at Brakenhale, Mr Len Clark, who joined Brakenhale in 1970 and served for 24 years as Deputy before his retirement. Len gave his heart and soul to the school and 24 years of his life and he touched the hearts of many students and the community alike. I have included in this edition of Parent News an article written by Jarleth O'Brien, an ex-student at Brakenhale, about Len. We are looking forward to inviting his wife Gill to the official opening of our new building next year.

Fab Feedback from Sixth Form Open Evening:

- Enthusiastic teachers and Open presentations that were effective.
- Outstanding presentations from current students.
- Very informative well organised, good layout, lots of staff available to talk to.
- The car park management and giving out of booklets was very well organised.

Drab:

We have had a number of comments about the amount of homework given to students over the half term. *It would never be our intention to cause stress to any student but to prepare them for their courses and examinations. Please be assured that at any point parents can contact staff to discuss homework and any concerns they may have over the amount given. We are also aware that students are having an additional week off at Christmas and we do not want them to fall behind in their studies.*

Staff member of the week:

- Miss Ioannidis Always there for me and helps me out when needed :)
- Miss Rendall She is kind and always nice. She is understanding and a joyful teacher I am happy she is part of my tutor. She makes me happy, that's why I am never sad at school.
- Mrs Seymour For going the extra mile to check up on me, for being supportive and helping me get through this week :) thank you!!
- Miss Lewis She is the best teacher, very nice and cares for me and my well-being.

Quote of the week:

‘Optimism is the faith that leads to achievement’

Have a great weekend.

Best wishes,

Jane Coley, Headteacher

What’s on next week

- Monday 11th & Tuesday 12th November
- Tuesday 12th November
- Wednesday 13th & Thursday 14th November
- Thursday 14th November
- Friday 15th November

- A Level Geography field trip**
- Year 11 Parents’ Information Evening, 6.15-7pm**
- Year 10 Drugs Awareness workshops**
- Fundraising Clothing Sale, 4-8pm**
- Sixth Form v Staff Netball match**



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/>

Events

BBC Children in Need

SIXTH FORM VS STAFF NETBALL MATCH

Staff will be in FANCY DRESS!
MAKE SURE YOU COME ALONG

KEY INFORMATION

FRIDAY 15TH NOVEMBER

WHERE: THE COURTS (SPORTS HALL IF IT'S RAINING)

WHEN: AFTER SCHOOL

ANY DONATIONS ARE APPRECIATED

Child ADULT VIOLENCE AGAINST

16th NOV 2019 12-3pm

FREE ADMISSION to the general public

WOKINGHAM TOWN HALL: DIAMOND JUBILEE ROOM

Are you or your loved one a victim of Child Violence?
Are you feeling isolated and frightened to speak up and get some support?
Come, let's explore how you could get practical support with your child's behaviour from survivors

Workshop delivered by Experienced Child Practitioners and Survivors of Child to Adult Abuse

hosted by **VRise UK**

follow us on **facebook**

www.vrisesocialworkconsultancy.com

New Building and Move Update

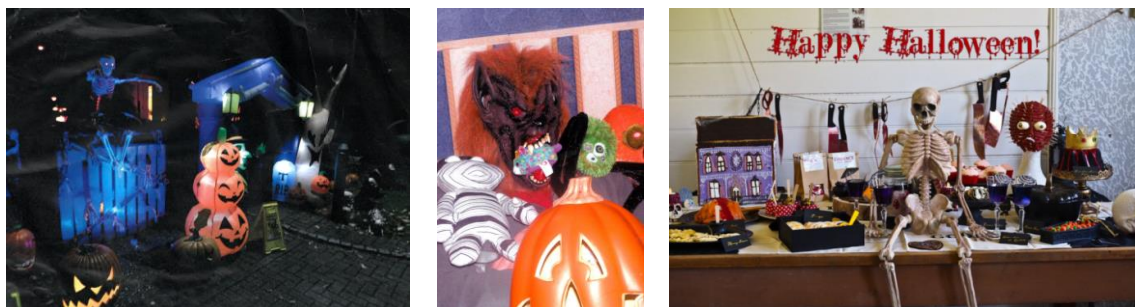
Lockers

Could we please ask parents and students to ensure that all school lockers are completely emptied of all personal belongings by **Tuesday 10th December 2019**. New lockers in the new building will be allocated during the first few weeks of the Spring Term. Any items left in lockers after the 10th December will be disposed of.



