

# Brakenhale News



**Friday 16<sup>th</sup> December 2022 : Half Term 2**

Dear Parents/Carers and Students

I hope this finds you well.

We have now come to the end of the first full term of this academic year. Like every year, this term feels the longest. Ultimately, this is because it is! With the shorter days, the weather changing rapidly and some illnesses looming as a result, we may all struggle at some point. This could be physically and/or emotionally. Our attendance over the last three weeks has taken a real dip. I know this has been as a result of illnesses that have not only affected us as a school but the locality and the nation as a whole. I am hoping that a rest and recuperation over the Christmas holidays will ensure we are all fitter and healthier for when we return to school in 2023. We know that good attendance correlates directly to good outcomes in school. If students are here, they are learning. If they are in front of expert teachers delivering excellent lessons, they are learning. As such, consistent learning leads to excellent outcomes which enables individual successes for every student. This is our vision.

This term, since the previous Parent News, has been full of an array of activities and opportunities beyond the learning in our classrooms. The next 47 pages give you a real flavour of this. I appreciate that this is a longer read but please do look through it at your leisure. We have also signposted some support to families and opportunities for you and your children to access over the holidays. These can be found from page 23.

I have referred to this previously and will do so again. One of the most enjoyable parts of my day is being able to meet and greet students at the gate every morning and seeing them at line-up in a calm and orderly manner so that we start the day as we mean to go on. Furthermore, speaking to students throughout the day, and at the gate at the end of the day, in terms of the House Points they have received or a Golden Ticket they may have been given, is fulfilling. Students need to be recognised and rewarded for this. This week, we have held 'rewards assemblies' for each year group. The Head of Year teams have shared the successes in their respective year groups. In each assembly, my messaging to all year groups was deliberate and important: if anyone had not been publicly named or their names not projected, this does not mean that they have not achieved any individual successes. They will have done throughout the term. Every student should remember this, and be proud. The 'rewards assemblies' highlight a portion of the successes but we know that many more exist. My 'Hot Chocolate with the Headteacher' this term has been delightful. Seeing and speaking to students who had been chosen by their Year teams is a wonderful experience and we will continue with this throughout the year.

On pages 33-39 each year group has a summary and highlight from this half term. This is a wonderful read and showcases much of what we do here at Brakenhale week in, week out. Furthermore, we have had the Winter Music Showcase and Merry and Bright Dance Showcase this week, CCF have been engaged in a myriad of opportunities thanks to Captain Bury and the team, sporting fixtures have taken places on a weekly basis and has had participants from across year groups, the student leadership team has been meeting and discussing ways to support the improvements in our school, the Sixth Form student leaders have led assemblies recently so that other year groups can see and hear from them, clubs are being attended throughout the day, and in each week... and much more! Well done to every student who has engaged in one or more of these opportunities over the last seven weeks.

As we approach the new term, Ms Manisier, our Designated Safeguarding Lead, is leaving to go travelling. As I relayed to you a few weeks ago, Ms Manisier shared this with me a little while ago and has decided to begin her retirement. Having been at Brakenhale for 32 years, she has been part of the incredible journey and her passion, experience and dedication will be missed. I know I speak on behalf of our students, staff and the wider



community. Some of you have contacted us as you know Ms Manisier and, in some cases, were taught by her too! We wish Ms Manisier all the very best in her retirement.

This term, Ms Shan (teacher of Textiles / DT) has also left us. This was two weeks ago. Ms Shan has recently got married and relocated further up north. I know she is already missed by our students but we wish all the best moving ahead. Ms McDonagh also leaves us too and we wish her well. Ms Lazarczuk and Ms Fandi have become mothers again this term and we eagerly await news from Mrs Malik as her baby is due imminently. Ms Jarvis, our Data Manager has been on maternity leave as she had a baby girl but she has also moved to work within our Trust (GLT). Although she is not at Brakenhale each day, we still get to see and hear from her from time to time! We wish them all enjoyable and precious time with their newborn children.

In terms of what we do as a school, in September we had a video company come in to capture moments from any given day. They pieced together a video which we have previously shared on social media. If you have yet to see it, please see here: [Brakenhale Video](#). Coincidentally, this was on the very day that we had a visit from Ofsted. As previously shared, the letter has been a pleasing read: [Ofsted Report](#)

Finally, can I wish you all a restful, peaceful and joyous Christmas break. Please continue to keep safe and look after one another. We talk to our students about aiming high, being kind and taking responsibility on a daily basis. These values transcend the school and are important in every life. We want to nurture our school community so that they have future careers and individual successes, but also rounded individuals that serve their community well.

Can I thank all of you - individuals and families - for your on-going support. All the very best for 2023, when we get to it.

King Regards,

*Mr Taylor, Headteacher*



Dear Parents/Carers,

**Life can only be understood backwards; but it must be lived forwards.** Soren Kierkegaard

I came across this quote recently and it really struck a chord, not just in my life but for our students' lives too. For them, they must experience growing up in the technological age, with many interruptions to their focus and learning through a very different lens to the generations before them. It is so important for us, as adults, to frame their learning in the most effective ways possible. Our Personal Development curriculum has developed even further this year with the introduction of Drop Down Days.

Our first Drop Down Day was held on Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> November, with a focus on Parliament Week. Our students were taught specific lessons about Parliament with a performance about the Gunpowder Plot at the end of the day. As our first Drop Down Day it was a huge success. Our next Drop Down Day will be on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> March called 'The Game of Life' where students will have a careers and life skills day (more information to follow).

During December we participated in a Reverse Advent for the Bracknell Food Bank and welcomed all your donations to the Christmas Tree outside the Conference Room. We know how challenging Christmas can be for many families, and with the current economic climate we appreciate this even more. Therefore, we wanted to offer our charity to the Food Bank in the hope that those families in need have what they require during this difficult time.

Throughout the term we have completed regular tutor time activities relevant to our Brakenhale life, this is alongside the Tutor Time Reading Programme (Years 7-10) and Turbo Tutor (Year 11). Students have had the opportunity to reflect on their behaviours, the needs of others plus having their voices heard through tutor rep discussions and surveys. The tutor rep discussions led into some incredibly fruitful meetings as a year group of representatives with myself.



The school council rep then took two-three ideas from the meeting to the school council meeting and we are hoping to see some student-led changes occur in the New Year.

It has been an excellent term and start of the academic year, it is our longest term and with the dark nights setting in can be tough for students to acclimatise. They have however been excellent and this is a huge credit to you as parents/carers. Thank you for your continued support. I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Best wishes

*Mrs Whitaker Flower, Deputy Headteacher*

Hello Brakenhale Community - Merry Christmas!

We have completed a term of learning, making progress in everything that we do - supporting each other, being there for each other, listening to each other - our community spirit is clear and important to allow us all to be the best that we can be. At the heart of this are our values: aim high, be kind and take responsibility - all three are especially true at this time of the year. Collectively, as a school, as a student body, as a local community and within your own families strive for these values across this festive period. Be there for each other.

As you will read from Mr Smith, Christmas is also about reflecting - it is important to do this: what were you pleased with and what can you do a little bit better? January 2023 brings us all a fresh start, the opportunity to press 'reset' and be ready to go again with ambition, a clear direction and determination. Everyone has achieved success across this last term - whether in the form of house points, receiving a piece of amazing feedback about a piece of work, improved attendance, golden tickets, participating for a school team or being part of a school club, helping out at an event, helping a member of staff or another student.

