

Brakenhale News



Friday 21st October 2022 : Half Term 1

Dear Parents/Carers and Students

I hope this finds you well.

We have now come to the end of the first half term of the academic year. We have been in school longer than the summer break which, with the weather, seems a distant memory! I've been utterly impressed with our students who have transitioned well into their new year groups. Long may this continue.

The new Year 7 cohort have now completed seven weeks and they have done themselves proud. Yes, this transition can be daunting, but it's been great to see them settle and embrace their secondary school life. The in-coming Year 12 cohort have transitioned well too. It's pleasing to see them dedicated to their studies and this will pay dividends in the future. Year 13 students have been, amongst their studies, applying for universities and we now have a couple of Oxbridge candidates along with some applying to study medicine and veterinary sciences; this is in addition to a range of courses and apprenticeships. This is an exciting time and we look forward to students receiving interviews and offers in the new year. Year 11 have embraced the slightly longer day with ease. Study Prep sessions are devoted to exam preparation and their focus is to be commended. I've been particularly pleased with students who have, starting this week, stayed in school from 16.00-17.00 to engage in some online learning with peers from other Greenshaw Learning Trust Schools. Their day has been considerably longer but they've embraced this challenge without a fuss - well done. Year 10 students have moved into their GCSE years and overall feedback from teachers has been that they have done this well. Time will elude them so their focus is required every lesson, every day. Year 9 students are at the point in their learning where they come to the climax of key stage three. This comes with the decision-making of GCSE courses that they want to do. More on this will follow in the new year. Year 8 now become the models for Year 7 as they can support and guide their peers given their own transition a year ago. It's endearing to see this is the case and a number of students putting themselves forward for a range of opportunities and extra-curricular clubs so far.



The half term has been a packed one! This bumper edition of the Parent News gives you an insight into what has been happening, above and beyond the learning in the classroom. We had a PGL trip in September to CCF events throughout the term. We've had National Fitness Day highlighted by the PE department, Language Days showcased by the Modern Foreign Languages team and, only yesterday, the Maths department had a large group of students sharing their most interesting statistics for Statistics Day! There have been a range of sporting fixtures and some exceptional results. We've had Open Evening for next year's Year 7 including opening mornings and an afternoon which saw hundreds of people come through our door. The extra-curricular fayre allowed the large range of clubs and societies to be promoted and it's been great to see students attending and engaging in there. We've had a Year 11 GCSE Geography field trip to Swanage and a Drama one to the Crucible in London.

What this shows is the range of opportunities where we aim to develop the whole child. It's important to us and we will continue to do this. Since September we have stepped up our news items on social media. So, if you're on Facebook, Twitter or Instagram, please do look out for updates.



As I have previously shared, an unannounced Ofsted visit did take place and the letter has been shared with all families. The outcome has been pleasing - it can be found here too:

<https://reports.ofsted.gov.uk/provider/23/142577>

Can I thank all of you - individuals and families - for your on-going support. We do not get everything right but our intent is always a positive one. It's been pleasing to see emails from families thanking us and relaying their support. This can only benefit your child. When they know we are on the same page and our thinking is centred on them, they will flourish.

Finally, can I wish everyone a restful half term. As a community we continue to actualise our values of Aim High, Be Kind and Take Responsibility. Our vision of ensuring that as a school at the heart of the community where we instil the values of **aspiration**, **kindness** and **responsibility** to prepare our students for their individual successes and future careers underpins everything we do.

King Regards,

Mr Taylor, Headteacher

Our new school year has certainly been going well, I am constantly inspired by our students' kind ways including looking after others who are in need. Frequently this academic year I have witnessed our older students looking after the younger ones, showing them the way and supporting them. We are beginning to develop our peer mentor programme which will only grow from these excellent foundations.

Brakenhale's provision of and engagement in extra-curricular activities is at an all-time high; the promotion of our clubs at the extra-curricular fayre on Friday 30th September brought crowds of students into the hall seeking out the wide variety of clubs on offer (check out the time lapse video on our social media channels). All students are welcome at the majority of clubs, these can be found on our website here ([Pastoral Support/Clubs and Activities](#)).

Our PSHE sessions are planned into the fortnightly timetable with dedicated teachers and this structured approach allows for our important curriculum topics to be covered and students to feel able to discuss all the interesting and sometimes challenging topics. Sometimes PSHE can really delve into some sensitive and often lesser discussed topics, please do ask your children about their sessions.

To complement our PSHE lessons we welcomed the band 'Here at Last' for Year 7 and 8 on Wednesday 5th October; their message was clear about cyber bullying and accompanied by various songs which did not disappoint. Students were eager to get their autographs and flyers, creating a real buzz across the school.



Our student leadership roll out has been incredibly successful, starting with two Head Students being appointed (Ellie and Ethan in Year 13). Every tutor now has a Form Representative bringing student opinions and thoughts to the termly meetings. We are in the process of appointing Year Group School Council Representatives where each candidate will have presented their pitch in front of the whole year group. Voting is taking place and our new School Council representatives will be announced after half term.

The upcoming half term to Christmas brings many activities including: our first Drop Down Day on Thursday 17th November (focusing on British Values during Parliamentary Week); Year 10 receiving their Drugs Workshops from Bracknell Forest Council; Mr Budden starting his mindfulness extracurricular club; Ms Burden (our therapeutic counsellor) will be running sessions with Year 7 and I am really pleased that our Duke of Edinburgh recruitment drive will begin in November. If you have children in Years 9 and 10 please look out for the school communications about this exciting opportunity.

Have a great half term.

Best wishes

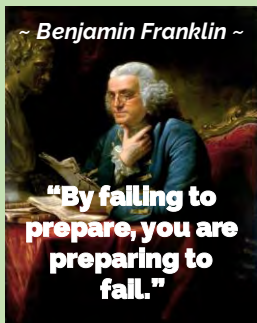
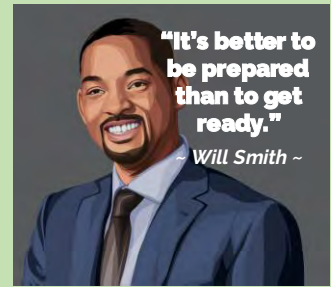
Mrs Whitaker Flower, Deputy Headteacher



Seven weeks on...

After, what seems like, a very quick half term it is time for a rest; to refresh our minds, and be ready for a return on Monday 31st October.

So many of you arrive at school on time, prepared for your day ahead and are at morning line-up ready to go - it is so important that your day begins in the right manner, a positive focus and ready to learn. By being just a few seconds later than normal puts you on the back foot - you find yourself on catch-up (walking quicker, double checking where you should be, trying to do more than one thing at a time in order to catch-up). Your attendance at school, on time, is the one thing that will make a real difference to your learning and progress - if you are not here (on time) you simply cannot learn.



“Failing to Prepare is Preparing to Fail” — Benjamin Franklin

This well-known quote is absolutely correct. If you have not made adequate preparations for your journey to school or your day ahead, you are unlikely to succeed. In other words: the person who fails to plan, plans to fail. Therefore, prepare your bag the night before school (plan) otherwise to do it in the morning could mean you are late; complete your homework at least the night before it is due (plan) to ensure you are ready at line-up. Thinking ahead is an important part of being successful and achieving what you want to achieve each day. In society "being prepared, is preparing to succeed"

Our school values of 'Aim High, Be Kind and Take Responsibility' are really visible in the way that many of you approach your day, and every day in school. It is important to recognise this.

Aim High:

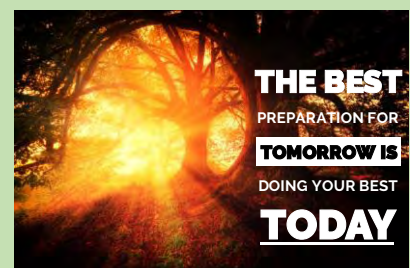
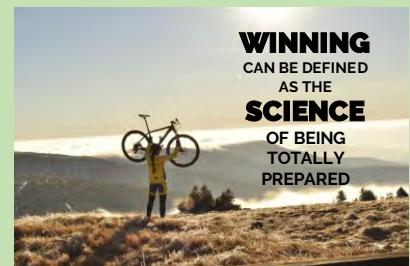
- **We are** thinkers, doers, readers, sharers, participants and hard workers;
- We **always try our best**;
- We **attend EVERY lesson, tutor time and line-up**;
- We challenge ourselves to **be the best we can be**;
- We **show interest** in our **learning and lessons**.

Be Kind:

- We **talk** to each other **politely and are kind**;
- We are kind to our environment and **place rubbish in bins**;
- We **socialise together** respectful, sensibly and safely;
- We **support each other** to **do the right thing**;
- We **demonstrate positive manners** ('say hello', 'thank-you', etc.)

Take Responsibility:

- We **arrive on time** and are ready for our day;
- We arrive to **lessons on time**;
- We **look smart every day** and are ready to learn;
- We **move around** the school **sensibly and calmly (on the left)**;
- We **show FAST** when staff ask for it;
- When something does not go to plan, **we accept** it.



Finally, I must mention our up-coming production of Matilda JR The Musical - I have been amazed by the number of students who auditioned as well as the excitement of being a part of this production. Rehearsals are in full flow, attendance is wonderful and the effort and talent on display after three weeks is tre-men-dous! I cannot wait to see the final performance.

