



Parent News: Friday 22nd January 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

Another week of lockdown has passed and we are now fully into the routine of live off site learning. Students have continued to impress us with their ability to adapt to this new environment and keep focused on their work. It has been really heartening to receive emails from students themselves thanking their teachers and acknowledging their hard work. This week has also seen Head of Year assemblies for Years 7 to 11 with Post 16 to follow. The messages delivered through these assemblies have focused on the need to stay in touch, stay positive and adhere to the rules.

On Thursday evening after some initial technical difficulties out of our control, we had another successful virtual parents' evening. Please let us know if your appointments did not happen and we will contact you individually. A big thank you to Mr George for putting together the Year 9 Options website which I know has provided answers to many of your questions.

We continue to navigate through the daily updates from the Department of Education and as ever we will keep you apprised of any changes as they come through. In terms of testing, there has now been a hold put on daily testing for direct contacts and so as it stands direct contacts will now be required to self-isolate for 10 days as opposed to being offered daily testing in school.

We continue to focus on ensuring high quality staff for the future and with this in mind, we have appointed Miss Dow, who will be joining us in the Maths department from July. Miss Dow has been training with us and completes this training in June so has an excellent working knowledge of our school. Congratulations go to her.

Student of the week:

Arwa Bilal in Year 10 - for a continual positive attitude and support and acknowledgement of peers' and teachers' efforts.

Fab:

- Another fab week of online learning. My daughter has settled down this week, she gets anxious with the technology and keeping up with lessons. The teachers are fabulous, they are calm and patient with the students, no mean feat with 200 students on a lesson. Thank you and well done team Brakenhale.
- Fantastic to get a parents' newsletter each week, full of useful information. Thank you.
- Great school website keeping us all updated and the website updated.
- Thank you to every staff member, who is working undoubtedly hard during this lockdown, either in school or from home, to see our children are still getting some form of education.
- Thanks for the Year 9 Virtual Options Evening for Key Stage 4 Curriculum with all the clear key information about the process of options.
- I wanted to say thank you to you and #teambrokenhale for all your efforts. My daughter has been really enjoying the structure and although can't wait to see her friends and get back to 'proper' school, is enjoying the live online learning.
- Thank you so much for all you're doing for every student. I know there were a few teething problems at the start of live lessons, they are now going really well. My daughters have now settled into them well and have a good routine in place. I know it's not ideal but it's nice to finally have some sort of normality back for education. It's been difficult for everyone. Thank you again for all your continuous support.

Staff member of the week:

Miss Lane, Miss Whitehead and Miss Toofany - Thank you to all of you for being amazing teachers, you are really trying your best at making sure we still understand the work even though we are doing it from home/ remote learning. I am really thankful to have you guys as my teachers (remote learning AND in school) and I look forward to all the lessons I have with you.

Mrs Lewis This is one amazing teacher, she is so lovely with the students. When answering the numerous questions from Year 7, Mrs Lewis remains calm and reassuring, reminding them not to worry or panic.

Mrs Lewis I caught a snippet of my Year 7 daughter's online class this week and it was so lovely to hear such a kind and caring teacher. The way she was engaging with the students was so nice to hear. She was making time for each one that needed her attention but mindful all the time of all the students waiting patiently and praising them all through the lesson for their input and hard work.

Mrs Palmer For always keeping us entertained with her flamingo Fridays.

Miss Bunkell Keeping our A level history lessons interesting and engaging despite having to be online. Always willing to help us and is an all-round great teacher :)

Mr Kellett He is helping in online lessons and making them enjoyable.

Mr Collins For always going above and beyond for children in his tutor group and the support he has given to my daughter and our family.

Mrs Lewis For working with the Year 7 children during English live lessons. Fantastic interaction with the children and for the praise she gives them all. We feel that out of all of the lessons my daughter has had that are live she gets the most out of the lessons that Mrs Lewis has taught them. Mrs Lewis genuinely seems to miss that face to face interaction with the children too.

Quote of the week:

'There is always light, if only we are brave enough to see it. If only we are brave enough to be it.' Amanda Gorman, the youngest inaugural poet in US history.

Have a great weekend.

Best wishes

Jane Coley, Headteacher

Student Representatives

We are pleased to announce that we have recently voted in our Brakenhale Student Representatives.

Two students from each year group are to join the already-appointed Head Students, Dragos Popa and Miriam Amponsah to be the conduits for Student Voice at Brakenhale:

Congratulations to:

Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11
Ryan Hawkins Olivia Payne	Imogen Grace Smith Olivia Can	Charlotte Dickson Amelia Elmes	Harrison Creech Faraimunashe Manyumbu	Justyna Bawej Jackson McManus

We look forward to them seeking your views and elevating your voices, as well as helping to devise solutions for the school body. They have already met as a team to start strategizing so watch this space for opportunities to share your voice.

A big thank you to Miss Loj who has dedicated her time, enthusiasm and energy to instigating and administrating the voting process.

Mrs Lister, Assistant Headteacher - Raising Standards

Performing Arts Update

As practical subjects we can't offer live dance, drama or music lessons at the moment so we have created a website full of fun and exciting tasks students can complete as enrichment to continue to develop their Performing Arts understanding.

For Years 7, 8 and 9 there is an opportunity for you to expand your skills and explore different aspects of the Performing Arts from home.

There are a range of activities to choose from including reviews, fact files, costume and set design, stunt work or music promotion to list a few! Please take a look at your year group's page and pick your favourites to complete. Tasks can be completed by submitting photos, videos, drawings, written answers or a combination of everything - the choice is yours! The website provides all the details of tasks and how to submit your work.

Along with all the exciting tasks on the website you can also view performances from past and present students. From course work to competition entries Brakenhale Performing Arts students have done some amazing work and we are proud to share it with you. You can also earn house points just by enjoying these videos and telling us what you think!

We are really looking forward to seeing the amazing work you complete and will be sharing the most creative and thoughtful work in future editions of Parent News and via our Twitter account @PABrakenhale so make sure you follow us!