#### Attendance

As we are all constantly noting, attendance at school is important for many reasons but in particular supporting success. Attending school has a direct positive correlation with progress, outcomes and future pathways - however, this term, in particular the last few weeks, has been a test for us all. We thank you all for coming to school on those days where you might not have felt 100% - that is taking responsibility. Resilience is important and to fight some of these illnesses is the right thing to do, building up our bodies immune systems.

I am sure that this colder weather will remove some 'bugs' and we can all return as 'fit as a fiddle' on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2023.

Of course, we do get ill and on occasions are unable to attend school, this we recognise. We ask that a message is sent into school at your earliest to inform us of your child's absence, and on each day of their absence. Do include their name, tutor group and a short reason as to why they are off - please do not simply state unwell, some idea of symptoms allows us to record your child's absence with detail (EG: high temperature, sickness, headache, etc.).

**'Your determination to succeed is everything' - believe it.**

Wishing you all a wonderful and safe festive season, and best wishes for 2023.

Kind regards

*Mr Coley, Deputy Headteacher*

**'Christmas is a season not only for rejoicing, but for reflection'** (Winston Churchill), an opportunity to come together to celebrate with family and friends. For me, Christmas is also a feeling: a feeling of warmth, comfort and joy.

Reflecting on my first two terms at Brakenhale School, I am proud to say that these are the same feelings that I am filled with on a daily basis since I was welcomed to the school by students, parents and staff in September. I continue to be captivated by the kindness that our students show towards each and their teachers. The level of responsibility our students take towards their academic studies, their eagerness to learn and achieve well is confounding. Furthermore, the dedication that Year 11 and 13 students have shown towards their Pre-Public Exams (PPEs) demonstrates their eagerness to achieve well - I am proud of them all.



The opportunities which are provided to our students, within and beyond the academic curriculum continues to astound me. I had the privilege of being invited to attend the Year 11 Drama trip to see Hamilton in London. Over 60 schools were in attendance and I was immensely proud of our students, especially when the usher commented on how well behaved and smartly dressed our students were in their uniform.

Curriculum discussions with Heads of Department have continued throughout term two; as professionals we continue to discuss and reflect on our current curriculum. Our main aim is to ensure that our curriculum provides students with the outcomes they need once they leave Brakenhale School.

As previously mentioned, there are six Principles of Better Practice which enables the consistent implementation of our curriculum across the school. During term two we have focused and developed our classroom practice on Subject Mastery and Quality of Instruction; ensuring that all lessons are clear, purposeful and taught to the highest of standards. During term three we will be focusing on Assessment and Feedback. As the Year 11 and 13 PPEs are completed and Year 7, 8 and 9 Rank Order Assessments are due to take place within the third week of January, this is an ideal time to ensure that students receive high quality feedback enabling them to make exceptional progress during their next formal assessment.

Wishing you and your family a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

*Mr Smith, Deputy Headteacher*

## SOS

for all outgrown uniform / PE kit donations as our stocks are very low for fulfilling second hand uniform requests.

Thank you.

**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

Saint Sebastian Wokingham Band Presents

# The Snowman

Film Screening with Live Band Soundtrack

Followed by Christmas Festive Favourites

£12 ADULT £6 OTB

17<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER - 6PM - DOORS OPEN 5:30PM  
WOKINGHAM BAPTIST CHURCH, RG40 1DE

Tickets available from  
[www.ticketsource.co.uk/stsebswokingham](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/stsebswokingham)  
or by calling 07544 774 528  
[www.thesnowman.com](http://www.thesnowman.com)

Local Concert: Victoria Thompson, one of our Year 12 students, is a member of St Sebastian’s band and will be playing in this local concert on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> December.



## Art Stars

Mrs Fear, SENCO

Please see a gallery of wonderful works of art from the Year 7 and 8 rotation. In Year 7, the students have been focusing on colour theory and portraits. The Year 8s have focused on cartography (the art of map making).



Well done for a fabulous first rotation.

## 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.

### 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!



This half term we celebrated those students with star reports and improved attendance. Well done to all the students who were nominated.



# PSHE Round-Up

Ms H Ioannidis, PSHE Lead

In PSHE this term, students in Year 7 to 11 have been focusing on the theme of **identity and differences** throughout their lessons. They also participated in Parliament Week which gave them a deeper understanding of the role of parliament and the UK as a democracy.

Please find the knowledge organisers which highlight the main points from the lessons for each year group. It would be fantastic if over the break you discussed these at home to support them further in their understanding of themselves and others.

In Sixth Form, students have been preparing for their next steps with exploring pathways after Sixth Form including a talk from an alumni student who gave first-hand experience of completing an apprenticeship. With Year 13 completing their choices after Sixth Form we have been preparing them for the world of work by supporting them starting a LinkedIn profile, enhancing their CVs and completing cover letters as well as completing a mock assessment day for future job interviews and experiences.

For future PSHE topics and lesson break downs please visit our curriculum overview here for the Spring Term and beyond: [PSHE at a Glance](#)

## Year 7

<h3>BRITISH VALUES</h3> <p><b>Rule of Law</b> Knowing the importance of having and following rules in collage</p> <p><b>Democracy</b> Group decisions taken by a vote</p> <p><b>Tolerance</b> Celebrating and respecting different faiths and beliefs</p> <p><b>Mutual Respect</b> Treating each other equally and fairly</p> <p><b>Individual Liberty</b> The ability to make choices but also to respect others' choices</p>	<h3>IDENTITY</h3> <p><b>Identity:</b> The things that contribute to make someone who they are</p> <p><b>Online Identity:</b> How you present yourself online through social media</p> <p><b>Unique:</b> being the only one of its kind; unlike anything else</p> <p>Identity can be influenced by lots of different factors this includes...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>British Values</li> <li>Family</li> <li>Race</li> <li>Fashion</li> <li>Music</li> <li>Sports Teams</li> <li>Sexuality</li> <li>Gender</li> <li>Social Class</li> <li>Social Media</li> </ul>	<h3>PEER PRESSURE</h3> <p><b>Peer Pressure:</b> influence from members of one's peer group.</p> <p><b>Group Belonging:</b> this is where we feel we are part of a group</p> <p>What can you do to combat peer pressure?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Think about your choice of friends</li> <li>2. Agree beforehand with a friend that you will both say no</li> <li>3. Consider the consequences of doing the action and whether it is worth it</li> <li>4. You could try just saying no but be prepared to stand your ground</li> </ol>
<h3>STEREOTYPES AND PREJUDICE</h3> <p><b>Stereotype:</b> When people have a set idea about what someone or something is like.</p> <p><b>Prejudice:</b> an opinion that is not based on reason or actual experience.</p> <p><b>Discrimination:</b> the unjust treatment of people on the grounds of a difference e.g. race, age or gender</p> <p>The equality act is designed to protect individuals from discrimination by looking at protected characteristics such as...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Age</li> <li>Transsexuals</li> <li>Married/Civil partnership</li> <li>Being pregnant</li> <li>Disability</li> <li>Race</li> <li>Religion</li> <li>Sex (gender)</li> <li>Sexual orientation</li> </ul>	<h3>CHALLENGING BULLYING</h3> <p><b>Bystander:</b> Someone who is around, not involved in bullying but know it's going on and or sees it happening</p> <p><b>Upstander:</b> Someone who helps the person being bullied. This might be by reporting it or offering to help.</p> <p><b>Assertive:</b> having or showing a confident and forceful personality.</p> <div style="background-color: #f4a460; padding: 5px;"> <h4>IF YOU'RE BEING BULLIED</h4> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Tell someone you trust</li> <li>2. Keep a record of what's happening</li> <li>3. Don't retaliate</li> <li>4. Inform parents/teachers/other people that make you feel safe</li> <li>5. Don't blame yourself or let your bullies win</li> <li>6. Be proud of you are</li> </ul> </div>	<h3>STRUCTURE OF GOVERNMENT</h3> <p><b>The Prime Minister and the cabinet</b> propose laws</p> <p><b>Parliament</b> votes on and makes the law. It's made up of two houses, the commons and the lords.</p> <p><b>Judges</b> uphold the law</p> <p>What do MPs do?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• They are elected by us, the people and have to fight for their jobs every time there is an election</li> <li>• Each MP represents a different part of the country, called a constituency.</li> <li>• They're usually a member of a political party e.g. Labour or Conservatives</li> <li>• They work in Parliament and in their constituencies</li> </ul>