Have a wonderful half term, rest, be safe and look after someone close to you - aim high, be kind and take responsibility with everything that you do.

Kind regards

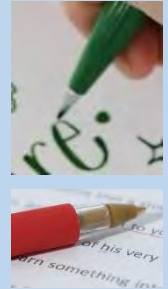
Mr Coley, Deputy Headteacher



John Dewey, a famous philosopher and psychologist, quoted that “Education is not preparation for life; education is life itself.” Throughout our lives we will continue to be presented with new information and challenges, and we would have developed the skills during adolescence to cope and manage with these new challenges due to the education we have received from both our parents and teachers.

With the above in mind, since joining Brakenhale School in September 2022 as the new Deputy Headteacher for Quality of Education, I have encountered many challenges. For example, learning the names of over 1200 students and 140 members of staff. However, as the end of the first half term approaches, my experience at Brakenhale School has been both welcoming and supportive. This has been from students, parents and staff. I have thoroughly enjoyed my beginning here.

During the first INSET session on Thursday 1st September, myself and the team launched our ‘live marking’ and feedback strategy. This now enables teachers to mark students’ work and provide timely and specific feedback in green pen. Students are then provided with the opportunity to respond to the feedback in red pen. Students also self and peer asses in red pen. We know that providing meaningful and purposeful feedback enables students to make progress. This is one of the main reasons for this refinement from last year.



Furthermore, we have been working with all Heads of Departments to ensure each subject curriculum matches the demand and requirements of the National Curriculum. We are refining the planning and sequencing of our curriculum in order for it to lead to exceptional outcomes for students when they leave in Year 11 or 13. I’m excited to see this develop!

At Brakenhale School, there are six Principles of Better Practice which enables the consistent implementation of our curriculum across the school. These are:

- 1: High expectations and routines
- 2: Subject Mastery
- 3: Adaptive teaching
- 4: Making it stick
- 5: Quality of instruction
- 6: Assessment and Feedback



These are the fundamentals of strong teaching and support our learners to make exceptional progress. As teachers, we aim high and want our student to as well. Learning can be tough but there is nothing wrong with that. It should be fun! I hope you’ve enjoyed the first half of this academic year and have a restful break.

Have a great half term.

Mr Smith, Deputy Headteacher

The Crucible Student Conference



Mrs D Lewis, English and Drama Teacher

Eager for the day ahead and committed to the course, we met at 7am and embarked on our journey before some staff had arrived on the premises. We made the train without a second to spare, we jostled ourselves into the sardine can and the day started with a standing ovation.

We had a morning of culture capitol as we trained our way to the Great Londinium, spotting the landmarks along the way to The National. We stopped for the obligatory snap too.

Myself and Miss Townsend were brimming with pride for our Drama clan. Like true Drama students, they maintained their theatre etiquette, presented themselves smartly and conducted themselves sensibly. The best bit is that we all left with a wealth of knowledge to help us tackle Section B of the exam paper. We had the pleasure of hearing how the director works with the actors to create a meaningful, impactful and intentional piece of drama; we learnt how to tackle the 'unseen'; we heard from the costume designer, setting, the lighting technician and finished with a 15 minute performance which brought everything we had learned today, together.

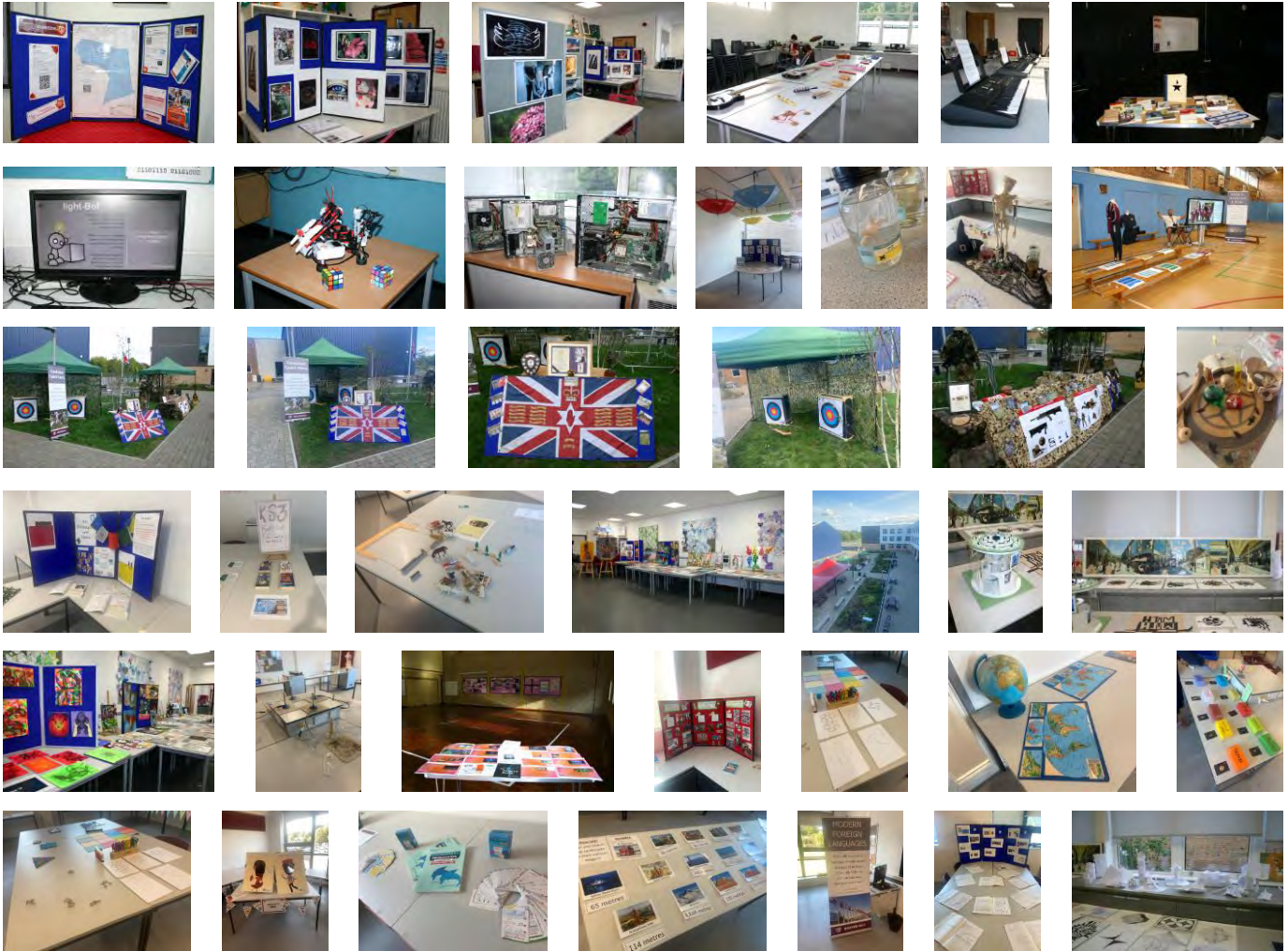
Now, the only question that lingers is... when is the next trip?



Open Evening

Mr Coley, Deputy Headteacher

On Thursday 15th September we closed early to prepare for our annual Open Evening. Around 550 Year 6 students and parents/carers, and in some cases Year 5 students, had the opportunity to visit the school and the various departments, they were able to take part in various activities and even saw some experiments. This evening is an opportunity for us to showcase our school which we are amazingly proud of. We had a fantastic turn out and the staff and students who volunteered their time for this were a true reflection of #teambrokenhale - thank you to all of our staff and student helpers for their support; the atmosphere, energy and passion you feel for the school really shone through and was amazing.



Our Headteacher Mr Taylor conducted several welcome speeches - a recording of this is available to everyone on our website. Additionally each department put together displays and activities to showcase their subjects and there were Student Information Stations around the site to help answer questions, point visitors in the right direction and show them where to go.

Our coveted: Open Evening 'WOW Award' – was awarded to Religious Studies who have set the bar high for next year.

