

# Brakenhale News



27<sup>th</sup> May 2022



Dear Parents/Carers and Students

I hope this finds you well. We have now come to the end of a rather intense half term; six weeks since we came back from the Easter holidays. For Years 11 and 13 in particular, the exam season has now started; for Year 11, we are almost at the midpoint. Students have conducted themselves well. Teachers have been delivering exam booster classes and warm-up sessions before each exam, in addition to their normal lessons. I hope students have experienced the benefits of these. When we return from half term, the 'exam timetable' will continue to be followed up until the final exam. We will keep respective families updated.

In amongst the above, there has been a plethora of events and activities in this half term. The next 30 or so pages will showcase much of this. With the ski trip over Easter to students in Years 7 to 10 attending a climate conference at Garth Hill School a few weeks ago to a group of students visiting a school in Oxford to be trained as anti-bullying ambassadors, we are continually thinking about how we can enrich our students so they are ready for the wider world outside of Brakenhale. The various clubs that run weekly help to do this too. It was great knowing, for example, that a cooking club is now up and running and students were making spring rolls in it this week! Please do look through this Parent News which showcases events such as these, and much more, from this half term.



On Wednesday evening, I sent a message to all students and families as it was 'Thank a Teacher Day' yesterday. Thank you to everyone who submitted a response. I was seeing them come through and some of the reasons were not only heart-warming but will uplift teachers who receive them today. As I said in my message, we do not get everything right all the time but every single member of staff comes to school with the best intentions and with students at the forefront of their minds.

Next weekend is the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. No doubt there will be fun-packed events in our community over the weekend. As a school, it's an honour to be invited to the Royal Ascot Platinum Jubilee celebrations which I received a correspondence about a few weeks ago. Ten students in Year 7 and/or 8 will be selected to be part of this celebration, wearing The Queen's racing silks (a purple and scarlet jacket with gold braiding, with a black cap), on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> June 2022. In order to be considered for the select 10, there is a competition which Ms Turner (Maths and Head of House) is facilitating. Please see the poster on page 7 for more details. Apologies this is only open to Years 7 and 8 - something that Royal Ascot has requested! This is a once in a life-time opportunity to get your creative juices flowing.

As I have previously shared with you all, it is great to see students receiving House Points and Golden Tickets. I remind teachers regularly about this. Each and every student, every single day, has the opportunity to get these. Students willingly show them to me throughout the day and the gate at the end of the day; this is pleasing to see.



As a recurrent reminder, please ensure that parents/carers have a conversation with students about their uniform, every single day. It's important that the message of 'how we dress affects our mind-set' permeates every single day. Smartly and correctly dressed students not only uphold our high standards but ensure they're ready for their learning.

As I have relayed to you before, should any of you like to visit the school during the day and see our students busy with their learning, please do get in touch with me ([headteacher@brakenhale.co.uk](mailto:headteacher@brakenhale.co.uk)) and this can be arranged.

Can I wish all our students a restful half break and a lovely Platinum Jubilee weekend. All students are back on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> June 2022. I hope you gain a real insight into Brakenhale's last half term in the next 30 or so pages.

Yours faithfully,

*Mr Taylor, Headteacher*

### What we do well, some timely reminders!

As we approach the final half term break it is important to remind ourselves of our own expectations and personal standards:

- We arrive on time and are ready for our day;
- We look smart every day and are ready to learn;
- We move around the school sensibly and calmly;
- We talk to each other politely and are kind;
- In lessons, we are thinkers, doers, readers, sharers, participants and hard workers;
- We always try our best;
- In lessons, we show FAST when the teacher asks for it;
- When something does not go to plan, we accept it;
- We challenge ourselves to be the best we can be.

Here we are clearly talking about uniform, attendance, behaviour, learning and relationships; every day is about 'doing the right thing', and trying your best.

Across next week, review these points. Make sure that you are 'ready' for the final half term of the year.

Check your uniform is correct, including our expectations around piercings, jewellery and haircuts - wait until the summer to get your nails and piercings done!

We will be hoping for dry and warmer weather - our uniform must still be worn correctly; Mr Taylor, if needed, will make any decision about uniform amendments.

Well done for a massive number of Golden Tickets on a daily basis being collected across all year groups; success is important, and this is about being proud of your achievements through hard work and self-belief

Have a lovely half term, read the points above, make sure you are doing (and are ready to do) the right thing across the final half term.

Kind regards

*Mr Coley, Assistant Headteacher*



Wishing Her Majesty The Queen the very best on the occasion  
of her Platinum Jubilee!



## Thank a Teacher Day 26.5.22

### School Office

National Thank a Teacher Day recognises the schools and colleges at the heart of our communities. From the teachers helping students to make sense of the outside world, to the support staff keeping things running, it’s our chance to say a big ‘thank you’.

We gave all our students the opportunity to share with us the teacher or other staff member they would like to thank and here are some of the lovely things our students said:



*“Because she is always there if you need someone to talk to.”*

*“For encouraging me to be the best I can.”*

*“Thank you for being such a great teacher and encouraging me to do more.”*

*“An amazing tutor.”*

*“Amazing, kind and compassionate teachers who always care about the well beings of all of their students.”*

*“For being amazing throughout the journey to GCSEs, she has made me feel so much more confident and is just generally the best teacher I have ever had!”*

*“I can always go to Miss no matter how small or big the problem is and she will ALWAYS help me by either just listening, giving advice, or just having a laugh - often she will go out of her way to help me and it’s made my experience at school 110% better.”*

*“The most wonderfully supportive and time-generous teacher I have ever come across. Helpful and responsive and an absolute pleasure to interact with.”*



## Confidence to Argue Conference 3.5.22

*Mr L Hilton, Head of Year 10*

On Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> May I had the pleasure of taking a select few students to Oxford University to take part in the 'Confidence to Argue' conference.

Upon arrival students were ushered into a lecture hall and introduced to the concept of what an academic argument actually is, and told that by the end of the day they would have constructed and presented their own argument on a brief yet to be revealed, as well as answering questions thought up by the other groups to challenge their argument. They were then introduced to two speakers from the Oxford Imps, who were two improv comedians who shared their own experiences of being on stage and performing in front of others, and passed on several tips on how to present confidently.

The brief was finally revealed, and students had to decide and argue 'What the best thing is'. At this point the students were split into three Brakenhale groups and taken off by a University ambassador to decide what they would be arguing is the best thing ever. The three groups decided on money, communication and family as being the best things, and constructed well thought out arguments to support their opinions. They then presented these to other groups from other schools and defended their positions by answering questions, all whilst being marked and assessed by the ambassadors on how well they did.

We were once again ushered into the lecture hall and the top four teams revealed. These four teams had the unenviable task of having to present to everyone in the hall their argument and defend their position against the hall. We had two groups make it through to this part of the day, and both groups argued very well for why communication and family are the best things. The two other groups argued that electricity and the human brain were the best things. After some deliberation the top three were decided, and we managed to come third and second, a fantastic achievement by all. We really hope these students benefitted significantly from this day and it was an absolute pleasure to see how much their confidence developed throughout the process as there were definitely some nerves and some reluctance that they'd be able to present to a hall full of people.

They made Brakenhale very proud.

They made Brakenhale very proud.



## Diana Award Anti-Bullying Training - 4.5.22

*Mrs P Palmer, Behaviour Support Manager/Assistant Head of Year 11*

*Mrs C Silvey, Attendance Manager*

On Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> May, Mrs Silvey and Mrs Palmer had the pleasure of taking 8 students from Years 7 to 10 to Aureus School in Didcot to attend the Diana Award Anti bullying training event.

Even with an extra early start, all students arrived promptly, looking smart in their School uniforms, and were enthused at the prospect of their days training. The minibus left school at 7.45am.

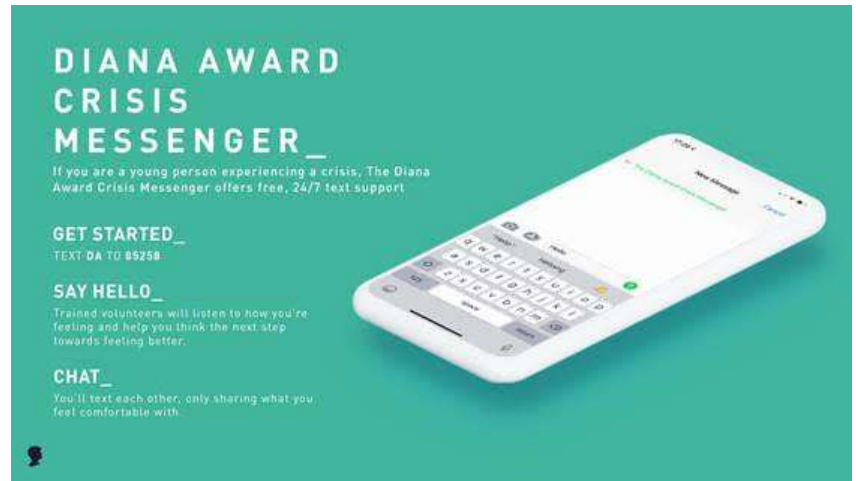
On arrival at the event we were greeted by two Programme Facilitators, Ellie Martin and Carla Burrett, who worked throughout the day with the students to help them develop and grow their understanding of bullying behaviours



and how we can all work together to foster an anti-bullying environment within schools, cultivating communities of kindness.

The event welcomed students from schools from all areas to come together and work with other passionate young people to exchange ideas and share good practice on understanding and promoting anti-bullying behaviours within their communities. At the end of their day's training, all students said they were left feeling passionate and committed to joining Brakenhale's growing team of Anti-Bullying Ambassadors. Both Mrs Silvey and Mrs Palmer look forward to working closely with our new cohort of enthusiastic young people.