The site will continue to be updated as long as we are learning online so keep checking back. If you have any ideas for tasks or performance pieces you would like to see on the website soon please let us know at performingarts@brakenhale.co.uk

<https://sites.google.com/brakenhale.co.uk/performing-arts-online/home>

Miss Millard, Performing Arts

Performing Arts Online Enrichment 2021

Character Challenge (Fun Fridays) and House Competitions

Thank you to everyone who submitted entries over the last two weeks. Please find some of them below and congratulations to the winners.

Week Ending 15th January: Support Your Community

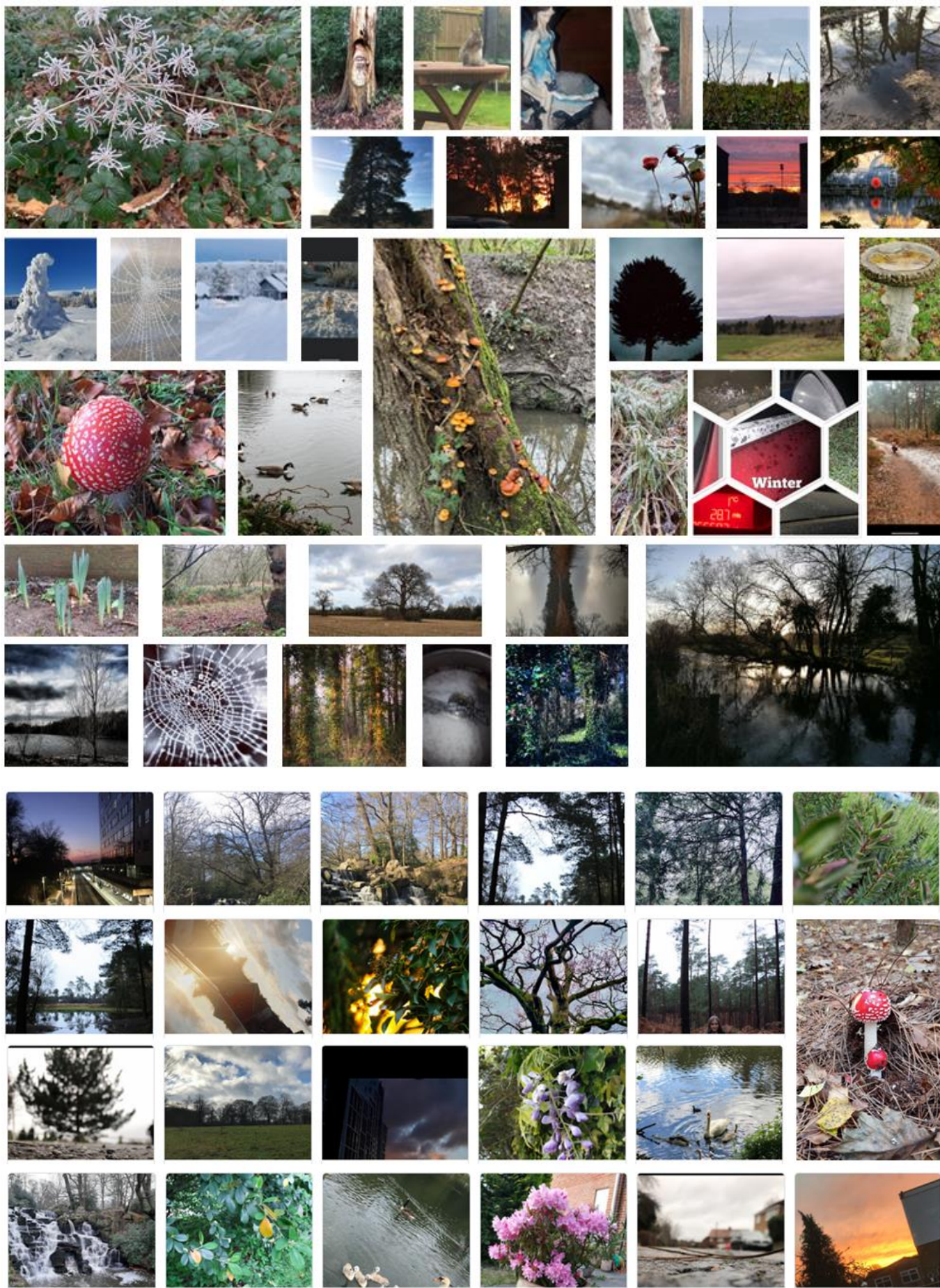
Winner: Nikita Galanakis in Year 10 for Swinley.

