



Parent News: Friday 12th February 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

After much deliberation from the weather forecasters at the beginning of the week about whether the snow would make an appearance things were pretty much as normal (for the current situation). Our valiant team gritted every path and road possible and combined with the lightness of the snow we managed to escape the situation other parts of the country found themselves in much to the disappointment of many students!

Our CCF group were able to have a virtual session with the amazing 'Big Phil' Champion, an inspirational former soldier, author and TV personality. Phil spoke to our cadets about his difficult start in life but how he overcame that and in 1997 joined the Special Forces. Phil's big promise in life was to one day put back in as much as he has taken out. Being the champion of the ACF has given him the opportunity to achieve this aim. A big thanks to Mr Bury for organising this session. It is amazing that we are still able to organise virtual experiences such as this despite being in lockdown.

Today we held our first 'Digital Detox day' which has involved students participating in a wide variety of activities all linked to our Character Education programme. Early on in the day, we started to receive photographs of what our students had engaged in. Clearly, they have been enjoying time away from the screen undertaking sports and cooking activities, helping siblings and parents and getting out and about in the fresh air. We look forward to sharing many more student achievements from today after half term. These will also feed into our new rewards programme which begins on Monday 22nd February. See below for more information, we are really excited about this new initiative and I hope that students will be too.



I am also pleased to announce that we have had a further 20 brand new laptops funded by Project 500 which arrived today and are already on their way out to families in need. A huge thank you to Project 500 for their generosity.

I know that you are all very eager to know when school will be able to open for all students and normality can begin to resume. We are expecting another announcement from the Government on 22nd February and we hope that we will have more information provided on the next steps. Obviously as soon as we know of any new developments we will be in contact with you

Finally, a massive congratulations to Mrs Ciccarelli on the birth of her beautiful baby son. Both are doing very well and we hope she enjoys these special first few days, name to follow soon.

Student of the week:

Kelsey Armstrong in Year 11 – whatever she is faced with she overcomes, attends all live lessons, actively participates and does her best to succeed and achieve.

Fab:

- I wanted to say that we think Brakenhale have definitely gone above and beyond with their home learning provisions. Such a remarkable effort by all the teachers! I can hear the teachers in the background trying their level best to keep the children engaged and motivated and I cannot see that as being an easy task in any way. So thank you from us, as parents, to all of his teachers! I hope you have a relaxing half term.
- Big shout out for Mrs Faluyi and Mr Hilton or providing telephone support for GCSE options and mental health support to students. They always go the extra mile to ensure the students are happy!
As a Parent it's good to know, the teachers care about their students and are supporting families when they are out of sight, during the COVID pandemic.

Drab:

- Several times whilst working on Google slides, it either reloaded without saving changes, or spent a lengthy time saving (leaving a red bar along the top). This was incredibly frustrating when my child was trying to complete homework.

I am sorry you experienced this, please do contact the teacher involved if this happens again and they will be able to help you.

Staff member of the week:

- Mrs Patel Robinson Always helpful whenever we need her, helps me to complete work set online by writing it down and explaining to me, she’s always smiling and waving to us.
- Miss Manning Every lesson she is always really helpful and goes through things in a different way if we don’t get it, very inspirational with her boosting us.
- Miss Hodgson Always making every single English lesson fun and taking on another set.
- Mrs Lewis Can we please nominate Mrs Lewis in English for her work again with Year 7 this week and helping with their assessment. She is so patient and polite all the time.

Quote of the week:

‘When you can’t control what’s happening, challenge yourself to control the way you respond. That’s where your power is.’

A huge personal thank you from me to all of you for your incredible support and patience across this half term. I fully understand exactly how difficult it is to motivate your children and keep sane in these very challenging times! I am, on a daily basis, amazed by both the resilience and openness of our community and the support that everyone is giving to each other. I really do hope that across this next week everybody is able to have some sort of a break and is able to remain positive about the weeks ahead.

My very best wishes

Jane Coley, Headteacher

#teambrokenhale

What’s on next week

This year we have a 2 week timetable so there will be a week A and a week B. **Next Week: A**

Monday 15 th to Friday 19 th February	Spring Half Term
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Well Done

Well done to Imogen in Year 8 for completing her her first 5k medal. What a fantastic achievement.

Ms Turner, Head of Year 8



Character Challenge (Fun Fridays) and House Competitions

Thank you to everyone who has been submitting entries.

