

# Brakenhale News



17<sup>th</sup> December 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

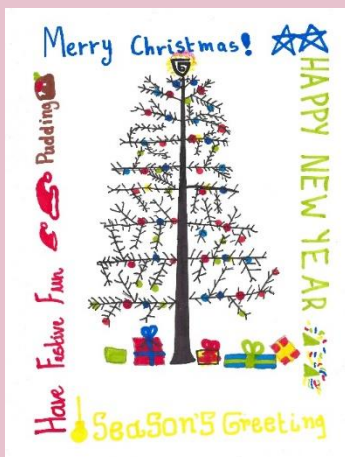
I hope this finds you well. As we approach the Christmas holidays, please find a plethora of snippets from this term. Having joined as the new Headteacher on 1<sup>st</sup> September, it's been an informative and enjoyable term as I have become more accustomed to the workings of our school. Our children do, and can continue to do, exceptionally well. We need to create the climate in which this happens every single day. I continue to see many of them at the gate in the morning, during breaks or lunch times, in lessons, at the gate at the end of the day. This is one of the best parts of the job.

On Wednesday you will have received a schoolcomms message with information for some refinements for January 2022. Please ensure to read through this and digest the information. There are some notable changes from January 2022. These will be relayed to all students upon our return in the new year. Staff INSET (training) day on Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2022 will be devoted to ensuring our teachers are prepared for these refinements too. The enhancements are to simplify some elements of how we operate which will help both teachers and students to understand what we require of them.

As you will see from the subsequent pages, there are a range of events and activities that have taken place this half term. To name a few: thank you to all of you who attended the 'Meet the Headteacher' event which I hope you found informative; the virtual Sixth Form Opening Evening was a success and we look forward to recruiting Year 11 students into Year 12 in the new year; PPEs (pre-public exams) for Years 11 and 13 have taken place and done so with dedication and determination; Year 7 students have completed their first full term here at secondary school and this was not only narrated but praised in their assembly on Monday; a wonderful Music event only this week by Year 12 Music students which some students in other year group had the pleasure to watch, including me! There has been much more too.

Earlier in the term, there were two competitions for students to take part in: one for the Christmas card competition and another for a 'postcard' which is going to be our 'golden ticket' from January 2022 (as shared in my schoolcomms on Wednesday). After some deliberation and decision-making, the winners are:

Christmas Card Winner



Postcard Winner



Postcard Runner-up



Well done to Divija (7A) for the Christmas card and Arisha (7E) – winner - and Freya (10E) – runner-up - for their wonderful efforts and they each have a £15 voucher to spend on arts and crafts if they wish to!



Can I please remind all students about the correct and safe use of social media which I have shared previously. Especially over a holiday period where children may use their devices more than usual, please ensure - as parents / carers - you are reiterating the messages of correct and safe use of it, not to speak ill of others or use it as a mechanism to offend anyone. In some cases, these can be a police matter which nobody wants.

Finally, can I wish you all a restful and joyous Christmas break. Please continue to keep safe. As outlined earlier in the week, please continue to test twice-weekly and vaccinations are readily available for anyone over the age of 12. The days and times for testing in school when we return, for different year groups, was shared with you on Wednesday.

I look forward to seeing all our children back in January.

Yours faithfully,

*Mr Taylor, Headteacher*

The amount of 'Good Mornings' I receive from our students has steadily increased as the term has gone on, the welcoming at the gate and throughout the morning, including at line-up, shows such positivity. Brakenhale Students are some of the most caring that I have come across, their desire to look after others is exceptional.

Some highlights of my term have been attending the Remembrance Service at St Michael's with our CCF, visiting our Year 8 students on their residential to Jamie's Farm and my daily conversations with students from Year 7-13. Going into lessons every day I learn something new from the teachers and speaking to such a variety of students, I learn from them too. This reciprocal relationship is so beneficial to bringing our community closer together and building strong bonds, it is a pleasure to work with such an inspiring team.

Merry Christmas,

*Ms Whitaker, Deputy Headteacher*

## Foodbank for Christmas

*Miss Douse, Head of Year 7*

Thank you to everyone who kindly donated food items for the Bracknell Foodbank at the Kerith Centre. All contributions are greatly appreciated and here is selection of your generosity.





## Remembrance

*Mr A Bury, Contingent Commander, Forest School Leader*

We were delighted to support the British Legion Poppy Appeal again this year.

Students who are members of our Combined Cadet Force (CCF) proudly wore their uniform from Monday 8<sup>th</sup> November for the whole week as a mark of respect and students in other youth groups such as girl guides or Scouts were encouraged to wear their group uniform on the day. On Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> November all our cadets paraded as we observed the two minute's silence at 11am. Victoria T played 'The Last Post' with feeling and afterwards Cadet Kuba bravely read the Poem 'In Flanders Field' to mark the end of our Remembrance parade.

We would like to thank them all for their support on this very special day and for putting themselves out there in front of the whole school to represent us all.



## Remembrance Visit to the National Memorial Arboretum – 9<sup>th</sup> November

On Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> November, during Remembrance week, Cadets made a visit to the National Memorial Arboretum in Staffordshire. Mr Bury, Miss Butler and parent volunteers took over 60 cadets and they had an amazing day.



## Remembrance Sunday

A few selected cadets attended a local church remembrance parade at St Michaels and St Mary Magdalene Church Easthampstead on Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> November. Our cadets not only give up their time to participate in CCF on a Tuesday after school but also take part in local events and parades.



We should all be so proud of what they do to not only promote our CCF but to also show our community what amazing students we have at Brakenhale.

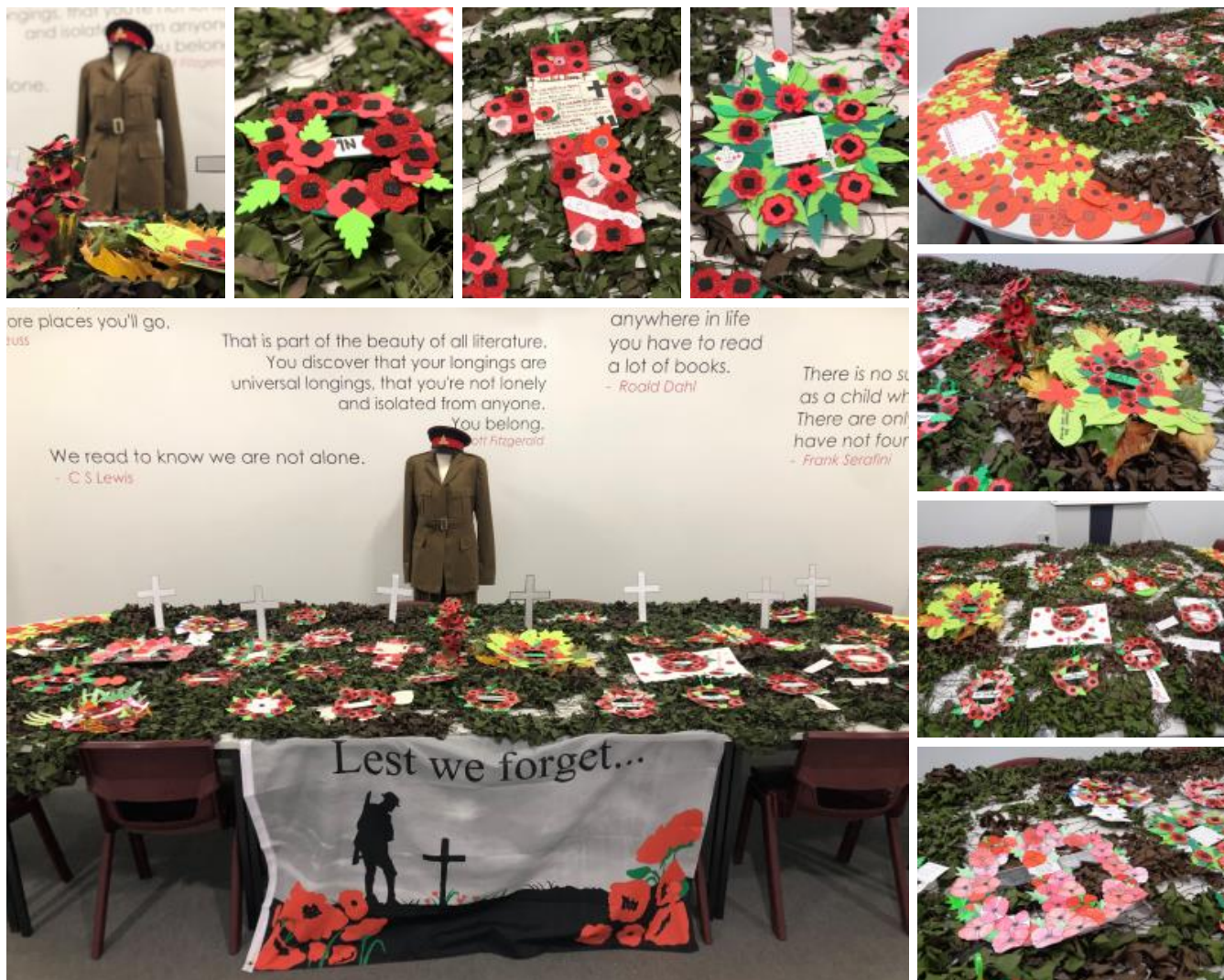




## Remembrance Display

### History Department and LRC

Tutor groups across the school spent a week in November creating personalised remembrance wreaths. The History Department then created a thought-provoking display in the Learning Resource Centre so that students walking past could reflect on the importance of this event. Thank you to all tutors and students who contributed to this event!