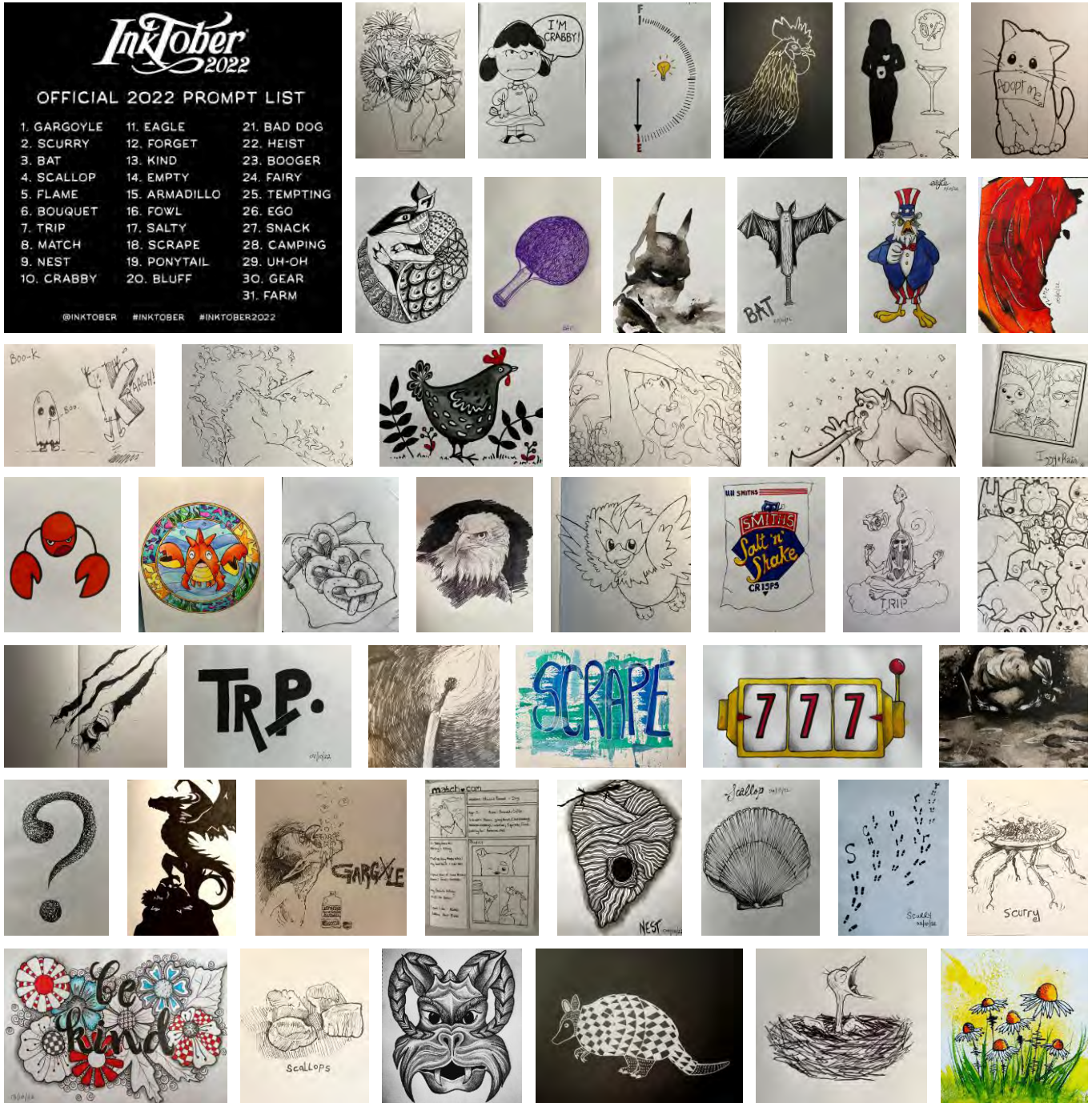


Creative Arts - Inktober

Miss T Wilhelmy, Head of Creative Arts

Since 2009, artists across the world have participated in Inktober: 31 drawings over 31 days. This year, Miss Wilhelmy, Mr Budden and Miss Peacock have joined in, producing a piece of artwork every day in response to the daily prompt. These prompts have included MATCH, KIND, ARMADILLO and GARGOYLE. These pictures have been posted to our Social Media accounts and students have been encouraged to join in - have you?

It's not too late, there are 10 more days left of October and 10 more prompts - we would love to see your artwork and we hope you enjoy ours.



Rewarding Students

Mr P McKane, Associate Assistant Headteacher

Our 'Golden Ticket' is given out in every lesson every day to recognise and reward students. Furthermore we regularly hold 'Hot Chocolate and Cake events with the Headteacher'. This occurs every three weeks, ie. twice per half term.



Limited Edition Golden Ticket



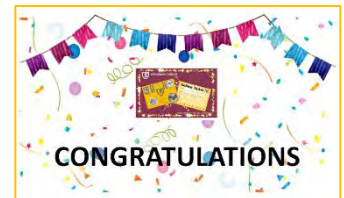
This half term, to celebrate the **European Day of Languages**

on Monday 26th September, we had a limited-edition golden ticket for the week.

Hot Chocolate and Cake with the Headteacher!

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

On Thursday 22nd September we had our first event of the academic year, celebrating those students who had been nominated by their Head of Year for their flying start to this year.



Then on Thursday 13th October we celebrated our most improved students this half term. Well done to all the students who were nominated.

European Day of Languages

Mrs O Hughes, Associate Assistant Headteacher

During the week commencing Monday 26th September we celebrated European Day of Languages.

Students were able to view a display of books from European authors and rent these from the library. We also launched a Limited Edition Golden Ticket, these proved to be very popular!

Finally, students took part in a school wide competition of 'Find the teacher who...' - identifying teachers who speak more than one language, have lived abroad or come from a different country.

It was a fantastic week, enjoyed by lots of students; as you can see in the pictures below!



Combined Cadet Force

Captain Bury, Contingent Commander, Brakenhale School CCF

Welcome back our cadets for the 2022/23 academic year.

And what a time we are going to have this academic year!

We started back to training in September and we were really pleased to be able to welcome 29 new cadets to our unit, this bring our numbers up to 72 cadets in total.

The year did not start the way we had planned due to the loss of Her Majesty the Queen. On the announcement of her passing we put up our flag and held a whole school service while the flag was lowered to half-mast. The flag remained this way during the national week of mourning.



Over the weekend Saturday 24th to Sunday 25th September we held a New Cadet Camp out. This event allowed our new cadets to get a feel for what will be in store for them during their cadet experience. Below are some pictures of the new cadets out experiencing some fieldcraft lessons. For some of our cadets this was the first time they had ever been away from home for a night and we were really impressed with the way they all worked together over the 36 hours they were out for.



Following on from our New Cadets camp out we then took our second-year cadets out on their first Fieldcraft exercise of the year. Starting on Friday 7th October at 0830, we left school and headed to Minley Army training area.

Once we arrived at the training area the cadets were put straight into a navigation practical test and this was quickly followed by them setting up a harbour area. The cadets settled for lunch and then out of the blue they found themselves under attack which meant a quick pack up and move out to a new harbour location. ALWAYS BE PREPARED!



The rest of the weekend then was based on fire and manoeuvre lessons. This is a key skill the cadets learn, to then be able to use army-issue weapons in a safe and controlled manner.



The cadets also had a lesson on ambushes which we found to be the best part of the weekend because we got to watch our cadets both put into practice what they had been shown but also to see their drama skills come to life as they pretended to be shot. The cadets then returned back to school on Sunday 9th October, very tired but also full of excitement from the weekend they had experienced.



The start to our new academic year of cadet training has once again just shown the instructor team and I why cadets is so important to our young people at Brakenhale School.

WE STILL NEED HELPERS FOR THE RUNNING OF THE CCF UNIT

PLEASE EMAIL abury@brakenhale.co.uk if you would like to find out more information about this amazing opportunity.



PE Round-Up | Half Term 1

Mr Potter, Head of PE, Mr Maye, Second in PE and PE Team

Half term 1 of the new school year has been as busy as usual in PE.

Our boys have been out and about playing rugby in the borough and our girls have been playing netball. We have also had a couple of football tournaments to get us thinking about the up-coming 22/23 season.

Our sports leaders in Year 10 have been in action working with local Bracknell primary schools, hosting their tag rugby tournament at Great Hollands Recreation Ground.

In half term two we will be hosting the final round of borough rugby, the girls complete their netball fixtures for the year and the boys move onto basketball.

Mates Participate has been running on Wednesdays after school and it's been fantastic to see students use the gym and trampoline centre, taking part in some extra-activities after school.

Students have been working hard in lesson getting back into the term with our Physical and Social MEs in PE, which has been really great to see. Key Stage 3 have had a big focus on the fundamentals of movement this half term whilst at Key Stage 4 students have been working on a variety of activities designed to allow them some rest and down time away from their studies.

Post 16 enrichment has also continued this year and it's been fantastic to see our Sixth Form students out and about being active on a Wednesday afternoon.

Lots to look forward in half term two, so rest up, have a great half term and see you on halloween!



Year 7 Girls Football at Garth:

First fixture for Year 7 girls and what a response!! 18 Girls interested in playing! Awesome, so in the end we took them over to Garth where both teams worked very hard in games and some great work ethic shown along with some good skills too!! Shout out goes to Lauren C who managed a hat-trick in the play-off game!!

All girls represented Brakenhale with pride and they are already looking forward to the next tournament over at Sandhurst after half term!!

Gymnastics Competition

Ruby-Louise in Year 8 took part in the Regional Classic Challenge Competition on Sunday 16th October. She achieved the following results:

Vault - Bronze, Beam - Silver, Bars - Silver, Floor - Gold, Overall - Silver

Well done Ruby-Louise! What a fantastic achievement.



We would love to be able to share the success of others who participate/compete outside of school! Please let us know about your achievements.

Netball

Congratulations to the Year 11 netball squad who participated in the Bracknell Schools netball competition on Wednesday 12th October. The black team finished in second place and the green team finished in fifth. It was an absolute pleasure to accompany Year 11 on their final netball tournament of their Brakenhale journey!



Year 7 Rugby

The Year 7 boys took to the fields of Sandhurst in the last week of term for their first fixture outing of their Brakenhale careers. There were 13 boys in total, all whom played in 3 out of the 4 games allowing for rest and rotation of players.

The boys played against Sandhurst first and secured a 3-2 win. Although a bit of a shock some nice rugby was played, the boys needed to get tough and make tackles in the next game.