Celebrating the winners: 50 Word Story

Winner	2 nd Place	3 rd Place
Sophia Valenzuela Russo, Year 9	Oliver Marsh, Year 9	Casey McCrorie, Year 9

Week Ending 12th February: Beat It

Well done to everyone who participated by beating out those tunes!

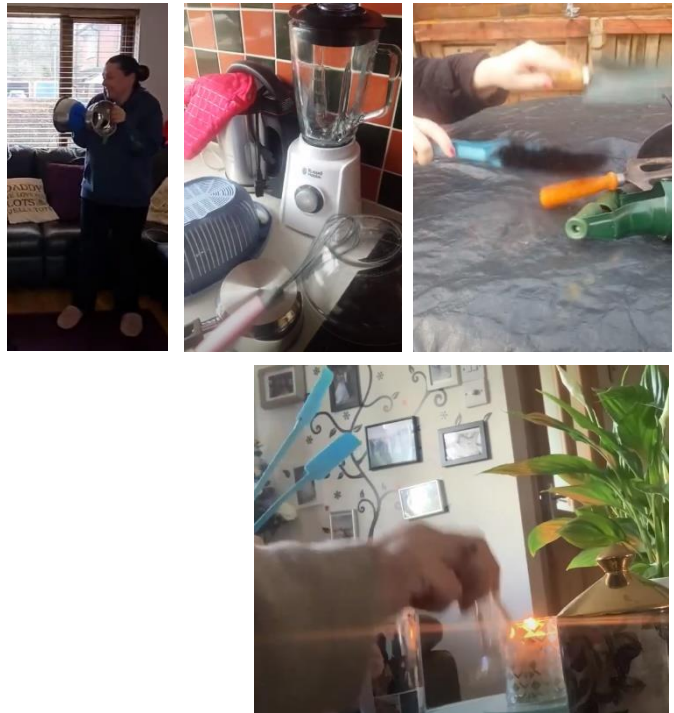
Good use of kitchen gadgets, household items and gardening tools!

Next Week

Here is the Challenge for next week, which will come under our Character: CULTURE

Please send your entries to

character@brakenhale.co.uk.



We would like to encourage as many students, young and old, to get involved!

Mr R Beukes, Assistant Headteacher

Each entry will receive 3 House Points in line with the Character Strength. A winner and a runner up will be selected and awarded additional points:

- 🏆 **1st place** = 10 additional House Points
- 🏆 **2nd place** = 5 additional House Points
- 🏆 **3rd place** = 3 additional House Points

Lockdown Lottery

Our new rewards programme will begin on Monday 22nd February. Please see below for more information, we are really excited about this new initiative and we hope that students will be too.



LOCKDOWN LOTTERY

**'You have to be
in it to win it'**

Awards are based on weekly attendance and House Points achieved!



Attendance (Year 7 -11)

Students with 100% attendance will go into a draw (Each Year Group to be done individually)

- 1st Prize - £20 Amazon voucher (or equivalent)
- 2nd Prize - £10 Amazon voucher (or equivalent)

House Points (Year 7 -11)

Top 50 students achieving HPs will go into a draw (Each Year Group to be done individually)

- 1st Prize - £20 Amazon voucher (or equivalent)
- 2nd Prize - £10 Amazon voucher (or equivalent)



Sixth Form Draw

Staff to nominate students to go into a draw based on effort and attendance to lessons.

- 1st Prize - £20 Amazon voucher (or equivalent)
- 2nd Prize - £10 Amazon voucher (or equivalent)

Overall School draw

All students will go in the draw. If your name is pulled out and you have achieved 100% attendance and earned HPs for that week you will be eligible for the following prizes:

- 1st Prize - Family take away
- 2nd Prize - £10 Amazon voucher (or equivalent)



Weekly tutor competition

Tutor group with the best average attendance and HPs per student will win £100 to spend on a tutor group rewards events.

- Tutees will also be entered into an additional draw to win:
1st Prize - £10 Amazon voucher

Year group competition

Year group with the best average attendance and HPs per student will win £500 to spend on a Year group rewards events.




House News

Temple House


Mrs Duffy has decided to temporarily step away from being Head of House. She has a few other responsibilities that currently require her attention. Being the utmost professional she only ever wants to give 100% and due to other responsibilities she cannot give Temple her full focus at this point in time. However, she will continue to be Temple's number one supporter. On behalf of Brakenhale and all the members of Temple, we would like to thank Mrs Duffy for all her hard work and dedication.