## CCF Sponsored Walk

### Mr A Bury, Contingent Commander, Forest School Leader

On Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> to Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> November 2021, Cadets undertook walking around the school's 400m track to achieve the same distance travelling from Brakenhale School to Auschwitz (Poland) via the Somme (France), totalling 1051 miles. The distance of the route was chosen deliberately to reflect the fact that this was undertaken during the month of Remembrance as a fund-raising effort on behalf of the Brakenhale CCF and our chosen charities, The Irish Guards Benevolent Fund and Berkshire Lowland Search and Rescue.

The Irish Guards Benevolent Fund supports Current/Ex-servicemen and women in need when they find themselves homeless or suffering with mental illness like PTSD after leaving the armed forces. The charity also supports the



children of service personnel while their parent(s) are deployed in conflict zones around the world. The event was supported via the Irish Guards' and our own social media.

Berkshire Lowland Search & Rescue are a Registered Charity who work in partnership with Thames Valley Police to locate and rescue high risk vulnerable missing persons such as children and those living with dementia.

The cadets completed this walk of remembrance and in the process raised an outstanding £3,820.00



## Anti-Bullying: One Kind Word

*Mrs Palmer, Behaviour Support Manager, Assistant Head of Year 11 and the Anti-Bullying Team*

On Friday 19<sup>th</sup> November the Brakenhale community joined together to mark the end of Anti-Bullying week 2021.

A thought provoking assembly was delivered by Callum Harding, a Year 13 student and one of our Anti-Bullying Ambassadors. The focus of this year's theme was **'One Kind Word.'**

After watching the assembly, students were reminded that if they ever felt scared, upset, worried or frightened for themselves or others, there is always someone they can talk to in school.

Each student then received a coloured piece of paper with the Brakenhale Anti-Bullying Logo and One Kind Word written on it, before being encouraged to write their own kind words which could be used to help brighten up someone's day.

The result was incredible with each student in Years 7 to 10 sharing insightful and thoughtful kind words.

Our aim at Brakenhale was to not have just One Kind Word... but One Thousand Kind Words.

These have since been collected and a display will be up ready for students to enjoy and use in January.

Finally on behalf of The Anti-Bullying Ambassadors we would like to say a huge thank you for supporting us in helping to raise awareness against bullying behaviours towards others within our school and we wish you all a safe and happy holiday.

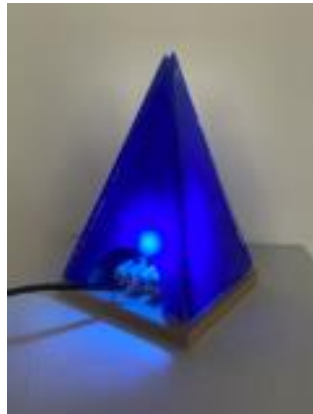





## Design Technology Project Work

*Mr Budden*

It has been a very creative term in DT, with so many exciting products being designed and made in the workshop. Here you can see a selection of some truly fantastic clocks and mood lamps made by our wonderful Key Stage 3 DT students.





## KS3 Book Club is here...

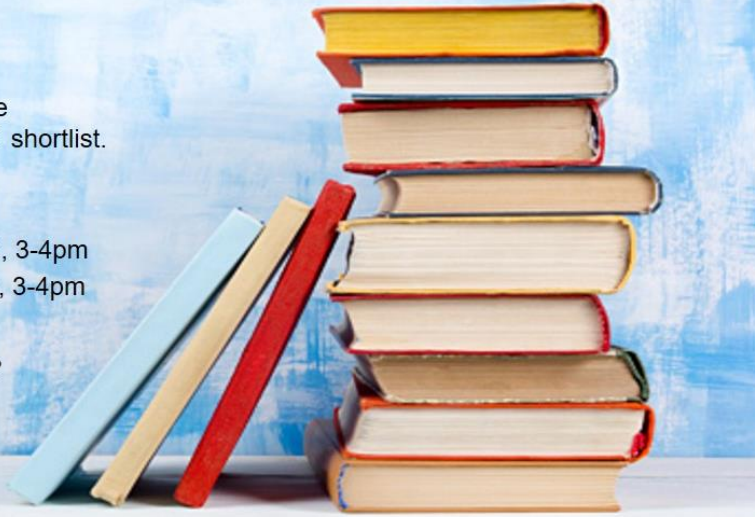
**What will we be reading?**  
A selection of books from the Carnegie Book Awards 2021 shortlist.

**When will this take place?**  
Friday 14<sup>th</sup> January, Week B, 3-4pm  
Friday 4<sup>th</sup> February, Week A, 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!*





## Performing Arts Update – Autumn Half Term 2

*Mrs Millard, Acting Head of Performing Arts*



P16 Performing Arts students taking part in our Dance, Drama, Music and Arts Award certificates had the amazing privilege of attending an Educational Performance of the hugely popular West End show - Hamilton. The performance also included a Q&A session - with the cast and crew of the show answering questions submitted from the hundreds of students in attendance. We were thrilled when Year 12 Drama student Ethan Vine's question was posed to the cast; "What was the most important thing you learned in school that you still use today?" Answers included, "being kind", "learning from others" and "showing up on time". The entire cohort of students and staff attending were overwhelmed with the quality of the performance and could not feel more fortunate to have been afforded this incredible opportunity.

As part of their coursework, our Year 11 AQA Tech Award Dance students attended a performance of Andrew Lloyd Webber's latest West End hit Cinderella. The students were inspired by the show's modern take on the classic tale and this will go well towards their fairy-tale inspired choreography assessment pieces to complete their course this year.

Year 13 Dance students attended The University of Chichester's Dance and Dance Science Open Day and took part in Aerial and Dance Science workshops. As part of the day they participated in Campus tours, Q&A sessions with students and staff and learned about requirements and practicalities of completing a degree in Dance. They were also fortunate enough to attend a performance showcasing the many different disciplines of dance taught from both professional and student dance companies.

This half term Year 12 and 13 Dance students took part in a Commercial Dance Workshop and a hugely valuable Audition Preparation course with professional dancer and actress Holly Dunk. They got to experience a real life audition scenario and received valuable feedback that is sure to help them as they take part in University and Conservatoire auditions as they plan to move on from Brakenhale next year.

**Music** | *Mrs Hope, Music Teacher*

Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> December saw the Brakenhale Festive Spectacular happen during the day in the main hall. The event was organised and planned by the Year 12 BTEC music class (Justyna, Zac, Scott, Spencer and Tilly) who ensured that the show ran smoothly with a variety of performers from across the year groups. The event had been made more complicated as the group had to be aware of changing COVID guidelines and adapt accordingly. The Year 11 BTEC music class supported by providing the live sound during the event. The spectacular was performed in front of our Year 7 students and Sixth Formers and the standard of acts was very high.



Well done to all of the students involved in the show, it was great hearing live music being played!





## Poetry Competition

*Mrs Lewis, Literacy Lead*

Well done to the following students who submitted their poems to the Young Writers competition earlier this year and have been successful: their work will be published in a poetry anthology!

Divija Suragala, Trudi Willmott, Priya Robinson, Kakun Gurung, Isabella Quartin Graça.

### Greta Vs Climate Change

There once was a time, so long ago  
When the ecosystem was clean (unlike the Earth we know),  
Animals frolicked and trees always grew,  
The beaches were tidy and the world was like new.

But the environment changed one day, I'll tell you why,  
The trees went away as machines arise,  
The animals became endangered and trees were chopped  
down,  
Plastic filled the oceans, choking creatures, which made  
them drown.

As this went on, nobody stood up, then a girl spoke out,  
She had had enough,  
She wore two braids and a bright yellow coat,  
Her name was Greta and she was no joke.

She started as a nobody in front of her parliament,  
She skipped school on Fridays, just to get her message sent,  
Soon her friends joined her, a tree grew from her seed,  
Then her story spread like wildfire on a social media feed.

She spoke for the future of all living things,  
She joins protests and international meetings,  
But she can't do this alone, she needs more support,  
Not a few but lots and lots.