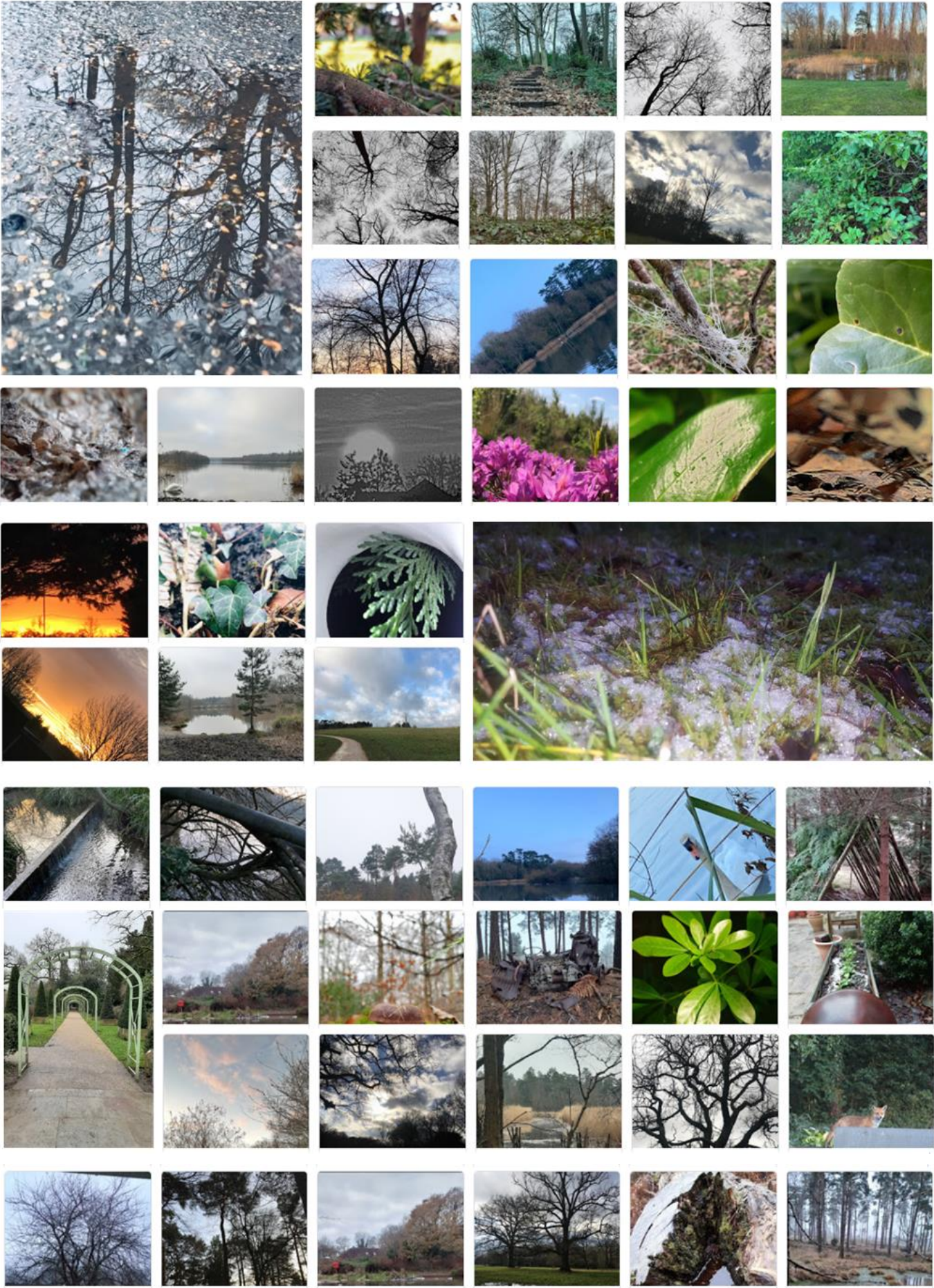


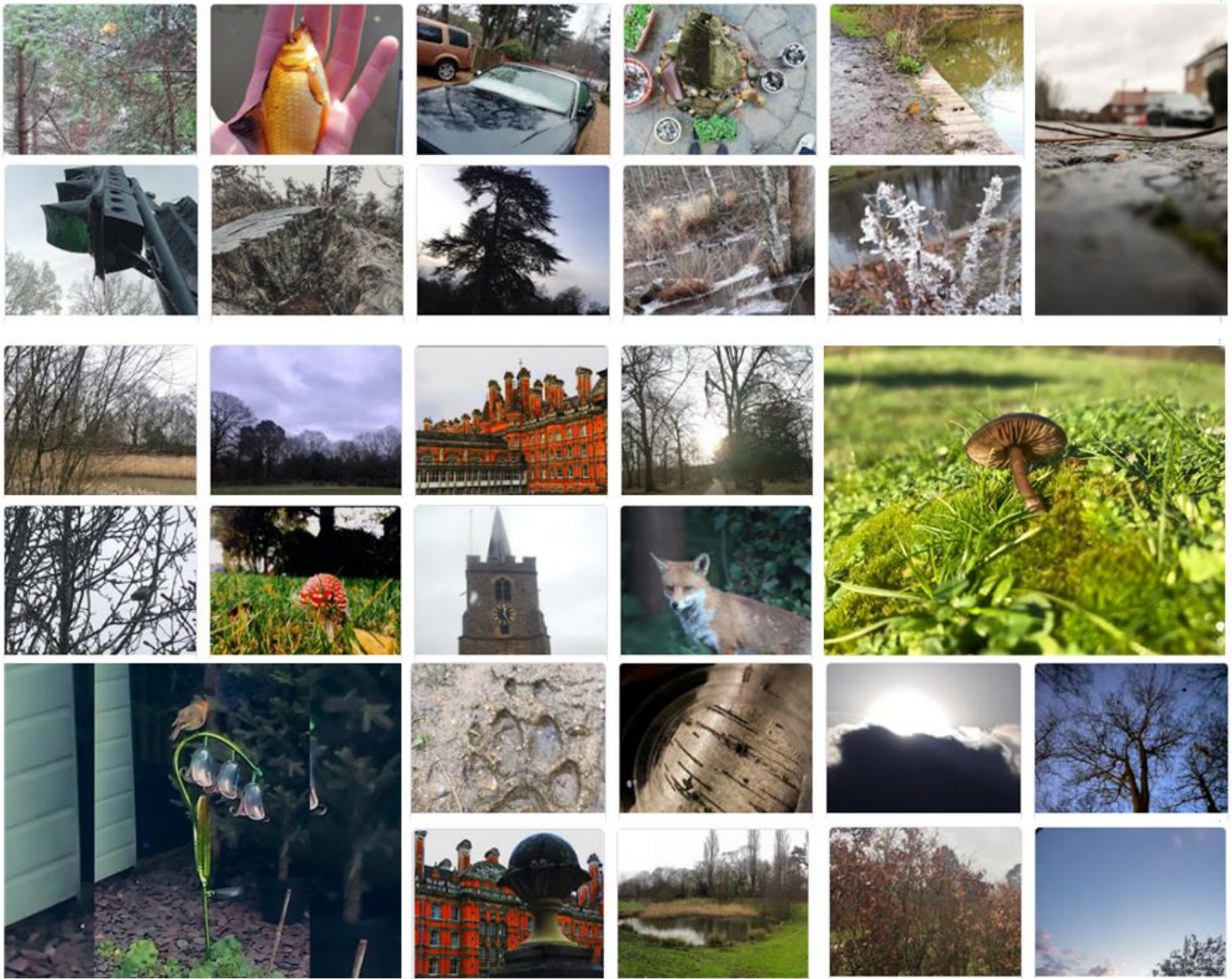
Week Ending 22nd January: Winter Wonderland Nature Photography

We have received so many wonderful entries for this Fun Friday Challenge, thank you to everyone, staff and students, who entered.