Huge congratulations to Mr Collins for being the successor to the role of Head of Temple. We welcome you to Temple and your new challenge. Mr Collins comes highly recommended and brings with him competitive experience and bucket loads of enthusiasm. With Mr Collins at the helm Mrs Duffy can rest assured that Temple's reign of excellence will continue!












Head of House: TEMPLE

A little bit about your House Captain Mr Collins





-  How long have you been head of House? **Less than 1 week.**
-  Events that you do within your house System? **During lockdown I have been trying to participate in the Fun Friday challenges, however I can't wait for when we're allowed back to school as a group for Sports Day events!**
-  What does the house system mean to you? **The house system is very important to me as it establishes a great sense of pride within our school community, it encourages students and staff to always strive for greatness no matter the activity. It also allows students to interact across year levels and gain support from older or younger students they may not always interact with.**
-  Raising funds you do in your house (cake sales etc)? **Not currently due to COVID, however I have plenty of ideas (watch this space!).**
-  Your favourite sport to watch? **Football and Basketball.**
-  Your favourite sport to play ? **Football.**
-  Football team you support? **Liverpool.**
-  Activities you like out of school? **Playing sport, travelling, coaching Football and Athletics, and of course sleeping and eating**



Calling all Temple Year 8 and Sixth Form

Have you got lots of ideas?

Do you want to make a difference?

Do you want to really fly the flag for your House?

Do you see yourself as an inspirational leader?

If so Temple needs you!

If you would like to apply, please click on this [google form link](#) to submit your application as soon as possible.



YOUR HOUSE NEEDS YOU!



WANTED!

HOUSE CAPTAINS

Complete the form:
[Google House Captain Form](#)
 or Contact your Head of House
 Mr C Collins: ccollins@brakenhale.co.uk

House Points this Week:

We continue to recognise the hard work that our students are doing through our House System by issuing House Points. It has been amazing to see so many of our students rewarded with so many achievement points this week across the departments.

Keep up the Hard work! Congratulations to everyone who has gained house points this week:

House Points this week								
	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11	Year 12	Year 13	Total
Academic Point	467	612	393	314	251	0	0	2037
Aspiration Points	18	15	31	0	0	0	10	74
Community Point	229	210	205	223	207	0	0	1074
Culture Points	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Physical	42	31	79	4	8	0	0	164
Total	756	869	708	541	466	0	10	3350

House Points this week								
	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11	Year 12	Year 13	Total
Farley (BLUE)	205	198	182	118	102	0	0	805
Jennetts (YELLOW)	183	231	157	143	125	0	10	849
Swinley (RED)	165	200	190	148	127	0	0	830
Temple (GREEN)	203	240	179	132	112	0	0	866
Total	756	869	708	541	466	0	10	3350



House
Winners
Temple

Across the school this half term we have awarded a fantastic **12412** House Points.



EAL (English as an Additional Language) - Spanish

Catering for a variety of learners, the EAL department offers support to students with varying levels of proficiency in the English Language, aiding in accessibility and promoting achievement and independence.

The purpose of the EAL Department is to offer support to students of different cultural and linguistic backgrounds as they work towards proficiency in English, while following the mainstream curriculum.

The main aim of the EAL department is to enable EAL students to access the national curriculum in all subjects by:

- Developing the students' skills in English
- Helping students to become independent learners
- Assisting students in gaining knowledge and skills which will enrich their personal and professional lives
- Helping them to integrate into the new community
- Building their confidence in the mainstream classroom

All EAL students are supported in exams with bilingual dictionaries and those eligible are granted extra time for use.

Support sessions are now open for all students that are offered Heritage Languages GCSE available with exam boards. If you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact the EAL Team at eal@brakenhale.co.uk

EAL (English as an additional language)

El departamento de EAL ofrece apoyo a una variedad de estudiantes con diferentes niveles de competencia en inglés, favoreciendo la accesibilidad y promoviendo el éxito y la independencia.

La finalidad del departamento EAL es ofrecer apoyo a alumnos de culturas e idiomas diferentes mientras trabajan hacia el dominio del inglés siguiendo el currículum de estudios tradicional.