Please look out for further information coming after half term on the amazing work being done by the Anti-Bullying Ambassadors, including who the year group representatives are, how students can access their support and how others can sign up to join our Anti-Bullying team.



## Climate Change Conference 18.5.22

*Mr L Hilton, Head of Year 10*

On Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> May I had the pleasure of taking ten students to Garth School to take part in the Bracknell Climate Conference 'Green Minds, Green Lives'. This was an educational day about Climate Change and the things that the next generation can be doing to help make the world a better place.

We had Chris Packham, wildlife expert and conservationist, as a keynote speaker who explained to students why there is a need for change in our attitudes towards the environment. In addition, a huge part of the day was run by a company who challenged students to come up with an action plan on how to make their school more sustainable.

It began with students having to imagine what their sustainable school would be like if money was not an issue. Then as a team they had to share their ideas around a picture of their school. The students came up with some great ideas, including growing their own fruit and vegetables that could be used in the canteen as well as wanting to focus on waste management. This was the main theme they continued to develop throughout the day and were challenged to think about how they could implement change and what they would need to do.

More fantastic ideas ensued, with one group focusing on the idea of creating a system where students could pre-order their school dinner so that the canteen could cook just enough meals at lunchtime similar to what happens at primary schools. The other group focused on how we could grow our own fruit and vegetables, and use the trimmings from these to create a compost heap to help fertilise the plants. DT lessons would be used to create raised beds to help with this project.

It was amazing to see how their young minds considered new ways of dealing with some of the issues they identified. They also had the opportunity to discuss their ideas with key figures from Bracknell Forest Council who have since been in touch with me, and want to keep an eye on whether any of their ideas come to fruition, and would like to support the school with some of their ideas.



# Queen’s Green Canopy 10.5.22

## School Office

The Queen’s Green Canopy (QGC) is a unique tree planting initiative created to mark Her Majesty’s Platinum Jubilee in 2022 which invites people from across the United Kingdom to “Plant a Tree for the Jubilee”.

Everyone from individuals to Scout and Girlguiding groups, villages, cities, counties, schools and corporates will be encouraged to play their part to enhance our environment by planting trees.

With a focus on planting sustainably, the QGC will encourage planting of trees to create a legacy in honour of The Queen’s leadership of the Nation, which will benefit future generations.

As well as inviting the planting of new trees, The Queen’s Green Canopy will dedicate a network of 70 Ancient Woodlands across the United Kingdom and identify 70 Ancient Trees to celebrate Her Majesty’s 70 years of service.


We were delighted and proud that Brakenhale was chosen as one of the schools to be part of Ascot Racecourse’s Commemorative planting event where 70 new oak trees have been planted in Windsor Great Park, adjacent to the Royal Procession route from Windsor Castle to the Racecourse, along Duke’s Lane. The trees are intertwined with existing, mature oak trees.

On Tuesday 10th May, each tree was dedicated to one of 70 local schools, marking each year of Her Majesty The Queen’s reign and each school was invited to be represented by a student, holding their school’s crest or something that identifies their school.

Mrs Fotheringham accompanied Callum B for this prestigious occasion. Each student was invited to be photographed by their tree to mark the occasion and then joined together for group photos at a specially constructed arch with the school crests on display. We were then taken back to Ascot for afternoon tea at the racecourse.



## Year 7 and 8 Competition



Half Term Competition Jubilee Edition

This half term we have a fantastic competition with a once in a lifetime prize on offer!

We would like you to get creative to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee  
You can create a postcard, poster, picture, poem or anything you can think of to commemorate this historical event.

The Prize...  
10 lucky winners will be invited to represent Brakenhale School taking part in a special guard of honour to welcome the Royal Family during the procession at Royal Ascot on Saturday 18th June. The lucky 10 will be allowed to take two adults each with them and after the procession will be able to enjoy the day's festivities at the racecourse with tickets for the Queen Anne enclosure.

All entries received will be awarded house points for taking part.

Entries need to be placed in the special box in the main reception by Tuesday 7th June.  
Good luck everyone!



## New Clubs Starting After Half-Term

### Pastoral Team

#### Debate Club

A new weekly after-school club is starting from the first week after half-term with Mr Wells in English F09. It will run on Wednesdays in Week B and Thursdays in Week A for Key Stage 3 students (Years 7, 8 and 9).

There will be fun activities to help discuss topics that interest students and it will be really helpful to practise speaking, listening and English skills.



Wednesday	3.15 - 4.15	KS3 Debate Club, Week B	Years 7, 8 and 9	F09	Mr Wells
Thursday	3.15 - 4.15	KS3 Debate Club, Week A	Years 7, 8 and 9	F09	Mr Wells

#### Craft Club



Starting after half term on Fridays from 3.05 to 3.45pm in A02 will be our new Craft Club, with an emphasis on having fun and being creative.

It will be open to all students; an opportunity for students to unwind and relax before the weekend, making different crafts each week (such as sun catchers from CDs and bubble painting). We will aim to provide a sensory experience and calmness, all materials will be provided and all creations can be taken home.

Friday	3.05 – 3.45	Craft Club	All Years	A02	Mrs Wilks/Mrs Patel-R
--------	-------------	------------	-----------	-----	-----------------------

## Rewarding Students

Mr P McKane, Associate Headteacher

#### Hot Chocolate and Cake with the Headteacher!

Well done to those students who were chosen this term to celebrate their achievements with a hot chocolate and cake reception with Mr Taylor!

At the beginning of May, about 3 weeks into the term, we rewarded those students with the Most Achievement Points.

Yesterday we celebrated those students with the Most Improved Attitude to Learning. It is only a select few students who receive this recognition each time and we are exceedingly proud of them.





## Design Technology

*Mr J Budden, Design Technology Teacher*



Here are two excellent outcomes from the Year 7 and Year 9 Design Technology projects this term.

The photos show a laser cut clock, designed and assembled by Chanaye M (Year 7) and a mood lamp prototype, designed and made by Tess D (Year 9).

## Extra-Curricular in English

*Mrs D Lewis, English*

We have successfully submitted 7 entries to the Global Journalists competition. The virtual ceremony will take place on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> June, during Period 5 and all students will be joining me for a special lunch together beforehand to celebrate all the hard work that has gone into creating these pieces. Lunch will be provided and I look forward to seeing how all the applicants have done!

We have come to the end of our big novel, *Small Island*, and it has been just lovely to see all students of different ages and reading abilities take to the novel with all its historic richness and mature themes. Well done for developing your reading skills and knowledge of the Windrush generation and what life was like for them in England. Many conversations have sparked from the read and one student even based a piece of journalism on the topic! Now for our next novel - a crime novel...

 A poster for the KS3 Book Club. It features a stack of colorful books on the right side. The text on the left provides details about the club:
 

**KS3 Book Club is here...**

**What will we be reading?**  
A selection of books from the Carnegie Book Awards 2021 shortlist.

**When will this take place?**  
Wednesday 8th June 3-4pm  
Wednesday 6th July 3-4pm

**Where will this take place?**  
The library

**Who will be running this?**  
Mrs Lewis

*If you are interested, collect a book from Mrs Daniels and get reading!*



## Forest School

*Second Lieutenant Bury, Contingent Commander, Brakenhale School CCF/Forest School Leader, Mrs Polonara*

There is a lot of exciting news in regards to our Forest School this term.

There was a great amount of work to do following storm Eunice; the kids were absolutely amazing, they helped fix our shelter, and the area was quickly tidied up and cleaned from branches and rubbish.

Spring season saw us preparing our planters and transferring some young trees and shrubs from their provisional place, as well as creating a lovely garden area at the front of our SEN building. The Forest School students once again worked very hard, wheeling barrels of wood chipping and transforming the area into a pleasant green spot.

The trees we planted in winter in our wildlife garden are now blooming, and a new delivery of 120 saplings has been secured by Mr Bury.

We are quite proud to announce that the bird box which we made during the winter was installed by Mr Bury on a tree in our woodland area, and was quickly inspected and then occupied by Blue-tits. We now even have chicks, which is so exciting!

In addition, Ms Polonara has been able to organise the installation of three Swift boxes on the school's building; Swifts are RSPB red listed birds, and, as part of the school's commitment to biodiversity, we are trying to contribute to halting their dramatic decline by providing secure nesting places. We now just need a cherry picker to put them up, pictures of the installation will follow soon.

We are planning lots more exciting activities now that the warmer season is upon us - watch this space, we will keep you updated! Below are pictures of the SEN garden, Swift box and nest box.



## PE Round-Up | Half Term 5

*Mr Potter, Head of PE and PE Team*

Well yet again we have had another busy half term 5 down in PE. Fixtures for the summer have been in full swing as well as plenty of other things to keep staff and students busy. I hope you enjoy reading about them.

### Sports Leaders

Our Sports Leaders in Year 12 have been continuing to visit Wildridings on a weekly basis, and this half term have been teaching tennis to Year 4. The primary students are enjoying having our Year 12s down with them and we look forward to getting onto some cricket after half term.

### Exams

Our Year 10 BTEC students sat their first unit 1 online exam this half term, having a taster of what it is like to sit a real GCSE exam. They did fantastically well under the watchful eye of Mr Maye and we look forward to gaining their results soon.

Our Year 11 and 12 students have all, just this week, started to sit their June series exams. Both groups have been working hard and putting in the hours needed to achieve top grades. Again we look forward to gaining the resulting grades soon.