Camera Club Update

This week's camera club was a quiet one but productive nonetheless! Before half term, we set the challenge of capturing something spooky with a Halloween theme or just taking a photograph of something you got up to during your time off. It was clear to see that this theme went down very well; I was even shown a video by Basia W (Year 8) who was lucky enough to experience some 'virtual reality' games over the half term; very fun indeed!



Photographs this week came from Oliver M and Liam M (Year 8) and Amber W (Year 7) who all took a similar approach to this theme but with some very different and interesting results to say the least! Something spooky we asked for and something spooky we got!

We unanimously agreed that the theme for this week should be bonfire night related with a number of members already planning to go to firework displays and bonfire celebrations! One or two expressed concern that they may not be able to take pictures of real fireworks so we suggested that they experiment with creating our own 'fake fireworks' using torches and glow sticks in a dark room; I really look forward to seeing the result of this next week.

A reminder that camera club is held every Monday lunchtime in B17 and everybody is welcome!

Harrison H (Year 13) on behalf of

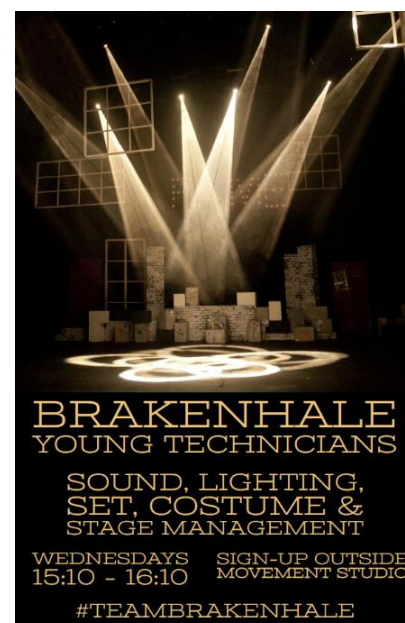
Miss T Wilhelmy, Teacher in Charge of Art & Photography

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		EVOLUTION Dance Company (MS) Mrs Duffy, Jack, Zac, Ethan & Teddy Year 7 Boys <i>Starts 27th of November</i>	AURORA Dance Company (JNS) Mrs Duffy & Ellie Open to Year 9 and invite only Year 8 DANCE CLUB (JNS) Emily Open to Year 7	Free fall Dance Company (MS) Mrs Duffy Year 10 - 13 Dance <i>Starts 15th of November</i>



PE Update

This week has been a busy and exciting week for PE as we had our new extra-curricular timetable starting. If anyone is interested in turning up to a club, they just need to come on the right day with their PE kit. We look forward to seeing more of you at clubs!

Rugby Festival

On Thursday 24th October, 16 Year 8 boys were cordially invited to take part in the Reading Blue Coat U13 rugby festival. With the pitches marked out, Blue Coat Sixth Formers set to referee and more than 100 boys set to play, the day was always going to be a good one. The boys were a credit to themselves and the school, both on and off the field.

In the morning we played our pool games on pitch 1 in front of the cricket pavilion. First up was a tidy looking Kennett School who we managed to draw against. Second came our first local derby game against Ranelagh, who beat us 20-5. Our final game was our second derby game against Sandhurst. Fresh from facing Ranelagh, the boys took to the pitch and scored immediately with Lenny W crashing through the Sandhurst defence. This gave the boys a burst of motivation which led us to victory in the end. We came second in the group, which put us in the second place pool for the afternoon.

Lunch time soon arrived, so to did the rain, but the boys kept their high spirits going into the afternoon. Our afternoon pool included us, Furze Platt, Denefield and Trinity. First up we played Furze Platt who had a strong side out and in the end beat us, but only by 1 try. We then played Trinity and finally Denefield who we both beat convincingly.

The day was a fantastic spectacle for both sport and rugby, with all competitors and staff in good spirits.

A big thank you to Reading Blue Coat for hosting and we look forward to attending the U12 festival in November.