We then played Ranelagh in game 2 with a very different score line at the end. Ranelagh were fast and strong and put Brakenhale through their paces. Although a loss, it gave us some good momentum going into our third game against Kings.

We managed a win against Kings with the boys showing some great composure and digging in being physical.

Our final game was against Edgbarrow who were another very good team. Our boys rallied well but some great physical play and ball handling meant Edgbarrow came out winners.

So 2 loses and 2 wins for our Brakenhale boys!


A great afternoon of rugby and we look forward to our home tournaments after half term.

A big shout out to our parents who came and watched, it was great to see you and a big shout out to Mr McLean our school first aider who came to support the boys and be on hand in case of any injuries.

Players player went to Raph and Teachers player went to William. Well done boys!



PE Champions for this Half Term

 #teambrokenhale #brakenhalepe		PE CHAMPIONS Autumn Half Term 1 - WELL DONE!					
		Week beginning: 12/9/22		Week beginning: 19/9/22		Week beginning: 26/9/22	
Staff	Student	Tutor	Student	Tutor	Student	Tutor	
Mr Potter			Senuth H	9E	Samba N	8R	
Mrs Lazarczuk	Kyla FS	8K	Madison JM	11R	Harrison H	7K	
Mr Maye			Marine S	11N	Jaxx B	7B	
Mr Boucher	Michal B	7K	Zach W	9E	Alfie C	10H	
Ms Wilson	Imogen R	8N	Fely A	10R	Evie C	7R	
Staff	Student	Tutor	Student	Tutor	Student	Tutor	
Mr Potter	Jay E	9H	Kevin N	P16K			
Mrs Lazarczuk	Nicole-Keeley W	11E	Sienna W	11H	Kaysie KR	11N	
Mr Maye	Harley W	11H	Lauren C	7N	Joshua L	7E	
Mr Boucher	Alfie R	11N	Mia B	7H	Madeleine L	8E	
Ms Wilson	Faryaal R	11B	Sian D	9E	Arisha A	8E	

PE reminders

The only kit that is allowed for PE is Brakenhale PE kit. Unless there are extenuating circumstances and we have an email from parents to the class teacher with a reason why a student does not have their Brakenhale kit, students must have their full Brakenhale PE kit. Failure to comply with this will lead to a same day sanction.

All incidents of injury or illness that lead to students not being able to do PE must be communicated to the class teacher, via an email from parents. We do not accept hand written notes. Failure to comply with this will lead to a same day sanction.

Any student with long hair must ensure hair is tied back appropriately with a suitable hair tie or band. Whilst we do have some hair bands/ties in PE this is a personal responsibility. Additionally we do not allow for any type of jewellery, piercing or watches to be worn in PE. Students will be told to remove these.

All students who cannot take part in PE must stay with us in the lesson. We do not allow for students to miss PE for medical reasons and spend time in the LRC or another part of the school.



Mr Potters top tips for winter PE lessons!

As the coming week and months are going to get colder, can I please ask that students are adequately prepared for PE. Items can be purchased from the online school shop for PE (tracksuit bottoms or the PE jumper).

- Wear PE tracksuit bottoms/leggings rather than PE shorts/skorts
- Wear your PE jumper on top of your PE shirt as an extra layer
- Put a plain t shirt (black or white) or vest under your PE shirt for another extra layer
- If you have a skin/thermal style top, these can be worn if black or white only.
- Bring a pair of fingered black gloves to keep your hands warm
- Ensure your socks are correct (PE socks - long knee socks or white sports socks) and don't wear your black school socks for PE as your feet will get cold as they are thin
- Keep active as soon as you are changed and get to your lesson - start warm ups and dynamic stretches to keep moving and keep warm - plus it will impress your teacher.

****Due to health and safety, we do not allow full outdoor coats, PE/Brakenhale hoodies, scarves, snoods or beanies to be worn in PE****

Being in the outdoors all year round is a brilliant thing, but we do understand that the weather can be tough on students, that is why it is key to get students adequately prepared for lessons. We want students to have a positive experience in PE but at the same time build resilience, so please ensure items have been packed for them to take part in PE.

If for whatever reason a lesson cannot go ahead due to inclement weather, there is a pre-planned indoor space for students to be taught in, by their PE teacher. This will be the sports hall, fitness suite, one of the movement studios, the main hall or trampoline centre.

Student Council

Mr Hilton, Head of Year 11

This half term we have been focusing on relaunching our Student School Council, an exciting prospect and opportunity for students to take part in.

This started with an assembly delivered by Mrs Whitaker-Flower and Mr Hilton on democracy and Student Voice. During this assembly the concept of democracy was shared with the students and explained how lucky we are that every person over the voting age gets a say about who runs our country. We also explored the idea of what we mean by student voice. Mr Hilton introduced that he would be leading the school council and shared that he was looking for people to stand and run for a position on this student body. It will be made up of our two Head Students from Sixth Form, a Senior Prefect from Year 11, a Prefect from Year 10 and a Year Representative from Year 7 all the way through to Year 13. This is a wonderful opportunity for the student body to help drive school improvement with their own ideas and suggestions, and Mr Hilton and Mrs Whitaker-Flower are really looking forward to working with this student body.



Students were informed that each and every one of them would get a say over who sat on the School Council for their Year group as they would get one vote. The first stage of forming the Council was electing Tutor Representatives for each tutor group in every year group. Tutors asked their tutees who wanted to represent their group and they had to pitch why they would be best placed to do this. Tutor groups then voted for their Tutor Representatives. This week in Year assemblies the Tutor Representatives for each year group have had the opportunity to speak in front of their peers about why they feel they would be the best candidate to represent them on the School Council. All students that have stood up and spoken to their year group have done a fantastic job as it is quite a daunting task to stand in front of two hundred of your peers and speak; they have all been phenomenal. Voting for these candidates is currently happening and all students have been sent a voting form to their school email accounts. The closing date for voting is Monday 31st October at 3:05 and we look forward to announcing who will be making up our School Council for 22/23 and having our first meeting next half term.



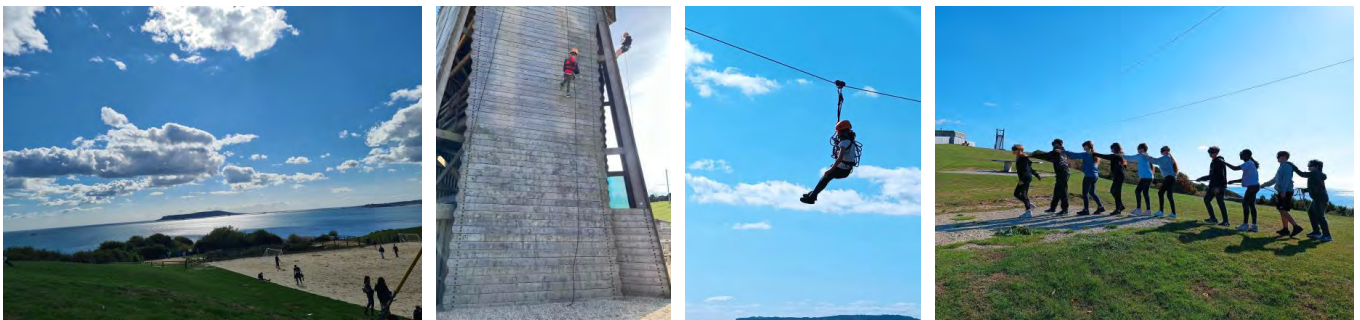
PGL Osmington Bay Trip

Miss Appleton, Assistant Head of Year 8

Back in the middle of September myself, Mr Collins and 11 other wonderful members of staff took 138 students to PGL in beautiful Osmington Bay, Weymouth.

We had an amazing time and the students did so many activities. They fought their fears and took part in abseiling, zip-lining, the giant swing and learnt how to safely get themselves down from some tremendous heights. A few teachers even joined in and worked to overcome their fears with the students as their cheerleaders.

Everyone learnt how to work as a team during the dragon boating, orienteering and sensory trail. They also shocked us all as they waded into the freezing cold sea one evening as we all watched the sun set over Osmington Bay! New friendships were formed, new experiences were had, new memories were made and we all had a fantastic time by the sea!



Performing Arts Production

Miss Millard, Head of Performing Arts

Rehearsals are well underway for our Matilda JR production, set to premiere in February next year.

Auditions were attended by an overwhelming 75 students and we couldn't be more excited about the support for the production from across the school. The show has been cast and rehearsals have been a great success, in addition to being a positive and enjoyable experience for all involved.

The next half term will see the number of rehearsals increase to two per week as we creep closer to those show dates!

Thank you to all that have supported the production with donations of props and set pieces so far.



Identity

Mrs D Lewis, Identity

In Identity, this half term, we have been reflecting on our influences and role models. We have looked at key figures throughout history who have had to fight adversity in order to be themselves and love without judgement.

Identity Weekly Meets

We meet at lunch time on a Friday :)

Identity is a club that welcomes all. We meet each Friday lunchtime. 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.



Identity

The most inspirational person to me is...

Alan Turing

because...

He was key in solving a code in world war 2 while being closeted.

Identity

The most inspirational person to me is...

Gareth Thomas

because...

He was the first openly gay professional rugby player and was very successful. Also he has spoken out about the social pressure and stereotyping which poses significant challenges for many athletes.

Identity

The most inspirational person to me is...

Girl in red

because...