It is nearly that time of year again, that once exams finish, we say goodbye to our Year 11 and Year 13 students. Both sets have had 2 excellent years of hard work with us, despite some testing times, and we look forward to seeing some excellent results come back from their efforts in the summer. We also wish them the very best of luck for their futures.

### Football

Our U14 girls' football team, comprising girls from Years 7, 8 and 9, has had a huge amount of success this season on the pitch. They made it through 5 rounds of football and got to the county semi-final where, although they were beaten, they played superbly. Stand out performances came from Florence B in Year 8 and the Hemmings sisters in Year 7. We are already looking forward to the season next year.

Similarly to the u14 girls success, our u12 (Year 7) boys have also had a huge amount of success. Again playing through 5 rounds of football, the boys, under the superb coaching of Mr Maye, made it all the way to the semi-finals. However they met their match and bowed out at this stage. The boys have already said how excited they are, along with Mr Maye, to get their Year 8 campaign back up and running again.

### Cricket/Rounders

This half term we have seen our students and those from local schools take to our fields for both cricket and rounders tournaments. It has been great to see students from Years 7, 8, 9 and 10 from all of our local schools join us for some healthy summer sporting competition. Long may this continue and please look out for further competitive sporting opportunities in half term 6.

### District Athletics

Back in the early stages of this half term, we took 2 teams of Year 8, 9 and 10 students to the District Athletics tournaments for all Bracknell schools. We had some excellent performances, despite the horrible weather, with 4 of our athletes making it through to the county round. These student, Chloe S in Year 10 (100m), Kaylan G in Year 10 (400m), Grace S in Year 8 (100m) and Michael S in Year 8 (800m) all made it through. We wish them all the best



of luck. Our Year 7 students have their district athletics event after half term, in the first week back. More on their success to follow in half term 6.

**Rowing Opportunity**

Our friends at Reading Rowing Club would like to invite our students to take part in some FREE of charge on the water sessions over half term.

They will run in the mornings during the week (Monday 30<sup>th</sup> May to Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> June between 10am and 1pm) at Reading Rowing Club boathouse, off Richfield Avenue. No prior rowing experience is required.

There is a height criteria of 176cm/5'9 for girls and 188cm/6'2 for boys but if some students come close to this, some leeway will be allowed.

To sign up or for more information, please contacted Been Reed on ben.reed@britishrowing.org.

This is a great way to get outside and exercise but also try something a little different.

Many thanks and don't forget to follow us on social media - @brakenhalepe on twitter and instagram.

**MATES PARTICIPATE @ BRAKENHALE PE HT6**

**Monday A**   **Tuesday A**   **Wednesday A**   **Thursday A**   **Friday A**

*(SUMMER SPORTS)*   *(SUMMER SPORTS)*

Sorry - nothing on due to staff meetings! (MPO on future cover)

NLA & ABT - TRAMPOLINE CENTRE  
MPO - ASTRO/FIELD  
ABI - INS  
IBO - FS

ABT - FIELD  
CMY - FIELD  
IBO - ASTRO/NETS  
KWI - FIELD  
*for GCSE Practical Support*

NLA - FIELD  
KWI - ASTRO/NETS  
ABI - COURTS  
CGO - FIELD

SIO - COURTS  
CMY - FS

**Monday B**   **Tuesday B**   **Wednesday B**   **Thursday B**   **Friday B**

*(SUMMER SPORTS)*   *(SUMMER SPORTS)*

Sorry - nothing on due to staff meetings! (CMY on future cover)

NLA & ABT - TRAMPOLINE CENTRE  
ABI - INS  
MPO - FS

IBO - ASTRO/NETS  
CMY - FIELD  
KWI - FIELD  
ABT - FIELD  
*for GCSE Practical Support*

MPO - FIELD  
KWI - ASTRO/NETS  
ABI - COURTS  
NLA - FIELD

SIO - COURTS  
IBO - FS

**'ME in PE'**

	LEADING
1	Helps take equipment out to lesson and set it up.
2	Uses equipment in the lesson to measure and record own and others' work.
3	Demonstrates to another student technical models of skills to be used in lesson.
4	Demonstrates to another student technical models of skills learnt in lesson.
5	Leads a small group in a warm up / cool down.
6	Leads a small group in a skill based situation.
7	Leads a small group in a conditioned situation.
8	Leads a small group in a competitive situation.
9	Teaches a skill to a partner 1-2-1.
10	Teaches a skill to a small group.
11	Teaches a skill to a large group.
12	Teaches a skill to the whole class.

**PE CHAMPIONS Spring Half Term 5 - WELL DONE!**

Staff	Week beginning: 18/4/22		Week beginning: 25/4/22		Week beginning: 2/5/22	
	Student	Tutor	Student	Tutor	Student	Tutor
Mr Potter	Grayson K.	7D	Cesar J.	3H	Kyle H.	5K
Mrs Laczarszak	Ella Ann C.	9B	Callum J.	3H	Maya A.	5H
Mr Mayes	Olivia Leigh B.	11N	Nikolas P.	7D	Benjamin C.	7B
Mr Bowcher	Nell H.	11A	Hurley D.	2H	Mahmoud N.	8H
Ms Wilson	Chloe S.	11N	Paige A.	3N	Ezra R.	7K
Miss Butler	Charlie C.	11K	Jarvis L.	10A	Alfie R.	10H
Mr Collins			Nathaniel H.	10K	Nikola L.	11B
Staff	Week beginning: 9/5/22		Week beginning: 16/5/22		Week beginning: 23/5/22	
Mr Potter			George J.	10E	Sebastian P.	7B
Mrs Laczarszak			Olivia S.	9B	Katy G.	9B
Mr Mayes	Ruby D.	11H	Harry K.	7K	Jake B.	10A
Mr Bowcher			Grace S.	8N	Daniel P.	8H
Ms Wilson			Lucy A.	7K	Lizzy T.	11B
Miss Butler			Elizabeth D.	10E	Zoe P.	8K
Mr Collins			Ava H.	11H	Bryce R.	10H

#Teambrakenhale #Brakenhalepe



## Identity

Mrs D Lewis, Identity

In Identity, this half term, we designed Easter eggs and the winners of the best drawings received a chocolate reward!

We have also had fun playing LGBTQ+ Guess Who and then designing our own character cards. We added these to our display board too.



**Identity Monthly Meets**

**We can now meet at lunch time again :)**

Identity is a club that welcomes all. We meet each month. However, you can come to see us at any time - for a catch up, to discuss something that has been bothering you, to bring something to our attention, to ask questions.

If you haven't heard of us before, Identity is a group run by Mrs Lewis and Miss Meacock.

You can find Mrs Lewis in F10.

Anyone is welcome to attend, if you are LGBTQ+ or a friend of the community.

**Summer**

**Next meets:**

- Friday 17<sup>th</sup> June @ lunch in F10
- Friday 15<sup>th</sup> July @ lunch in F10



**HT6**





## LRC Corner

Library Foci for the first summer half term:

### **Charlotte Brontë and her sisters:**

Charlotte was born on 21<sup>st</sup> April 1816, Emily on 30<sup>th</sup> July 1818 and Anne on 17<sup>th</sup> January 1820.

They had two other sisters, both of whom died in childhood, and a brother.

In May 1846 the sisters published, at their own expense, a volume of poetry. This was the first use of their pseudonyms Currer (Charlotte), Ellis (Emily) and Acton (Anne) Bell. They all went on to publish novels, with differing levels of success.

Anne's 'Agnes Grey' and Charlotte's 'Jane Eyre' were published in 1847. 'Jane Eyre' was one of the year's best sellers.

Anne's second novel, 'The Tenant of Wildfell Hall' and Emily's 'Wuthering Heights' were both published in 1848. 'The Tenant' sold well, but 'Wuthering Heights' did not.

'Shirley' was published in 1849 and 'Villette' in 1853.

### **Local History:**

How much do you know about Bracknell?

*The history of Bracknell and the surrounding area:*

Bracknell was first known as Braccan Heal. In 1350 a Royal Hunting Lodge was built at Easthampsted Park for King Edward III.

The oldest ancient monument in Bracknell is a Bronze age burial mound at Bill Hill, the earliest settlement was an iron age fort called Caesars camp.

One of the oldest surviving buildings in Bracknell is The Old Manor Pub, there were tunnels under the pub which led to other buildings around town and are rumoured to have been used by highway men to escape capture.

Bracknell was famous for its brickworks; bricks made in Bracknell were used in The Albert Hall, Westminster Cathedral, 10 Downing Street and South Hill Park.



## Safeguarding

Miss J Manisier, Safeguarding Lead

### Online Safety Resources for Parents and Carers



The NSPCC website has a really useful section on Keeping Children Safe <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/>

This month their online safety tips newsletter looked at Tik Tok and they have put together a guide to help parents/carers understand the risks and give them an overview of some of the safety settings that might help keep children safer on the app.