Year 8

### BRITISH VALUES

**TOLERANCE**  
Showing respect for the beliefs and practices of others.

**DEMOCRACY**  
Group decisions taken by a vote.

**RULE OF LAW**  
Knowing the importance of having and following rules in college.

**INDIVIDUAL LIBERTY**  
The ability to make choices but also to respect others' choices.

**MUTUAL RESPECT**  
Treating each other equally and fairly.

**SOCIAL INJUSTICE AND SOCIAL INEQUALITY**

**Social inequality:** The unfair situation in society, when some people have more opportunities, money etc. than other people.

**Social injustice:** This is a product of inequality. It occurs when one group is put at a great disadvantage either by others or by society.

**What can you do to tackle inequality and injustice?**

- Sign an equality charter
- Write a letter to MP
- Challenge social inequality
- Volunteer
- Educate yourself

### FAMILY, FIRST IMPRESSIONS, BELIEFS AND RELIGIONS

**Active Listening:** fully concentrating on what is being said rather than just passively 'hearing'.

**Belief:** this is the trust, faith, or confidence in an idea or principle.

**Religions:** the worship of a superhuman controlling power, especially a personal God or gods.

**Influences can change over time or they can be more permanent.**

- Core Influences: very unlikely to change e.g. family, sexuality, race
- Strong Influence: may change as you age e.g. social class, friends, school.
- Changing Influences: very short and might match with the popular culture
- No Influence: has no impact

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### BULLYING

**Active bullying** includes physical violence and name calling.

**Passive bullying** includes leaving people out or ignoring them.

**Cyber bullying** includes sending mean texts or messages via social media.

**Banter** is the playful and friendly exchange of teasing remarks. There are three types of banter...

- Friendly banter** - There's no intention to hurt or offend. It's just a joke.
- Aggravated banter** - It's meant to hurt or offend someone.
- Malicious banter** - It's meant to hurt or offend someone and it's often repeated.

### RACE, RELIGION AND MULTICULTURAL BRITAIN

**Multiculturalism** is the support for several distinct cultural or ethnic groups. So much of what we enjoy has been influenced by other cultures; food, film, books and more.

When a racist or religious incident becomes a criminal offence it is known as a **Hate Crime**. Any criminal offence can become a Hate Crime if the victim was **targeted because of their race or religion**.

Our British Values of **Mutual Respect** and **Rule of Law** mean that there are **100 Acts** that ensure that Hate Crimes are punished.

- Crime and Disorder Act 1998
- Criminal Justice Act 2003

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### THE GOVERNMENT AND THE MEDIA

**Media** is the main means of mass communication (broadcasting, publishing, and the internet) regarded collectively. Sometimes the media will be **biased** which means they present the news in a way which favours their own views.

**Fake news** is lies and propaganda told for a political or commercial purpose. 5 ways to spot fake news are...

- Consider the source: Strange domain names or web sites that end in ".net" (".gov" (websites) are signs you should be wary).
- Check the URL: Fake news sites will often use a web address designed to make it look like real site, ending in ".com.co.uk"
- Look for visual clues: Fake news websites may use blurry or unprofessional design and avoid A/C/NP's.
- Get a second opinion: If a story makes you very angry, stop, step away, read it on other news sources or use debunking sites.
- Put your browser to work: Consider installing one of the browser plugins listed on this page to flag fake news in real time.

Year 9

### RELATIONSHIPS

**Peer approval** is the degree to which you're accepted by peers.

**A romantic relationship** is any relationship between people with the desire to become intimate with each other.

**Grooming** is when someone builds an emotional connection with a child to gain their trust for the purpose of sexual abuse, sexual exploitation or trafficking.

**Coercive control** is an act or a pattern of acts of assault, threats, humiliation and intimidation or other abuse that is used to harm, punish, or frighten their victims. Gaslighting is also a form of coercive control.

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### PREJUDICE AND DISCRIMINATION

Under the Equality Act 2010 there are 4 ways you can be discriminated against:

- Direct discrimination** is when you're treated differently and worse than someone else for certain reasons.
- Indirect discrimination** happens when there is a policy that applies in the same way for everybody but disadvantages a group of people who share a protected characteristic.
- Harassment** is where behaviour is meant to or has the effect of either: violating your dignity, creating an intimidating, hostile, degrading or humiliating environment.
- Victimisation** is treating someone badly because they are going to make a claim or complaint about discrimination

### RISK AND IDENTITY

**Self-identity** is your awareness of who you are. Whereas identity is about who an individual is.

**A risk** is a situation involving something potentially dangerous.

**Influences** are things that have an effect on the character, development or behaviour. They can be good or bad.

One element that can have both a bad and good impact on self-identity are the groups we're a part of. **Groups** tend to have rules that help them function but some are more structured than others:

Formal	Informal
School Timetable	Agreed ways of working
School Uniform	Friendships groups
Tutor Groups	Teams (self-selected)

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### LGBTQ+ BULLYING

- Lesbians** are women who are attracted to women.
- Gay men** are attracted to men but gay can also be used to describe lesbians.
- Bi people** are attracted to more than one gender.
- Trans** means that the gender you were given as a baby doesn't match the gender you feel yourself to be.
- Questioning** means you're questioning your sexual orientation or gender identity.
- Plus** catches all those people that don't fall under the above categories, from gender fluid through to pansexual.

### CONSENT

**Consent** is when a person freely gives their permission or agrees to something, after having carefully thought about whether or not they want to do something. This decision should have been made without that person being:

- Pressured or bullied
- Encouraged to use drugs or alcohol
- Manipulated or made to feel stupid.

The age you can have sex is called 'the age of consent'. In the UK it is 16 years old. This means that according to the law, only those who are aged 16 or over are able to freely agree to any sexual activity, in full understanding of the consequences. This applies to sexual activity between people of the opposite sex, or the same sex.

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### THE LAW AND THE JUSTICE SYSTEM

The **judiciary** is a 'system of Judges' used in UK legal system.

**There are two types of law...**

**Civil:** when there is a dispute between two people. Usually civil cases are brought when someone feels damage has been done to them.

**Criminal:** when someone breaks a law. Crimes against society as a whole, e.g. theft, murder.

**Types of courts in the UK:**

- County Court
- Youth Court
- The Supreme Court
- Magistrates' Court
- Crown Court
- Royal Courts of Justice



Year 10

### HUMAN RIGHTS AND THE EQUALITY ACT

Human rights are the basic rights and freedoms that belong to every person in the world, from birth until death. They apply regardless of where you are from, what you believe or how you choose to live your life.