Greenshaw have put together a showcase video of all the entries across the trust which will be shared with students and we have included snapshots of them below.







Next Week

Here is the Challenge for next week, which will come under our Character of Aspiration.

Please send your entries to character@brakenhale.co.uk.

We would like to encourage as many students, young and old, to get involved! The deadline is midday on Thursday 28th January.

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 in each year group.

🏆 **1st place** = 10 additional House Points

🏆 **2nd place** = 5 additional House Points

🏆 **3rd place** = 3 additional House Points

Friday 22nd January
THE FUN FRIDAY CHALLENGE

This week you've got to
TAP TO TIDY!

We are spending a lot of time indoors. Let's try to organise those areas which we would normally forget about.

Entries can be a video or photographs of you transforming your messy rooms, drawers and cupboards. You could weed a flowerbed or organise a wardrobe... just make sure you document the before and after!

Send your entries in to your school's Fun Friday team
 by **MIDDAY THURSDAY 28th JANUARY**

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, even in lockdown.

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

Achievement Points this week .

	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11	Year 12	Year 13	Total
Academic Point	567	249	364	333	278	7	5	1803
Aspiration Points	0	0	7	30	47	9	23	116
Community Point	40	17	160	11	21	3	0	252
Culture Points	3	0	0	0	1	0	0	4
Leadership Points	3	0	0	13	0	0	0	16
Physical	15	34	44	12	16	0	0	121
Total	628	300	575	399	363	19	28	2312

House Points this week

	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11	Year 12	Year 13	Total
Farley (BLUE)	167	61	125	89	99	5	15	561
Jennetts (YELLOW)	150	82	144	101	106	12	7	602
Swinley (RED)	154	64	165	125	82	2	4	596
Temple (GREEN)	157	93	141	84	76	0	2	553
Total	628	300	575	399	363	19	28	2312

House Points this week Inc-STAFF Fun Friday Points

	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11	Year 12	Year 13	STAFF FF	Total
Farley (BLUE)	167	61	125	89	99	5	15	24	585
Jennetts (YELLOW)	150	82	144	101	106	12	7	9	611
Swinley (RED)	154	64	165	125	82	2	4	18	614
Temple (GREEN)	157	93	141	84	76	0	2	15	568
Total	628	300	575	399	363	19	28	66	2378

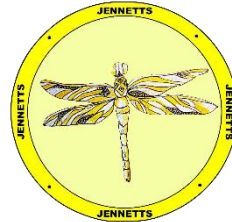
All very close this week and thank you to every one for continuing to reward the students with hundreds of house points daily and participating in the Fun Fridays. It was lovely to see so many contributions from staff this week too which really make a difference, not only points/house wise but in lifting the spirits of students and staff alike.

Well done to Year 7 with the most achievement points this week, closely followed by Year 9.

Well done Jennetts House for students who won this week's housepoint total but we must mention that with Fun Friday participation from staff we saw that Swinley edged forward and took the win. So well done to both houses. Good luck in the next challenge.

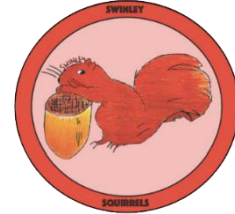


Jennetts



Swinley

House Winners



Holocaust Memorial Day

The 27th January is Holocaust Memorial Day. To help commemorate this important event on Tuesday 26th all Year 9 students will be watching a live webcast from a Holocaust survivor in their history lesson.



This year's webcast will be with Eve Kugler. She was born in Germany in 1931 and had personal experiences of events such as Kristallnacht, before escaping to France. In 1941 Eve and her sister Ruth managed to get a visa for America where the sisters were separated, being moved around different foster homes. Despite the fact that her father was arrested, her parents managed to survive in France and after the war they were reunited in New York in 1946.



HOLOCAUST
MEMORIAL
DAY 27/1



School Activity

The theme for this year's Holocaust Memorial Day is "be the light in the darkness". The History Department would like to invite students in Year 9-13 to submit either a song, poem or piece of artwork that fits this theme. The artwork can take on any form you want, be it a photograph or a drawing. All entries should be linked to the Holocaust in some way. If you feel you would like more information about the Holocaust to help you with your entries please contact the History department and we can help you. Entries should be submitted to dbunkell@brakenhale.co.uk by Monday 1st February. These will then be presented in a later edition of Parent News, with all entries receiving Character Points for Culture.

You can find out more about the Holocaust Memorial Trust here: <https://www.hmd.org.uk>

Ms Bunkell, Head of History

Identity

Identity News!

You may not have been aware of this, but 2020 was a huge year for LGBT rights across the world with incredible steps forward in Austria, Taiwan, Ecuador and Northern Ireland. There are also more cases set to be decided this year in the USA, Botswana, Singapore, Jamaica, Barbados, Hong Kong and Kenya.

However, last year also saw a rise in the removal of rights and increased discrimination in many countries in Europe. In May, Hungary passed a law to ban the legal recognition of transgender people and in September, in Poland over 100 towns and regions declared themselves "LGBT free-zones".

Overall, this paints a mixed picture, but there are small things we can be doing to help. Currently, Amnesty International is running an LGBTI equality campaign to help 3 women in Poland who could face up to 2 years in prison for speaking out against discrimination. They are asking for people to send an email directly to Poland's Prosecutor General. This takes 5 minutes as the email is already pre-written you just need to send it. If you would like to help or find out more about the case, please click here:



<https://www.amnesty.org.uk/actions/elzbieta-podlesna?from=issue>

What to watch!

In lighter news, with another lockdown hitting you may be looking for new shows and movies to watch, so this week why not try:

KS4/5: Schitt's Creek- Age rating=15

This hilarious comedy came to an end in 2020 after 6 seasons, leaving on an absolute high by winning 9 Emmys in 2020. It follows a family who go bankrupt and earn their way back again. This show is definitely a must see! Currently available on Netflix and on All4, being played weekdays on E4 at 4pm.