NSPCC Tik Tok Safety Guide including 6 Safety Settings: [Online Safety Blog](#)

Tik Tok Guardian Guide: [Tik Tok Guardian Guide](#)

The website contains all sorts of other useful and informative resources such as:

NSPCC Social Media Guide: [Social Media Guide](#)

NSPCC Talking About Online Safety: [Talking to children about online safety](#)



**ONE STEP CLOSER**  
BRACKNELL - TOWN - MISSION

**CAN WE HELP?**  
FREE LOCAL RESOURCES AVAILABLE FOR YOU

**SHARE BRACKNELL**  
Sharing surplus food with our community, open to all for collection. Please bring a bag.  
Fridays 1-3.30pm  
St Andrews Church, Priestwood, RG42 1TU  
Facebook: @ShareBracknell

**REVIVE CAFÉ**  
Community café available to all. Welcoming space to chat with free coffee/wifi & subsidised food.  
Tuesdays 12.45-3pm  
The Kerith Centre, Church Road, Bracknell RG12 1EH  
[www.kerithchurch/revive-cafe](http://www.kerithchurch/revive-cafe)

Sponsored by Bracknell Parish

**FREE LOCAL RESOURCES AVAILABLE FOR YOU**

**STOREHOUSE**  
Household items – distributed to those in need. Good quality donations welcomed.  
Easthampstead Baptist Church, South Hill Road, RG12 7NS  
Email: [storehouse@eba-bracknell.org](mailto:storehouse@eba-bracknell.org) / Tel: 01344 487744

**BRACKNELL FOODBANK**  
Emergency food for those who are struggling. Referral System.  
Tuesdays / Wednesdays / Fridays 10.30am-12noon  
The Kerith Centre, Church Road, Bracknell RG12 1EH  
Email: [foodbank@kerith.church](mailto:foodbank@kerith.church)

**CAP DEBT & MONEY ADVICE**  
Free face-to-face debt advice for anyone in need.  
0800 328 0006  
[www.CAPuk.org](http://www.CAPuk.org)

**CLOTHESBANK**  
Good quality pre-loved clothes locally available. Please email for information:  
[town-onestepcloser@outlook.com](mailto:town-onestepcloser@outlook.com)

**BERKSHIRE WOMEN'S AID**  
Help against domestic abuse.  
[www.berkshirewomensaid.org.uk](http://www.berkshirewomensaid.org.uk)  
Helpline: 0800 801 0882

**WORKPLACE CHAPLAINCY**  
Offering support and a listening ear to those working in Bracknell town.  
Contact us if you'd like a visit:  
[town-onestepcloser@outlook.com](mailto:town-onestepcloser@outlook.com)

### Exam Resources

The NHS have sent us some useful resources for students and their parents to help with exam stress. We have put them on our website for you to access.



[NHS Exam Stress](#)

[Parent Guide to GCSEs from the Charlie Waller Memorial Trust](#)

[Student Guide to Looking After Yourself during your GCSEs from the Charlie Waller Memorial Trust](#)



## CEOP Online Safety for 11-18s



CEOP has created a new website for teenagers called 'The internet, relationships & you' and offers advice on socialising online, online safety, getting support and sexual content online. CEOP is a part of the National Crime Agency.

The website can be found here: [https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/11\\_18](https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/11_18)

## Autism and ADHD Service for Parents, Carers, Children and Young People

The Autism and ADHD Service is offering the following events. Details of these can be found by clicking on the titles below.

### *Pre and Post Assessment Workshops - ADHD*

- Topic based workshops for parent/carers supporting children and young people pre or post assessment for ADHD.

### *Pre and Post Assessment Workshops: ADHD (3 linked workshops): Berkshire East*

- For families registered with a Berkshire East NHS GP surgery (Ascot, Bracknell Forest, Slough, Windsor & Maidenhead). Check your surgery here: <https://www.eastberkshireccg.nhs.uk/local-services/gp-practices/>
- Tuesday 14th, 21st and 28th June, 7-9pm.
- Venue: Bracknell Open Learning Centre, Rectory Lane, Bracknell RG12 7GR.

### *Pre and Post Assessment Workshops: ADHD (3 linked workshops): Berkshire West*

- For families registered with a Berkshire West NHS area GP surgery (Reading, Wokingham, West Berkshire). Check your surgery here: <https://www.berkshirewestccg.nhs.uk/about-us/primary-care/gp-practices/>
- Thursday 9th, 16th and 23rd June, 7-8.30pm. Venue: Zoom.

## Water and Window Safety

It's that time of year again! As the weather is getting warmer, the NHS are making people aware of the dangers associated with warmer weather.

[Please click here to find out more about how the NHS urges summer safety awareness to keep children out of danger \(frimleyccg.nhs.uk\)](https://www.frimleyccg.nhs.uk)

The CCG East of Berkshire produced a short video clip in 2017 – [Keep your kids live and kicking this summer](#) - and the message remains important today. Using messages around water safety and window safety, the video was produced in response to increasing concerns about the distractions of mobile phones in particular and how use of electronic devices may impact on risks to supervision of babies and children. We are conscious that many children are at home, the weather is good and water play will increase.

Slough Borough Council have also produced a water safety and rivers clip:

<https://youtu.be/y4njOkRBK4Q>

## SEND: Parent Carer Forum

*Mrs J Fear, SENDCo*

The Bracknell Parent Carer Forum are relaunching this year: new logo, new team, new ideas! They want to reach as many SEND parents/carers in the Bracknell area as possible: so many are isolated and struggling so they want to grow their reach: the goal is to grow the network and to create a community of support, trust and advice.

They are organising two exciting events in May:

Today: A meet up for parents and carers at the Village Hotel on Friday 27th May from 6-8pm

During Half Term: A SEND family meet at Jocks Lane Recreation Ground on Tuesday 31st May from 10am-12 noon.

Both events will be super inclusive, friendly and welcoming.







## Bracknell Samaritans Run

School Office

### Message from the Bracknell, Wokingham, Ascot & Districts branch of Samaritans

This year marks '50 years of listening' for the Bracknell, Wokingham, Ascot & Districts branch of Samaritans. And we're also celebrating the return of the annual Bracknell Samaritans Run – now in its 40th year!

This is our biggest branch fundraiser and having been unable to host the run since 2019, we really need your support to encourage participants.

The event takes place on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> June 2022 at Easthampstead Park Community School, and if previous years are to go by – will once again be an extremely popular & fun running event for the local community. We sold out in 2019, and are hoping to do so again this year. Our special celebrity guest, Diane Youdale aka 'Jet' from the hit TV series, Gladiators, returns to support us again and other attractions include a bouncy castle, raffle, kids play area, BBQ and refreshments.

With a choice of a 10k, 5k and a [Teddy Bear Run](#) for the kids, it's destined to be a great day for the whole family. We would really love as many children, parents, carers and staff at your school to take part. The kids' race is led by our mascot, Teddy Bear Sam, and starts and finishes at the main race arch and runs around the grassed sports field in a c. 1K loop. It's only £5 to enter and all participants will receive a special Teddy Bear themed medal and other goodies!

You can find more information and a link to enter on the [website](#).



## Dear Year 7 Parents/Carers and Students

The end of another half term brings a lot for us to celebrate in Year 7.

Our Main Hall Assemblies have been focused on looking at how we can be successful and what that will mean for different people, and we have had a lot of successes in this short half term. The Year 7 Boys Football Team defeated all the teams they played against for the season, but lost out in the semi-finals. Huge congratulations to Mr Maye and his team for making it to that point, I am sure they are already strategizing for the next round.

This term also saw us gain two new Year 7 Anti Bully Ambassadors. Mrs Palmer, who supports this team, facilitated two students obtaining their training in this area. Congratulations to Divijah and Kakun who had their Anti Bullying Ambassador training, along with other students in the school. Please see these students if there is something bothering you that you need to discuss.

The Year 12 students facilitated a table tennis tournament for Year 7 students, which a number of you took part in. Well done to everyone who participated, and congratulations to the winners.

The Maths Challenge Competition also took place this term. Congratulations to the 22 students who were selected to take part. Special congratulations to Lewis A, Oskar, Richard, Kakun, Jasmine, Davija, Christian and Adit who all achieved a Bronze or Silver Award. Let us all applaud Daniel D for his Gold award in this competition. Great achievement everyone!

The weather is improving and so is our disposition. We are spending more time outdoors, but as the weather gets warmer, please remember how important it is to keep hydrated. Make sure you bring water into school and top up at the water fountains during break and lunch times. We are fast approaching the end of your first year in Secondary school and in Year 7. Let us maintain a positive attitude, remain focused, and continue to be kind and do our best. Your success is different from everyone else's and while you must always do your best, do not compare yourself to others.

GCSE and A' Level examinations are in full swing. Year 11 and Year 13 students, along with a few Year 12 students are sitting their public exams. We wish them all the best, and remember to move quietly around the school site, especially as we go past the examination venues.

Have a lovely half term.

*Ms Douse, Head of Year 7 and Miss Appleton, Assistant Head of Year 7*



*Year 7 Football Team Strategy Meeting. Credit: CMaye*

## Dear Year 8 Parents/Carers and Students

I write to you at the end of our penultimate half term, meaning that the end of the academic year is approaching and our current Year 8s are preparing to make the jump into Year 9. This has been the topic of conversation in many of our assemblies and the reality of Year 9 and the important choices of options subjects is setting in for many of our students. The high majority of our Year 8s have embedded good habits over the last two years including the ability to attend school regularly and punctually, the ability to work hard and be kind and most importantly to take responsibility for themselves in making good choices. This will serve these students well in Year 9 as they continue to progress through their academic journey here at Brakenhale.



As we enter our final half term as Year 8s, there is much to celebrate. From the last time I wrote to you, two of our own have managed to obtain five Golden Tickets across one day, Jakub and Summer. Several others have managed three and four across one day as well, which is an amazing accomplishment. I still have Year 8s approaching me on a daily basis to inform me of their Golden Tickets and there are often rivalries regarding who can obtain the most. This is all a credit to Year 8 students and their commitment to achieving success.

In a recent assembly, we also celebrated students who had gained the most achievement points since Easter, celebrating the marginal gains that had been made in a short time. Many of these students had never appeared on a leaderboard before, showing that it is never too late to step it up. These students are on display to the right.