They can never be taken away, although they can sometimes be restricted - for example if a person breaks the law, or in the interests of national security.

The equality act is designed to protect individuals from discrimination by looking at protected characteristics.

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### FINANCIAL RISK AND EQUALITY IN THE WORKPLACE

**Interest:** The cost of borrowing and the money earned on savings

**Interest rate:** The percentage by which interest is calculated. For example, a loan of £1000 at an interest rate of 5% would incur interest of £50 per year

**Loan:** Money borrowed, usually from a bank or building society

**Fraud is when trickery is used to gain a dishonest advantage, which is often financial.**

- Identify theft
- Phishing
- Fake sales websites
- Fake job offers, scholarships and competitions
- False investments (e.g. Ponzi schemes)

### GRIEF AND LOSS

Grief is described as a feeling of intense sorrow, usually associated with someone's death.

The Grief Cycle is model first introduced by Swiss-American psychiatrist Elisabeth Kübler-Ross in her book *On Death and Dying*, and was inspired by her work with terminally ill patients.

### MULTICULTURALISM, SOCIETY AND INEQUALITY

**Society:** A group of people who live together in a particular social system

**Multicultural society:** This is a society where many different cultures live together

**Equality:** The belief that everyone should have equal opportunities and be treated equally and fairly.

**Inequality:** is the unfair situation in society, when some people have more opportunities, money etc. than other people.

### RISK IN REAL LIFE AND ONLINE

Risk is where you're potentially exposed to danger. In our lives there are lots of opportunities for risk. But risks can be good or risks can be bad. The important thing is to be able to assess the risk.

Your online identity is how you present yourself online through social media. Whatever you post on social media becomes part of your online identity.

The Internet Watch Foundation (IWF) works with the police, the government and the education sector to reduce the following kinds of material online.

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### RELATIONSHIPS, POWER AND GOALS

Coercive control is an act or a pattern of acts of assault, threats, humiliation and intimidation or other abuse that is used to harm, punish, or frighten their victim.

Coercive Control can lead to...

**Physical Issues including**

- Domestic violence
- Physical/Sexual abuse

**Mental Issues including**

- Depression and anxiety
- Lack of self esteem

Year 11

### AM I AN ADULT AT 16? THE LAW

Age limits are there to protect people from **abuse and danger**.

You can drink beer, cider or wine with a meal at 16 if you are with a person over the age of 18.

You cannot buy alcohol until you are age 18.

The law in the UK states you must be 18 or over to buy cigarettes.

You cannot smoke on public transport, in indoor public places, indoor workplaces or work vehicles.

If you carry and intend to supply (sell) psychoactive substances such as 'laughing gas' you can get a fine or prison sentence.

Possessing Class A drugs (ecstasy (MDMA), crack cocaine, LSD, magic mushrooms) can result in a 7 year prison sentence and/or an unlimited fine.

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### DEALING WITH EMERGENCIES

You may need to:

- Assess the surroundings
- Raise the alarm. Shout.
- Manage the crowd or help evacuation.
- Decide whether you can help or need to ask for
- Take time to think before acting or panicking.
- Can you get a first aid kit?
- Do you need to use a fire extinguisher?
- Ask basic questions of the injured person.
- Only use the telephone to call for help. Call 999.

### BEING IN A RELATIONSHIP & THE LAW

The minimum age you can get married in England is 16 BUT only if both people have permission from their parents or carers.

Coercive control is where one person assaults, threatens, humiliates or intimidates their victim to harm, punish, or frighten them.

Domestic abuse: Any incident or pattern of incidents involving controlling, coercive, threatening, degrading-violent behaviour, including sexual violence.

Honour based violence: Committed when a family feels that someone has brought 'dishonour' to the family. Punishment can be emotional or physical abuse, disownment and in some cases even murder.

Forced marriage: One or both participants enter the marriage without giving their consent. They go through with the wedding under pressure from their family. Forcing someone into marriage is a criminal offence UK.

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### BEING IN CONTROL WITH: ANXIETY

Anxiety is a normal, human feeling of fear or panic

- Our brain wants the difficult situation to go away, so it makes us feel more alert, stops us thinking about other things, and even pumps more blood to our legs to help us run away. We experience both emotions and physical sensations at this time.
- This can be known as the 'fight or flight' response.

Managing anxiety...

### BEING AN INTERNET CITIZEN & THE LAW

Pornography, violence, gambling, political or religious incitement to violence and grooming would be classed as harmful content for young people to watch.

Parental permission should be obtained for children under 13 using social media. Facebook, Snapchat, Twitter, Instagram, Tik Tok and even Skype all have an age limit of 13 to use them.

WhatsApp has an age limit of 16 to use it. You must be over 18 to watch pornography in the UK.

It is illegal to watch pornography with someone under the age of 18 - even if both people are under 18 and both wanted to watch it!

Examples of the misuse of technology include:  
 Overuse - Social media - Sending nudes  
 Peer pressure - Sharing images that were once private

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### BEING IN CONTROL WITH: FINANCES

Becoming an adult means taking more responsibility of your money.

Budgeting, thinking realistically about money and always seeking advice before taking out loans and credit cards means you can healthily manage your money.

Credit cards are short-term borrowing of money.

You can borrow through the month and if you pay the amount borrowed off each month, they are free.

This can be useful as your purchases are insured and you can start to build a credit rating.

Not paying the full amount back at the end of the month results in interest charges (you have to pay more back than you initially borrowed) and if continued leads to debt.

If you ever find yourself in financial difficulty or you think you are being exploited you must ask for help.





## Craft Club: Halloween

*Ms Wilks and Ms Patel*

The craft club on Fridays after school has become a perfect end for lots of children. This term we have made useful items such as Pen holders from recycled materials as well as learnt some new skills such as "Paper Quilling", "Marbling" and making our own scratch art pictures.

Here's what we made on Friday in craft club for Halloween.



We started off our Christmas prep in November with our card printing workshop. The children enjoyed making their template and printing their own cards without a printer! The festivities continued with snow globes and Christmas decorations. We are looking forward to enjoying some more crafting fun with the children again in the new year.



## Combined Cadet Force

*Captain Bury, Contingent Commander, Brakenhale School CCF*

WOW what a half-term this has been yet again for our cadets.

November is always a very busy month within the Army calendar and this was no different for our CCF cadets and instructors.

### Fireworks Night

November started with the cadets helping run a BBQ stand at Great Hollands Junior school on Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> November for the school Fireworks Night. We had 15 cadets volunteer their own time to come and help which just shows their understanding of the cadet values of helping others.



### National Arboretum Visit

We quickly moved on from the very cold and wet Fireworks Night and headed off as a whole CCF unit up to The National Memorial Arboretum in Staffordshire.

During this visit cadets were taken around some of the national memorials as part of our week of Remembrance for November.



During our visit we took time to pay our respects to our support unit of The Irish Guards, by laying our own poppy wreath.

Cadet Watson laid the wreath at the memorial on behalf of the whole unit. Cadet Watson was chosen as she has a direct link to Irish Guards regiment and this we felt made the moment even more special.



### Supporting the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal 2022

To support this appeal our cadets were out in Bracknell Town centre over the weekend of Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> November helping members of the RBL selling poppies.