This week we had our final Boys Rugby tournaments which were played at Brakenhale.



Year 8 Rugby

The Year 8 boys turned out for their final tournament of the year this week, hosted by Brakenhale at Rectory Lane. After having a week off the boys were keen to get back and build on the success of the Reading festival day last half term.

All 3 games were played in great spirits with some great rugby displayed by our boys, showing their development and progress since the start of the year. The scores in the games did not go our way, but the effort and skill the boys showed was fantastic.

Thanks to Edgbarrow, Sandhurst and Garth who all made the journey over, it was great to see our school field full of life on the rugby pitch.

Year 7 Rugby

On a cold but dry day, the Brakenhale Year 7 rugby team embarked on their second and final rugby tournament on the calendar.

In a tough opening game Brakenhale dominated possession but a mixture of first game nerves and panic with the ball coupled with the ferocious defence of the Edgbarrow boys ensured possession was all in our half, this eventually leading to a counter ruck and a try for the visitors in the corner. With time running out Ayokunle took it upon himself to restart the game quickly and scored a brilliant last gasp try to tie the game 5-5.

After listening to some feedback and reflecting on the game, the boys then put in a great performance to beat Garth 3-1 in another physical encounter, Ayokunle and Ollie scoring the tries in a comprehensive 15-5 win. More impressive was the desperation on our own try line for long periods of time not to concede a try against a persistent and physical Garth team.

The final game saw an end to end game finish with Sandhurst scoring a well deserved last gasp try to tie the game 10-10 after both teams had shown great commitment in both their attack and defence. Well done to Ayokunle and Max with the tries for Brakenhale on the back of some great team play and phases of attack.

The poor light unfortunately limited all teams to 3 games but we would like to thank the teams, staff and supporters from Garth, Ranalegh, Edgbarrow, Sandhurst and Brakenhale for making the tournament so enjoyable and successful.

Roll on next season!

Staff v Sixth Form Netball

On Friday 15th November, the staff will be playing the Sixth Formers at Netball. The last time we played the staff won, so we need to see if we can keep our title. This event is being held inline with Children in Need, so any donations for coming to watch are welcome. The staff will also be in fancy dress!

If you would like to watch it will be Friday 15th November at 3.30pm in the Sports Hall.

Girls Active

This week we have launched the Girls Active scheme. Please see the poster below and if you would like to become a part of the Girls Active programme come and see Miss Willimott in the PE office for more information.



Fixtures for next week

Date	Year	Sport	Versus	Location	Start/Finish	Staff
12/11/19	6th Form	Football	Willink	Brakenhale	2.30-5.00	CMY
12/11/19	7	Netball	Edgbarrow	Edgbarrow	3.15-5.15	LWI
13/11/19	7 + 8	Netball	Kings	Kings	TBC	TBC
14/11/19	8	Football	Maiden Erlegh	Brakenhale	2.30-5.00	CMY
15/11/19	7,8,9	Cross Country	Tournament	Great Hollands Recreation Ground	09.00-1.00	MPO

New Extra-Curricular Timetable

Please see below for the new extra-curricular timetable for half term 2. Please make sure students look at what we have to offer. All they need to do is just turn up after school and get changed. Looking forward to seeing as many as possible.

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
LUNCH (1300-1330 1315-1345) Trainers only needed to participate	Table Tennis All Years Sports Hall FGR			Indoor Cricket All Years Sports Hall MPO	GCSE PE Revision Year 11 C21 MPO
AFTER SCHOOL (1505-1630) Full kit needed to participate ***4pm for Trampoline***	No clubs due to staff meetings	Handball (Mixed) All years Sports hall JBO Netball (Girls) All years Sports hall/courts LWI/LRU Year 7 Football (Mixed) Astro MPO	Rugby (Girls) All years Field FMA Badminton (Mixed) All years Sports Hall CPI 3.30pm start Trampoline (Mixed) All years Trampoline Centre JBO/CMY	Basketball (Mixed) All years Sports hall MPO Football (Yr 8 and 10 INVITE ONLY) 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: Autumn Term

'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'