Finally, every three weeks Mr Tailor hosts a 'Hot Chocolate with the Headteacher' celebration event to recognise the success of our students from all year groups across the school. The theme of these events changes on a regular basis and Mr Tailor will send invitations to students accordingly. The event on the 6<sup>th</sup> May for Most Achievement Points was attended by Lexi, Bobby, Connor, Henry and Lola. The event on the 26<sup>th</sup> May for "Most Improved Attitude to Learning" was attended by Lexie, Jamie-Leigh, Chloe and Keira. A massive congratulations to all!

I would like to wish all our Brakenhale families a much deserved, restful half-term holiday. Please be safe and focus on being refreshed for the upcoming summer term ahead of us. As a community, we have much to be proud of over the last half term and much to look forward to over the coming weeks when we come back. I hope you are able to relax and enjoy whatever plans you may have, especially with the Queen's Platinum Jubilee Bank Holiday happening. I have griped to many that the Queen is stealing my thunder from my 30<sup>th</sup> Birthday weekend, but I think I may have to let her have this one!

Have a great half term!

*Mr McKane, Head of Year 8 / Associate Assistant Headteacher and Mr Collins, Assistant Head of Year 8*

#### Most Achievement Points since Easter

<b>Lexi S</b>	103
<b>Zoe P</b>	88
<b>Lacey G</b>	82
<b>Connor S</b>	82
<b>Henry F</b> (Reigning Champion overall – so far)	74
<b>Aleksej K</b>	74
<b>Amira C</b>	73
<b>Lacey R</b>	73
<b>Riley P</b>	70
<b>Daisy L</b>	68

## Dear Year 9 Parents/Carers and Students

I think that you will agree with me when I say that compared to the fast-paced options choosing half term we had before Easter, this half term has been a relatively calm one. Now that we have made our decisions for next year we have been able to focus on becoming exam ready - and this means lots of different things.

Positive decisions are being made by many students in lessons, this is a really strong step as we approach half term. I'm so glad to see how many of you are understanding that this is time to knuckle down and concentrate. That being said, it is also important that we take this time to look at ourselves, and not just our behaviours and attitudes. Going into your GCSE years is going to be some of, if not the, hardest work you have ever experienced. It is important that you keep yourself well, both physically and mentally.

Something we have to be aware of is our attendance to school. Not only do we need to physically be here in the building (on time) every day, we need to be mentally present in order to learn. Our attendance across the week is interesting, and is always the highest on a Tuesday and Wednesday. If you are someone who has taken time off in the past few weeks, have a think about why, and what you can do in the future to ensure you aren't



missing any more learning time. If you find yourself having to have time off, make sure you catch up on the work you have missed by either emailing or going to find your teachers.

Over the next term we are going to spend some time looking at relaxation techniques, stress-busting activities, and how to keep yourself strong in the face of hard work. For now I wanted to signpost some of my favourite calming videos on YouTube, so you can get a jump start:

10 minute meditation for stress release: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z6X5oElg6Ak>

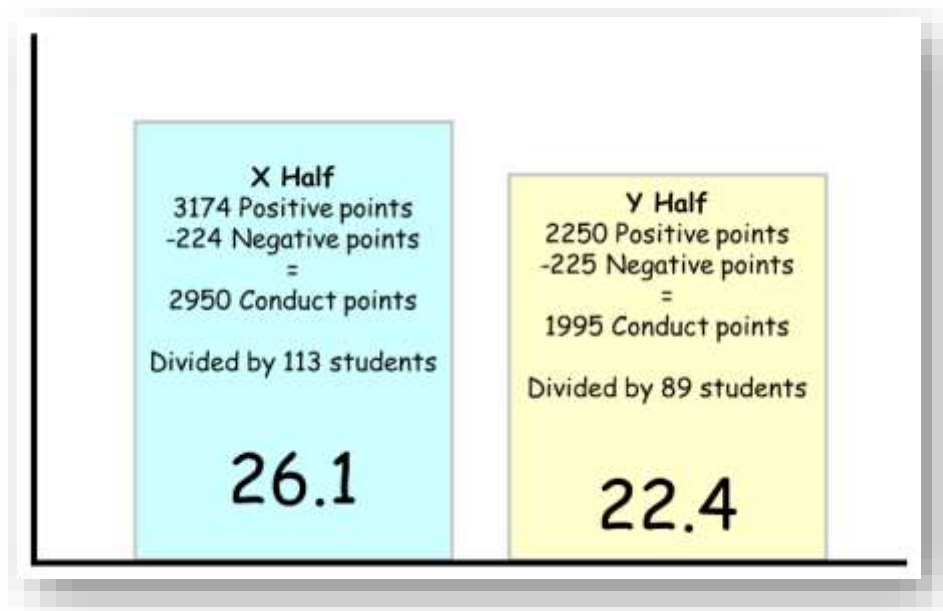
10 minute meditation to reframe stress: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sG7DBA-mgFY>

Frustrated? Cool Down and Get Peace of Mind with this Quick Meditation

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cZJAsW\\_5SRA](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cZJAsW_5SRA)

If you think that these are great (which they are) you can find more at headspace, and we will look at more across the next term.

This term has been really positive. As I promised at the end of last term we are still in the middle of our challenge, and I have a half term update for you. As a reminder - the challenge is in year halves! The year half with the best average conduct for the term will win a prize at the end of the year. As of 18/5/22 these are the standings:



Think about what contributions you are making to these results. Are you ensuring you are getting as many positive points as possible? Are you making sure you are getting homework done and not disrupting lessons, and therefore not adding to the negative points. It is really close at the moment and absolutely all to play for after half term!

I am looking forward to seeing which tutor group has the most golden tickets and wins a free breakfast on the last day of term. You will be reading this on Friday afternoon so well done and congratulations to the winning tutor group! Who will it be next term I wonder?

I want to leave you with a final (scary) thought. This term Year 11 have started their GCSE exams, and Year 13 have started their A-Level exams. I wish them all the luck in the world but it did make me think, in 2 and 4 years respectively this will be us.

What are you doing now, to make sure you'll be ready then?

*Miss Turner, Head of Year 9 and Miss Manning, Assistant Head of Year 9*



## Dear Year 10 Parents/Carers and Students

And before we know it, that is another half term down on our Key Stage 4 journey, and only a year until you will be sitting your own Summer Exams. There is still plenty of time to ensure you are as successful as you can be and the next half term is all about carrying that momentum you have built up so far this year to carry you through to the Summer Holidays.

This half term there have been a few fantastic opportunities that some of you have had the privilege to take part in. It was amazing to take just over twenty students to Oxford University to take part in a workshop on debating and arguing. It was a fantastic day and students were given a topic on the day to have



to argue against other groups. They were given the very generic question 'What is the best thing?' and then off they went. The three groups that we took argued very well and explained why family, communication and money are the best things. It was also amazing that two of these groups placed second and third out of ten. A very memorable day for myself and those students. There have also been several opportunities to represent the school in sporting fixtures and athletics and well done to all who have taken part in these. Last week I had the pleasure as well of accompanying ten students from Years 7 to 10 to a Climate Change Conference held at Garth School. The students that took this opportunity I hope took something out of the day with regards to what more we could be doing to help slow down Climate Change, and they came up with some very good ideas that the school could be doing to do their bit as well. They were impeccably behaved and had the opportunity to talk to local representatives from the Bracknell Council about their ideas. Please make sure Year 10 you take these opportunities when they arise if it is something you are passionate about.

We really hope that you had a successful Parents' Evening last night and that your teachers passed on wonderful comments about how you have been getting on in their subjects and offered some great advice on what you need to be doing next to continue pushing forward to achieve the best that you can. It was also a great opportunity for you to pass on how you are feeling in their subjects. For some of you there may have been some difficult conversations with regards to how you are getting on, but hopefully you have been able to work out some small next steps to get you back on track in these subjects. It is now up to you with the support of your teacher to implement these changes so that you reap the benefits of these plans.

Next half term you will be sitting your first set of PPEs in the examination halls to start preparing you for what this will feel like next year. I know from my own experiences of sitting exams that this is an anxious time, and this may be true for yourself. The more that we give you the opportunity to practice this, the less anxious you will be when it is the real exams. You need to start thinking about how you are preparing yourself for these end of Year 10 exams. Have you got a revision plan? Do you have revision resources? Do you know what your morning routine will look like so that you are coming in ready to sit the exams? These are all areas to be thinking about over the next few weeks before sitting these exams. If your plans do not work out, then this is the time to find that out so that next time, you will be even more successful by refining and tweaking those plans.

So far over this academic year there have been loads of achievement points handed out to you as a year group, and this tells us that you continue to get it right, day in and day out. Below is a quick summary of how the tutor competition is going:

10B - 3,899	10E - 3,768
10R - 4,486	10N - 4,000
10A - 2,862	10H - 3,156
10K - 3,481	

Have a restful and great May Half Term Year 10, and we look forward to welcoming you back, hopefully well rested and ready to go again for the final half term of this academic year!

*Mr Hilton, Head of Year 10 and Mr Boucher, Assistant Head of Year 10*



## Dear Sixth Form Parents/Carers and Students

This term appears to have flown by and it is hard to believe that we are now in the midst of exam season and near the end of the academic year. We are immensely proud of the progress both year groups have made. The first half of the summer term is always a challenge. Although the weather is warmer, the expectations are high and students often feel stressed in preparation for exam season. That being said, Sixth Formers have absolutely hit the ground running and done a tremendous job. In the past 2 weeks, we have been so impressed with how good humoured and focused you have been. All your hard work will pay off - We promise!