You should be that support, kind and bold,  
The future is in your hands, make it for the world.

**Kakun Gurung (11)**  
Brakenhale, Bracknell

### It's Not Our Fault - All About Climate Change

*Sizzle! Crackle! Roar!*  
The cry Mother Nature bore.

Yet through this danger, toil and share,  
We're simply just around crying or hanging out in our lair.

Still, without any shame, we spoke out loud - in a bolt;  
That all this wasn't our fault!

Historical nature, being burned to ashes,  
Like our poor, old Winnie the Pooh's  
Hundred Acre Wood hit by fire flashes.

On the other hand - at Ariel's Atlantic sea,  
Substantial waves - that make Ariel, for doing nothing, the  
person to blame -  
Hit our shores so violently.

And still with no discipline and useless pride,  
It isn't our fault we strongly confide.

But recent research by scientists say,  
That we're the cause of many ruined bays.

That also as we grow old in age  
The worst calamity would be climate change.

But this ain't actually the end of this,  
Cos if we change we'll live in bliss.

And if we change all our bad deeds,  
The next day or two we'll have clean food for our kids to  
feed.

**Divija Suragala (11)**  
Brakenhale, Bracknell

### Stand For What Is Right

"A riot is the language of the unheard," he said,  
brothers and sister not heard but dead.  
Marching for the right to be free and stand,  
protesting in fear hand in hand.  
Wanting what they need, but weren't rightfully given,  
the burning in their hearts keeping them driven.  
"We won't stop until we have what we need,  
we'll just sit down, we'll plead and plead."  
Now after hundreds of years of being apart,  
we stand united, fire in our hearts.  
"Free at last, free at last, thank God almighty we're free at  
last."  
Martin Luther King, a hero it's true,  
A saint to all, we won't forget you.

**Isabella Quartin Graça (12)**  
Brakenhale, Bracknell

### There Once Was A Tiger

Black on orange,  
Orange on black,  
I search for food  
As those humans attack.

I got to the village looking for friends  
Only to find that my life might end.  
I spotted the rugs  
And the long fur coats.  
They looked just like my own  
As I ran away, far from home.

The humans attack and build their homes,  
Almost oblivious,  
They've taken my home.

**Priya Robinson (12)**  
Brakenhale, Bracknell

### Tricks And Lies

So throughout the school years, one to thirteen,  
We've told our teachers lies,  
You can't disagree!

Let me tell you about some of our tricks and lies,  
The things you thought were true,  
But were actually in disguise.

Let's start off with a classic,  
"The dog ate my homework."  
If you've never heard of it,  
This is how it goes...

"The dog ate my homework,  
He thought it was his food.  
He drooled all over it,  
I knew I was screwed.  
He gobbled it up with a burp and a snort.  
how was he to know, it was my special report,  
Due today, this very morning?  
So now, it's eaten, sorry it's late."

Now let's move on...  
"I'm allergic to school!"  
When people said this  
They thought they were cool.

"I'm sorry, Miss,  
I'm allergic to school!  
Let me go home, Miss.  
Oh, don't be cruel.  
I'll do all my homework if that's what you please.  
Let me go home, Miss!  
I have fleas!"

Now that was fun  
Don't you think?  
It went fast, like a blink.

There are plenty more,  
But I won't say,  
Now stop listening to me  
And have a great day.

**Trudi Willmott (11)**  
Brakenhale, Bracknell





## Visit to Jamie's Farm

*Mr Coley, Assistant Headteacher*

A few of our Year 8 students were lucky enough to be chosen for a residential trip to Jamie's Farm, Lewes in November.

They had a fantastic week on the farm and were praised by the staff there for being focused, hard-working, incredibly polite and up the challenge. The students reflected on how this trip could be useful in their future, having participated in a range of activities including farming, log chopping, horse work, cooking, art, music, gardening and walking in the countryside.



The students and staff lived like a family - working, eating, and playing together. During each day, the young people reflected on their successes, giving compliments, and showing recognition of the rest of the group's achievements.

## Key Stage 4 Hospitality and Catering

*Mrs Fear, SENCo and Hospitality and Catering Teacher*

All of the Hospitality and Catering students have had a very productive Winter term. The Year 10 students have had an impressive start to their course showing a sound understanding of how to prevent food related illnesses and have been able to demonstrate good practices within their practical lessons. Next term, Year 10 students will learn about how hospitality and catering establishments enforce legislative measures.

The Year 11 students have spent this term learning about hospitality operations giving them further insight into a range careers linked to this industry as well as preparation for their Summer exam. Next term, students will complete their controlled assessment which is worth 60% of their qualification and will undertake a two hour practical exam.

All KS4 practicals this term have introduced students to high skilled dishes in preparation for their future practical exam. Some of these practicals have included knife skills, jointing a chicken, stuffing chicken and pasta making. Practical will continue next term for Year 10s and will take place on a weekly basis with the focus on pastry. The Year 11s will participate in a final practical as part of their qualification which will take place week beginning 8<sup>th</sup> February 2022. All practical details will continue to be shared on Class charts.

Thank you for your support this term and I look forward to the Summer term where even more progress will be made.

Merry Christmas!



## Travel and Tourism Trip to Windsor

*Mrs Lind, Travel and Tourism Teacher*

The Travel and Tourism team were delighted to run a trip to Windsor on the morning of Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> December.

We arrived in Windsor early and started our Queen's Walkway tour at the Hawker Hurricane, located on the Thames Path National Trail. The Queen's Walkway is a 6.373km (approximately 4 miles) self-guided walking trail connecting 63 of Windsor's most significant attractions. It was designed by The Outdoor Trust, in partnership with local people, to recognise the moment on 9<sup>th</sup> September 2015 when Her Majesty The Queen became Britain's longest reigning monarch, having reigned for 63 years 7 months and 3 days (one day longer than Queen Victoria).

Further along the trail, we enjoyed watching the many swans that inhabit this part of the river from the Windsor Bridge which links Windsor Town to Eton. The Thames at Windsor is a natural attraction that draws many visitors to the area every year. At this time of the year, Windsor boasts a Fairground offering rides and ice skating and the twinkling lights within the town centre add a special touch to the festivities.

Next, we enjoyed multiple other attractions including the Crooked House, Queen Charlotte Street (the shortest street in England), Windsor Castle, Changing of the Guard and The Windsor Lady (The Queen and her Corgis). The Travel and Tourism students returned to school having experienced first-hand what Windsor has to offer its customers, not only as a local attraction, but a world renowned international destination.





## PE Update

*Mr Potter, Head of PE and Team*

Well what a term back in 2021!

We have seen the return of **fixtures** to our calendars with netball, rugby, football and basketball all being played against other local schools. After Christmas we will be continuing with netball and football fixtures and also offering some indoor athletics and cricket.

Our **Mates Participate** has yet again been a huge hit in half term 2 in the lead up to Christmas, seeing lots of our students staying behind to be physically active with us! There is a new programme further on in parent news with what will be going on after Christmas, so please check this out.



Lots of work has been going on in lessons to help support students and get them ready for their upcoming **exams**. Year 11 students had their PPEs earlier in the half term, along with Year 13 last week and the Year 12 CTEC students have their first exam in January for Unit 1.

What a fantastic term it has been for **girls PE!** We have seen all year groups represent the school in netball fixtures, along with Years 7, 8 and 9 playing football fixtures. From the minute we got the green light to go ahead with fixtures again, the enthusiasm from the girls has been electric. The dedication and determination from all our teams has been nothing less than inspiring. As a girls PE team we couldn't be any prouder of how hard all our teams have worked. We want to wish you all a wonderful Christmas and New Year. We look forward to what 2022 brings for girls PE. Please find below the players' player of the term:




Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11
Ruby-May B	Zoe P	Grace C, Maizy C	Charlotte N	Kelis C

We have seen **Post 16 Enrichment** start this year on a Wednesday afternoon and it has been great to see our older students doing something a bit different in their week with us. Some of the Sixth Form students have been working down at Wildridings Primary school with Key Stage 1 reading and writing support, there have been cookery skills in the food technology room for our P16 students to put their culinary skills to the test, we have had students help with lower school lessons at Brakenhale and there have also been fitness, world games and dancercise options to keep bodies, as well as minds busy. We look forward to continuing the enrichment programme after Christmas with Post 16.

This term has seen our focus on our Physical and Social **MEs in PE**. Reports have gone home with the first round of AP data for KS3 and the work that has been going on to develop the students' Physical and Social skills in lesson has been fantastic. These 2 areas are so important, not only in the world of PE and sport, but they also give valuable life skills to our students, which is a key department priority. After Christmas we keep our Physical ME and we bring in Thinking ME.