She writes songs that are quite comforting to me and I love the emotion she puts in to her songs.

Identity

The most inspirational person to me is...

Edward Sagarin

because...

He asserted that gay men and lesbians deserved rights and highlighted the difficulties they faced. He married a woman, but was thought to have led a parallel gay life.

Identity

The most inspirational person to me is...

Colette

because...

Colette was a French author, actress and journalist. She is best known for her novel Gigi and Claudine which follows a character who ends up despising her husband and has an affair with another woman. She lived as an openly bisexual woman.

Identity

The most inspirational person to me is...

Tommy

because...

Tommy has always been here for me along with my other bestie and also helped me find out what Identity is and I overall love them as a best friend ☺.





LRC Corner: Library Foci

This half term we have promoted different languages and different cultures, encouraging students to discover languages from around the world.

Book club has started again and we have new Year 7s joining us; we have been reading Einstein the Penguin which was a relatively easy read and we look forward to reading the next, more challenging text: a crime book. If anyone would like to join the book club, we are always welcoming new faces. Come along to the Library and pick up the latest book.

We have organized BookBuzz again which means all Year 7 students get to choose a book from a selection and will receive this book free of charge as a gift from us to them.

Lastly, we have a reading competition for Key Stage 3; if anyone is interested in taking part please pick up a form from Mrs Daniels in the Library.

Anti-Bullying

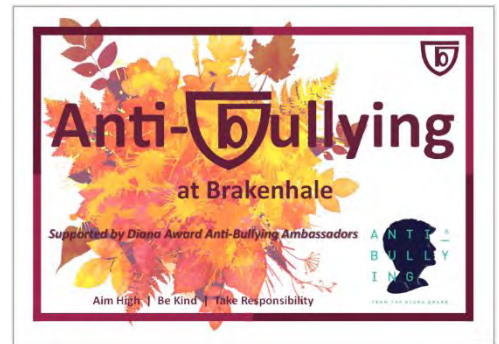
Mrs Palmer, Behaviour

The young people who work as part of our Brakenhale Anti-Bullying team are made up of dedicated students who are proactive in finding ways to reach out to their peers. They want share their message that it is never ok to feel alone, uncomfortable or scared and that as a community we will always be there to support each one another.

Therefore, we would like to take this opportunity to let you know that our Anti-Bullying Ambassadors will now be available to support students each breaktime in the Focus Room (located opposite the Reflection Room).

Whether you are feeling alone and would like some company, or someone has been unkind and made you feel worried or upset - we will always be there to listen.

Bullying is never okay, we will not tolerate it within our school or community and together we can educate each other on the importance of always treating people with kindness and respect.



To upskill our Anti-Bullying Ambassadors further, on Tuesday 18th October, 10 students from Years 8, 9, 11 and 12 took part in Anti-Racist Bullying Ambassador Training - which was delivered by The Diana Award.

The students spent the afternoon learning and increasing their awareness of how to address issues specific to racist bullying behaviours.

The training session was an excellent opportunity to allow the students to see everyday opportunities to help their school and community continue to grow and develop into safe and inclusive places for all.



Dear Year 7 Parents/Carers and Students

You have all successfully completed your first half term with us here at Brakenhale, and what a half term it has been! We started our journey together on Monday 5th September with several nervous faces in the school hall and it has been a pleasure to watch you all settle in and become comfortable with your new surroundings and become fully-fledged members of #teambrokenhale. I am exceptionally proud to be your Head of Year and I very much look forward to our next half term together and for you to embark on the next stage of your Brakenhale journey. I am so very impressed with the way you demonstrate our three core values; Aim High, Be Kind and Take Responsibility, day in and day out, in and outside of school.

I would like to give a huge congratulations to those of you who volunteered to be a form rep and well done to those of you who were elected by your tutor group, as our School Council grows. It is a great achievement to be able to represent your tutor group and to ensure your voices are heard. I look forward to hearing your thoughts and ideas.

Every two weeks in assembly we celebrate the tutor group with the highest achievement points. Please see below the current score table. Well done to the champions of the half term 7R! This shows that everything you do counts, every achievement point you receive goes towards your overall tutor score. Let's see who can catch 7R next half term!!

Tutor Group achievement points:

7B: 1979

7R: 2055

7A: 1449

7K: 1800

7E: 1374

7N: 1927

7H: 1818



It really is a pleasure to celebrate each and every golden ticket during every time they are issued. It is important to recognise who is going above and beyond in their lessons.

As we approach the half term holiday please remember to stay safe. Spend some well-deserved time with your friends and families. Please ensure you are school ready and your uniform is correct along with your tools for learning for when you return. This ensures you are in the best possible position for learning.

Have a lovely break and come back ready to take on the challenges of the next half term.

Best wishes,

Miss Wilson, Head of Year 7 and the Year 7 Team

Dear Year 8 Parents/Carers and Students

The Year 8 team is impressed with the positive attitude that you have returned to school and started the academic year with. I dare say a number of you have started showing the desired levels of maturity we have been asking you to display. Our Year 8 mantra of 'No Excuses', coupled with the school's values of 'Aim High, Be Kind and Take Responsibility', being underpinned by your weekly mission handbook, has supported your positive attitude around school and in lessons.



It's been a delight to read your responses to your mission handbook and to see how you are trying to be kind in the wider school; some of you have even included how your kindness has been extended to members of your own families as well as the wider community; we are all delighted to be able to recognise this level of maturity and kindness.

Earlier in the half term a number of you went on the PGL trip to Osmington Bay and, as reflected on by your Assistant Head of Year, I was proud of how you behaved, how you engaged with all activities and pushed yourselves outside your comfort zone. It was a pleasure to see so many of you making new friends and being kind to one another when people were struggling or feeling unsure of the activity. Once again you embodied the Brakenhale values, aiming high to take part in all tasks to the best of your ability, being kind and supporting people who were scared, sometimes including the teachers, and you took responsibility for yourselves by being up and ready on time every day and keeping your shared bedrooms clean and tidy.

A massive well done to everyone who put themselves forward to be school council representatives, and congratulations to those who were elected. The hustings were interesting to hear and I'm sure you will represent your tutor group and year group well.

You've done well this half term in amassing a huge number of house points individually as well as collectively. The number of students on the golden ticket line in the afternoons is a testament to how well you're doing in lessons. The totals for house points for each tutor group is:

8E: 1901
 8A: 1838
 8R: 1697
 8H: 1613
 8N: 1596
 8K: 1384
 8B: 1335



Well done everyone! Congratulations to 8E for smashing it this half term! Come on 8B, let's put some pressure on the others!!

As we approach the half term, my message to you is the same as always: Stay safe, get some rest and do what needs to be done to ensure a positive start for your return on Monday 31st October. Check your Tools for Learning and let your parents know what you need for school; make sure that your uniform is ready, check your shoes and let parents know in time if you need new school shoes. Make sure you know where your tie is and let parents know about any missing items of uniform.

Stay safe.

Ms Douse, Head of Year 8 and the Year 8 Team

Dear Year 9 Parents/Carers and Students

I would like to thank you for the tremendous amount of parental support the Year 9 team have received so far this term, in what has been a productive and purposeful start to the academic year. I cannot express to you the pride I feel over the direction and the culture in our year group that is being shaped. It is a privilege to see the young men and women that our Year 9 students are becoming.

The focus for our year is to become "GCSE Ready!" Later this academic year, Year 9 will make some big choice on which academic subjects they wish to pursue at GCSE. It is important that Year 9 students get into the mindset of a GCSE student as they prepare to make these choices. The method on how to get here has been made clear to Year 9; Aim High, Be Kind and Take Responsibility. These three values are what our entire school community has in common. By living and breathing these values, our Year 9s are setting themselves up for success in whichever path they choose.



What has been most pleasing to me this term is seeing many of our students embrace the fresh start that a new academic year provides. There are some specific individuals in the year group who have gotten off to a flying start and have been recognised for doing so. Every three weeks, Mr Tailor hosts a “Hot Chocolate with the Headteacher” event with students who have been chosen and nominated by their Year team as well as their teachers. This half term we have recognised Lexi S, Callum B, Zoe P, Haydn P, Zach W, Evan J and Louis F for their efforts. I know that many more will be recognised next half term for the effort they put in every day.

Zach W	9E	114
Lexi S	9B	113
Florence B	9N	112
Zoe P	9K	110
Maja S	9H	103
Henry F	9B	102
Connor S	9B	95
Isabella QG	9E	91
Owen C	9B	88
Piotr A	9H	86



Speaking of those who put in the effort every single day, you will see the list of students attached who are currently sitting in the Top 10 for the most achievement points obtained thus far. Congratulations to these students! I am looking forward to seeing these students continue to thrive, as well as see some others who didn't perhaps make the top 10 this time around, attempt to do so by Christmas!

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 half 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. The summer and Christmas holidays are always busy ones in my household and thus I will spend this coming half term break relaxing as much as I can. I'm lucky to live nearby lots of good dog-walking routes so I will be taking advantage of these with Bayley before the winter hits and the very cold weather makes it less enjoyable! Have a great half term!

Mr McKane, Head of Year 9 and the Year 9 Team

Dear Year 10 Parents/Carers and Students

Year 10 has made a really positive start to the academic year. As a team we have been really impressed with the mature approach they have taken to starting the journey of GCSEs, please continue to aim high.