Cadets again volunteered to support this appeal in their own time and were a great credit to our unit, school and community over what was a very busy weekend. This epitomises all three of our values - great to see!





**Remembrance Parades**

On Friday 11<sup>th</sup> November we held our 2 minutes silence to remember all the service personal that have paid the ultimate sacrifice. We are always really pleased to have the whole school attend this event either in person or via the live streaming into the classrooms.



On Remembrance Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> November our cadets were out on parade at St Michaels & St Mary Magdalene C of E Church in Easthampstead. This was attended by 16 cadets and a number of Instructors.



Cadets were also on parade as part of the Bracknell Town Councils Remembrance Parade in the town centre.

I had the honour of being asked by the Town Council to be the Master of Ceremony, which means leading the whole parade. To have the opportunity to lead such an important event and to see my cadets on parade made the day even more special.



## To Finish Off

There is no better way to finish of an extremely action-packed number of weeks, than holding a CCF Parents and Careers Presentation Evening. We had an amazing turn out from parents that not only support their cadet but also support the instructors in all the great events we deliver.

During the evening we had a presentation from a member of the CVQO team, who informed everyone about how cadets can gain additional qualifications while completing their CCF cadet training. We were also able to inform parents/Careers about the 21 cadets that have now signed up to complete their Bronze Duke of Edinburgh awards.



There is now only one way to sign off this amazing term and that is to wish all our cadets, Parents and Careers a Happy Christmas and we hope that 2023 is going to be as much fun for you all as it is going to be for our CCF.

# HAPPY CHRISTMAS



## PE Round-Up | Half Term 2

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

### **FOOTBALL**

So with the main football season due to kick off after Christmas and with the World Cup on during the winter, this time our students have been able to get a lot of Football in before things really kick off! Here are just a few of the highlights from the football pitch....

#### *YEAR 7 Girls*

The Year 7 Girls have had a busy start to the year, playing early on in a tournament at Garth where 18 football mad girls took on teams from Bracknell Forest in a 7 aside competition. All wore the Brakenhale badge with pride, worked hard for each other and most of all smiled pretty much throughout regardless of winning, drawing or losing the game. This was followed by a repeat, this time at Sandhurst, where again lots of girls were involved - some not only representing the school for the first time but first time playing football which was amazing!!!! This time the girls were more prepared and one team came second in the group, narrowly missing out on the Final!! Some of the Year 7 girls also were selected to represent the School in a Year 9 fixture against Holyport where they did amazing and played their part in winning 5-4 !!!



This last week the girls had an indoor tournament too. A few different schools to play against: we were drawn with Bohunt B, Piggott and Furze Platt .... first game 2-0 loss to Piggott. Next up was a 1-1 draw with Furze Platt meaning we needed a win in last game with Bohunt B to stand a chance in qualifying.... We got a thumping 4-0 win with Katie R scoring a hatrick! A nervous wait to be confirmed as qualified for the quarter final where we faced Bohunt A..... a great win 1-0 with a goal at the end of the game to send us through to the semi finals vs Kings.....

Alas a game to far with quick turn around saw the girls fight bravely but the 1 goal late on from Kings took them into the final. Well done girls!!!!

#### *YEAR 7 Boys*

The Year 7 Boys have not been as active as the girls with the main bulk of their game time taking place after we get back from Christmas.

#### *YEAR 8 Boys*



The Year 8 boys took part in the Sandhurst Boys B tournament on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> December and worked very hard... They saw off Kings 2-0 in the first game then the reverse result losing 2-0 to a good Edgbarrow team and then finished with a 1-0 loss to Sandhurst in the final game to set up a 5<sup>th</sup> /6<sup>th</sup> place playoff game with Local rivals Garth. After taking the lead the boys ran out of steam to see it over the line and conceded 3 goals to lose 3-1 and finish 6<sup>th</sup>. A great experience for the boys! Well done to all that took place! For those who had not yet represented the school, and this was an amazing opportunity for them to showcase their talents and to be included

in the team when the league starts after Christmas as we move to 11v11.

4 of last year's successful team have been nominated to attend the Pre-County selection Trials. These are Oskar B, Franky R, Louie D and Sebastian P. We wish them good luck next week!!

#### *YEAR 8 Girls*

Again nothing much for the girls across the Bracknell Forest due to numbers; there was a combined Year 8 and 9 tournament at Sandhurst where 5 of the girls stepped up into the Year 9 Team and they got through to the Final, narrowly losing out to Edgbarrow 1-0! The same girls also represented the school combined with the Year 7 and Year 9 Girls to hand a beating to Miss Butler's Holyport team 5-4!!!! (It was nice to See Miss Butler too!)

#### *YEAR 9 Boys*



Another Sandhurst tournament and the boys did very well putting in some great performances to top the league and lead the tournament going into the last game!! Sadly, with only a point required, an early goal meant that they went down 1-0 to Kings - meaning that 3 teams tied for top spot but alas on goal difference we finished 3<sup>rd</sup>... but great effort!

### *YEAR 9 Girls*

The Year 9 girls had a tournament at Sandhurst and with a few Year 8s to bolster numbers they reached the final!!!! Narrow loss to Edgbarrow. They also played their part in the game against Holyport!

The Year 9 girls have been entered into the League & County Cup and will form the basis of our girls football this year with opportunities for Year 7 and 8 to as they have done very successfully step up and play with the Year 9s to compete!

So after Christmas we have KS3 Football taking place!!! Boys in Year 7, 8 and 9 are in the local School leagues and the Girls are in the Year 9 League followed by Year 8 Boys and Year 9 Girls in the County Cup.

Look out for the next newsletter for how we start the season!!!!

### **EXTRA-CURRICULAR CLUBS**

We will be offering Football for Girls and Boys, Indoor Cricket as well as Mates Participate but this format is yet to be finalised. With lots of football fixtures and a new member of PE staff joining in January we hope to have a re-jig to ensure we provide the best opportunities for the students.

### **Netball**

It has been great to see so many of our students attending our Netball extra curricula club on Tuesday after school. The students have shown the drive to enhance their netball skills. Not only have their netball skills improved but their ability to work as a team and their communication skills have increased. Unfortunately, we have not had the greatest of luck with the weather and our matches have had to be rearranged. I would like to praise them for their dedication and hard work this half term. I look forward to them representing the school in the rearranged matches. Keep up the hard work.

### **Bracknell Schools Cross Country**

Earlier in half term 2 our Key Stage 3 cross country team took to the fields and woods of Great Hollands and ran as part of the Bracknell Secondary School Cross Country Championships.

The squad did a superb job, with our A team and B team both running superb times. The A team came in 5<sup>th</sup> place overall and the B team came in 10<sup>th</sup> overall out of 16 teams that ran on the day. The boys and girls did a superb job and showed true grit and determination that is needed for such a tough event! A huge well done to:

Darcy F, Isobel D, Frances B, Ruby R, Rafael C, Harrison H and Spencer H in Year 7.

Elicia H, Kaisie H, Sebastian P and Louie D in Year 8.

Aston FS, Mikey M and Jayden W in Year 9.

### **Year 7 Rugby**



The Year 7 rugby boys this year have been superb! It took a few weeks for the boys to get going and build a nice little squad, but that is exactly what they have done. The boys have played in 2 lots of tournaments, over at Sandhurst and at Brakenhale, and showed great resilience and skills as they progressed in their games and at training. Led by Raph C, the boys should now be looking forward to Year 8 where they will build on the basic skills of rugby and take their game to the next level when they will be bigger and stronger.