On the topic of hard work, we are pleased to announce that the Sixth Form Leadership Team is up and running. The team is currently made up of ten students in Year 12 who have brilliant ideas and are genuinely keen to make a positive difference to the lives of everyone in the Brakenhale community. Currently they are working on galvanising the Prefects and planning a student voice initiative. We know that there are other students within Year 12 who would like this opportunity and so we will open up our applications to add capacity to the team after half term.

Leadership opportunities like this are not only a way to give back to the school, but help students to develop key skills which employers and universities value. We always reiterate the same message: **Work hard, Be kind, Take opportunities.** Well done to all the Year 12 students who have fully embraced this motto. We are looking forward to seeing what exciting projects you will be implementing in the future.



### Year 12 – Looking Ahead

As you begin thinking about your future in education, it is important to consider how your actions and choices - now more than ever - have wider implications for your future. How you respond to the opportunities that are presented before you are key in shaping your future. The small decisions made on a daily basis, such as engaging in extra revision or deciding to attend an online workshop, can help to open doors in the future. When we return from half term, the Year 12 team will be diving into the world of UCAS and beginning the process of university applications. While this may seem overwhelming or daunting, it is also an exciting time where you have the opportunity to take charge of how your academic future will unfold. As always, we will be here to support you every step of the way.



Year 12 PPEs will be happening the week beginning 27<sup>th</sup> June for a period of two weeks. We want to reiterate the importance of taking these exams seriously. Not only do they mirror the exam experience which you will undergo in Year 13, but your results will help to paint a picture of how much you have progressed throughout the year. Your performance on these exams will also inform your teachers on how they can better support you in lessons.

### Year 13 - Saying Goodbye!

Year 13, you are now approaching the end of your Brakenhale journey. It must be said that rarely do a year group get spoken about so positively by their teachers. There is a huge amount of fondness for you and a clear recognition of all that you have navigated over the last few years. This year has been tough, not least because Year 13 is always hard but as previously you have been denied the opportunity to take formal external examinations and so now you are taking them for the first time. That said, your attitude has been brilliant and we could not have asked for much more from you.



On Friday we had the opportunity to reflect on and celebrate your achievements at the leavers' assembly. Leaving Brakenhale is likely to be an emotional one, as many of you have spent the last 7 years of your academic journey at this school. Your official send-off will be happening at Prom, which is taking place on Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> June at 7:00pm at Easthampstead Park. We can't wait to see everyone in their finery and ready to celebrate in a more glamorous fashion.



End of Year Assembly Breakfast

**Boosters and Exams**

Please find attached the booster/exam TT for the first week back after half term. If you still have exams in a subject you should be attending lessons as normal where they do not clash with boosters and exams.

BTEC students should still be attending lessons to complete coursework - you can only stop attending once your teacher has communicated to me that all of your work is completed to the required standard.

A	Monday 6th	Tuesday 7th	Wednesday 8th	Thursday 9th	Friday 10th
1		English Lit exam 2h30hrs (7)		RS exam 2hrs (13)/ Business 2hrs (5)/ Criminology 1h30 (33)	History exam 2h30 (6)
2					
3	Economics booster FVE F11	Maths booster FVE F11	Core maths booster NMC F12/FM booster /Geography booster GWH S05	Biology booster SAN	Physics booster JSL S11
4					
5	Economics exam 2hrs (5) English Lit booster AMA F21	Maths 2hrs (15)	Core Maths 1h30 (8)/ Further Maths 1h30 (6) / Geography 2h30 (2) / RS booster BTA F07 / Business booster PMC F16 / Criminology booster SJO F04	Biology 2h15 (11) History booster DBU S01	Physics exam 2h15/ Chemistry booster GPO S06
6	English Lit booster AMA F21		RS booster BTA F07 / Business booster PMC F16 /Criminology booster SJO F04	History booster DBU S01	Chemistry booster GPO S06

Finally, remember that even though you may be leaving the school, you will always be a part of the Brakenhale community. Stay in touch - we are always just an email away.

Have a lovely half term everyone - take time to rest and recharge. We look forward to welcoming Year 13 back to complete your exams and Year 12 back to complete your final half-term.

*The Sixth Form Team: Ms Manlay, Head of Sixth Form; Ms Loj; Head of Year 12*

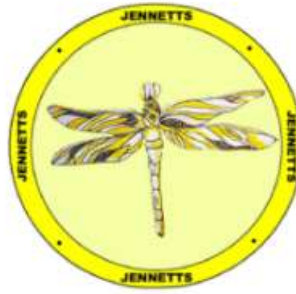


## Updates from our School Houses

**FARLEY**  
Mrs Harris  
charris@brakenhale.co.uk



**JENNETTS**  
Mr Maye  
cmaye@brakenhale.co.uk



**SWINLEY**  
Ms Turner  
dturner@brakenhale.co.uk



**TEMPLE**  
Mr Collins  
ccollins@brakenhale.co.uk



### JENNETTS Update

*Mr C Maye, Head of Jennetts House*

Hello Jennetts!!!

I hope you are all well at the time of reading this....

I have a request.... This half term please relax, chill out and recharge your batteries because we have a HUGE final 7 week term left of the year!!!

You have been all amazing so far and collected some fantastic House points and Golden tickets; however, just like a long distance race, we have heard the bell and this is the last lap so please summon up all the amazingness that you have to come back and continue to do the right thing, but really look to go all out to go the extra mile for yourself, your teachers, your friends and family and finish this half term strongly!!

I'm proud of each and every one of you so thank you for everything so far....

See you in June!!!



### TEMPLE Update

*Mr C Collins, Head of Temple House*

G'Day Temple house, what a fantastic half term it has been! We've all continued with our best foot forward!

We have had a very busy half term but a very enjoyable one. We are still currently second in overall house points, I know we can finish on top by the end of the year, we've got this Temple house!

Have a wonderful break, stay safe and I will see you all when we return!





### SWINLEY Update

Mrs D Turner, Head of Swinley House

Hello Swinley,

Wow, what a fantastic Half term it has been so far!

It has been amazing to see so many of you participating in after school clubs and athletics competitions. We have lots of fun events coming up after the half term so please keep your eyes peeled and take part.

With Sports day on the horizon please get ready to take part and support your house.

Have an amazing half term everyone



### FARLEY Update

Mrs C Harris, Head of Farley House

Hello Farley

Wow, all I can say is well done. We have started to pull ourselves back in front of Temple. 🏆👏

We are in 1st place. Keep up these great efforts, as we could be lifting the trophy up for the very first time. 🏆👏

It is still very close between us, so a HUGE congratulations and well done to everyone who is picking up.

- Golden tickets
- Achievement points
- Community points
- Extra-Curricular points

Rest up over the half-term, and if you are doing anything for any charities or communities, please email me so we can celebrate your outstanding efforts as a House.

Look out for the Jubilee competition for Farley over the half term.

This will be the final push towards getting the trophy and winning.