El principal objetivo del departamento EAL es permitir que los estudiantes que no sean hablante nativo de inglés puedan acceder al plan de estudio nacional en todas las asignaturas:

- Desarrollando las habilidades de los estudiantes en inglés.
- Ayudando a los estudiantes a convertirse en alumnos independientes.
- Atendiendo a los alumnos a adquirir conocimientos y habilidades que enriquecerán su vida personal y profesional.
- Ayudándolos a integrarse en la nueva comunidad.
- Desarrollando su confianza en la clase.

Todos los estudiantes de EAL cuentan con el apoyo de diccionarios bilingües en sus exámenes y, a los alumnos elegibles, se garantiza tiempo suplementario.

Se dedican clases de apoyo para todos los estudiantes a los que se les ofrece Heritage Language GCSE en su propio idioma.

Para obtener más informaciones, no dude ponerse en contacto con el equipo de EAL en la siguiente dirección de correo electrónico: eal@brakenhale.co.uk

Performing Arts Update

We would like to congratulate our amazing Year 13 students Tiegan Wright and Macey Thorne who have both been offered places to continue their study of Dance at Creative Academy next year. Both students completed successful auditions and received offers last week. Creative Academy is a highly reputable vocational school that specialises in Dance and Performance, each year places on their courses are limited to only 40 students. Well done Macey and Tiegan!

Our Year 13 Dance student Danielle Bembenek has successfully secured a place in the cast of a feature film set to start filming in the next few weeks! Congratulations Dani!

Mrs C Duffy, Head of Performing Arts

LRC Book of the Week

Book :	Robinson Crusoe
Author :	Daniel Defoe



Each week, our Student Librarians and Librarian team select a book to highlight as Book of the Week, from old favourites to recently published children's, teen and young adult titles, picture books to Young Adult fiction. Our favourites are highlighted as Book of the Week, and where possible will have an attached link to the first chapter read for you by no other than our very own Mrs Daniels.

We want to highlight the availability of free Audiobooks by clicking on the link below. You do not need to sign in or subscribe to it; so please make sure to check all the great material that is available for free.

<https://stories.audible.com>

Our first book of the week with a link is a true classic! None other than Robinson Crusoe which is written by Daniel Defoe. You can listen to the whole book on Audible and it is brilliantly narrated by John Lee.

John Lee explores the story of Robinson Crusoe who is shipwrecked and cast ashore onto an uninhabited island, Robinson Crusoe ingeniously carves out a solitary, primitive existence for 24 years.

Eventually, he meets a young native whom he saves from death at the hands of cannibals. He calls him Man Friday and makes him his companion and servant.

Crusoe and Friday share in a variety of adventures, including a fierce battle with cannibals that culminates in the heroes recapturing a mutinous ship and returning to England.

Based partly on the real-life experiences of Scottish sailor Alexander Selkirk, Defoe's novel of human endurance in an exotic, faraway land exerts a timeless appeal and has taken its rightful place among the great works of Western civilization.

We hope you enjoy the read!

Mrs Daniels, LRC Manager

PE Update

Hello everyone!

Interview with PE

Meet The Team No 3 – Being interviewed this week is the newest member of the Department Mrs Lazarczuk, find out a little more about her before she teaches you very soon!!

KS3 PE after half term



Brakenhales Teachers Vs Students Step Challenge

Please continue to send all evidence to Miss Butler abutler@brakenhale.co.uk

Please check the school website for a weekly updated step count monitor:

<https://brakenhale.co.uk/pe-lockdown-challenge-january-2021/>

Please ensure that you are doing this challenge safely and within Government guidelines!!

Assessment: ME in PE

Students will be assessed in 4 major areas, 2 per term, each known as a 'ME in PE'. These are:

- Physical ME (assessed every term, all throughout out the year)
- Social ME (assessed term 1 - September to December)
- Thinking ME (assessed term 2 - January to March)
- Leading ME (assessed term 3 - April to July)










@BRAKENHALEPE

NAME
Mrs Lazarczuk

INITIALS
NLA

ROLE IN SCHOOL
Teacher in Charge HSC & PE Teacher

MAIN SPORT
Ice Hockey

POSITION
Forward - Center

GREATEST SPORTING ACHIEVEMENT
Representing Great Britain 1998-2008 1 of 2 female players to attend the "boys" school of excellence for ice hockey

FAVOURITE SPORTING QUOTE
'The only one who can tell you "you can't win" is you and you don't have to listen.' Jessica Ennis-Hill

SPORTING ROLE MODEL
Hayley Wickenheiser

MOST EMBARRASSING SPORTING MOMENT
Had an absolute sitter of an open goal and managed to hit the post...! How?!