### **Year 10 Basketball**

Firstly it has been really good, despite the 2 weeks of no sports hall due to PPEs, to see the Year 10 boys turning up to training and playing some basketball. The boys played against the other Bracknell schools in the penultimate week of term, putting on a fantastic performance against some strong opposition. The boys played well showing sound skill and good work rate, winning all games. We even had a Year 8 and a Year 9 student on the team as well. Notable performance came from Oskaras and Kevin who showed superb skill and technical ability. Mason, Julian and Rickai showed a fantastic work rate, along with Hashem who came into his own with some great blocks. Ishe, Stefan and James all provided fantastic support play in the middle. All the boys worked hard on the court playing some great basketball, in front of a decent home crowd.

Big thanks to Ranelagh, Edgbarrow, Kings and Garth for coming over!



Well done to the following boys who took part:

Ishe M, Julian R, James C, Hashem B, Mason L, Oskaras G, Stefan T, Kevin S (Year 9) and Rickhai GB (Year 8).

### **Year 8 and 9 Rugby**

A huge well done to both year groups in this year's rugby season with the Brakenhale school. After a slow start and with no rugby in Core PE lessons for both year groups, training numbers gradually started to increase and we were able to work on learning the beautiful game of rugby!

This learning continued in the local tournaments where we were able to field full teams against other teams in the local borough. Despite results not being favourable for both year groups in these tournaments, credit must go to all the students for their commitment and determination shown and their willingness to compete until the end. Hopefully the students have learned a lot and the progress made will stand them in good stead for future rugby tournaments. Well done boys, you made the school and PE department proud.


### **Year 7 and 9 Basketball**

A huge well done to both year groups in this year's (short!) basketball season with the Brakenhale school. Training numbers were brilliant from the start and students were able to work on their already impressive basketball skills with our local expert, Mr Mavromichalis!

Their focus and ability to replicate their training performances in the local tournaments was fantastic to see and results were very strong for both year groups in these tournaments, with Year 7 winning all their games and finishing 1<sup>st</sup> and Year 9 winning 3 out of 4 games and finishing 2<sup>nd</sup> (well done King's Academy Year 9s on the thoroughly deserved first place). Credit again must go to all the students for their commitment and determination shown and their willingness to work as a team and achieve collectively. There is no doubt their early success will stand them in good stead for future basketball tournaments. Congratulations to both teams!



**PE Champions for this Half Term**

 #teambrokenhale #brakenhalepe		<b>PE CHAMPIONS Autumn Half Term 2 - WELL DONE!</b>							
		Week beginning: 31/10/22			Week beginning: 7/11/22		Week beginning: 14/11/22		Week beginning: 21/11/22
Staff	Student	Tutor	Student	Tutor	Student	Tutor	Student	Tutor	
Mr Potter	Hannah K.	P16A	Macey B.	T1E	Alfie B.	T1N	Taylor H.	T1A	
Mrs Lazarezuk	Sienna H.	7R	Abigail B.	9K	Ethan H.	8A			
Mr Mayn	Amber B.	7B	Harvey S.	T1E	Kacie H.	8H	Jessica E.	8N	
Mr Beocher	Alekszej K.	9R	Mia F.	9E	Stefan T.	10E	Rhyan M.	10K	
Ms Wilson	Ruby B.	7R	Imogen R.	8N	Darcy F.	7B	Taffy G.	9E	
Staff	Student	Tutor	Student	Tutor	Student	Tutor			
Mr Potter	Hanna T.		Roobin C.	T1C	Callum C.	T1A			
Mrs Lazarezuk									
Mr Mayn	Chantelle W.	TA	Harry K.	8N	Archie P.	7H			
Mr Beocher	Ella L.	7K	Owen C.	9B	Marcellus W.	8N			
Ms Wilson	Elite- Mai W.	7R	Iana L.	7H	Santino R.	7E			
#teambrokenhale #brakenhalepe									

**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.



## Performing Arts Evenings

*Miss Millard, Head of Performing Arts*

**Music Show – Monday 12<sup>th</sup> December**

**Dance Show – Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> December**

The final week of this term has been a big one for the Performing Arts Department! We have had two evenings of wonderful student performances with our Winter Music Showcase and Merry and Bright Dance Showcase. Over both evenings, we shared performances from students across all year groups including some amazingly confident and accomplished Year 7s all the way to our more seasoned Year 13 performers. Alongside the celebrations of achievement in performance, our Year 11 GCSE students managed to complete an official assessment in live sound! We couldn't be more proud of the professionalism and dedication of the students taking part. They all performed spectacularly to a hugely supportive and appreciative audience.



## Careers @ Brakenhale

*Mrs Whitaker Flower, Deputy Headteacher*

Please find below some useful links about careers which you can explore with your children

- Talking futures for Parents

<https://resources.careersandenterprise.co.uk/resources/talking-futures-toolkit>

- Berkshire Opportunities

[Berkshire Opportunities Homepage](#)



## English Update

Mrs D Lewis, English

### Key Stage 3 Book Club

We have started reading *The Cruel Prince* by Holly Black. This is the first in a series and we have all been enjoying discovering the benefits and toils of mere mortals being forced to start a life in Faerie. We have been developing our vocabulary as we read. Take a look at the new vocabulary we have come across so far.



### KS3 English competitions -

I would like to congratulate the following students on their

entries and success for the Writing competition titled 'Integer'. All work will be published on 3rd February and students have received a certificate each and a bookmark. Again, congratulations!

Vardan C      Kakun G      Mindy SC      Daniela CS

### Y8 Gothic Short Story

We have been teaching Y8 a Gothic scheme of work for the last term and one student has been inspired to write their own gothic short story. It has been a joy to work with Phebe on this and a pleasure to share it here with you all. A massive well done Phebe and keep writing!

#### *Death Wish by Phebe Jackson*

*It was only at this moment that I had realised what I had done; horror had drained the blood from my face leaving only terror left.*

*You find me mysterious or even fancy me mad, but it was all an accident, you see, my elegant, beautiful and charming sister was my true love. She had an ugly, plain-featured and nasty twin sister Veronica. Me and Veronica loathed each other and I always wished she was deceased so I decided to take matters into my own hands.*

*It was Wednesday when I started to plot; how the feeling of killing my sister Veronica became a thrill. I had never planned to do such things but I wanted to, no, I needed to. The thought of her made me sick and with her gone, I would be rid of this feeling forever!*

*It was then, Friday night, when I confirmed my plan: I was going to kill her. I had examined her for a couple of weeks and had found out she locked her door and would not let anyone in but I got a glimpse of her room. It was dusty and dim and it had daggers and knives. The way she walked was just unsettling and the way she would walk into a room would make the mood change.*

*I don't know why we hated each other so much... I think it was because I was going to wed our sister Verity, the love of my life. The way she would just walk into a room and make everyone smile and brighten up anyone's day was magic to me. I would love to tell you more about her but there is all too much.*