	SOCIAL
1	Independently gets changed in the changing rooms and takes care of personal belongings
2	Communicates effectively with class teacher
3	Communicates effectively with a single peer (verbally)
4	Communicates effectively with a small group of peers (verbally)
5	Works well on a 1-2-1 basis with others
6	Works well in a small group
7	Works well as part of the whole PE group
8	Communicates effectively with the whole class (verbally)
9	Engages and participates in situations with familiar peers
10	Deals with and manages situations with familiar peers
11	Engages and participates in situations with non-familiar peers
12	Can deal with and manage situations with non-familiar peers

Mr M Potter, Head of PE

ESTEEM

Mental Health

Managing feelings, emotions and mental wellbeing can be challenging for anyone. So, whether you are up, down or going round and round, why not come and meet up for a chat about how you're feeling; doing, or anything else you want to share.

Talk is cheap, but the rewards are priceless!

EVERY THURSDAY @ 1.30PM

SF14

MENTAL HEALTH ISSUES AFFECT US ALL

BE PART OF THE ROYALS FAMILY

SCHOOLS & GRASSROOTS TICKETING SCHEME

BRACKENHOLE FOOTBALL CLUB EST. 1871

BRACKENHALE

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

OUR FIXTURES

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

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 1315

Please ensure you buy before the listed deadline

*Picture and dates subject to change and availability respectively. Y&C apply. Seating available in the Emson-Dolan Family stand.



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.

Attendance Matters...	
Week Ending 25th October 2019	
Period 21/10/19 to 25/10/19	
Year Group	%
Year 7 ★	96.7 %
Year 8	92.5 %
Year 9	92.2 %
Year 10	92.6 %
Year 11	92.4 %
Brakenhale's Overall Attendance for Period: 21/10/19 - 25/10/19	
93.3 %	
Brakenhale's Overall Attendance Year to Date 04/09/19 - 25/10/19	
95.0 %	

Attendance Matters...	
Week Ending 25th October 2019	
Period 04/09/19 - 25/10/19	
Year Group	%
Year 7	97.3 %
Year 8	94.7 %
Year 9	93.8 %
Year 10	94.7 %
Year 11	94.5 %
Brakenhale Attendance Year to Date	
95.0 %	
Brakenhale Attendance Year to Date	

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

Fundraising for our new building

LESS THAN A WEEK TO GO!

Entry £1 from 4pm to 5pm

50p from 5pm to 8pm

Bring your own bag

Please come along, bring friends and family. We have had some amazing donations from parents, staff and friends of the school. We have an amazing collection of clothes to sell from a starting price of 50p. There will be clothes in different sections – 50p, £1, £2+ and designer clothes that will be individually priced.

We have:

Items:

- Coats
- Trousers
- Jeans
- T shirts
- Hoodies
- Fitness clothes
- Dresses
- Tops
- Skirts
- Shorts
- School uniform
- Men's suits
- Evening/Cocktail dresses
- Shoes
- Handbags
- Hats
- Underwear
- etc

Labels:

Abercrombie & Fitch	Trespass
Hollister	Pull & Bear Denim
Guess	Toms
Reiss	Under Armour
Lacoste	Phase 8
Levi	Planet
Kenneth Cole	Jaeger
Karen Millen	Next
Asos	Polo Ralph Lauren
Boohoo	Gap
Topshop	Marks & Spencer
Hobbs	Superdry
Hugo Boss	French Connection
Zara	Cath Kidston
Timberland	Monsoon
Madewell	Fat Face
Yves St Laurent	White Stuff
Moss Bros	Wallis
etc	
<i>and school uniform</i>	



With thanks,

Karen Roche, Chair of Governors

fundraising@brakenhale.co.uk

Christmas Jumper Day for Charity

We will be holding a Christmas Jumper day on the last day of term Friday 13th December. The charity we are raising money for is Daisy's Dream.

Students will be able to take part for a £1 donation but larger donations are always welcome.

Many thanks to Alex Elsey in Year 12 for designing our poster.

Thanks for your support.