Our **PE 'Champion of the Week'** continues to be sent out via email to students and parents and this is something the department is really proud of. Being able to reward and highlight the excellent work that goes on in our subject is such a pleasure. If you haven't received one yet, don't despair, your teachers are watching you all every lesson, so keep working hard, as you never know, next time, it could be you! Here are the Champions for this half term:



 #teambrokenhale #brakenhalepe		PE CHAMPIONS Autumn Term 2 - WELL DONE!							
		Week beginning: 1/11/21			Week beginning: 8/11/21		Week beginning: 15/11/21		Week beginning: 22/11/21
Staff	Student	Tutor	Student	Tutor	Student	Tutor	Student	Tutor	
Mr Potter	Henry Cannon	11A	Ronny Parker	8K	Oliver Woods	9H	Fabrizio Alvano Tovar	9A	
Mrs Lazarczuk	Lauren Andrews, Mia Latter	10B	Shreya Rai	9A	Mya Denny	10R	Ryan Reed	7K	
Mr Maye	Sophie Sheppard, Kadie Florey	10B, 10E	Rylley Turnbull	10K	Jessica Counsell	7K	Zebi Strong	8K	
Mr Boucher	Pharrell Swaisland	11A	Taylor Clyde	10N	Freya Roake	7N	Ellie-May Bunker	8K	
Ms Wilson	Dana Locmele	9R	Joanne Cowley	11H	Ava Johnstone	8H	Natalia Wozniak	7E	
Miss Butler	Taylor Head	10A	Mylie Fisher	8K	Trudi Willmott	7A	Faith Dalton	8A	
Mr Collins	Elizabeth Dimitrova	10E	Max Sobieralski	9N			Chloe Swindells	10N	
Week beginning: 29/11/21			Week beginning: 6/12/21		Week beginning: 13/12/21				
Staff	Student	Tutor	Student	Tutor	Student	Tutor			
Mr Potter	Keisha Ruff	P16A	Franky Rose	7K	Rylee Hicks	8K			
Mrs Lazarczuk	Nikita Galanakis	11K	Lily Jerrett	7K	Daisy Benson	11R			
Mr Maye	Ashton Smith	8K	Ronnie Knight, Dylan Webb	P16A, P16N	Harley Weeks	10H			
Mr Boucher	Brayden Nice	10N	Lillie-Anna Bowyer	8K	Harvey Russell	9H			
Ms Wilson	Kelsie Costello	9H	Isabella Quartin Graca	8E	Bryony Thompson	8H			
Miss Butler	Ruby-May Budd	7K	Keyan Nugent	8H	Tegan Woodley	11H			
Mr Collins	Franky Rose	7K	Ewan Coyle	11R	Malachi Smith	10B			
#teambrokenhale #brakenhalepe									

The **Sports Council** has also had its first meeting of the year, working hard to ensure the student voice in PE and sport is heard at Brakenhale. With Covid restrictions tightening we haven't been able to do our autumn bake sale, but we have had inter-house sporting competitions this last week of term. Students also came up with some great questions to inform our termly PE and activity survey and have been canvassing student opinion on how things are going in PE. It is fantastic to have students having their say on how things are going and about what matters to them at school. We will meet in the spring term too and ensure that once the survey is completed, we will implement changes to the way in which we do things.

Inter-house Competition	1st Place - Farley	2nd Place - Temple	3rd Place - Swinley	4th Place - Jennetts
	262 Points = 460 HPS	239 Points = 360 HPS	219 Points = 310 HPS	203 Points = 260 HPS

One final reminder from me - **PE kit!** Please ensure all kit meets the following requirements:

- Brakenhale PE kit only - logo with Brakenhale PE badge, bought from online supplier 'The Direct Clothing Company'
- Brakenhale PE bag - for kit to be brought in, bought from online company [www.thedirectclothing.co.uk](http://www.thedirectclothing.co.uk)
- Cold weather items if outside - gloves and a warm hat (must both be black), black or white t- shirt or skin to be worn under PE clothing, Brakenhale jumper
- All kit must be named - use a sharpie and put initials on the label
- Lost kit can be found in the PE boxes outside the changing rooms or the PE office
- Notes for PE - only come in via email - hand written or paper notes are now not accepted

All in all the department has had a fantastic term and it just leaves me to say on behalf of all the PE staff, have a Merry Christmas and wonderful New Year and we will see you when we return in 2022 for another fantastic term of sport, activity and PE.

## Rotary Raffle Ticket

Thank you to everyone who supported us by selling raffle tickets for the Easthampstead Park Rotary Club Christmas Draw.

The 1<sup>st</sup> Prize is £500, the 2<sup>nd</sup> Prize is £250 and there are 10 prizes of £100 and 5 prizes of £50.

Good luck for the draw on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> December.



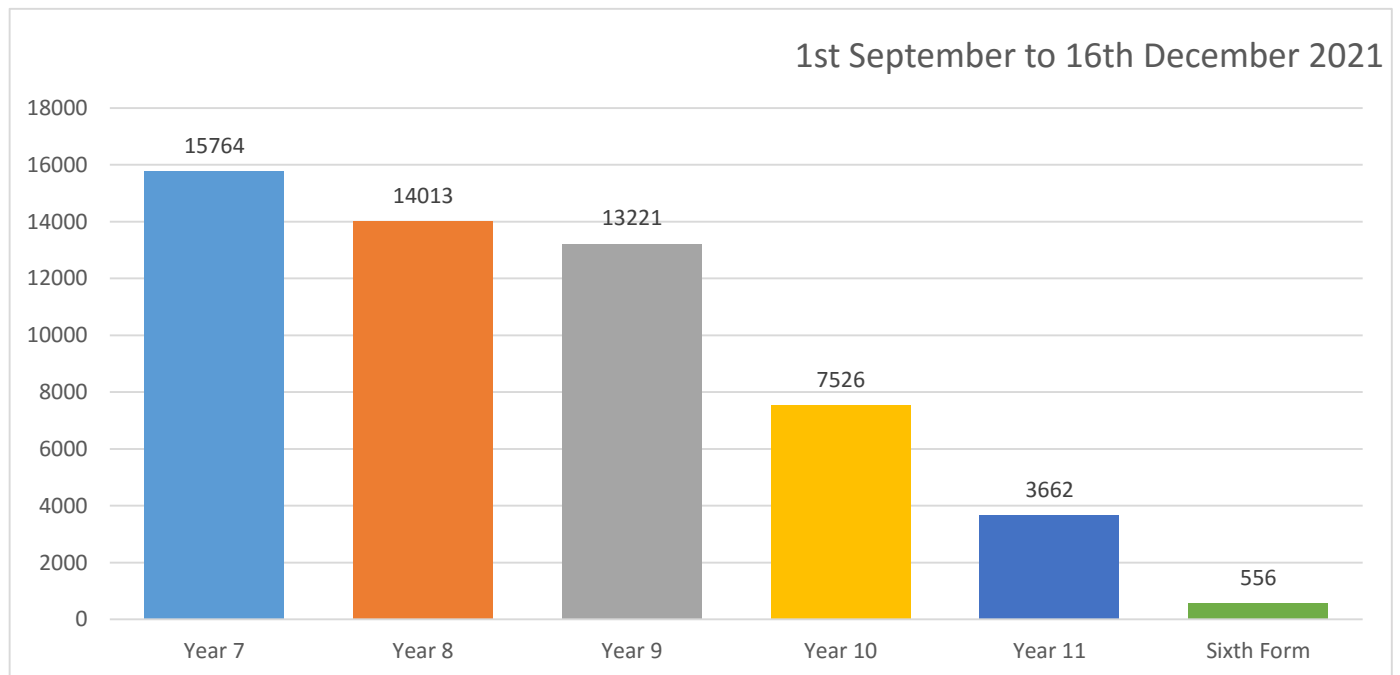
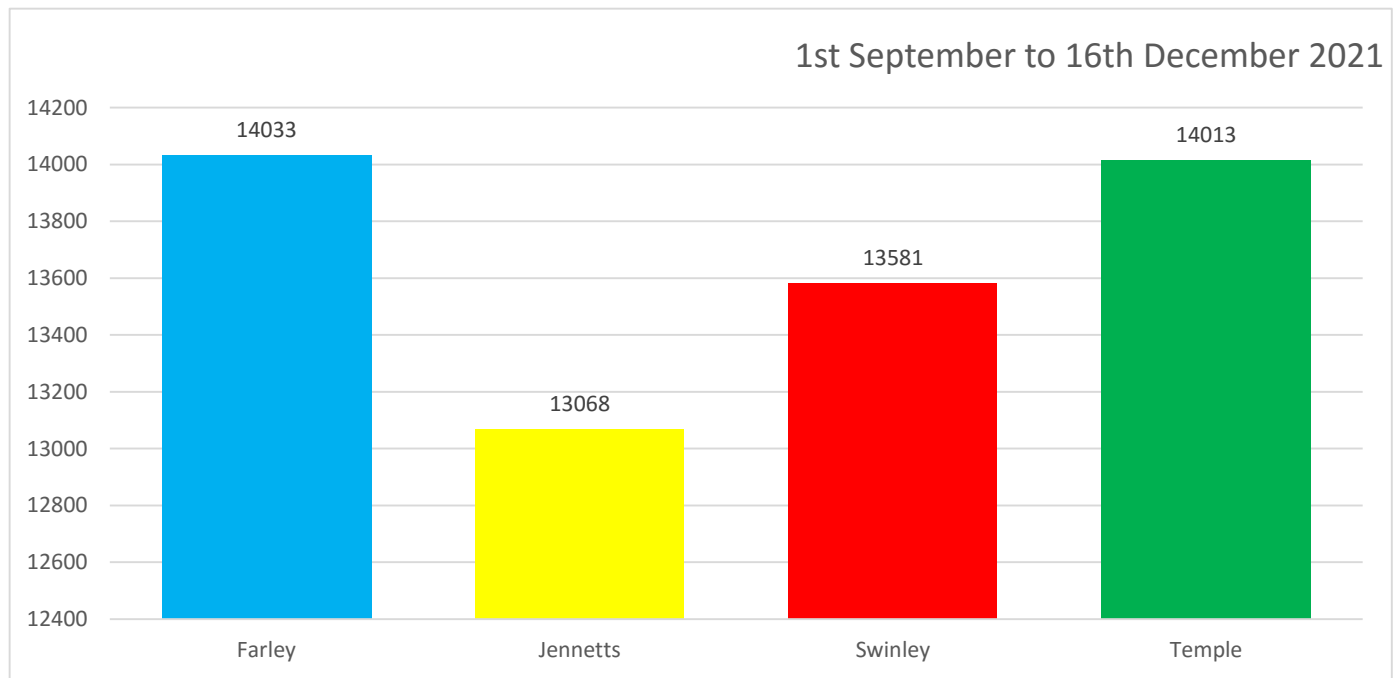
WE ARE SELLING RAFFLE TICKETS FOR THE ROTARY CLUB CHRISTMAS DRAW. ALL MONEY RAISED WILL BE GIVEN BACK TO US.