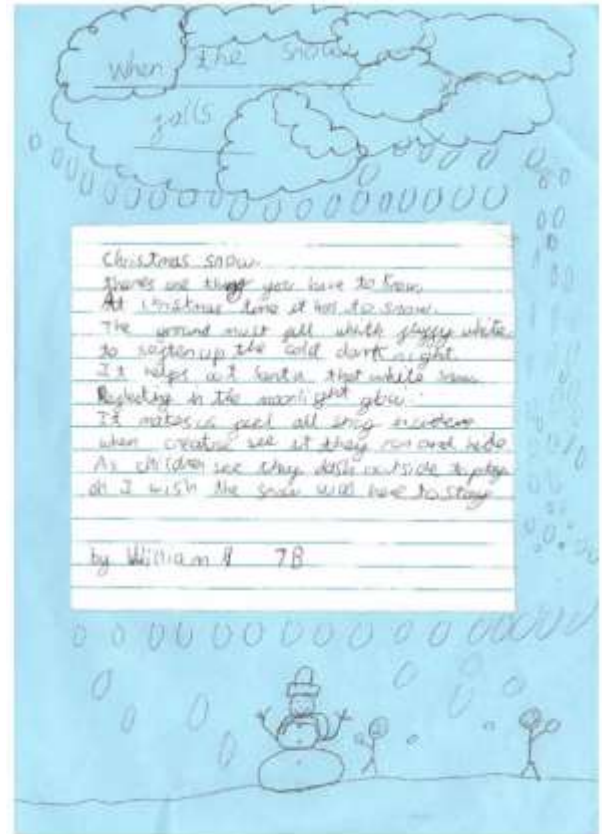
*I was making dinner when I heard Veronica come through the front door. I grabbed my knife and stabbed her in the throat, but there was something strange about her. It was only at this moment that I had realised what I had done. Horror had drained the blood from my face only leaving terror left. I had killed my nearly wedded wife Verity...*

*She died and it was all my fault letting my emotions take control! If I had only waited, I would be married and happy. All I wish is to be with her again so if I were dead I would not feel the pain...*



### Ascot Christmas Poem Competition

I would like to share this festive entry to the competition. What a wonderful Christmas Poem. Well done William!



## Identity

Mrs D Lewis, Identity



This term we have been selling candy canes to spread joy at Christmas time.

Identity have been taking orders at lunchtime and then hand delivered them to students in the last couple of days of the term. A great team effort and way to promote Identity. Well done everyone!

## 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.





## LRC Corner: Library Foci

November started off with a display of BookBuzz books, we showcased bookBuzz books from previous years and this year's books for students to browse. The books for our year 7 students have now arrived and have been given to the students during English lessons.

We had a beautiful and thoughtful display for remembrance day. The display table was covered in poppies and messages created by the students. It was heart-warming seeing so many messages of thanks and appreciation and having students stop by the table to read the messages.



The end of November was time for our Charles Dickens "A Christmas Carol" Display, students have helped make chains to represent Jacob Marley's fettered chain.

This display then morphed into A Victorian Christmas. Students have been making decorations for the tree and learning about the horrors of Victorian Christmas cards which were not sweet or cute but showed images of what happens to naughty children or dead animals to remind people of the poor and hungry during the holiday.



## 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/](http://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/](http://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/](http://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 10<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto: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](mailto: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>

Kerith Food Bank opening hours over the festive period:

- Fri 23rd Dec: OPEN 10.30am – 12
- Mon 26th Dec: CLOSED



**revivePROJECTS**  
[www.kerith.church/revivehome](http://www.kerith.church/revivehome)

**CAP Debt Free**: Free debt advice service across Bracknell and surrounding areas to anyone struggling with debt. Call Freephone on **0800 328 5006** for more info or to make an appointment or visit [www.capuk.org](http://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](http://www.kerith.church/life-skills)

**REVIVE CAFE**: A friendly and welcoming space to meet new people, build 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 issues that you are facing. This could include smoking, drinking, overdosing or gambling to name a few. [www.kerith.church/addiction-support](http://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](http://www.kerith.church/capmoneycourse)



- Tues 27th Dec: CLOSED
- Wed 28th Dec: OPEN 10.30am – 12
- Thurs 29th Dec: CLOSED
- Fri 30th Dec: CLOSED
- Mon 2nd Jan: CLOSED
- Tues 3rd Jan: OPEN 10.30am – 12

So far this year with your help we have provided emergency food supplies for over 5500 people. Wishing you all a very happy Christmas and look forward to working with you in the new year.

### Parental Control from Digisafe

Parents will be wondering who are children **TALKING** to, what are they **DOING**, and are they **SAFE**? How can they tell if an app or game is **APPROPRIATE**? How long is too long on **DEVICES**? And how can you start an awkward **CONVERSATION**?

Have a look at [parentsafe.lgfl.net](https://parentsafe.lgfl.net), a one-stop location for support and advice. The whole site is helpful but there are also specific resources - we've picked out a few here for you, but remember to highlight that:

- Controls are easier to put on a device at the start before you give it to a child
- Smart devices are no safer than traditional ones and are often given to youngest children - here's a great [guide from Common Sense Media](#)

These step by step [parental control guides](#) by Internet Matters help parents set up the right controls and privacy settings on the networks, gadgets, apps, and sites they use for a safer online experience.



Common Sense Media has thousands of [expert reviews of apps, games and films](#) as well as what parents and children think about them.

Our [digital family agreement](#) can help manage expectations and clarify what is allowed...or not, how much time you can spend on devices, and ground rules like no phones at the table or in bedrooms at night.



Find all the above and more including story time ideas and guidance on specific topics from bullying and relationships to sharing online at [parentsafe.lgfl.net](https://parentsafe.lgfl.net)





**GEMS** offers free information & support to parents & carers of children with, or likely to have autism &/or ADHD within East Berkshire.  
To book on to any of the below sessions, please contact GEMS: 0800 899 1342 or [gems4health@nhs.net](mailto:gems4health@nhs.net)

## What's coming up... Jan, Feb & March 2023

- Over 5s Autism Course - Virtual**  
Wednesday 11th, 18th & 25th Jan @ 7 - 9pm all 3 sessions to be attended  
Wednesday 1st, 8th & 15th Feb @ 7 - 9pm all 3 sessions to be attended  
Wednesday 15th, 22nd & 29th March @ 7 - 9pm all 3 sessions to be attended
- Girls & Autism - Maidenhead**  
Thursday 19th Jan @ 10am - 12pm
- Under 5s Autism Course - Virtual**  
Wednesday 22nd Feb, 1st & 8th March @ 7 - 8.30pm all 3 sessions to be attended
- Adolescence - Bracknell**  
Thursday 16th March @ 10am - 12pm
- Sensory Processing - Virtual**  
Monday 27th Feb @ 7 - 8.30pm
- Sleep - Autism & ADHD - Virtual**  
Wednesday 11th, 18th & 25th Jan @ 7 - 9pm all 3 sessions to be attended
- Managing Anxiety - Slough**  
Thursday 9th Feb @ 10am - 12pm
- ADHD Course - Virtual**  
Tuesday 17th, 24th & 31st Jan @ 7 - 8.30pm all 3 sessions to be attended  
Tuesday 14th, 21st & 28th March @ 7 - 8.30pm all 3 sessions to be attended
- Supporting Siblings - Virtual**  
Thursday 23rd February @ 6.30 - 8pm

Logos for the autism group, Reading South, and NHS Frimley Clinical Commissioning Group are at the bottom.

**This May Help from Camhs**

# This May Help

[This May Help](#) is a new national initiative providing mental health advice to parents and carers launched by Bradford District and Craven Health and Care Partnership. This May Help is aimed at parents and carers who may have concerns about their child's mental health and is part funded by the Quality Improvement Taskforce for Children and Young People's Mental Health, Learning Disability and Autism Inpatient Services.