Email address
nlazarczuk@brakenhale.co.uk

#teambrokenhale #brakenhalepe




Assessment criteria

‘ME in PE’	
Physical ME	
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 ME	
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)

PE Champions of Week



PE CHAMPIONS OF THE WEEK

Week of: 01/02/21



	Staff	Student	Tutor
	Mr Potter	Alex Radu	10R
	Mr Maye	Cobey North	11H
	Mrs Lazarczuk	Tobylee James Felicia Towler	9N 9E
	Mr Boucher	Archie Johnstone	11K
	Miss Rushby	Becky Warner	10R
	Ms Wilson	Chloe Sykes	10N
	Miss Butler	Michaela Sichova	7K
Well done!			
#teambrakenhale #brakenhalepe			

On Twitter & Instagram:

[@brakenhalepe](#)
[#brakenhalepe](#)

[#teambrakenhale](#)
[#bekind](#)

Mr M Potter, Head of PE

Mr C Maye, Second in PE

On Twitter & Instagram:

[@brakenhalepe](#)
[#brakenhalepe](#)

[#teambrakenhale](#)
[#bekind](#)

Why is Literacy so Important?

It is through the use of literacy that we express ourselves and communicate in the world. If we don't have the words to describe how we feel or what we want, how can we tell people? I think the word 'literacy' can hold a certain amount of fear but this isn't something we need to worry about - just something we need to be aware of. Literacy encompasses reading and writing skills as well as speaking and listening skills. These are all skills that help us get on in life like filling out forms, reading and writing letters, talking on the phone, listening to our near and dear ones. If we move away from the outside world and take it back to a school context, this is where we learn to build our literacy skills. If students secure skills in reading and writing at primary school, then students can access the curriculum at secondary; form their own opinion, express their thoughts and feelings clearly and follow instructions successfully. However, with the rise in technology, this can be difficult - who wants to step away from Facebook, TikTok, the Playstation?

It is a common belief, but one that I feel we are moving away from, that literacy is the responsibility of the English department and the English department alone. In fact, if literacy is about the way we communicate (read, write, speak, listen), the words we use, the tones of voices we adopt, then this is important in every subject, isn't it? At Brakenhale, we have a group dedicated to ensuring literacy standards are high across the curriculum and this group is the Literacy leads. One member from each subject is a Lead in Literacy for their subject and below they have written a little something about why literacy is important in their subject.

Literacy in PE

Literacy Lead: **Mr Maye**

In sport being able to communicate with your fellow sportsmen and women is essential to successful outcomes. Verbal communication is vital. Being able to communicate with your teammates to give them information that they would need to help them such as advice, encouragement or to let them know how they can improve is so key, especially within Team games.

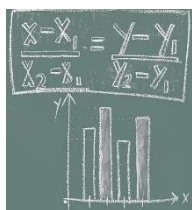


Sport is about relationships and being able to use the spoken word is vital to success. This can not only be team sports but other examples in sport may be a Coach needing to communicate with their athlete, or an official communicating with a player to explain a decision. The examples in sport to use spoken language are endless but don't stop at verbal communication. In sport there is a need to use the written word also. This can be as simple as a sports journalist writing a review from a sports event or interviewing an athlete. This can also be a sports analyst writing a report for a Coach on their next opposition and how best to exploit them.

So being able to utilise literacy both written and spoken is vital if you wish to succeed in sport.

Literacy in Maths

Literacy Lead: **Mrs Fotheringham**



To achieve in maths you will need to understand the language of maths and have good numeracy skills. Numeracy is also known as Mathematical literacy and is the ability to be able to problem solve, reason and analyse data and information. To teach good numeracy skills we give our students a list of keywords linked to each day's lesson/topic at the start of every lesson. Why? Everyday words often have a different meaning when put into a mathematical context and you have to understand the questions if you want to solve them correctly. At KS4 and KS5 knowing and understanding keywords becomes more crucial as questions are more likely to be in the form of problem solving and students will encounter many more worded questions.

Literacy in Science

Literacy Lead: **Mr Swynford-Lain**

There are four main themes of literacy and how it impacts science. All are important to help students engage in their science learning.