## House Points

### Pastoral Team




**Clubs and Activities**



**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**



# MATES PARTICIPATE @ BRAKENHALE PE

Monday A	Tuesday A	Wednesday A	Thursday A	Friday A
Sorry - nothing on due to staff meetings!  (MPO on fixture cover)	NLA - SH MPO - ASTRO ABI - JNS	ABT - MUGA CMY - TRAMPOLINE CENTRE JBO - ASTRO/FIELD <i>Inc GCSE Practical Support</i>	NLA - MUGA CCO - FIELD/ASTRO ABI - SH	KRE - JNS SJO - SH CMY - FS
Monday B	Tuesday B	Wednesday B	Thursday B	Friday B
Sorry - nothing on due to staff meetings!  (CMY on fixture cover)	NLA - FS ABI - SH MPO - ASTRO	JBO - ASTRO/FIELD CMY - TRAMPOLINE CENTRE KWI - TRAMPOLINE CENTRE ABT - MUGA	MPO - ASTRO CCO - FIELD ABI - SH NLA - MUGA <i>Inc GCSE Practical Support</i>	SJO - SH KRE - JNS JBO - FS/MUGA

## Non-Sporting Clubs @ Brakenhale



**Homework Club**  
Every Day  
3-4pm • LRC  
Mrs Daniels

**CCF**  
Tuesdays  
Invite only  
3.20-5.20pm  
Lt Bury

**Sparx Maths**  
Mondays & Thursdays - All Years  
3-3.30pm • B11 • Mrs Turner  
  
Tuesdays  
Lunch 1 Y5 & Y10 LRC Mrs Smith  
Lunch 2 Y7 & Y9 B11 Mrs Turner  
  
Wednesdays - All Years  
3-3.40pm • B11 • Mrs Turner

**YOUNG INTERPRETERS CLUB**  
Year 7: Thursday Week A • 1:30-2pm • LRC Book Room  
Year 8: Friday Week B • 12:30-1pm • LRC Book Room

**Identity**  
Every 4th Friday • 3-3.35pm • F10  
Miss Bunkell/Mrs Lewis

**KS3 Art Club**  
Wednesdays  
3-4pm • A02  
Mrs Faluyi

**KS3 Science Club**  
Wednesdays - Week A  
3.15-4.15pm  
S10 • Mrs Malik

**Year 7 Keyboard Club**  
Wednesdays  
3-4pm • LS1  
Mrs Millard

**KS3 (7, 8 & 9) Book Clubs**  
Thursdays (selected dates only)  
3-4pm  
LRC  
Mrs Lewis

**KS4 (10) Book Clubs**  
Thursdays  
3-4pm  
F07  
Mrs Keljarrett

High Expectations and Challenge #teambrokenhale





## Dear Year 7 Parents/Carers and Students

*Ms Douse, Head of Year 7 and Mr Read-Linton, Assistant Head of Year 7*

14 weeks ago, we had over 200 nervous students joining us in Year 7. Students were anxious about a new beginning, being in a completely new environment, being with new staff and students and starting a new way of working. Fast forward to today, and some of these same students cannot remember feeling the emotions described.

Year 7 students have done themselves proud in the way they have settled into their new community. We boast the highest attendance in what has been probably the most challenging term of the last two years for these students, but still taking part in after school clubs and competitions, going above and beyond in getting published in the Young Writers' Anthology, and enjoying the new experiences that secondary school brings.

This term has been challenging for so many reasons: it's the longest term in the year and being dark so early these past few weeks hasn't helped; it's probably the most 'normal way of working in a school students have experienced in the last two years, and this does take some getting used to again. So a very well done for a very successful first term. Let us remain positive and keep going as we embark on a new year and a new term in January. Remember, kindness to each other goes a long way, and often costs us nothing. Let us remember to treat each other the way we would like to be treated, be considerate and supportive of family members during the break, get some rest, and we look forward to welcoming you back in January 2022.



## Dear Year 8 Parents/Carers and Students

*Mr McKane, Head of Year 8 and Mr Collins, Assistant Head of Year 8*

As we approach the end of our first full term this academic year, I would firstly like to say thank you for the tremendous amount of parental support the Year 8 team have received. It has been a successful term with lots to celebrate and be proud of. Term one is often the most challenging for our young people. It gets darker, colder and the term often gets busier as it goes on. Our young people have shown a great amount of resilience and perseverance throughout, all whilst demonstrating our year group core values "work hard, be kind."

Coming into this half term, we were in third place for achievements points in comparison to other year groups. Both Year 7 and 9 had a strong lead ahead of us, which was anything but ideal. Year 8 students will tell you my displeasure over this, as I truly believe we can do better than this. Thankfully, we have begun to turn this around and are now in second place with 13,551 achievements points collected (at the time of writing this). We are solidly over 700 points ahead of Year 9 now. However, we still face an uphill climb to first place and beat Year 7. They currently have almost 1,800 points more than us. I know that we can do it and this is our mission for the new year!

A number of our students have played a massive role in accumulating these achievement points and a significant number have achieved their "Highly Commended" Award for collecting 100+ points. These students were acknowledged in our celebration assembly this week and will all receive a letter posted home from Mr Collins (Assistant Head of Year 8), addressed to them, congratulating them on this achievement. These students will now work towards collecting their Bronze Award and beyond in the new year. In addition to this, Henry in 8B has already achieved his Bronze Award for collecting 150+ achievement points. He will receive a Bronze Achievement prize and a letter posted home from me, congratulating him for his fantastic contributions to the culture of our year group. Well done Henry!

In addition to this, we also celebrated some students with some special awards, voted for by Year 8 tutors and students. These special awards acknowledged the significant contributions that many are making to our year group for various reasons. Please see the list of winners below. Well done to all!

- ★ **Hardest Worker - Riley P**
- ★ **Most Kind and Friendly - Daisy L**
- ★ **Most Patient - Sachleen R**
- ★ **Most Likely to Make You Laugh - Thomas S**
- ★ **Most Likely to "Just Get On With It" - Lily H**
- ★ **Most Improved - Sasha P**
- ★ **Most Organised - Chloe D**

Finally, I would like to wish each and every one of you and your families a very happy Christmas. After last year, I hope you are all able to spend this Christmas with all of your loved ones! I look forward to hearing what you all get up to from our students in the new year. This year, I plan on making my annual trip back home to Belfast in Northern Ireland for a week over the Christmas holidays. Just like last year, Bayley will be making this trip too via the boat. She actually managed very well overnight last year and so I am hoping this year will go just as smoothly. Fingers crossed! And yes, that is in fact a Christmas jumper on her that reads "Little Pudding." I don't think it's 'too much' at all.