We can do this because

**Believe, Aspire and Succeed**

**BECAUSE**

**T - Together**

**E - Everyone**

**A - Achieves**

**M - More**

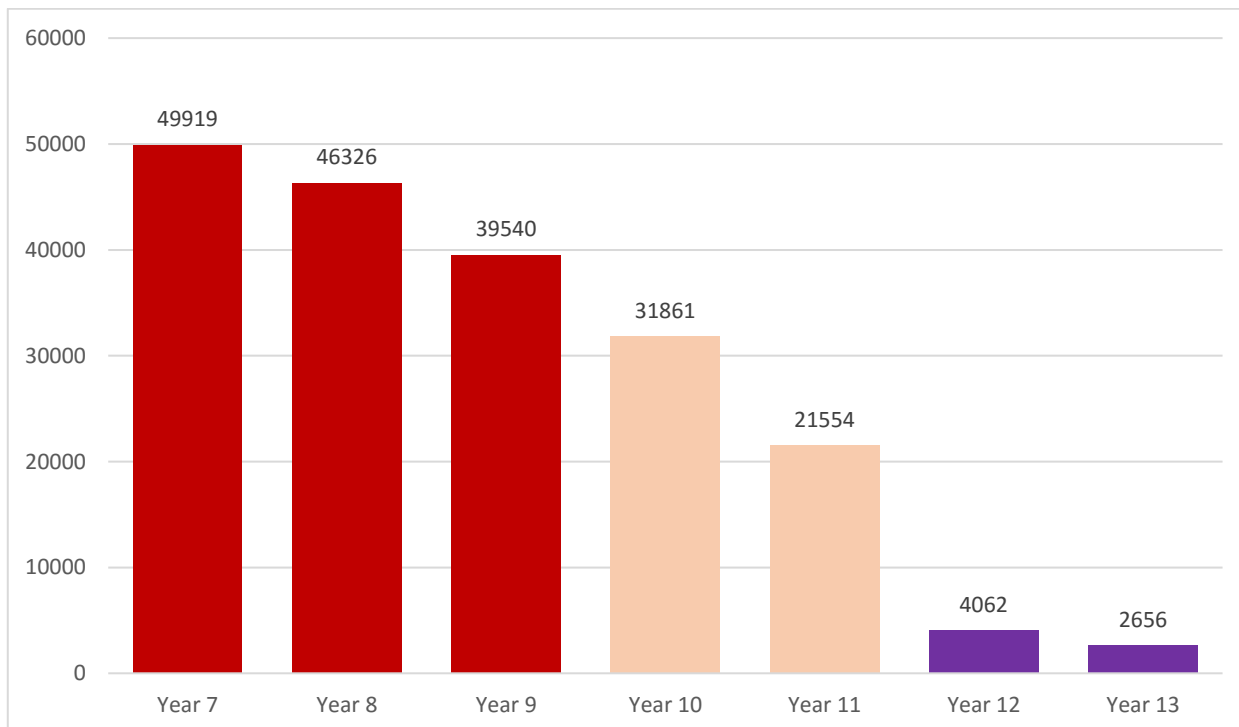
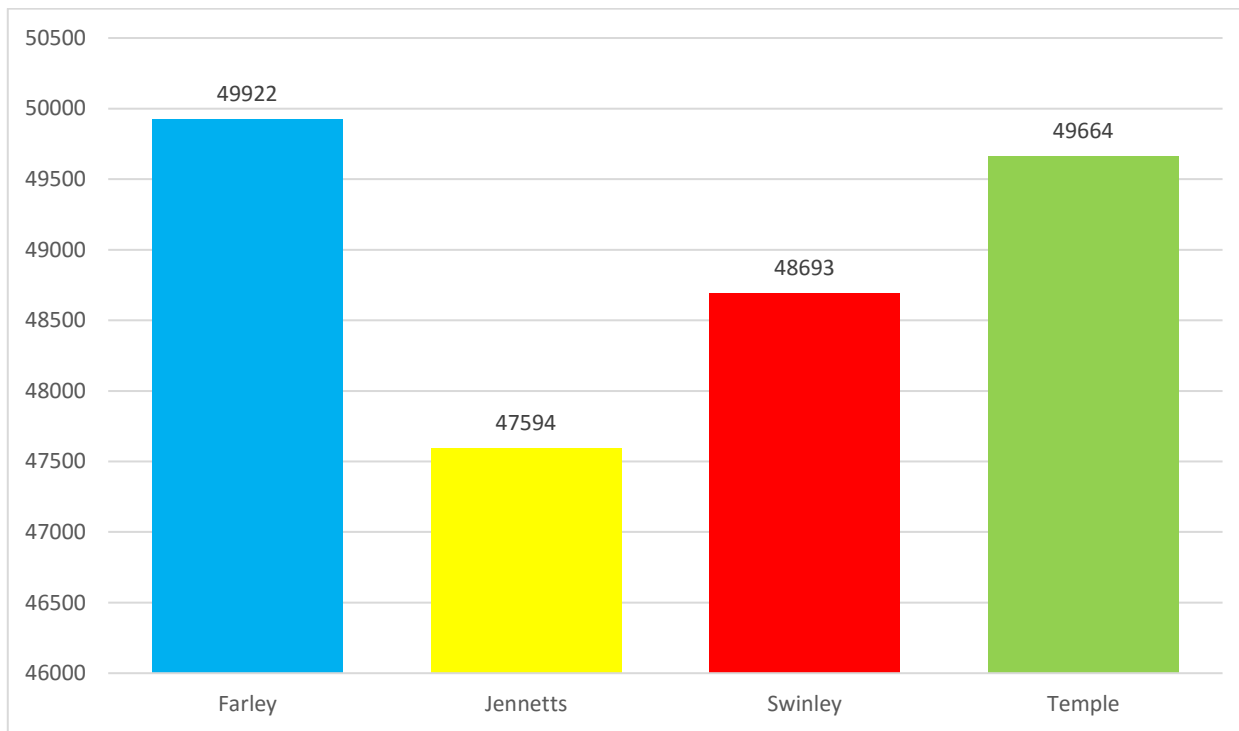


Don't forget...



# House Points

## Pastoral Team



**Reminders**

*School Office*

Please ensure that students are ready for school each morning with all the tools for learning and other equipment and kit that they need for the day.

Getting into the habit of preparing uniform and school bag the night before is a really good idea to keep students organised. Please encourage your child to take responsibility for themselves, it is a valuable life lesson and good practice for the future.

**BRAKENHALE  
SECOND-HAND  
UNIFORM & PE KIT STORE**



Please email enquiries to:  
**SecondHandSale@brakenhale.co.uk**  
**£2 per item** • **Blazers £5**   
 Available for students to collect from the  
**LRC Book Room: 8.20am to 8.55am**  
 and Break Time

**Tools for Learning**

Large see-through Pencil Case	£0.80
Three Black or Blue Pens (15p each)	£0.45
HB Pencil	£0.10
Rubber	£0.10
Pencil Sharpener	£0.15
30cm Ruler	£0.15
Protractor	£0.20
Highlighter Pen	£0.15
Colouring Pencils	£0.80
Glue Stick	£0.35
A5 Whiteboard	£0.60
Whiteboard Pen	£0.25
<b>Full pencil case</b>	<b>£3.25</b>
Scientific Calculator	£8.35

**Brakenhale**

**Lost Property**

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

Email us on: [lostproperty@brakenhale.co.uk](mailto:lostproperty@brakenhale.co.uk)

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

**Brakenhale School**  
*High Expectations and Challenge*  
*Practisebrakenhale*

**Tools for Learning**



**TOOLS FOR LEARNING EQUIPMENT**  
 Filled Pencil Case and Scientific Calculator

**LARGE TRANSPARENT PENCIL CASE to include:**

3 Black or Blue Pens	HB Pencil
Rubber	Pencil Sharpener
Glue Stick	30cm Ruler
Highlighter	Protractor
Colouring Pencils	Whiteboard Pen



Cycling to school is good for the environment and our health.

# CYCLE SAFETY

Wear a safety helmet,  
use the bike  
store and ride in  
a safe manner.

Ensure the bike is road worthy, safe and has  
working brakes

**Thank You**



**NO**  **SMOKING**

COULD WE PLEASE  
REMAND EVERYONE  
THAT SMOKING IS  
NOT PERMITTED  
ANYWHERE ON THE  
BRAKENHALE SITE

Could we please remind students and visitors to  
**PLEASE KEEP OFF THE GRASS**  
at the front of the school to avoid  
damaging the growth and  
tracking mud into  
the school

**Thank You**



### Things to do at Brakenhale at Break and Lunch



Activities: Ball games on the courts, A MEGA pitches, chess, table tennis

Somewhere quiet to read or do your homework!

Indoor and Outdoor seating


And many other clubs and activities are available at various times...



EVERYONE IS WELCOME HERE

# DIVERSITY IS POWER

A SAFE SPACE FOR STUDENTS TO DISCUSS THEIR CULTURAL HERITAGES



EVERY TUESDAY LUNCH  
1:20PM - 1:50PM

ROOM: 304

FOR MORE INFORMATION EMAIL:  
tbradell@brakenhale.co.uk  
tbradell@brakenhale.co.uk  
tbradell@brakenhale.co.uk

**BRAKENHALE** 

**DO YOU HAVE ANY UNWANTED or OUT-GROWN UNIFORM or PE KIT ?**



**ALL DONATIONS GRATEFULLY RECEIVED**

Please bring to main reception in the KS2 Head of Year office

**BRAKENHALE** 

## Brakenhale Water Bottles

Available for students to purchase from LRC Book Room 8.20-9am and at Break



**Bottles £2 each**



**Bats £5**  
**Balls £0.50p**

**BRAKENHALE** 

## Table Tennis Bats & Balls

Available for students to purchase from LRC Book Room 8.20-9am and at Break

**BRAKENHALE SCHOOL** 

## Pre-paid Tools for Learning

Available for students to collect from Main Reception

### Individual Tools for Learning

Available to purchase for cash from the LRC Book Room 8.20 - 9am and at Break time



**Brakenhale School** 

## RECYCLE YOUR OLD CLOTHES, SHOES AND ACCESSORIES.

We collect old clothes, shoes and accessories to help raise money for the school.

Collect your unwanted items and bring them in to school in a black bin bag or other plastic sack.

We have 2 large red receptacles at the front of the school to collect them in.

Please contact Sarah Hickey at the school if you have any queries  
shickey@brakenhale.co.uk

Thank you for supporting our school!

**RECYCLE!**

Don't forget your unwanted items to be recycled... This means being a recycling bin using the green money we raise for the school.

**The following 'good quality' items are easy to give AWAY:**  
 - Books, Textiles and Children's Clothing  
 - Small Home Appliances (toaster, kettles, blenders, etc.)  
 - Small electrical items (hair dryer, vacuum cleaner, etc.)  
 - Small furniture (chairs, tables, etc.)  
 - Small kitchenware (mugs, plates, etc.)  
 - Small toys (LEGO, etc.)  
 - Small tools (screwdrivers, etc.)

**Please don't donate:**  
 - Large furniture (sofas, beds, etc.)  
 - Large appliances (fridges, freezers, etc.)  
 - Large electrical items (TVs, monitors, etc.)  
 - Large tools (power tools, etc.)  
 - Large toys (toys, etc.)  
 - Large kitchenware (dinner sets, etc.)  
 - Large furniture (chairs, tables, etc.)  
 - Large electrical items (TVs, monitors, etc.)  
 - Large tools (power tools, etc.)  
 - Large toys (toys, etc.)  
 - Large kitchenware (dinner sets, etc.)

Put your items in a black bin bag or other plastic sack.  
Thank you for supporting our school!



**Clubs and Activities**



# MATES PARTICIPATE @ BRAKENHALE PE

**What is this?**

An opportunity to take part in **ANY** after school sport or activity, with your mates! Just sign in with PE staff and stay and play - simple!

**When is it on?**

Tuesday...  
Wednesday...  
Thursday...  
Friday...

**After school**



**Who is it for?**

All year groups...7 - 13!

**How do I sign up?**

That's the great thing...you don't have to! Just turn up after school, with your mates...and get involved! Just **tell your parents and bring your kit!**

**What is on offer?**

The choice is **yours**...PE staff will register you and be on the following areas:

- Astro turf 🏈🏀🏆🇺🇸
- Trampoline centre 🏆
- MUGA 🏀🏈
- Fitness Suite ❤️
- Sports Hall 🏀🏈🏆
- Courts 🏀🏈🏆
- Field 🏈🏀🏆
- Cricket nets 🏏

**NEW WAY TO REGISTER FOR CLUBS! #SCANME**

There will be a QR code for you to scan, fill out a google form and register! Please do this for every club you attend!