KS3: The Owl House- Age rating= 7+ PG

This is a cartoon created by Disney about a girl called Luz who finds herself in another world! We were watching it together in Identity meetings before lockdown and it has been widely praised for its LGBTQ+ representation of several characters. It does contain some fantasy violence, but it is designed for children and young people, culminating in a uniquely charming tv show. Currently available on Disney+ or the Disney channel.



Identity does Taskmaster!

This week your task is to draw a self-portrait while blind folded. It should be done on A4 plain paper and should fill the entire page. Please make sure you do this safely and without drawing on any desks or walls!

You have until Friday 29th January to complete your task. Then submit your entries to dbunkell@brakenhale.co.uk to receive character points!

Mrs Bunkell, Identity

PE Update

Hello everyone!

Interview with PE

A new feature in PE to look out for this term. We are going to interview a member of the PE Department each week and let you know a little more about them! This week we start with the main man himself Head of PE - Mr Potter.

Competition Time

Brakenhale PE wants you to showcase your crazy skills! Can you get the Tea Bag into the cup from 2 metres?!!!! IF so can you send us your successful attempts!










@BRAKENHALEPE

NAME
Mr Potter

INITIALS
MPO

ROLE IN SCHOOL
Head of PE

MAIN SPORT
Cricket

POSITION
Opening bowler

GREATEST SPORTING ACHIEVEMENT
Scoring an ECB Premier League 100

FAVOURITE SPORTING QUOTE
You miss 100% of the shots you never take

SPORTING ROLE MODEL
Darren Gough - even though he is a Yorkie!

MOST EMBARRASSING SPORTING MOMENT
Falling off my road bike when completing a charity bike ride - doh!

Email address
mpotter@brakenhale.co.uk

#teambrokenhale #brakenhalepe

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/>

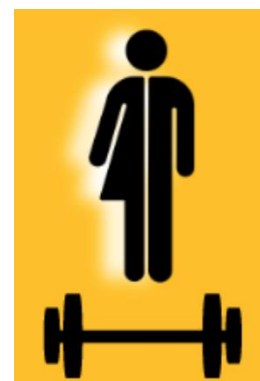
Please ensure that you are doing this challenge safely and within Government guidelines!!



Assessment: ME in PE

Your son/daughter 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)



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

Mr M Potter, Head of PE

Mr C Maye, Second in PE

On Twitter & Instagram: @brakenhalepe

#teambrokenhale #brakenhalepe #bekind

PE CHAMPIONS OF THE WEEK

Week of: 18/1/21

	Staff	Student	Tutor
@BRAKENHALEPE	Mr Potter	Ewan Coyle	10R
	Mr Maye	Shania Ali	11A
	Mrs Lazarczuk	Rishyal Bhatti	11N
	Mr Boucher	Joe Morton	11N
	Miss Rushby	Michaela Sichova	7K
	Ms Wilson	Chloe Sykes	10N
	Miss Butler	Henry Fattore	7B
Well done!			
#teambrokenhale #brakenhalepe			

Literacy

Literacy Corner: Today's focus: register

What does register mean? No, I do not mean the register that is taken at the beginning of each lesson.

In linguistics, it refers to the formality in which we should address someone or approach a piece of writing. For example, we may talk to our friends quite casually (or informally) because we are familiar with them. We may talk to our grandmothers with the utmost respect as we wouldn't want to upset them and also we respect our elders. When we think of different types of writing our register needs to adapt too. For example, when we write a diary, this is very personal and usually for our eyes only so we can write however we wish. This usually means we write informally whereas when we write an email or a letter, we must adopt a formal register, being polite and mindful of the language we use.

What's this got to do with me? 😊👉

Well, as we enter week three of the second lockdown, times are changing. Who would have thought that you would end up learning from the comfort of your own homes?

Now we are entering this new way of working - remotely - we need to adjust the way we communicate.

It can be difficult, learning from home; not having the teacher there in front of you, not being able to ask a question when you want to, finding suitable places to sit to engage with the lesson and don't get me started with the IT side of things... With this in mind, it is even more important than ever that we know how to appropriately communicate with each other.

How to send an email (modern letter) 📧

You start with a salutation 'Dear Ms. Coley,' - don't forget capital letters for names and the comma.

The first paragraph will explain your reason for writing. For example, 'I am emailing today to...'

The next paragraph will start with a topic sentence. This should let the teacher know what that paragraph is about.

To close the email, it can be polite to leave a little line like the following 'thank you for reading', 'thank you for considering...', 'I look forward to your response' and 'I hope this finds you well'.

Underneath this on a new line, you write your full name.

How to communicate via the 'chat' during live lessons 🗨️

Although the word 'chat' implies an informal act, during live lessons the 'chat' is one of our only forms of communication. For this reason, we must ensure we use it sensibly and smartly.

This means using proper English, no abbreviations of text-talk like 'idk', 'yh', 'dunno'. Remember we must be respectful and writing like this is inappropriate due to the incorrect register being used. Remember: it is OK to talk to our friends like this but not adults or strangers. Always be mindful of using capital letters and punctuation - you want to make a good impression and create a good reputation for yourself.

Don't be lazy (I know it's tempting and easy), take pride in what you do and use your apostrophes as well as other punctuation marks where necessary.

Write in full sentences

If you have a question, check the chat first to see if anyone else has asked the same question.

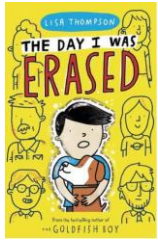
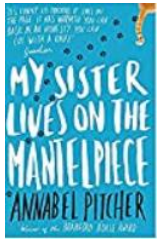
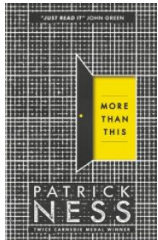
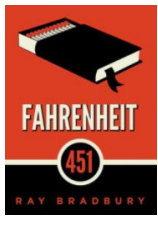
If you ask a question, read it back to yourself before you send it to make sure it makes sense.

Try not to add comments or statements on the chat, only questions. For example if you do not know what to do, try writing something like this 'Can you repeat that please, I don't quite understand the task' rather than 'I don't get it', 'This is too hard'. This way your teacher can help you without wasting any time. This will be best for both of you and should help reduce any stress or anxiety.