Henry	8B	150	Bronze
Zoe	8K	129	Highly Commended
Isabella	8E	127	Highly Commended
Bryony	8H	124	Highly Commended
Connor	8B	122	Highly Commended
Piotr	8H	118	Highly Commended
Seth	8N	112	Highly Commended
Daisy	8B	111	Highly Commended
Grace	8N	107	Highly Commended
Madiha	8B	105	Highly Commended
Riley	8R	104	Highly Commended
Florence	8N	103	Highly Commended
Mateusz	8H	103	Highly Commended
Danielle	8N	103	Highly Commended
Mylie	8K	102	Highly Commended
Hannah	8N	101	Highly Commended
Sasha	8R	101	Highly Commended





## Dear Year 9 Parents/Carers and Students

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

Another end to another term is upon us - and a very long one too! I feel like September 1st was approximately 20 years ago. I definitely feel a lot older, and I think if I let my hair grow out I'd definitely be going grey. This term has been mentally taxing on all of us, and before I get into all of the lovely positives I want to implore you all to have a very restful Christmas break. Year 9 is not an easy year and we will be straight back into the hustle and bustle come January so use this time wisely - rest as much as possible and enjoy time with family and friends.

This year we have embarked on our "Key Stage 4 Ready" program and it is in full swing. The majority of you have earned your "S" for Silence for following the rules in the line-up, the "4" for remembering your tools for learning and "A" for attainment by receiving 15+ achievement points over the past fortnight. I have been really impressed with your commitment to these awards, and how many of you have achieved all 3. If you have missed out on one of these awards then keep an eye out for catch up times later in the year.

This week not included, we have gained a total of 12710 achievement points, which is a huge amount - nearly 1000 per week! We only have 1650 behaviour points, which gives us an overall 11060 conduct. Currently we have 89% achievement - I'd like to get this to 92% next half term!



Tutor group standings for achievement points are currently:

9B	9R	9A	9K	9E	9N	9H
1750	2270	1777	2458	1167	1584	1436

Next term is going to be a busy one, we will start by getting straight back into our awards with "E" - Extracurricular. This term is one of the shortest - why not try out some extracurricular activities? Anyone who goes to an extracurricular club twice between the start of the year and February half term will achieve this award.

In the second half of the term we will begin to look at your options, this is a very exciting time but it can be very daunting! I am looking forward to working through this process with you and making sure you all know where you want to be in Year 10.

For now - have a very Merry Christmas, and a Happy New Year.

See you in January!

## Dear Year 10 Parents/Carers and Students

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

Just like that Year 10, we are already finished with our first term of Key Stage 4! When we think about the bigger picture, we are almost done with one fifth of our Key Stage 4 journey, and time really seems to be flying by! It has been an extremely long and taxing term, so please make sure you take the opportunity to rest up and spend time with friends and family over the Christmas holiday, and come back fully rested and ready to go again.

Firstly, we just want to say how proud we are of you and the way you have taken to your Key Stage 4 studies and by and large you have all settled down in your subjects now and know what is expected of you. We spent a lot of time last year asking you if you were Key Stage 4 ready and what this actually meant for you, and it really looks like all the work you put into preparing yourselves for this year are paying off and you are on the road to success. We get stopped by teachers all the time saying wonderful things about the classes they are teaching



and how switched on you all appear, and you saw this yourselves in assembly with all the lovely things some of your teachers emailed us about. As always you have stepped up to this new challenge in your own fashion and continue to show us exactly why we consider you to be the best year group in the school.

This academic year is all about getting you 'race ready' so that when you sit your exams in the summer of 2023, you will go on to be successful because of everything you have done for the build up to them, just like we prepared you to be Key Stage 4 ready. As part of getting 'race ready' we really do need you to make the most out of every second of every lesson. These lessons should be distraction free so that you are able to learn and understand the necessary knowledge and content that you will need for future assessments and exams. It is your responsibility to control your own behaviour in lessons so that you are maximising your chances to be successful but also enabling others in your lesson to do this as well. It is vital that you are paying attention and if you are unclear about anything, ask your teacher for clarification so that you are fully prepared for your exams in the future. Remember, I'll say it all year, every lesson is a chance to practise and train, but you can only practise and train if you understand what you are supposed to be doing.

On the point of practice and training, this leads me onto homework and Sparx for Maths. There is only so much your teachers can get through in a lesson to ensure that you are learning the necessary content and demonstrating and practicing the correct skills. This is why homework at Key Stage 4 is so important for you, and why you will have noticed that this has increased from what you were getting at Key Stage 3. We understand that homework will not be at the top of your priority list, however it is your opportunity to continue to work on these skills in your own time so that you can then apply them when it is crucial, in the exams. It is your responsibility to ensure homework is completed and to the best of your ability, otherwise you are only cheating yourself and you may be left wondering how much more successful you could've been if you had completed the homework when you get your results. If you hand in work that is not your best, the feedback you receive from your teachers will not really help you push on and be successful, which is why we always ask for you to just do the best you can, this way we can give you more meaningful feedback. It doesn't matter if the homework is about extending your knowledge or exam practice, it is another opportunity to master the skills you will need. It is the same with Sparx, Maths is an important subject and Sparx is a great way for you to practice. It provides you with videos if you are not able to answer the questions and by watching the videos you should be able to complete the work. Remember it is really important you get your Maths GCSE, otherwise wherever you go after Year 11, you'll be expected to try again, and this time without necessarily the support of your teacher.

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, and I cannot remember a year where it has been this close.

10R	10B	10A	10N	10K	10H	10E
1198	1150	1074	972	967	915	847

We want to end this student news the way we started it, by saying how amazing you all are, and how well you have settled into life as Key Stage 4 students. Continue to go out each day and achieve to the best of your ability. Keep getting all those house points! Also, make sure you learn from past mistakes and do not allow them to stop you progressing. Understand where it went wrong, and make sure it doesn't happen again. Remember, you know what it means for you to be successful at the end of your exams, you know what you need or want to achieve, it is down to you to ensure you reach that success, so make sure you take responsibility for your learning.



Have a restful and great half Christmas holiday Year 10, and we look forward to welcoming you back in 2022!





## Dear Year 11 Parents/Carers and Students

*Miss Wilson, Head of Year 11 and Mrs Palmer, Assistant Head of Year 11*

Firstly, let me praise you for your resilience, hard work, and commitment to succeed despite all that has been going on. Mrs Palmer, Mr Corry, Mrs Lister and all of your tutor team agreed that you have worked tirelessly to continue to succeed in your studies. We are all very impressed and proud of how you have conducted yourself this year, especially since your return after sitting PPEs. You should be very proud of yourselves.

Your Year 9 and 10 experience has been rocked by the pandemic which has thrown all our lives into a tailspin. However, your determination to succeed was evident in your positive attitude to the intervention programmes designed to help you regain those lost hours of the previous academic year. You've immersed yourselves in the Maths, English and Science lessons being taught in Turbo Tutor every morning, and have embraced the additional period 6 lessons in the afternoons. I have also been impressed by your attendance to the optional Friday revision classes. Others were utilising the resources in the library to do their own independent learning until past 5pm.

The "virtual" Sixth Form open evening was also a huge success. This opportunity enabled you to find out about the courses that we offer at Brakenhale for Post 16. It is important that we receive your applications so please do so quickly in order to register your interest. I know many of you have spoken with Ms Lane to receive some clarity as to what your next steps should be. Please let us know if you'd like us to arrange one of these appointments for you, or contact Ms Lane directly to get an appointment with her at [jlane@brakenhale.co.uk](mailto:jlane@brakenhale.co.uk).

Your conduct during your first full set of PPEs was exemplary. Your business-like and professional conduct was also noted by the invigilators who reported that you were the best year group they've worked with in all the years they have been invigilating exams. It is imperative you maintain this throughout the examination season next year. By now you will have had your first set of full PPE results. This information was also sent out to your parents. Please ensure you're taking the advice given by your subject teachers, as many of them have been teaching these courses for a number of years and are actually examiners themselves.

### Thank you and Goodbye

Sadly, we are saying goodbye to a small number of teaching staff who have worked with you over the last few years: Mr Corry, Mr Cooper, Mrs Masson, Mr Vegh and Mrs Oakley. I would like to thank all of them for the support and guidance they have shown the students at Brakenhale, not only in Year 11 but across the wider community. I am sure you will join me in wishing all of them the best of luck for the future.

A huge thank you to the tutors who have also been your Turbo Tutors this term, delivering lessons in the core subjects. I'm sure you'll join me in wishing them a restful break. A massive thank you to Mrs Lister and Mrs Palmer for their continued support and guidance over the last few months.