This half term we have seen the appointment of a tutor rep for each group. Congratulations to :

- B - Alessandra G
- R - Caitlin I
- A - Fabrizio A
- K - Maizy C
- E - Tiana Y
- N – Elissa K
- H - Christian A



We are incredibly proud of the overall conduct of the tutor groups and the achievements that they have shown. The number of achievement points shows just how fantastic the year group is and how hard they have been working!

The totals for each tutor group are as follows:

E: 1184	B: 919	K: 721
N: 1088	A: 893	
H: 983	R: 830	



Focus for next term: As a team our focus is on getting the little things right by **keeping aiming for golden tickets, being ready and organised for each day and maintaining high attendance.**

Well done for a great start to Year 10, I am very proud.

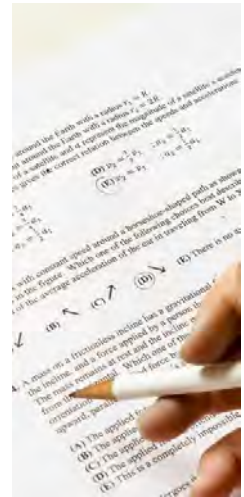
Miss Manning, Head of Year 10 and the Year 10 Team



Dear Year 11 Parents/Carers and Students

Not many more of these left Year 11 and we'd like to start off by saying well done for working so hard during the first half term, as always you continue to meet our expectations and take all new challenges in your stride. You have shown incredible resilience by studying hard since we returned, coped really well with your extended school day with Turbo Tutor and Study Prep sessions, and for some you have now extended this even further by taking on some additional tutoring to help secure those Grade 4 and 5s. You have fully earned and deserve your half term holiday and it is important to rest and recharge, as after half term it'll be your second round of PPEs.

There are approximately 23 weeks left before the start of your summer exams. Whilst that seems a long time, it is about 115 school days or 575 lessons. We keep saying this but it will come around quickly and the more you do to prepare for them now, the less anxious you'll be in the summer. It is vital you prepare for the PPEs which start on Monday 21st November. This is your chance to show your teachers what you know, and what you need extra support with as we prepare for your final examinations next summer. You will need to spend part of your half term preparing for these, and we advise you to make a revision timetable and attempt to stick to it, as well as thinking about creating the revision aids that you will be using to support your revision. We are not encouraging you to spend the whole half term studying, but rather create a plan that includes adequate rest breaks and activities alongside the opportunities to study.



We also have your virtual parents' evening on Thursday 3rd November from 4pm to 7pm. It is important that you ask your parents to make appointments and speak to as many of your teachers as possible to gain specific feedback as to how you can improve in your subjects. This is also a fantastic chance to find out any last minute information before your PPEs and also an opportunity to ask any questions that you may have about them. Hopefully by the end of this evening you are aware of what you will need to do to be successful in your subjects and how to actualise this in your PPEs.

Your tutors and pastoral team are busy planning your celebrations for the end of the year. This includes your prom, leaver's hoodies and a yearbook. These are all a highlight for every Year 11 student. Please make sure you don't jeopardise your place at prom by doing anything that you shouldn't, you've made it this far, don't throw it all away. Please also remember that you need to be gaining 20 Prom points over the year by going above and beyond with your studies. This can be gained by taking part in an Early Start or Champions Hour before or after school. It could be by taking part in a Working Lunch with a member of staff or by extending your day by doing some of the on-line tutoring that has been offered. If you complete an hour of study at home for a particular subject, email your teacher evidence of the work you have completed and if they agree, they can give you a prom point for this as well. We want as many of you there as possible and we do not want this to be an impossible task to achieve, you can all do this!!

Many of you will be interested in staying at the Brakenhale Sixth Form. The open evening for this is on Thursday 10th November so please keep that date free. The Sixth Form achieves fantastic results year on year, and your teachers also know you best, so please consider it. For those who are unsure as to what you want to do next year, we would encourage you to attend to keep your options open. It would also be useful for you to look at alternative options for what to do when you leave Year 11, including college open days and local apprenticeships.

Finally I'd like to thank you all for persevering this half term. It is a long term at 7 weeks, and coming off a six week holiday it can be difficult to get back into the routine of school. We also extended your school day with Turbo Tutor and Study Prep in order to maximise your chances for achieving fantastic grades at the end of this year. You have shown a real collective responsibility as a year group towards everything you have faced so far this year, and as always have been just phenomenal in your approach to this final part of our journey together. Keep going, Year 11, you are smashing this.

Have a great half term.

Mr Hilton, Head of Year 11 and the Year 11 Team



Dear Sixth Form Parents/Carers and Students

It has been a whirlwind 7 weeks. It seems like just yesterday that we were delivering our Welcome Back assembly and engaging in team building activities in the Sports Hall. At this event, all tutor groups engaged in competitive activities which saw students use soft skills, such as problem solving and creativity, to excel at different challenges. Competitive spirits definitely emerged as tutees competed against the clock to finish their tasks. In the end, Miss Millard’s tutor was victorious, winning 3 out of the 5 events! This was a great way to begin our yearly inter-tutor competition.



The P16R winning streak has continued throughout this half term and they remain at the top of the leaderboard. That being said, they may not stay here for long as there is only one point between 1st and 2nd position. The current standings are as follows:

- 1st place: P19R (Miss Millard)
- 2nd place: P16K (Miss Joyce)
- 3rd place: P16B (Miss Bunkell)
- 4th place: P16E (Miss Wilhelmy)
- 5th place: P16A (Miss Ocana)



This academic year, we are placing a real emphasis on aiming high and taking advantage of the opportunities which are available to you. Miss Loj touched upon the importance of creating a super-curricular portfolio at the Year 12 Welcome Evening and the Year 13 Destinations Evening. The world is an extremely competitive place and we want to ensure that you are able to make yourselves stand out as the best candidate in whatever you choose to pursue. As Ms Manlay has relayed, we want all future ‘doors’ to be opened and for all your aspirations to be fulfilled. This requires you to take responsibility and be actively checking your emails.

For Year 12, a good first step to beginning your super curricular portfolio would be to sign up for virtual work experience. This will give students the opportunity to delve into an area which they are passionate about, develop industry specific skills and engage with big name employers, therefore creating networking links. Ultimately, this will increase the chances of employability, and being accepted onto a university course or Apprenticeship. Many events are taking place over half term, or throughout November on weekends, so we encourage you to be proactive and research what is available. We have attached some of the platforms which you can use to do so. If you have any questions, please don’t hesitate to ask!



Year 13, you can still benefit from these events. Although you should have completed the first draft of your personal statement, there is still time to make amendments and add in further evidence. Universities are looking for you to demonstrate a sustained interest in the subject you are applying for. This means engagement with meaningful opportunities where you can further your knowledge and reflect on the experience to gain a clearer understanding of what you want to pursue in the future.



With regards to UCAS, remember that the official deadline for all applications is 25th January 2023. That being said, we encourage you to submit beforehand where possible. We have already had 5 students submit their applications. These students have applied for a place on courses at Oxbridge for commercial law and behavioural psychology and also early entry veterinary science, medicine, and biochemistry. This is an amazing accomplishment and we look forward to hearing when offers start to be received! Miss Loj will be spending half term reading through the rest of the personal statements and providing comments which will give direction for possible improvements. If you want to have an individualised meeting with her, then this must be communicated via email so that it can be scheduled.



This half term also saw the appointment of key leadership positions within the student body. Candidates for Head Student underwent a rigorous process where they presented their pitch to the student body in assembly, and underwent an interview with Mrs Whitaker and Mr Taylor. Four students were selected to represent the senior leadership team in the Sixth Form. We look forward to seeing what events and initiatives they will spearhead and lead this academic year.

Opportunities for students to demonstrate their capacity to be leaders and role models to their peers continued into the last week of term. Four Year 13 students (Ali, Ellie, Hristina, and Muriel) all received their Health Champion accreditation through the Royal Society for Public Health (RSPH). This 6-month course allowed students to learn more about the intricacies of mental health and how to better support those around them. This culminated in a presentation where students were able to showcase their learnings and challenge some of the stigmas surrounding mental health. What an excellent achievement!



When we return from half term, there will be many upcoming events. Some of these include:

- SafeDrive event in Reading: Wednesday 2nd November
- What’s Next? - University & Careers Fair in London: Friday 11th November
- Sixth Form Open Evening: Thursday 10th November
- Year 13 PPEs (weeks beginning 21 November and 28 November)

More details will follow. As always, check your emails! In particular, the trips listed above require consent via ParentPay, so please ensure the permission forms have been submitted.

Year 13 (and some Year 12s), while it is important to take time for yourself this half term, please remember to be revising for your upcoming exams. Your teachers should have already given you guidance on what topics to revise, and exam technique/recommendations. If you are not clear on expectations, please take responsibility and engage in a conversation with your subject teachers. The finalised timetable will be released very soon.

Keep working hard - your resilience, hard work, and commitment to succeed will pay off. When we return from half term, privilege passes will be redistributed based on the analysis of your most recent AP1 data. There are many students whose passes have been upgraded - a clear illustration that commitment to bettering your academic progression goes pay off! A gentle reminder that each level of privilege pass has certain allowances



and expectations. They are outlined below. Please familiarise yourself with them to avoid confusion and to avoid unintentionally truanting a private study session.