**Follow us:**

Instagram & twitter @brakenhalepe

## Non-Sporting Clubs @ Brakenhale

<b>Homework Club</b> Every Day 3.05-4pm • TN2 Mrs Daniels	<b>ECE</b> Tuesdays Invite only 3.20-5.20pm Li Barry	<b>Sparx Maths</b> Mondays & Thursdays - All Years 3.10-3.45pm • B11 • Mrs Turner Tuesdays - Years 7 to 10 Lunch • B11 • Mrs Turner	<b>KS3 Science Club</b> Wednesdays - Week A 3.15-4.15pm • S10 Mrs Malik	<b>YOUNG INTERPRETERS CLUB</b> Year 7 • Thursday Week A • 3.05-4.05pm • F10 Year 8 • Friday Week B • 1.30-2.45pm • K10	
<b>KS3 Art Club</b> Wednesdays 3.05-4pm • A02 Mrs Falvey	<b>Identity</b> Every 4th Friday 3.05-3.45pm • F10 Miss Bankell Mrs Lewis	<b>MFL KS3 Film Club</b> Wednesdays 1.20-1.55pm • K02 Mrs Santana	<b>Year 7/8 Drama Club</b> Thursdays - Week B 3.05-4pm • L01 Miss Callip	<b>Craft Club</b> Fridays 3.05-3.45pm • A02 Mrs Wilks/ Mrs Patel-R	<b>Year 9 Dance Club</b> Tuesdays - Week B 3.05-4pm • MS Mrs Millard
<b>KS3 Debate Club</b> Mr Wells Wednesdays - Week B Thursdays - Week A 3.05-4pm • M01	<b>Choir Club</b> Tuesday - Week B 3.05-4pm • M01 Mrs Hope	<b>Year 9 Drama Club</b> Mondays - Week A 3.05-4pm • L01 Miss Lavry	<b>Year 9 Music Club</b> Mondays - Week B 3.05-4pm • M01 Mr Picher	<b>Keyboard Club</b> Wednesdays 3.05-4pm • LS1 Mr Fatcher	<b>Book Clubs</b> KS3 (7, 8 & 9) Thursdays (rotated dates) of 4 3.05-4pm LBC Mrs Lewis KS4 (10) Thursdays 3.05-4pm FO7 Mrs Keljarrett

High Expectations and Challenge

#teambrokenhale



## School Dining Hall

Taz Asran, Chef Manager - [kitchen@brakenhale.co.uk](mailto:kitchen@brakenhale.co.uk)

The School Dining Hall is open daily for all students as follows:

- 7.45 - 8.30** Breakfast which includes:  
Fresh Fruit / Yoghurt bar / Cereals / Bacon or Sausage Rolls / Danish Pastries / Hot Chocolate
- 11.00 – 11.20** Break-time
- 13.25 – 13.55** Lunch-time
- 3.05** Any unsold food may be purchased at half price by cash or account

Sample menus are available on our website in the [Parent Zone](#)

There is a 3 week menu rotation. Please note, due to delivery issues that are being faced nationally, we may encounter delays to some products. If so, there may be slight alterations to menus

### Free School Meals

Previously we required parents/carers to apply through Bracknell Forest Council but we have now moved to an online platform to make this process easier and simpler and we would be grateful if you could take a few minutes to register.

We would be most grateful if you could complete your details on this form, even if you have applied unsuccessfully in the past, or if you believe you are not entitled to additional funding. The system re-checks details every term and will automatically update our records if your status changes.

If you would like any help with applying you are very welcome to come into school and we would be happy to assist you with an application.

### [Check Eligibility for Free School Meals](#)

It is worth applying for Free School Meals entitlement even if your child does not require a school lunch because entitlement to this benefit comes with an automatic reduction in the cost of school trips (in the UK) and may also entitle you to receive financial assistance with other school related expenses.

Brakenhale School		Price	
		Regular	Large
<b>MEALS</b>			
<b>Main Meal</b>		£2.20	
<b>Meal Deal</b>		£2.60	
(main meal + £0.60 drink or pudding)			
Soup of the Day		£1.10	
Soup with Bread Roll		£1.30	
Jacket Potato + 1 Filling		£1.50	
Jacket Potato + 2 Fillings		£2.00	
Salad Pot		£1.25	£2.00
Pasta King		£1.30	£2.00
Yoghurt Bar		£1.25	£2.00
Fruit Salad / Cold Dessert / Jelly Pot		£1.00	
Pudding		£0.60	
<b>SNACKS</b>			
Pizza		£1.25	
Paninis		£1.80	
Beef / Chicken / Veggie Burger		£1.60	
Hot Wraps		£1.60	
Chicken Nuggets / Popcorn		£1.60	
Hot Dogs		£1.60	
Lamb Kebabs		£1.60	
Bagels		£1.60	
Chicken Wings Pot		£1.60	
Potato Wedges		£0.80	
Waffles		£0.60	
Cookies		£0.50	
<b>DRINKS</b>			
Cold Drinks Range	From	£0.50	to £0.80
Hot Drinks		£1.00	
Frutina Slushie		£0.80	£1.00
Ice Cream / Lollies		£0.50	

November 2021



## Brakenhale School Lottery

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.



**St Sebastian Wokingham Band**  
presents



**Jubilee Brass**

A Celebration of Music to mark the  
Queen's Platinum Jubilee

Including the film music of John Williams in  
his 90th year

 Supporting Share Wokingham
 

**£10 ADULT**      **£5 CHILD**

**28th May**  
**7.30pm**

**Wokingham Baptist Church,**  
**RG40 1DE**

Tickets available by scanning QR code or by calling  
**07724 073 307**




## Action for Happiness

Find out more information here : <https://www.actionforhappiness.org/> or download the FREE Action for Happiness app for iOS or Android:

- Gives you friendly nudges with an action idea each day
- Sends you inspiring messages to give you a boost
- Helps you connect & share ideas with like-minded people

**Joyful June** Let's look for what's good.

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
1. Decide to look for what's good every day this month	2. Say positive things in your conversations with others	3. Re-frame a worry and try to find a helpful way to think about it	4. Take a photo of something that brings you joy and share it	5. Think of 3 things you're grateful for and write them down	6. Get out into green space and feel the joy that nature brings	7. Do something healthy which makes you feel good
8. Find joy in music: sing, play, dance, listen or share	9. Ask a friend what made them happy recently	10. Bring joy to others by doing something kind for them	11. Eat good food that makes you happy and really savour it	12. Write a gratitude letter to thank someone	13. Take a light-hearted approach. Choose to see the funny side	14. Share a happy memory with someone who means a lot to you
15. Look for something to be thankful for where you least expect it	16. Speak to others in a warm and friendly way	17. Take time to notice things that you find beautiful	18. Look for something good in a difficult situation	19. Get outside and find the joy in being active	20. Rediscover and enjoy a fun childhood activity	21. Send a positive note to a friend who needs encouragement
22. Watch something funny and enjoy how it feels to laugh	23. Create a playlist of uplifting songs to listen to	24. Bring to mind a favourite memory you feel grateful for	25. Show your appreciation to people who are helping others	26. Make time to do something playful, just for the fun of it	27. Be kind to you. Do something that brings you joy	28. Notice how positive emotions are contagious between people
29. Share a friendly smile with people you see today	30. Make a list of the joys in your life (and keep adding to it)					

## Term Dates

Please find below our Term Dates for the remainder of this academic year 2021/22.

### Term Dates 2021-22

#### SUMMER TERM 2022

Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> April – Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> July 2022

**Summer Half Term - Monday 30<sup>th</sup> May to Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2022** (including extended bank holiday for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee)

Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup>, Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> and Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2022 **Inset Days**

**Summer Holiday: Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> July 2022**

(May Bank Holiday Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2022)

**INSET Days** Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup>, Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> and Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2022

Please check the school website regularly for current information.





**Term Dates 2022-23**

**AUTUMN TERM 2022**

Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> and Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> September **Inset Days**  
 Monday 5<sup>th</sup> September – Friday 1<sup>6th</sup> December 2022  
**Autumn Half Term - Monday 24<sup>th</sup> to Friday 28<sup>th</sup> October 2022**  
**Christmas Holiday: Monday 19<sup>th</sup> December to Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2023**

**SPRING TERM 2023**

Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> January **Inset Day**  
 Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> January – Friday 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023  
**Spring Half Term - Monday 13<sup>th</sup> February to Friday 17<sup>th</sup> February 2023**  
**Spring Holiday: Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> to Monday 17<sup>th</sup> April 2023**  
*(Good Friday 7<sup>th</sup> April, Easter Monday 10<sup>th</sup> April)*

**SUMMER TERM 2023**

Monday 17<sup>th</sup> April **Inset Day**  
 Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> April – Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> July 2023  
**Summer Half Term - Monday 29<sup>th</sup> May to Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2023**  
*(May Bank Holidays Monday 1<sup>st</sup> and Monday 29<sup>th</sup> May)*  
 Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> and Friday 21<sup>st</sup> July 2023 **Inset Days**  
**Summer Holiday: Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> July 2023**

**INSET Days**      Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> and Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2022  
                           Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2023  
                           Monday 17<sup>th</sup> April 2023  
                           Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> and Friday 21<sup>st</sup> July 2023

*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>



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



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

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

**Part of the Greenshaw Learning Trust**

*High Expectations and Challenge*