I really hope that by learning a little bit about register, your live lessons can be even more enjoyable.



What is everyone reading in tutor?

<p>Year 7</p> 	<p>The Day I was Erased by Lisa Thompson (2019) Eleven-year-old Maxwell is always, always in trouble.</p> <p>Setting: The UK, modern day Themes: Belonging, family, divorce, unhappiness, forgiveness Genre: Young fiction, fantasy</p>
<p>Year 8</p> 	<p>My Sister Lives on the Mantelpiece by Annabel Pitcher (2011) Ten-year-old Jamie hasn't cried since it happened.</p> <p>Setting: London, England Themes: Love, death, family, bullying, depression, resilience Genre: Young fiction, coming of age story</p>
<p>Year 9</p> 	<p>More than this by Patrick Ness (2013) A boy drowns, desperate and alone in his final moments. He dies.</p> <p>Setting: England Themes: Perception vs. reality, life and death, loneliness, hope Genre: Young adult fiction</p>
<p>Year 10</p> 	<p>Fahrenheit 451 by Ray Bradbury (1953) Guy Montag is a fireman. In his world, where television rules and literature is on the brink of extinction...</p> <p>Setting: Unspecified city, in the future Themes: Knowledge, life vs. death, books, technology, identity Genre: Utopian and dystopian fiction, Science fiction</p>

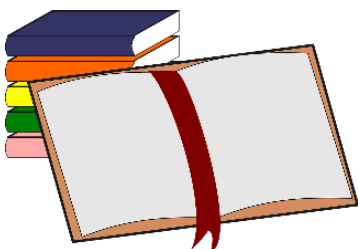
Activity

We are asking students to submit a book review based on the book they are currently reading in tutor and to send to Mrs Lewis – dlewis@brakenhale.co.uk. Please include the following information:

- Title of book
- Author
- What is the book about?
- What are you enjoying about the book? (plot / character / settings / ideas and concepts / genre / style of writing / messages and themes)
- What do you want to know?
- How do you think it might end?
- What do you think we can take away from this book - any messages or lessons to learn?

Information about Book Genres

Genre	Explanation	Genre	Explanation
<i>Bildungsroman</i>	<i>deals with one person's formative years / coming of age</i>	<i>Crime fiction</i>	<i>deals with crimes, their detection, criminals, and their motive</i>
<i>Historical fiction</i>	<i>a story where the plot happens in the past</i>	<i>Parable</i>	<i>a short story with a moral attitude or sharing a religious principle</i>
<i>Non-fiction</i>	<i>an information text dealing with actual, real-life things or events</i>	<i>Fable</i>	<i>uses animals, legendary creatures, plants, inanimate objects, or forces of nature to lead to a particular moral lesson</i>
<i>Biography / autobiography</i>	<i>an account of a person's life/ an account of a person's life written by themselves</i>	<i>Horror / gothic</i>	<i>intended to scare, frighten, disgust, or startle its readers through horror and terror</i>
<i>Young adult fiction</i>	<i>a story intended to be written for a young adult audience</i>	<i>Science fiction</i>	<i>deals with futuristic concepts, advanced science & technology, time travel, parallel universes, space and extra-terrestrial life</i>
<i>Allegory</i>	<i>a story with a hidden meaning; moralistic</i>	<i>Adventure / quest</i>	<i>a journey for a mission or goal. Mythology, folklore & legends often involve quests</i>
<i>Poetry / slam poetry</i>	<i>texts where the expression of feelings/ideas are given intensity with a distinctive style and rhythm</i>	<i>Utopian / dystopian</i>	<i>both are used to describe social and political structures in the world. Utopian: a place that we can only dream about, a true paradise. Dystopian: a society in which many things have gone wrong – a dark place.</i>
<i>Thriller/ suspense / psychological</i>	<i>a story that creates feelings of suspense, excitement, surprise, anticipation or anxiety for the reader</i>	<i>Epistolary</i>	<i>a novel written as a series of documents. E.g. letter, diary entry, newspaper clipping</i>
<i>Fantasy</i>	<i>a story where the plot could not happen in real life. Often involves magic or witchcraft. Takes place on another planet or in another world</i>	<i>Picaresque</i>	<i>an adventure story featuring a rough-and-tumble character who faces lots of events</i>
<i>Anthology</i>	<i>a collection of poems or artistic works</i>		



Literacy Legend

Mr Corry

For knowing the difference between 'are' and 'our'!



Mrs Lewis, Literacy Lead

INTO FILM Home Learning Support

Home learning support for educators, parents and young people from INTO FILM

With national restrictions and lockdowns in place across the UK, we're continuing to provide free-to-access resources that learners can make use of at home. Our downloadable resources include independent study exercises, worksheets that can be included in student packs, and PowerPoint presentations for use during virtual lesson delivery.



You'll find everything collected on our Home Learning Hub, and some of the highlights and most recent additions below.

[Visit the Home Learning Hub](#)

Free films available to stream at home

To support film-based learning, we're curating a list of film titles that young people can stream from home. All titles come with guidance on age suitability. The page is being updated every week, so be sure to favourite it and check back for fresh recommendations.

Highlights this week include musical hit *La La Land*, captivating dance drama *The Fits*, and animated adventure *The Secret of Kells*. Resources are available to support class discussion and activities.

[See all recommended films](#)

Film guides and extension activities

With our guides learners can critically engage with films and complete curriculum-linked activities independently. We've handpicked our top 50, including selections for all ages from 5 to 16+.

[Explore film guides](#)

Creative activity sheets

Perfect for sending home to your students or setting as tasks for your children, these worksheets provide film-based activities that support key skills including creative writing, visual literacy and planning.

[Download worksheets](#)

You're not alone: Advice from others who've been there: Insights from home educators

Parents with prior experience of home educating their children give tips on finding what works best for each child.

[Find home learning help](#)

A teenager's tips on home learning

Home-educated Archie offers his advice on routine, motivation and maximising the enjoyment of home study.