Words in Science: Science has a rich vocabulary of specialised words, many with both an everyday meaning as well as a scientific one. Improving students' understanding of these words will help their understanding of science. Recognising scientific words and meanings is a key skill that is often assessed.

Reading in Science: Scientific reading can be a demanding activity and it is important to support students in how they access texts rather than reducing the quality of the reading. Scientific papers by their very nature can be detailed and so it is important for students to be able to read and understand so they can apply knowledge and skills.



Writing in Science: Although Science involves observations and experiments, research has shown that students can spend about a third of their time writing in science lessons. It supports students in organising and expressing their ideas, supporting their learning in lessons. It is important that students develop their writing to be able to clearly demonstrate their understanding, for example in examinations where there are a number of questions that require good quality written work.

Talking in Science: A simple conversation with your child about what they did in science today can be a powerful tool in promoting their understanding of the learning they did in a lesson.

We have all become more fluent in our use of scientific literacy over the past year (with lateral flow tests and changes to viral spike proteins) and it is important that, despite all the hardships and trials our students have been through, we continue to maintain high expectations of all our students. So many careers rely on a scientific background and we want all students to be successful in their chosen careers.

Literacy in EAL	Literacy Lead: Mrs Fandi
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Literacy plays a vital role in integrating EAL students into society. Being able to read and write, not just for education but to communicate effectively within society too in order to be an active and productive member. Keeping up with current events and news is important for the community as well as being able to understand the culture of the community (British values) in order to enrich their life experience. In addition literacy allows EAL students to understand, respect and accept the diversity within the community and the world. Literacy is important because it builds self esteem and helps improve quality of life for EAL students. Most importantly, it helps them to understand their rights and obligations.

Literacy in Languages	Literacy Lead: Miss Appleton
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Literacy is very important in MFL as it is integral to what we do. Without good literacy in your mother tongue it is very difficult to have good literacy and understanding in another language. However, this also works the other way too. You can improve your literacy in your mother tongue by learning another language as it forces you to examine your own language and its rules and patterns more closely! Literacy and languages are inextricably intertwined!



Literacy in Humanities	Literacy Lead: Mr Collins
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Literacy is important in our subject at all levels as it shows comprehension and understanding through the use of key geographical vocabulary. It also allows us to work in conjunction with subjects with extended writing such as English and History (bridge gaps and support in extended writing techniques). Literacy also allows us to better understand the events transpiring around us each day, and allows us to begin to see the world with a wider understanding.

Literacy in Performing Arts (Dance, Drama, Music)	Literacy Lead: Mrs Hope
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Literacy in Dance: Dance as a subject has its own rich vocabulary, when we watch a dance work we need to be able to analyse what we see in an articulate and descriptive way. Through breaking a piece down to actions, dynamics, spatial elements and relationships we can start to understand and explore choreographic intentions. As performers we need to be able to use technical language to help us progress and develop a deeper knowledge of our craft. Dance itself is another way to communicate your ideas and express yourself, as part of this you need to be able to evaluate your own work and the work of others. Many jobs within the Dance sector utilise and require good literacy skills such as the role of a choreographer, teacher, dance journalist and arts administration posts.



Literacy in Drama : Literacy is important because no matter whether we perform with words or without, the opportunity to express ourselves during the rehearsal process is key. Literacy also goes hand in hand as the actor keeps their actor's log or the designer makes notes on their creative decisions. We can approach our exams confidently with a good literacy base behind us. We can also use our interpretive and linguistic skills in jobs such as Journalism, Law, Marketing, Acting, Directing, Lighting & Sound design, and many many others.

Literacy is important in this subject because of how we need to be able to understand the key words in order to be able to perform to the best of our abilities. Understanding the words we are memorising from scripts, or being able to demonstrate specific drama techniques and using the correct vocabulary is the best way students can work towards the highest grade within their learning. The more students understand their vocabulary, the more creative they can be with their work which is ultimately what we want from them!

Literacy in Music: Literacy is important in order to create and express music; be it in a performance direction, creating song lyrics, analysing a piece of music or simply expressing an opinion on the music you like to listen to. Using our literacy skills inspires music creativity through turning dots, chords and words on a page into a musical language that everybody understands and appreciates. Good literacy aids good communication and evaluative skills which are essential in music industry job roles including music promotion, music performance and composing, music publishing, event management, running a studio and many more.