Gold	Required to be in timetabled lessons, Tuesday (assembly) and Wednesday (Window to the World) tutor sessions. Allowed to leave site at both break and lunch.
Silver	Required to be in timetabled lessons, Period 3 and 4 registered study, Tuesday (assembly) and Wednesday (Window to the World) tutor sessions. May leave after period 4 if no timetabled period 5 lesson. Allowed to leave site at both break and lunch.
Bronze	Required to be for every tutor session and periods 1 to 4, but may leave after period 4 if no timetabled period 5 lesson. Allowed to leave site at both break and lunch.

Average Attitude to Learning, Meeting Deadlines and Homework grades needs to be between:

- Gold – 1 to 1.333
- Silver – 1.34 to 2
- Bronze – 2.1 or higher

Have a lovely half term. Remember to take some time to rest and recharge! We look forward to welcoming you back for the busy and exciting upcoming term.

The Sixth Form Team: Ms Manlay, Head of Sixth Form; Ms Loj; Head of Year 12 & 13

BRAKENHALE

6th FORM

Aim High | Be Kind
Take Responsibility

Sixth Form Open Evening

for Courses 2023-25

Thursday

10th November

6pm to 8pm

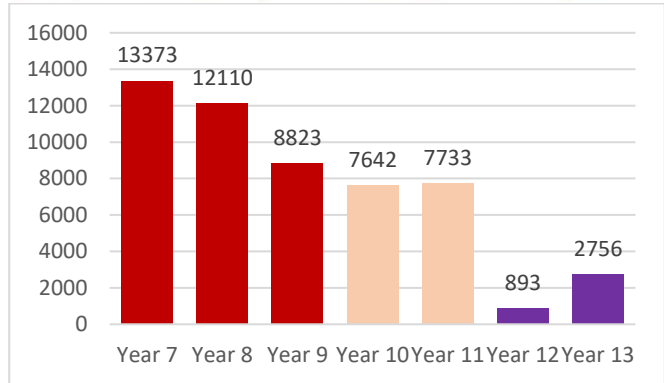
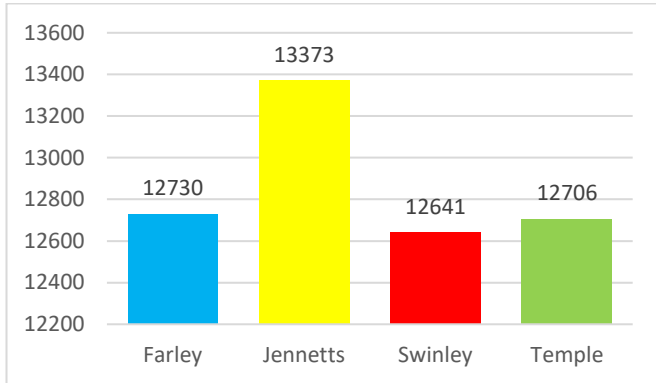
MACABRE ART COMPETITION

CREATE AN ART PIECE INSPIRED BY THE GOTHIC OR MACABRE FOR THE CHANCE TO BE CONSIDERED TO BE DISPLAYED IN A BRAKENHALE ART EXHIBITION ALONG WITH A VARIETY OF PRIZES. THIS CAN BE ANY FORM OF MEDIUM AS LONG AS IT'S ABLE TO BE PRESENTED PHYSICALLY. ALL YEARS WELCOME TO PARTICIPATE. PLEASE DROP YOUR PIECES INTO A01 BEFORE MONDAY 31ST OCTOBER. MORE DETAILS ON THE ART EXHIBITION TO BE RELEASED CLOSER TO THE DATE. ANY QUESTIONS OR QUERIES PLEASE EMAIL- 16SLADEL@BRAKENHALE.CO.UK GMILLARD@BRAKENHALE.CO.UK



School Houses and Housepoints

Pastoral Team



School Dining Hall

Mr Asran, Chef Manager - 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
- 10.50 – 11.20 Break-time
- 13.10 – 2.00 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

There is an online platform to make this process easier and simpler and we would be grateful if you could take a few minutes to register.

Please 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		Canteen Price List	
		Price	
		Regular	Large
MEALS			
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	
SNACKS			
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	
DRINKS			
Cold Drinks Range	From	£0.50	to £0.80
Hot Drinks		£1.00	
Frutina Slushie		£0.80	£1.00
Ice Cream / Lollies		£0.50	

From November 2021



School Reminders

School Office

Student Contact Information

Please ensure that you keep the school updated with any changes to your contact details, especially email addresses and mobile phone numbers.



We use schoolcomms messages to keep you updated on information regarding your students. If for any reason you are not receiving our messages, please call the school office and we will be happy help.

If we do not hold any email contacts for you, this will result in a delay to you receiving messages as paper copies will need to be sent home by post.

School Gateway App

This app provides you with the opportunity to be able to view your child's achievements and check their weekly timetable.



If you have any problems accessing information, please do not hesitate to contact the school office.

Biometrics

We use fingerprint scanning at school as a safe a secure way for students to take their books from the library and also to purchase their food from the canteen. If your child has not had their fingerprint taken, they can do this take by going to the Library during break or lunchtimes. They will need to have a consent form completed and signed before the fingerprints can be taken.



Please contact the school office for more information.

ParentPay

ParentPay is the easiest way to make payments for your son/daughter's lunch money and any trips your child will be attending. If you do not currently have a login for ParentPay, please contact the school office who will be able issue you with details. If you are experiencing any problems with your account, please contact us.



Please ensure that sufficient money is added to your child's dinner money account and accounts are kept in credit to enable students to purchase their food.

Cycling to School

Student safety is really important to us.

At Brakenhale we welcome our students cycling to school. It is good for the environment and also for their health. In addition, Bracknell has numerous safe cycle paths that students can use to avoid busy roads as much as possible. We have a secure area to keep bikes but also ask students bring a lock to offer further security.

We encourage all students wear a bike safety helmet, use the bike store and ride their bike in a safe manner. Furthermore, all bikes ridden into school must be deemed road worthy and safe with working brakes. This also applies to scooters. Please note however that electric scooters are not permitted.

Ready for School and Uniform

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.



Please remember to name all items. Any lost property items not collected by the end of each term will be disposed or given to charity.

To enquire about second hand items that we have for sale, please contact Mrs McCrorie via the email: SecondHandSale@brakenhale.co.uk Please note that any second-hand items ordered will only be kept by for one week.

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: 8.45am to 8.55am
and Break Time

BRAKENHALE SCHOOL
Aim High | Be Kind | Take Responsibility

Correct School Uniform





Plain outdoor coat.
 Dark coloured (Black, grey, navy) only.

Black Brakenhale School blazer.

Optional Brakenhale school jumper.

White shirt, tucked in, buttoned at the neck.

School Tie. Tie to be touching the waistband.

Plain black tailored trousers
 Or
 Brakenhale School skirt.
Brakenhale Logo to be visible at all times.

Plain ankle height socks (Black, white, navy or grey only).
 Or
 Plain black tights.

Plain, polishable black shoes.
 Black trainers are not permitted.


Brakenhale school bag.

Piercings
 One small stud in the ear lobe only.
 No facial piercings permitted.



Make-up
 Make-up should be natural in appearance.

Nails and Jewellery
 Nails should be natural in appearance.
 Jewellery should be limited to one wristwatch and one plain ring.



Brakenhale

Lost Property

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

Email us on: lostproperty@brakenhale.co.uk

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

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

BRAKENHALE

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



ALL DONATIONS
 GRATEFULLY RECEIVED

Please bring to main reception or
 the KS3 Head of Year office



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



Brakenhale School 

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



Brakenhale School 

Things to do at Brakenhale at Break and Lunch









Activities:
Ball games
on the courts
& MUGA
pitches,
climbing wall,
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...

Brakenhale School Aim High | Be Kind | Take Responsibility

Brakenhale School **Tools for Learning**

Aim High | Be Kind | Take Responsibility



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

BRAKENHALE

Stay Hydrated!

Bring your own re-useable bottle or try our Brakenhale Water Bottles

Available for students to purchase from LRC Book Room 8.45-9am 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 8.45-9am and at Break




Safeguarding Update

Miss J Manisier, Designated Safeguarding Lead

Bracknell Local Food Bank: Kerith Community Church

Foodbanks in our local communities are here to support people in financial crisis who have nowhere else to turn. They also look to provide additional support to help people break the cycle of poverty.

Food Vouchers

Your local foodbanks work with referral agencies to issue food vouchers to those in need of emergency food in times of crisis.

www.trusselltrust.org/food-vouchers/

What's in a Parcel?

They provide a minimum of three days' nutritionally balanced, tinned and dried food donated by the local community.

www.trusselltrust.org/food-parcel/

Visiting a food bank

Foodbanks provide emergency food on presentation of a voucher. Trained volunteers will offer a warm welcome...

www.trusselltrust.org/visiting-a-foodbank/

Over the summer there has been a very high demand at the Bracknell Food Bank.

To help meet this demand, and to better serve people who may be working during the daytime, they have made the decision to open on Monday evenings from 6pm to 7.30pm as of Monday 10th October.

Just a reminder that foodbank has always existed to alleviate an immediate crisis rather than to be a long-term solution, and the hope is that people using these services are encouraged to move away from needing to access foodbank and find financial freedom. This may be through debt support, budgeting, support to get back into work, support for addiction, ensuring that a person is receiving all the benefits they are entitled to.