### Final Message

As with any year of your life, this year marks a real changing point in your life. It is the transition between just being a student to a person who is on a pathway to their future. You are all growing into young adults who can start to make a real difference in the world. Those differences start with you being kind to each other and ensuring others are kind. As the role models of this school you carry a real responsibility in the tone and presence you set. Do at least one 'random' act of kindness for someone at home during the break.

We look forward to welcoming you all back in the new year on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2022. A new year, a fresh start, and new beginnings.

Have a great festive break!



## Dear Sixth Form Parents/Carers and Students

*Ms Manlay, Head of Sixth Form; Ms Lawry, Head of Year 13, Ms Loj; Head of Year 12*

Congratulations to all of our Post-16 students on a really successful term. They have faced many challenges but have persevered through it all – Well done! As the term comes to an end, it often feels like we are doing ten times the amount of work than in the weeks preceding. We often get overwhelmed with the day-to-day happenings, and forget to reflect on our achievements. As such, we want to take this opportunity to highlight all the great things that have happened this term.

### Year 13 PPEs

It has been a busy term for Year 13 as they have had their first round of PPEs. The Exams team were incredibly complimentary about the way students conducted themselves and we have been really impressed with them. For many it will have been a tough week but this is all part of the process and we know how invaluable the feedback and resulting next steps will be in ensuring that our students are able to navigate the Summer exams with real confidence and success. Some students may have already started to get feedback and all results will be shared with students and parents/carers in the New Year.

### UCAS

A huge congratulations to those Year 13 students who have had their Oxbridge and Veterinary interviews this term; these are rigorous, demanding and stressful and we have been so impressed with the way students have approached them. Well done also to the many students who have completed their UCAS/Apprenticeship applications; we have excellent candidates here at Brakenhale and know that any institution will be lucky to have them!

A reminder to all students in Year 13 that the final deadline for UCAS is Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> January. This means that your personal statements should already be completed so that your reference and application can be submitted in plenty of time. If you have any questions or queries about this then please see Ms Lawry.

### Opening Evening

The Sixth Form Team recently hosted a virtual Opening Evening in order to inform incoming students about the courses and opportunities we provide at Brakenhale. Thank you to Rachel Sullivan for acting as our student ambassador and representing the school so well. We had excellent attendance and are excited about the new cohort which we will welcome into our expanding Sixth Form community.

### PSHE

Once again, we have been able to deliver high quality PSHE sessions. These assemblies and tutorials help to support students' development into adulthood and give them the chance to unpick complex issues. This term, we have touched on various topics such as safe driving, sexual health, emotional intelligence, and virtual work experience. In particular, our last session has given students the opportunity to delve into an area which they are passionate about and develop key skills that will increase the chances of employability, and being accepted onto a university course or apprenticeship. A reminder that Year 12 have until April 2022 to complete one of these courses. Please refer to Miss Lane's presentation for more information.

### Enrichment, Clubs & Student Involvement

Enrichment has been continuing to expand. These classes are designed to go beyond the realms of the examined curriculum and stimulate students' interests in both an academic and a practical sense. This term we have been able to offer cooking classes, documentary clubs, KS3 in class support, primary school volunteering visits, sporting games, a vocal group, yoga, and art club. We are, however, always open to new ideas so if you have any suggestions regarding future sessions that we may be able to offer, please get in touch with a member of the Sixth Form team.

We have been delighted to receive requests from some of our students to run clubs for students across the whole school. This is exactly the type of thing we wish to encourage so if anyone has any ideas for lunchtime clubs or societies then please let us know and we will do everything we can to support.

In the Spring Term we will start recruiting our Year 12 students for Student leadership; this will be an exciting opportunity and we are looking forward to a competitive race for Head Student(s)!





### Privilege Passes

You will have seen from Mr Taylor's letter that the structure of the school day has changed slightly. This will mean the following for our Post-16 students:

Red/Bronze/Platinum: No changes.

Silver: Students without Lesson 5 can leave at the start of lunch (1.25pm).

Gold: Students need to be in school for Lesson 3 and Lesson 4 (11.25am to 1.25pm) and when they have a lesson on their timetable.

### Post-16 Talent

On Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> December some of us were lucky enough to be able to attend a concert organised, compered and starring members of the Year 12 BTEC Music class. A huge congratulations to Zach Box, Scott Lee, Spencer Lee, Tilly Benford and Justyna Bawej on showcasing such incredible talent!

Sincere congratulations to all our students for their efforts this term. Have a wonderful Christmas, be kind to yourselves and those around you and we look forward to seeing everyone next term!

## JENNETTS Update

*Mr C Maye, Head of Jennetts House*

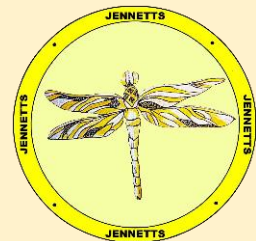
Dear Jennetts, firstly a huge welcome to the new Year 7 Jennetts members, well done on your first full term at Brakenhale!

What a first full term back after so much disruption last year! I have been so proud of you all for all this term with everything you have done for the school, our house, each other and for yourselves! You all deserve a huge pat on the back for all the effort you have shown and a HUGE well done and THANK YOU from me!

Highlights from the first term from me, have been Postcard competition, Inter House competition, Christmas Card competition, Christmas Jumper day! To name just a few!

Anyway I could go on and on with praise for you all, however, I'll cut it short and finish by saying I hope you all have a wonderful festive period off to spend time with loved ones, to rest, recharge and have a safe joy filled time however you are spending it.

Take care!



## TEMPLE Update

*Mr C Collins, Head of Temple House*

G'Day Temple house, what a fantastic term it has been, it's been amazing to see how well you've all done with the hard work you've put in. To the returning students of Temple, thank you for continuing to pave the way for our new students and leading by example.

To our new Year 7s, congratulations on completing your first term of secondary school, it has been a pleasure seeing how well you've done so far, I can't wait to see where we go next!

I want to congratulate Arisha A in Year 7 for her winning design for the Postcard Competition.

This term on House Points we have made steady improvements as we always do, I have no doubt that next term will be even better when we move up into first place and regain OUR house trophy! Have a fantastic and safe holiday season, I shall see you all in January!

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.



## SWINLEY Update

*Mrs D Turner, Head of Swinley House*

Hellooooo Swinley!

Wow what a start to the year it has been! Meeting all of the new Year 7s has been a particular highlight for me and trying to remember 200+ extra names is by no means an easy feat, but I am getting there.

It has been wonderful having you all here uninterrupted and physically in school since September, the way you have all worked hard to be the best that you can be has been nothing short of inspiring, especially given the uncertainty that we have all faced. Your hard work can be attested to with the house points that have been coming in thick and fast. Year 7, 8 and 9 all achieved over 3000 points so far this academic year for Swinley... Well done!

Seeing you all working hard to gain those house points and shining bright really has made the term exciting. We are not far behind and absolutely can beat the other houses to cup glory. Just keep being the amazing inspiring people you are!

In the New Year we have lots of amazing events and ideas to keep the house spirit lifted, which I cannot wait to share with you, but for now I would like to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.



## FARLEY Update

*Mrs C Harris, Head of Farley House*

Merry Christmas Farley 🎄👶🎅

Wow, this term has gone so quickly. I am amazed at how many House points you have all achieved add in total. We are still in 1st place, 🙌🏆🏆

But it is getting very close to us being caught up.

I want to congratulate Freya R in Year 10 for her runner-up design for the Postcard Competition and to all students who created a postcard as well and entered in the competition.

Congratulations to Divija S in Year 7 for the beautiful Christmas card that Mr Tailor will send out.

I have enjoyed seeing all the entries for both competitions and I can say it was a tough choice even to pick a winner.

I would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a happy new year. Remember to keep safe, and I look forward to seeing you all back in January 2022.





## Supporting Transgender Members of our Community

### *Mrs Lewis, Identity*

The term transgender or trans, is an umbrella term used to describe a person whose gender identity is not the same as the sex they were assigned at birth. Trans also includes non-binary people who do not fall into the binary categories of man/woman or male/female. Being transgender does not imply any specific sexual orientation. A Trans person can be straight, gay, lesbian, bisexual or any other sexual orientation. You cannot tell if a person is trans just by looking at them; trans people do not look a certain way or come from any one background.

If a child approaches any member of staff stating they are Transgender, as a school it is our good practice to share this information with the safeguarding team.

### Key Terms and Terminology:

Sex - a person being assigned male or female based upon their reproductive organs.

Gender - a psychological state of how a person views themselves; male, female or another gender.

It is good practice to focus on the correct use of language and terminology. It might be useful to educate students about the difference between sexual orientation and gender identity. Often Trans people will use different first name for their new identity. It is important to be consistent and use the correct name and pronoun, mistakes will happen, apologise, correct and move on.

### Sports and PE:

A young Trans person has the same right to physical education and fitness as other young people but parents and young people can experience difficulty in schools.