Feedback Initiative

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

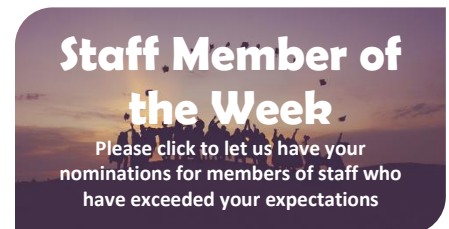
Electronic submission:



[Fab](#)



[Drab](#)



[Staff Member of the Week](#)

Lost Property

Have you lost something? Don't forget...



Email :

Email us on the address below and we will endeavour to locate the item and return it to you as soon as possible. We have a member of staff who has a specific role in overseeing lost property and she will do her best to help.

lostproperty@brakenhale.co.uk

Please make sure your items are named so that we can return them promptly.

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](#)

You have to be in it to win it.



The **School Lottery** is a fun and effective way to raise money to improve our school. But we need your help to make the lottery the best it can be, so please support the lottery today - and who knows maybe you'll be the next winner!

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 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:
apeacock@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

#WakeUpWednesday

- Which apps/games are you using at the moment?**
You will want your awareness of the types of things your child can do on their phone, tablet, laptop, etc. to be up to date with the apps and games they are using. Ask them to show you their favourites and you can talk about the risks of using them. Encourage the use of apps with what they are doing.
- Which websites do you enjoy using and why?**
Ask your child what they like to do online. Ask them to show you their favourites and you can talk about the risks of using them. Encourage the use of websites with what they are doing.
- How does this game/app work? Can I play?**
Ask a friend or family member what they are doing. Ask them to show you their favourites and you can talk about the risks of using them. Encourage the use of games/apps with what they are doing.
- Do you have any online friends?**
Children can have positive relationships with people online, but they can also be bullied. Ask your child who they are talking to online and you can talk about the risks of using them. Encourage the use of online friends with what they are doing.
- Do you know where to go for help?**
Ask your child who they are talking to online. Ask them to show you their favourites and you can talk about the risks of using them. Encourage the use of help with what they are doing.
- Do you know what your personal information is?**
Ask your child what they are talking to online. Ask them to show you their favourites and you can talk about the risks of using them. Encourage the use of personal information with what they are doing.
- Do you know your limits?**
Ask your child what they are talking to online. Ask them to show you their favourites and you can talk about the risks of using them. Encourage the use of limits with what they are doing.

www.nationalonline-safety.com | Twitter: @nationalonline | Facebook: nationalonline | 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!

Inspiring a lifelong love of reading
Enter at nationalbooktokens.com/schools



Future Diary Dates

* Please note that all events may be subject to change

w/c Monday 18th November
Thursday 21st November
Friday 22nd November
Thursday 28th November
Thursday 5th December
w/c Monday 9th December
Friday 13th December

Year 10 & 11 PPE Exams
Year 13 Parents' Evening, 4-7pm
Year 11 Sixth Form Taster Day
Year 10 Parents' Evening, 4-7pm
Year 12 Parents' Evening
House Assemblies
Last day of Autumn Term



Geography Teacher
 Performing Arts Teacher
 Maths Teacher
 Head of Geography
 Music Teacher
 Crown Wood: Caretaker

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

Term Dates

Term Dates 2019-20

AUTUMN TERM 2019

Term dates for students:

Wednesday 4th September to Friday 13th December

Autumn Half Term – Monday 28th October to Friday 1st November

Last day of Autumn Term for students – Friday 13th December

(Inset Day: Monday 16th December)