Kerith Community Church

Church Road,
Bracknell
RG12 1EH



PHONE:
01344 862699

WEBSITE:
<http://bracknell.foodbank.org.uk>

EMAIL:
foodbank@kerith.church

OPENING TIMES

Monday: 18:00 - 19:30
 Tuesday: 10:30 - 12:00
 Wednesday: 10:30 - 12:00
 Thursday: Closed
 Friday: 10:30 - 12:00

With so many people resorting to using foodbank due to the rise in cost-of living foodbank@kerith.church is very conscious of the need to offer additional support to help people out of their situation. Bracknell Foodbank is only one of the social outreach projects run at Kerith Community Church, and they wanted to take this opportunity to tell you about some of the other courses and services they run to support the community. These are all free and open to anyone so please feel free to refer anyone you think would benefit.

Events @ Kerith <https://www.kerith.church/whats-on/events>

Courses @ Kerith <https://www.kerith.church/groups-and-courses/overview>



revivePROJECTS
www.kerith.church/revivehome

CAP Debt: Free debt advice service across Bracknell and surrounding areas to anyone struggling with debt. Call Freephone on **0800 328 0008** for more info or to make an appointment or visit www.capuk.org

Life Skills: Fun and interactive 10 week free course to help equip you with practical money saving techniques. Each week will provide great tips on making your money go further plus so much more. To sign up or find out more visit: www.kerith.church/life-skills

reviveCAFE A friendly and welcoming space to meet new people, find community, grab some lunch at affordable prices and have fun. **Open every Tuesday 12:45- 3:00pm.**

Fresh Start. Fresh Start is a friendly group where you'll find support to help you overcome any life-controlling issue that you are facing. This could include smoking, drinking, overeating or gambling to name a few. www.kerith.church/addiction-support

foodbank Providing emergency food packs for anyone experiencing financial hardship across Bracknell Forest area. An e-voucher referral from our vast list of recognised local agencies is required. **Open Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Fridays**

The Money Course: Free 3 session course that will teach you budgeting skills and a simple, cash-based system that works. In just a few weeks, you will get to grips with your finances so you can budget, save and prevent debt. www.kerith.church/capmoneycourse



GEMS

GEMS is a service for parents and carers whose children are suspected to, on the pathway or have been diagnosed with Autism and or ADHD.

Their Service provides;

- Informative workshops.
- Social groups for children aged 5 and over.
- Animated learning sessions.
- Home Visit Service depending in criteria.

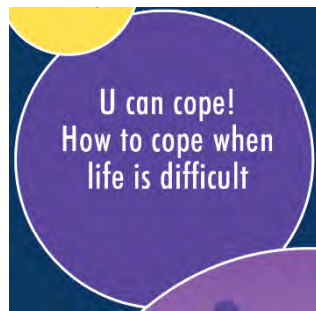
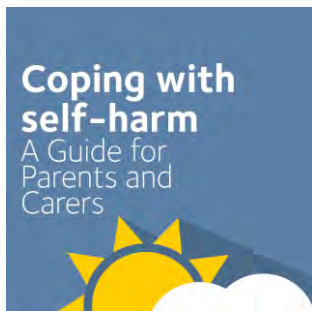
Their helpful and friendly telephone support team is available Monday to Friday from 9am to 5pm or you can email them on gems.4health@nhs.net

For further information regarding GEMs please look at their website <https://www.gems4health.com/>



Mental Health Resources

Here are some excellent Mental Health resources from the Bracknell MHST (Mental Health Support Team team) about:



Sport in Mind

This mental health sports charity have recently expanded into East Berkshire and want to let you know out about this opportunity.

Currently, they have weekly sport and games sessions in Slough, Bracknell, and Maidenhead. Please see the attached poster for information. All sessions are free to attend and are for young people struggling with their mental health (no formal diagnosis is required).

The link to sign up is here: [Attendee Signup - Upshot](#)



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.

BRAKENHALE
High Foundation & Outdoor for All

YOUR SCHOOL LOTTERY

We understand that times are tough, so we're extremely grateful for your support

YOUR SUPPORT COUNTS

We're facing financial challenges too if you can, please help our fundraising

Please support our lottery

Just £1 a week

WIN up to £25k

PLAY NOW

Supporters must be 16 years of age or older

BRAKENHALE
High Foundation & Outdoor for All

YOUR SCHOOL LOTTERY

WIN WIN

SUPPORT OUR LOTTERY

It's A WIN-WIN Situation!

BOOST School Funds

WIN up to £25,000

TICKETS £3 EACH

To start supporting, visit:
YourSchoolLottery.co.uk/play
and search for Brakenhale

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 Hartley at the school if you have any questions.
shartley@brakenhale.co.uk

Thank you for supporting our school!

Brakenhale School, Rectory Lane, Bracknell

Brakenhale School

RECYCLE!

Don't send your unwanted items to landfill...
The more bags you bring the more money we raise for the school.

Visit www.bag2school.com for more information.

The following 'good quality' items are accepted for RE-USE:

- Men's, Ladies' and Children's clothing
- Paired shoes (tied together or elastic band around)
- Handbags
- Hats and Bags
- Scarves and ties
- Jewellery
- Lingerie and Socks
- Belts
- Soft toys
- Household linen
- Household Curtains
- Household Towels
- Household Bedding (bed sheets, pillow cases and duvet covers)

Please note that the following are not accepted:

- Duvets and Blankets
- Pillows and cushions
- Carpets, rugs and mats (including bath, shower and toilet mats)
- Soiled, painted, ripped or wet clothing
- School uniforms with and without logo
- Corporate clothing and workwear
- Textile off cuts, yarns or threaded material

Put your items in a black bin bag or other plastic sack.

Thank you for supporting our school!



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

Optimistic October

Actions to help you focus on what really matters!

Optimistic October 2022

SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
1 Write down three things you can look forward to this month	2 Find something to be optimistic about (even if it's a difficult time)	3 Take a small step towards a goal that really matters to you	4 Start your day with the most important thing on your to-do list	5 Be a realistic optimist. See life as it is, but focus on what's good	6 Remind yourself that things can change for the better	7 Look for the good in people around you today
8 Make some progress on a project or task you have been avoiding	9 Share an important goal with someone you trust	10 Take time to reflect on what you have accomplished recently	11 Avoid blaming yourself or others. Find a helpful way forward	12 Look out for positive news and reasons to be cheerful today	13 Ask for help to overcome an obstacle you are facing	14 Do something constructive to improve a difficult situation
15 Thank yourself for achieving the things you often take for granted	16 Put down your to-do list and do something fun or uplifting	17 Take a small step towards a positive change you want to see in society	18 Set hopeful but realistic goals for the days ahead	19 Identify one of your positive qualities that will be helpful in the future	20 Find joy in tackling a task you've put off for some time	21 Let go of the expectations of others and focus on what matters to you
22 Share a hopeful quote, picture or video with a friend or colleague	23 Recognise that you have a choice about what to prioritise	24 Write down three specific things that have gone well recently	25 You can't do everything! What are your three priorities right now?	26 Find a new perspective on a problem you face	27 Be kind to yourself today. Remember, progress takes time	28 Ask yourself, will this still matter a year from now?
29 Plan a fun or exciting activity to look forward to	30 Identify three things that give you hope for the future	31 Set a goal that brings a sense of purpose for the coming month				

ACTION FOR HAPPINESS **Happier · Kinder · Together**



Term Dates for this Academic Year

Please find below our Term Dates for this academic year 2022/23.

Term Dates 2022-23

AUTUMN TERM 2022

Thursday 1st and Friday 2nd September Inset Days
 Monday 5th September – Friday 1^{6th} December 2022
Monday 5th – Years 7, 11, 12 and 13 only - Tuesday 6th – All Students
Autumn Half Term - Monday 24th to Friday 28th October 2022
 Christmas Holiday: Monday 19th December to Tuesday 3rd January 2023

SPRING TERM 2023

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

SUMMER TERM 2023

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

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



Term Dates 2023/24

Please find below our Term Dates for next academic year 2023/24.

Term Dates 2023-24

AUTUMN TERM 2023

Friday 1st and Monday 4th September Inset Days

Tuesday 5th September – Friday 15th December 2023

Tuesday 5th – Years 7, 11, 12 and 13 only - Wednesday 6th – All Students

Autumn Half Term - Monday 23rd to Friday 27th October 2023

Christmas Holiday: Monday 18th December to Monday 1st January 2024

SPRING TERM 2024

Tuesday 2nd January Inset Day

Wednesday 3rd January – Thursday 28th March 2024

Spring Half Term - Monday 12th February to Friday 16th February 2024

Spring Holiday: Friday 29th March to Friday 12th April 2024

(Good Friday 29th March, Easter Monday 1st April)

SUMMER TERM 2024

Monday 15th April Inset Day

Tuesday 16th April – Friday 19th July 2024

Summer Half Term - Monday 27th May to Friday 31st May 2024

(May Bank Holidays Monday 6th and Monday 27th May)

Monday 22nd and Tuesday 23rd July 2024 Inset Days

Summer Holiday: Wednesday 24th July 2024

INSET Days Friday 1st and Monday 4th September 2023
 Tuesday 2nd January 2024
 Monday 15th April 2024
 Monday 22nd and Tuesday 23rd July 2024

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>



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