[Read Archie's tips](#)

Ms Ioannidis, Media Teacher



Advice for Young People





The Bracknell School Nursing Team have sent us information from The Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health (RCPCH), the Royal College of General Practitioners (RCGP) and the Royal College of Psychiatrists (RCP) who have published advice for young people signposting when and where they should seek help during the coronavirus pandemic. The advice is specific to each of the four nations, please see below:

Advice for young people during coronavirus

It can be confusing to know what to do when you are unwell during the coronavirus outbreak. Remember that the NHS is still providing safe care.

GP practices and hospitals have made changes to help reduce the risk of infection. Please follow government guidance - keep washing your hands regularly, wear a face covering in enclosed spaces and maintain social distancing.

Remember: if you are unwell, seek advice and medical attention. Here is some advice to help:

 RED	<p>If you experience any of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pale, mottled skin and feeling abnormally cold to the touch. Severe breathing difficulty - going blue or breathless to talk / eat / drink. A fit/seizure (unless these are expected for you). Become extremely confused, difficult to wake or unresponsive. Develop a rash that does not disappear with pressure (the 'Glass test'). Severe testicular pain. If you have seriously harmed yourself, please tell an adult and seek urgent medical help. 	<p>You need urgent help:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Go to the nearest A&E department or call 999</p>
 AMBER	<p>If you experience any of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Finding it hard to breathe but can still talk in full sentences / eat and drink. Dehydration (feeling very thirsty, sunken eyes or no wee for 12 hours). Becoming drowsy (excessively sleepy), irritable or confused. Shivering or muscle pain without an obvious explanation. A fever of 38°C / 100.4°F or above for more than 5 days. Persistent vomiting. Worsening or persistent abdominal pain. Blood in your poo or wee. Increasingly thirsty and weeing more. Any limb injury causing reduced movement or persistent pain. Head injury causing persistent pain or drowsiness. You are getting worse or if you are worried. 	<p>Immediately contact your GP and make an appointment to be seen that day or call NHS 111 - dial 111.</p> <p>We recognise that during the current COVID-19 crisis, at peak times, access to a healthcare professional may be delayed. If symptoms persist for 4 hours or more and you have not been able to speak to either a member of staff from your GP practice or to NHS 111, then consider going to your nearest A&E.</p>
 GREEN	<p>If none of the above features are present:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> If you have any symptoms suggestive of COVID-19 (high temperature, new continuous cough or loss of taste/smell) stay at home and arrange to be tested via the NHS testing website or by calling 119. You and anyone in your support bubble must remain at home (isolate) until your test results are back. If you have been burned, visit: https://safetea.org.uk/first-aid/ for first aid advice and for information about when to seek medical attention. 	<p>Continue to recover at home.</p> <p>If you are still concerned, contact NHS 111 - visit 111.nhs.uk or dial 111.</p>
 MENTAL HEALTH	<p>If you're feeling extremely distressed, or are experiencing suicidal feelings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Call 24/7 Mental Health urgent helplines, visit: https://www.nhs.uk/using-the-nhs/nhs-services/mental-health-services/where-to-get-urgent-help-for-mental-health/ Call Papyrus Hopeline UK on 0800 068 4141. Text SHOUT to 85258 - the Crisis Messenger for free 24/7 support. Call Samaritans on 116 123 (freephone) - they will listen to you. <p>If you're worried about your mental health, talk with a trusted adult or seek guidance from your local GP, YoungMinds (visit https://youngminds.org.uk), Every Mind Matters (visit https://www.nhs.uk/oneyou/every-mind-matters) or call 0800 1111 for Childline.</p>	



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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. Some events have a small number of tickets available for non-Berkshire families. Please click on the highlighted event title for further information and to book.

Please note that due to changes in funding some events now have restrictions by location. Please make sure you book the correct ticket

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](#).

Events Starting Next Week

["Who's in Charge?": Child/Adolescent to Parent Violence and Abuse \(APVA\): Berkshire](#)

A therapeutic approach for Berkshire parents/carers of children and young people with special needs (aged 8 – 16) who are violent or aggressive.

Mondays: 7-9pm - 25th January, 1st and 8th February, break for Half Term, 22nd February, 1st, 8th, 15th and 22nd March. (Follow up session: expected June 2021).

Only have one place left on this course so please book asap if you would like to attend

NEW

[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 – Thur, 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

PSC are continuing to raise vital funding for the COVID-19 Emergency Appeal, thank you.

[Donate to Fund](#)

Miss Manisier, Student Support

Career Opportunities



Have you got what it takes to be an Astronaut?

Sofia Stavrakaki on LinkedIn told us about Alyssa Carson - She's just 19 years old and has already started her astronaut training to [hopefully] be the first person to walk on Mars in 2033. She is the youngest person to graduate from the Advanced Space Academy! We should celebrate incredible young women like her!! 🙌🙌

This image is by NASABlueberry and was published on Wikipedia under the [Creative Commons Attribution-Share Alike 4.0 International license](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/4.0/).

Careers@Brakenhale – Forthcoming Opportunities

Date	Details	Year Group
W/C 25th January	Unifrog - Skills & Enterprise week All these webinars are at 16:30 UK time: Monday 25th: Leadership Skills Tuesday 26th: Digital Skills Wednesday 27th: Problem Solving Skills Thursday 28th: Entrepreneurship skills Students can register here , or via the webinars tile on their Homepage (Unifrog accounts)	All Year groups
Monday 25th January, 4pm - 5pm	Insight to CGI Webinar: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monday 25th January, 4pm - 5pm CGI are a \$12billion technology and consulting firm Opportunities in Technology and Business (Apprenticeships & Graduate Programs) Insight session to CGI, workshops and senior leader keynote Q&A panel and fast track opportunities Ideal for students interested in Technology or Business and want their degree to be paid for 16 - 18 year olds (Y12, S5, Y13, S6 & Y14) Application Link: https://www.research.net/r/CGI-Event	KS5
Wednesday 27th January	UK University & Apprenticeship Search Virtual Fair - Wednesday 27 January The first of these events will be the UK University & Apprenticeship Search Virtual Fair which will take place between 12 and 6pm on the 27th January. This free virtual event for students in years 11, 12 and 13, will feature a diverse range of exhibitors and vital webinars. Students, teachers and parents can find out more and sign up here .	Year 11 - 13
Wednesday 10th February	Meet the Russell Group Virtual Event - Wednesday 10 February Our joint event with the Russell Group Universities will also be returning on the 10th February from 12 to 7pm. This spring's event will see all 24 universities once again, as well as a new line-up of webinars and virtual tours from each university. You can find out more and sign up here , and please see the email below for the warm-up webinars which will accompany the event on Wednesday 3rd and Monday 8th February .	Year 11 - 13
APPLICATION DEADLINE: 29th January 2021	Pathway to Bath <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Online study programme with access to academic support from current Bath students, and a 3 day residential in the summer holiday 	Identified Group of Year 12