Christmas Holiday: Tuesday 17th December to Wednesday 8th January 2020 *

**Extra school closure days in December and January for the transition into the new building*

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

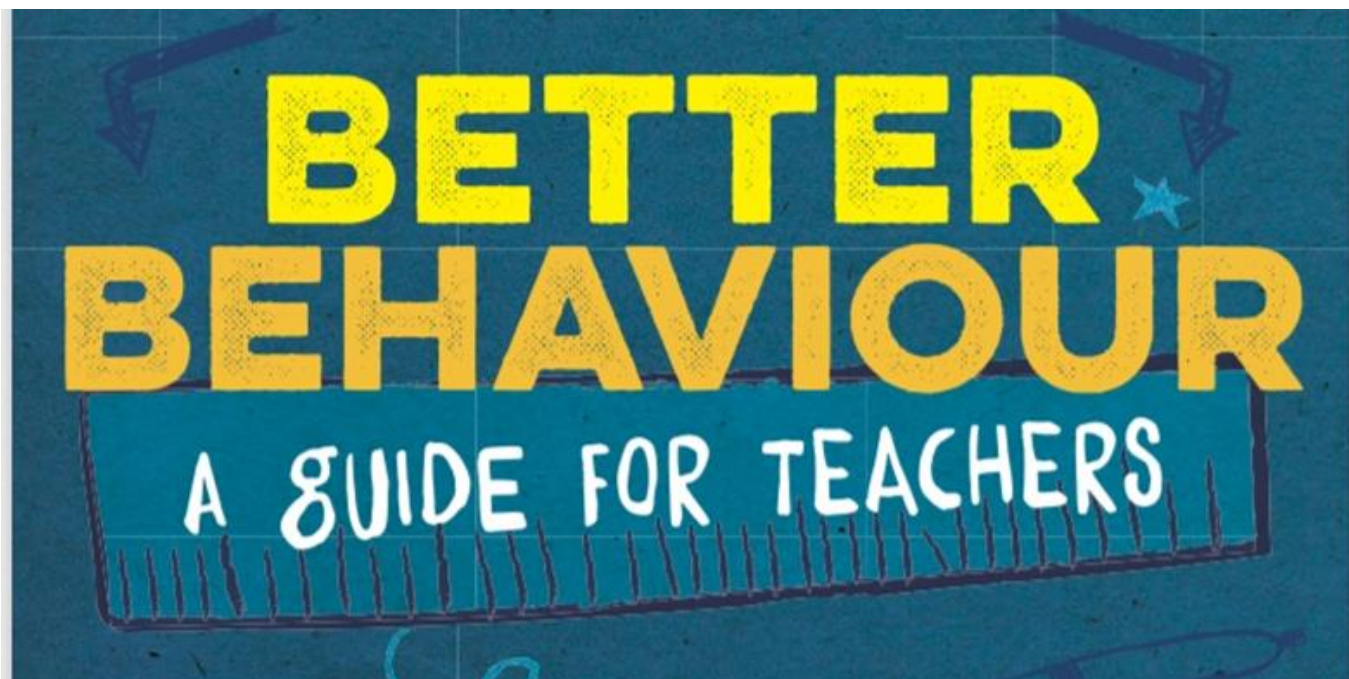
Brakenhale School, Rectory Lane, Bracknell, Berkshire RG12 7BA

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

High Expectations and Challenge

Jarlath O'Brien

Behaviour, leadership and SEND



NOVEMBER 6, 2019 BY JARLATH O'BRIEN

Goodbye, Mr Clark

Today my wife and I attended the funeral of a much-loved teacher and dear friend of ours, Len Clark. I was humbled to be asked by the family to say a few words as someone who knew Len as a student of his before becoming a friend in adult life, and they are reproduced below. The funeral brought together a dozen or so teachers from our teenage years and I have spent much of the day catching up and reminiscing with them.

It brought into sharp relief once more just how significant and enduring the impact teachers can have on the children they teach. We all know this to be true, but it is at times like this that the sheer magnitude of what teachers can do to fundamentally change someone's life hits you between the eyes. That is why I felt an overwhelming need today to make sure that I told them all individually how important and influential they were, and continue to be, on me, both as a teacher and as a person. All very modest people, they all shrugged off the praise with a "Ah, well. You know..." but I hope that they are able to feel some well-earned professional pride in their achievements.

Len Clark (11th September 1937 – 21st October 2019)

1960 – 1963 Malet Lambert School, Hull

1963 – 1970 Sir Leo Schultz High School, Hull

1970 – 1994 Brakenhale School, Bracknell

"Life brought Len and me together for the first time in September 1986. Me, a nervous 11 year old on my first day in secondary school, and Len, the Deputy Headteacher who made an instant impression on all of us because he exuded a natural authority.