Key Word

I think it is only fair that this is the key word for this half term: **RESILIENT**

Students have worked so resiliently in accessing and engaging with remote learning and staff have been working relentlessly to ensure that what we are providing is the best it can be.

You might not get a lot of points for this in the game of Scrabble but you will get lots of points in the game of life!

Thank you to everyone for their dedication and resilience to learning during what can be a difficult time :)



Enjoy the break and we look forward to welcoming you back (even if remotely!) on Monday 22nd February!

Mrs Lewis, Literacy Lead

<p>Definitions</p> <p>(of a person or animal) able to withstand or recover quickly from difficult conditions</p> <p>(of a substance or object) able to recoil or spring back into shape after bending, stretching, or being compressed</p>	<p>Examples</p> <p>"Babies are generally far more resilient than new parents realise."</p> <p>"My shoe has resilient cushioning."</p>
<p>Synonyms</p> <p>Tough, hardy, strong, irrepressible, adaptable, flexible</p> <p>Antonyms</p> <p>Vulnerable, sensitive, rigid, fragile</p>	<p>Etymology (where the word originated)</p> <p>mid 17th century: from Latin <i>resiliens</i>- 'leaping back', from the verb <i>resilire</i> (see <i>resile</i>).</p> <p>Definitions from Oxford Languages</p>

Parenting Special Children

Parenting Special Children are running the following events online via Zoom. They are free for Berkshire families or at a nominal cost. Please click on the highlighted event title for further information and to book.

PSC are working in partnership with Autism Berkshire to provide Autism and ADHD related support under the new 'Berkshire West Autism and ADHD Service'. You can see events provided by Autism Berkshire [here](#).

[Social Interaction Skills Group Course for West Berkshire Children and Young People](#)

A six week course for young people in mainstream education (aged 11 to 16, school year groups 7 to 11) with a diagnosis of Autism/ADHD, or who are awaiting an assessment, and registered with a GP practice in the West Berkshire NHS area (Reading, West Berkshire, Wokingham). The course will focus on independence, self-advocacy, friendships, self-esteem and knowing ourselves. Starting in February 2021. Please click the title above for further information.

On Demand Presentations

[Sleep Tips for Children and Young People \(age 8+\)](#)

A 12 minute presentation for children and young people (age 8+). Available to view on demand until 30 April. £2 per download.

[Sleep Tips for Teens](#)

A 40 minute presentation for teenagers who struggle with their sleep. Available to view on demand until 30 April. £2 per download.

For help and advice or if you just need to talk:

Helpline and Diagnosis Support Service (Mon – Thurs, 10am – 2.30pm)

Tel: 0118 9863532, email: dss@parentingspecialchildren.co.uk

Trauma and Attachment Service

Tel: 07557 102623, email: tas@parentingspecialchildren.co.uk

Sleep Service

Email: sleep@parentingspecialchildren.co.uk

Community Support Groups

Tel: 07810 689679, email: supportgroups@parentingspecialchildren.co.uk

For any other enquiries please email admin@parentingspecialchildren.co.uk

Miss Manisier, Student Support

Looking after our Mental Health

Free Confidence Masterclasses in Half Term

Please find a link here to 5 FREE masterclasses during February half term, helping to improve self-esteem, confidence, and resilience during these difficult times.

[Linkedin Link](#)

Clair Gill, Director of Safeguarding & Intervention

Attendance

If your son/daughter is unwell or has a medical appointment where they are unable to attend online/live lessons can you please inform us by sending a message via gateway or emailing attendance@brakenhale.co.uk.

We still need to report any students that have Covid-19 symptoms and if tested the results and if they are isolating due to a member of their household/bubble having a positive test.

If this is the case can you please complete the form on the following link:-

[Covid Notification Form](#)

The form can also be found on the front page of the school website.

Action for Happiness – Happier January

Friendly February 2021 : <https://www.actionforhappiness.org/>

Daily actions to help you stay connected to others.

We need each other more than ever right now! This month let's focus on reaching out to connect with others and doing our best to be a good friend. Our acts of kindness and connection ripple out and impact so many more people than we realise - and they also boost our own happy hormones too! In stressful times people around us may be feeling the strain, so let's try to keep calm, take time to listen and show compassion.