There may be sports where, as puberty develops, Male to Female Trans participants may have a physical advantage over other girls but this should not present a problem within a carefully and sensitively managed lesson context. The issue of physical risk within certain sports should also be managed properly within the lesson context rather than by preventing young Trans people from participating, (which would be discriminatory).

The use of changing room facilities also needs to be carefully considered. Facilities for Trans participants should be sensitive to their needs and also recognise the needs and sensitivities of other students.

### Use of Toilets and Changing Facilities:

The use of toilets and changing facilities often causes the most amount of debate around inclusion of Trans students. Concerns of students are that they may find themselves in vulnerable situations such as a toilet or changing room where they could fall victim to unwanted attention, that could (if escalated), lead to sexual bullying, assault or other physical or emotional harm, but equally, that they are seen and treated as a member of their true gender.

If a child shares they are Trans, as a community we will:

- Listen without judgement, allow the child space and to express them self. Listening can help a child feel accepted and supported (you might be the first person the child has spoken to). There is no expectation but you might ask open questions, 'how long have you felt like this?' 'have you thought about pronouns?' This shows the child you have been actively listening to them.
- Let the child know that we support each other and we are here to support them. Within our community we have many avenues of supporting: The Safeguarding Team, Head of EDI, Identity Group, Tutors and many others.
- We will support them, whatever the child decides, to explore their gender identity at their own pace. If we are comfortable, we might discuss pronouns, new names (if they have one), use of facilities, PE.
- Signpost the child to support within school.

It is important to be mindful that each conversation will be different. As a community we should also be aware that we ALL have unconscious bias!

Identity have been raising money this week for Mermaids, a charity organisation that advocates and supports gender variant and transgender youth, by selling Candy Canes for Christmas. All donations will be sent to Mermaids. If you would like to donate, please contact Mrs Lewis by email: [dlewis@brakenhale.co.uk](mailto:dlewis@brakenhale.co.uk)

Please see our website for more information.



## Second Hand Uniform and other reminders

School Office

### Second Hand Uniform Store

Following our two recent and very successful second hand uniform sales and in response to numerous requests we are pleased to be launching our new 'store' for second hand uniform and PE kit for sale from January. Items will be sold daily from the LRC Book Room between 8.20 and 8.55am and during Break time and parents or students can email requests to [SecondHandSale@brakenhale.co.uk](mailto:SecondHandSale@brakenhale.co.uk). Students can also visit Mrs McCrorie directly in the Book Room to look for and collect items that have been requested via email. Payment is by cash and all money will go back into the school.

All items will be washed and prices are £2.00 per item, blazers £5.00 each. We will only be selling available stock, so if we do not have an item in stock it will be added to a request list and parents will be emailed if/when it becomes available.

### Tools for Learning

Student Tools for Learning are sold by Mrs McCrorie from the LRC Book Room daily from 8.20am to 8.55am and break time.

Tools for learning are also available to purchase online via ParentPay and students can then collect them from main reception.

### Water Bottles

Staying hydrated is very important and we have bespoke Brakenhale water bottles available to purchase from the LRC Book Room alongside Tools for Learning. We no longer provide plastic cups for water.

### Lost Property

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



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

**Thank you for making sure all student equipment and items are named so we can return them promptly.**

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



Please email enquiries to:

[SecondHandSale@brakenhale.co.uk](mailto: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
<b>Full pencil case</b>	<b>£3.25</b>
Scientific Calculator	£8.35



## 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.

		Price	
		Regular	Large
<b>MEALS</b>			
Main Meal		£2.20	
Meal Deal (main meal + £0.60 drink or pudding)		£2.60	
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](https://www.your-school-lottery.co.uk/play)

You have to be in it to win it.

# The Wayz 13-17yrs Activities

## December 2021

Date	Time	Where	Where	Cost
20th	2-6pm	The Zone Youth Club	GENERAL SPORT, Cooking, Challenges and Youth Club Activities	£5.00
21st	2-6pm	The Zone Youth Club	ICE-SKATING, Cooking, Challenges and Youth Club Activities	£15.00
22nd	2-6pm	The Zone Youth Club	GO-KARTING, Cooking, Challenges and Youth Club Activities	£20.00
23rd	2-6pm	The Zone Youth Club	GENERAL SPORT, Cooking, Challenges and Youth Club Activities	£5.00

**All activities include a FREE Dinner**  
Dietary requirements will be collected when booking

**We accept HAF( Holiday Activity and Food) E-vouchers, these can be used to join in for FREE**  
**For more info or to book, contact [admin@thewayzyouth.co.uk](mailto:admin@thewayzyouth.co.uk) or 07928816186**



## Action for Happiness

Action for Happiness is a movement of people committed to building a happier and more caring society. They want to see a fundamentally different way of life - where people care less about what they can get just for themselves and more about the happiness of others. Find out more information here : <https://www.actionforhappiness.org/>

### Do Good December

This month, they are encouraging you to carry out small acts of kindness. This has been another difficult year of uncertainty and ups and downs for many of us. Kindness is contagious, and helping others has been proven to make us feel better too! Let's try to focus on being generous with our time and attention rather than money - it's free and better for everyone, as well as our planet!

December Kindness 2021

SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY















5 Give a gift to someone who is homeless or feeling lonely

6 Leave a positive message for someone else to find

7 Give kind comments to as many people as possible today

8 Do something helpful for a friend or family member

9 Notice when you're hard on yourself or others and be kind instead

10 Listen wholeheartedly to others without judging them

11 Buy an extra item and donate it to a local food bank

12 Be generous. Feed someone with food, love or kindness today

13 See how many different people you can smile at today

14 Share a happy memory or inspiring thought with a loved one

15 Contact an older neighbour and brighten up their day

16 Look for something positive to say to everyone you speak to

17 Give thanks. List the kind things others have done for you

18 Ask for help and let someone else discover the joy of giving

19 Contact someone who may be alone or feeling isolated

20 Help others by giving away something that you don't need

21 Appreciate kindness and thank people who do things for you

22 Congratulate someone for an achievement that may go unnoticed

23 Choose to give or receive the gift of forgiveness

24 Bring joy to others. Share something which made you laugh

25 Treat everyone with kindness today, including yourself!

26 Get outside. Pick up litter or do something kind for nature

27 Call a relative who is far away to say hello and have a chat

28 Be kind to the planet. Eat less meat and use less energy

29 Turn off digital devices and really listen to people

30 Let someone know how much you appreciate them and why

31 Plan some new acts of kindness to do in 2022

ACTION FOR HAPPINESS

Happier · Kinder · Together





Happier January 2022

SATURDAY

SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

1 Find three 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 brighten their day

4 Write a list of things you feel grateful for 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 active (ideally outdoors)

10 Thank someone you're grateful to and tell them why

11 Switch off all your tech at least an hour before bedtime

12 Connect with someone near you - share a smile or chat

13 Take a different route today and see what you notice

14 Eat healthy food which really nourishes you today

15 Get outside and notice five things that are beautiful

16 Contribute positively to your local community

17 Be gentle with yourself when you make mistakes

18 Get back in contact with an old friend

19 Focus on what's good, even if today feels tough

20 Go to bed in good time and allow yourself to recharge

21 Try out something new to get out of your comfort zone

22 Plan something fun and invite others to join you

23 Put away digital devices and focus on being in the moment

24 Take a small step towards an important goal

25 Decide to lift people up rather than put them down

26 Choose one of your strengths and find a way to use it today

27 Challenge your negative thoughts and look for the upside

28 Ask other people about things they've enjoyed recently




29 Say hello to a neighbour and get to know them better

30 See how many people you can smile at today

31 Write down your hopes or plans for the future

ACTION FOR HAPPINESS

Happier · Kinder · Together

### Happier January

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, they are 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.





Please visit our website for more details:

<https://brakenhale.co.uk/join-us/>

## Term Dates

Please find below our updated Term Dates for this academic year 2021/22. The Queen's Platinum Jubilee falls during the Summer half-term and all schools have therefore been allocated an additional day's holiday in celebration of it. This additional holiday day will be on Monday 21<sup>st</sup> February, 2022 added onto the Spring half-term.

### Term Dates 2021-22

#### AUTUMN TERM 2021

**Christmas Holiday: Monday 20<sup>th</sup> December 2021 to Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2022**

#### SPRING TERM 2022

Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> January – Friday 1<sup>st</sup> April 2022

Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> January – **Additional Inset Day**

Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> January – **Year 11 and 13 only**

**Spring Half Term - Monday 14<sup>th</sup> February to Monday 21<sup>st</sup> February 2022** (including additional day's holiday in celebration of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee (during summer half term))

**Spring Holiday: Monday 4<sup>th</sup> to Monday 18<sup>th</sup> April 2022**

(Good Friday 15<sup>th</sup> April, Easter Monday 18<sup>th</sup> April)

#### 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.

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*