This is the first thing you need to know about Len the teacher. He had presence. This is a much-prized superpower for those of us who are teachers. It looks effortless, but is anything but and Len had it in spades. He could silence a hall full of rowdy Year 10s (and, believe me, we were rowdy) with an imperceptible twitch of his eyebrow. Presence is hard-won by teachers. It does not come from being big, loud or scary. Len was a big man, but he was neither loud nor scary. It comes from years of honing your craft as a teacher and Len was a great teacher as, so I hear, he often used to tell his classes – "I'm the best teacher you're going to have" I'm told he used to say. I was

to wait five years before I had the fortune to be taught by Len. Both my wife Emma and I were in the same A-Level maths class and he expertly taught us for two years. His ultra-dry sense of humour was always on display – when asked “Sir, can you do Number 5 please?” Len would always reply “I can do them all.” It is a testament to his skill that in that small class a number of us went on to read engineering, physics or maths at university with all of us getting a first or upper second class degree.

Len’s sense of humour was also put to good use in the tuck shop where he could be found at breaks and lunch times. My sister-in-law Vicky tells me that if she asked for a Cadbury’s Twirl Len would do his finest pirouette, all the time maintaining that straight face of his. Working with him and Stan Bissinger in the tuck shop is a particularly fond memory of Emma’s and mine when we were in the Sixth Form. I now know as a teacher how valuable break times are to teachers – for a cup of coffee, a visit to the loo or to simply scream into a cushion for five minutes before Year 9 turn up. Len and Stan gave up their free time for us and we were grateful to them for that.

Len had high standards and so was not one to dole out praise like confetti. My brother, Pete, tells me that a little dink on the shoulder, a pat on the back or a “Well done” were prized as you knew you’d definitely done something really well. There was one down side of doing well with Len, though. If you were to be presented with a certificate or similar in assembly you dreaded the handshake that came with Len presenting it to you because you couldn’t be sure that you’d come away from the encounter with the same number of fingers that you had beforehand, such was the ferocity of his handshake.

Len was at the centre of school life: he could be found helping out at the annual 30-mile 50/50 walk; making up the food parcels we delivered to local pensioners at Christmas time with half the proceeds from that walk; or serving us Sixth Formers at our annual Christmas dinner dance.

As we got older we saw a different side to Len. Pete and I used to play for the staff basketball team occasionally or referee their games against other schools and we got to know Len and his colleagues more closely.

The second standout quality that Len had as a teacher that I could see as a child was that he was utterly unflappable (no mean feat at our school in the 1980s). I don’t recall him ever losing his cool, but I do recall one time when I sat about ten feet away from him in an assembly as he informed us, his voice cracking with emotion, that my German teacher, Joan Cheetham, had died. Having done this myself I know how heartbreaking that will have been for him. Emma recalls that Len often used to bring Mrs Cheetham a cup of coffee in to her lessons such was his concern for her welfare.

Over the course of his long career Len taught thousands of children. It is rare, though, for teachers to find out how their students fare. They leave our classrooms and schools and we cross our fingers and hope they did ok, but for most we’ll never know. That’s why it was so important for Emma and me to be able to thank Len personally and to let him know what an influential person he has been in our lives. Emma tells me that Len was the first person to congratulate her when she was appointed to the teaching staff in the school where Sally’s children and ours went together, and Emma, our children and I have enjoyed getting to know the rest of the lovely Clark family over the past decade.

Len’s loss is a painful one for us all to cope with, but I want to offer a comforting thought to end with.

“Teachers affect eternity; they can never tell where their influence stops.” So said Henry Adams.

Len taught thousands of children. Yes, he taught them maths and PE but far more importantly he taught them how to be good people. And those good people are out there right now all over the globe passing on his wisdom, his values of selflessness and dedication to public service, and his terrible jokes. Although he’s not here anymore his legacy is alive and well and will continue to play out in thousands of ways unknown to almost everyone involved. That is the power of teachers. Len was mortal just like everyone else, but his influence is not. It lives forever.

The last thing I want you to know about Len was that everyone, and I mean everyone, respected him deeply. So much so that I have only recently, a grown man in my 40s, been able to call him Len. Mr Clark seems far more appropriate. So, to finish, on behalf of all the students of Brakenhale School past and present I say for the last time, “Goodbye, Mr Clark. Thank you for teaching us.””