<p>START DATE: 17th February 2021</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flexible around your current studies, with a term time commitment of 1 hour per week • Join us wherever, and whenever works for you - anywhere in the UK • Undertake your own project, supported by academic staff and current students • Opportunity to secure an alternative offer to study with us in the future • Meet new friends and explore our beautiful campus • Decide whether you feel Uni is for you and get support with UCAS applications <p>APPLICATION DEADLINE: 29th January 2021 START DATE: 17th February 2021 Click here to find out more and apply - https://bit.ly/3k8FudA</p>	
<p>APPLICATION DEADLINE: 31st January 2021 START DATE: August 2021 (check web page for dates)</p>	<p>Discover Bath</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 week summer holiday residential programme • Undertake undergraduate level work, supported by academic staff and current students • Experience our beautiful campus and accommodation • Opportunity to secure an alternative offer to study with us in the future • Meet new friends and get academic support from current Bath students • Decide whether you feel Uni is for you and get support with UCAS applications <p>Click here to find out more and apply - https://bit.ly/3pdWNOi</p>	<p>Identified Group of Year 12</p>
<p>February</p>	<p>New Virtual Work Experience Opportunities Recruiting Now:</p> <p>Willmott Dixon Management Careers VWEX- Future Leaders Wanted</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dates: 15th - 19th February 2021. • Eligibility: 14 – 19 year olds interested in management careers in construction. • Application Deadline: 31st January 2021 <p>Marketing & Digital Communications VWEX with Oakridge</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dates: 1st – 5th March 2021. • Eligibility: Creative 15 – 19 year olds interested in marketing research, data collection and analysis. • Application Deadline: 18th February 2021 <p>Farrans Construction Insight Day</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dates: 24th February 2021. • Eligibility: 16 – 19 year olds students interested in real industry knowledge. • Application Deadline: 22nd January 2021 <p>Please encourage your students to apply as soon as possible to have the best chance of success. For a full list of placements - sign in here to search and apply.</p>	<p>KS4 & 5</p>
<p>Friday 19th, Saturday 20th March</p>	<p>What Career Live? & What University Live? virtual event returns on the 19 & 20 March. Find out more about this unmissable opportunity to research your future path.</p>	<p>KS4 & 5</p>

Careers@Brakenhale – Work Experience

The Nine to Five with Stacey Dooley

Stacey takes five 16-18-year-olds into industries crying out for young workers to give them the ultimate work experience. [BBC iPlayer Link](#)

Mr Beukes, Assistant Headteacher

Ms Lane, Careers

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

Happier January 2021 : <https://www.actionforhappiness.org/>

Daily actions to help you focus on what really matters:

How can we start this new year happier? Things have certainly not been easy over the last year, and we are still in difficult and uncertain times. The best way to try to handle our difficult emotions and experiences is by focusing on what we can control. This month, we're encouraging everyone to focus on small steps to try to boost happiness - for ourselves and others around us - to spread kindness and hopefully inspire others to do the same.

ACTION CALENDAR: HAPPIER JANUARY 2021

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
<p>"Happiness is when what you think, what you say, and what you do are in harmony" - Gandhi</p>				1 Find three good things to look forward to this year	2 Make time today to do something kind for yourself	3 Do a kind act for someone else to help to brighten their day
4 Write a list of things you feel grateful for in life and why	5 Look for the good in others and notice their strengths	6 Take five minutes to sit still and just breathe	7 Learn something new and share it with others	8 Say positive things to the people you meet today	9 Get moving. Do something physically active (ideally outdoors)	10 Thank someone you're grateful to and tell them why
11 Switch off all your tech 2 hours before bedtime	12 Connect with someone near you - share a smile or chat	13 Be gentle with yourself when you make mistakes	14 Take a different route today and see what you notice	15 Eat healthy food which really nourishes you today	16 Get outside and notice five things that are beautiful	17 Contribute positively to a good cause or your community
18 Focus on what's good, even if today feels tough	19 Get back in contact with an old friend you miss	20 Go to bed in good time and give yourself time to recharge	21 Take a small step towards an important goal	22 Try out something new to get out of your comfort zone	23 Plan something fun and invite others to join you	24 Put away digital devices and focus on being in the moment
25 Decide to lift people up rather than put them down	26 Say hello to a neighbour and get to know them better	27 Challenge your negative thoughts and look for the upside	28 Ask other people about things they've enjoyed recently	29 Use one of your personal strengths in a new way	30 Count how many people you can smile at today	31 Write down your hopes or plans for the future

ACTION FOR HAPPINESS

www.actionforhappiness.org

Happier · Kinder · Together

Learn more about this month's theme at www.actionforhappiness.org/happier-january

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"> • English Teacher • Performing Arts Teacher • Maths / Economics Graduate 	<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.

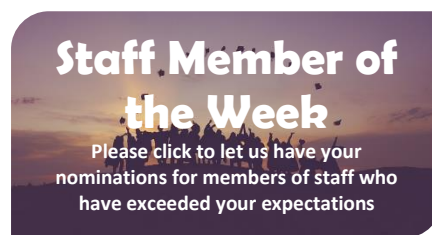
Electronic submission:



[Fab](#)



[Drab](#)



[Staff Member of the Week](#)

Future Diary Dates

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

<p>Monday 15th to Friday 19th February</p>	<p>Spring Half Term Break</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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High Expectations and Challenge