ACTION CALENDAR: FRIENDLY FEBRUARY 2021

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
1 Send someone a message to say how much they mean to you	2 Ask a friend how they have been feeling recently	3 Do an act of kindness to make life easier for someone else	4 Organise a virtual 'tea break' with colleagues or friends	5 Show an active interest by asking questions when talking to others	6 Get back in touch with an old friend you've not seen for a while	7 Make an effort to have a friendly chat with a neighbour
8 Share what you're feeling with someone you really trust	9 Thank someone and tell them how they made a difference for you	10 Look for the good in people, even when they frustrate you	11 Send an encouraging note to someone who needs a boost	12 Focus on being kind rather than being right	13 Send a friendly message of support to a local business	14 Tell your loved ones why they are special to you
15 Smile at the people you see and brighten their day	16 Check in on someone who may be struggling and offer to help	17 Respond kindly to everyone you talk to today, including yourself	18 Appreciate the good qualities of someone in your life	19 Share a video or message you find inspiring or helpful	20 Make a plan to connect with others and do something fun	21 Actively listen to what people say, without judging them
22 Give sincere compliments to people you talk to today	23 Be gentle with someone who you feel inclined to criticise	24 Tell a loved one about their strengths that you value most	25 Thank three people you feel grateful to and tell them why	26 Give positive comments to as many people as possible today	27 Call a friend to catch up and really listen to them	28 Make uninterrupted time for your loved ones

"The best way to cheer yourself up is to cheer somebody else up" - Mark Twain

"The only way to have a friend is to be one" - Ralph Waldo Emerson

ACTION FOR HAPPINESS

www.actionforhappiness.org

Learn more about this month's theme at www.actionforhappiness.org/friendly-february

Happier · Kinder · Together

Fundraising

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](#).



Friends of Brakenhale

Our tax-free fundraising campaign page is now live:

<https://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/charity-web/charity/displayCharityCampaignPage.action?campaignId=9819&charityId=1018027>

Friends of Brakenhale

Friends of Brakenhale support the raising of additional funds to support the Brakenhale School community. Please help us to raise money by supporting our events. Any donation small or large will help to directly support the school and local community.

School Lottery

Congratulations to the most recent 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.



Free School Meals

The Admissions Department of Bracknell Forest Council handles the authorisation and administration of Free School Meals. If you think your son/daughter may qualify, please complete the Bracknell Forest Council application form via the link below.


www.bracknell-forest.gov.uk/.../how-do-i-apply-free-school-meals

It is worthwhile applying for Free School Meals entitlement even if your child does not require a school lunch because your son/daughter may receive financial assistance with other school related expenses.

During lockdown weekly food parcels can be collected from Main Reception between 10am and 12noon.

Taz Asran, Chef Manager

Vacancies

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RS, Psychology, Criminology Teacher • Maths Teacher • Science Teacher • English Teacher • Performing Arts Teacher 	<p>Please visit our website for more details: https://brakenhale.co.uk/about/vacancies/</p>
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Feedback Initiative

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

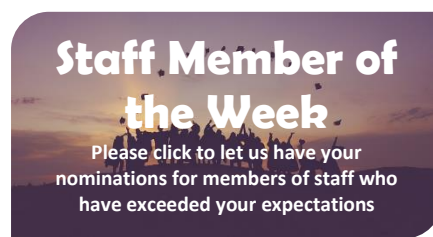
Electronic submission:



[Fab](#)



[Drab](#)



[Staff Member of the Week](#)

Future Diary Dates

** Please note that all events may be subject to change*

<p>Thursday 4th March</p>	<p>Year 10 Virtual Parents' Evening</p>
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Term Dates

Term Dates 2020-21

SPRING TERM 2021

Tuesday 5th January – Thursday 1st April 2021

Spring Half Term - Monday 15th February to Friday 19th February 2021

Spring Holiday: Friday 2nd April to Friday 16th April 2021

(Good Friday 2nd April, Easter Monday 5th April)

SUMMER TERM 2021

Monday 19th April – Friday 16th July 2021

Summer Half Term - Monday 31st May to Friday 4th June 2021

Monday 19th, Tuesday 20th and Wednesday 21st July 2021 **Inset Days**

Summer Holiday: Thursday 22nd July 2021

INSET Days Tuesday 1st and Wednesday 2nd September 2020
Monday 19th, Tuesday 20th and Wednesday 21st July 2021

Please check the school website regularly for current information.

Bracknell Forest term dates can be found on their website:

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



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

High Expectations and Challenge