The website gives easy-to-follow advice to help families manage their child's mental health. This advice was developed by NHS professionals and parents who've been through their own child's mental health journey. Parents and carers have shared advice that helped them and that may also help other families.

Professionals who work with children are also being encouraged to use the website.

The advice covered on This May Help includes: self-harm, gaming and online activity, teenagers' safety, eating disorders, school avoidance, understanding

mental health, understanding teenagers, online threats, building rapport, building resilience, building a support network, self-care tips, managing an emergency, managing in a crisis, and preparing for a children and adolescent mental health services (CAMHS) appointment. These subjects were chosen by families and young people who have gone through their own mental health.

**Keeping children safe during community activities, after-school clubs and tuition**

Questions to help parents and carers choose out-of-school settings

**FREE online guides for parents, parents-to-be, grandparents and carers**

Subjects include, understanding:

- pregnancy, labour, birth and your baby
- your baby
- your child (0-19 yrs)
- your teenager's brain

Many of the guides are available in a range of languages.

To access these free guides visit: [www.frimley.nhs.uk](http://www.frimley.nhs.uk)

Apply the access code when prompted, which is **PARENTING**, or if you are a Surrey resident, it's **ACORN**.

When looking for after-school clubs, theatre groups or sports' clubs, the DfE has a document that helps parents identify the safeguarding issues to consider when choosing a provider.



Parents can access the guidance here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-for-parents-and-carers-on-safeguarding-children-in-out-of-school-settings/>

If you are interested in understanding the teenage brain, to help understand your teenager number 4 (Understanding your child 0 to 19 years) is a very good course.

<https://www.frimleyhealthandcare.org.uk/maternity/your-pregnancy/register-for-free-online-parenting-courses/>



Parents, grandparents or carers who live in the Frimley Health and Care area covering East Berkshire, Surrey Heath and North East Hampshire and Farnham (this includes Ascot, Bracknell, Windsor and Maidenhead, Slough and North East Hampshire and Farnham) have free access to NHS backed, online parenting courses and guides which include top tips from childcare, education and NHS health experts.

### Useful Services for Support and advice

Mental Health - Getting Help:

We work closely with the Getting Help MHST (mental health support team)

<https://helpyourself.bracknell-forest.gov.uk/kb5/bracknell/asch/service.page?id=e0d9m2LGCxk>

You can refer your child through school we have a consultation every 3 weeks in school. The next consultation meeting is Monday 16<sup>th</sup> January 2023.

Please see our website for the [form](#) and [more details](#).

For further CAMHS resources to support mental health and wellbeing please see the link below which has downloads, websites and apps:

<https://www.camhs-resources.co.uk/>

Other Useful Services:

#### Websites

##### General Mental Health

- [Kooth \(Online Counselling and support\)](#)
- [Young Minds \(Children's mental health support\)](#)
- [MindEd \(Mental health resources\)](#)
- [Every Mind Matters \(NHS resources on everyday mindfulness\)](#)
- [stem4.org.uk \(supporting positive teenage mental health\)](http://stem4.org.uk)

##### Support for families:

- [Barnardos](#)
- [Healios \(mental health, autism and ADHD\)](#)

##### Better Sleep

- <https://thesleepcharity.org.uk/national-sleep-helpline/>

##### Eating disorders

- [Beating Disorders](#)

##### Self-harm and suicide

- [papyrus-uk.org](http://papyrus-uk.org)

##### Bereavement/loss

- Daisy's dream

<https://www.daisysdream.org.uk/>



## SEN ~ Special Educational Needs ~ Winter Update

Mrs J Fear, SENCO

### What does 'special educational needs' mean?

Children and young people with SEN all have learning difficulties or disabilities that make it harder for them to learn than most children and young people of the same age. These children and young people may need extra or different help from that given to others. The definition of special educational needs as set out in the SEND Code is as follows:

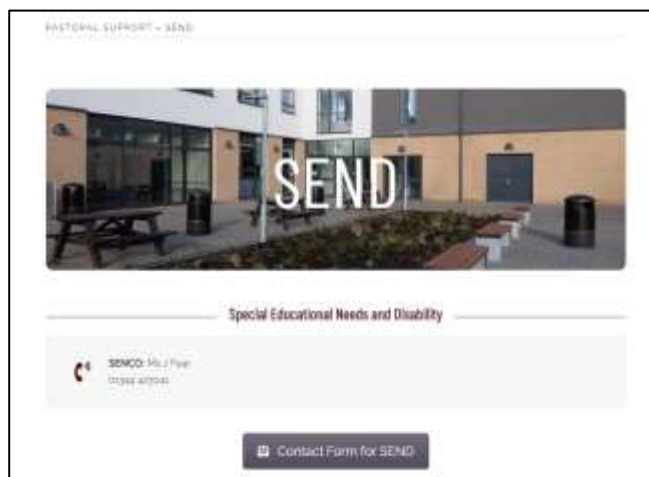
"A child or young person has SEN if they have a learning difficulty or disability which calls for special educational provision to be made for him or her. -- A child of compulsory school age or a young person has a learning difficulty or disability if he or she:

- has a significantly greater difficulty in learning than the majority of others of the same age, or
- has a disability which prevents or hinders him or her from making use of facilities of a kind generally provided for others of the same age in mainstream schools or mainstream post-16 institutions

A child under compulsory school age has special educational needs if he or she is likely to fall within the definition above when they reach compulsory school age."

### If you have concerns about your child then you can do the following:

1. Contact the SEN team via the form on the school SEND page. Complete the questionnaire to show your concerns.
2. Contact your child's tutor, head of year or assistant head of year to raise your concerns.



### Every teacher is a teacher of SEN!

**Special Educational Needs** is at the heart of our school and here are some examples of how our teachers meet the needs of their students.

#### Mrs Hodgson - Head of English / Teacher of English

I really enjoy building relationships with all my students, I am a firm believer that this lays the foundation for your classroom management. All people wish to be seen, heard and validated and this is true of all our students but especially SEN students who may sometimes have a harder time navigating the world than their peers.

We are given all the tools to help us engage our SEN students, their Pupil Passports contain lots of information and tips and the TAs can provide us with invaluable support. Honestly though, the best way to be a teacher of SEN? See the SEN but see the person, the same way you should see all your students. Observe them, perceive them and find a way to relate. It could be a topic of conversation, a reassuring hand on the shoulder when needed, inviting them back at break if you can see they are having a tough morning but...build that relationship!

#### Miss Wilhelmy - Head of Creative arts / Year 12 Tutor

Spending time getting to know my students and understanding some of their individual needs is an important part of my role as a Photography teacher. This might include knowing that a student prefers to send an email rather than have a conversation; providing a template for a piece of work; handouts for regular activities; helping with typos and spelling or even lending a student a piece of blue acetate (that is usually used on a studio light) to help them with reading their exam papers!



### Miss Moore - KS3 Lead for Maths / Year 8 Tutor

I am a teacher of SEN because I ensure that everyone in the room can access the learning objectives that are being delivered. This can be through digesting the Pupil Passports of all my students that require specific adjustments, and updating my knowledge of these passports as and when they develop; by having one-to-one conversations with students to ensure I am doing all I can to support with their learning, and liaising with members of the team that know and understand them well, to collaboratively find the best approach to the learning of any SEN student.

### **Meet the SEN team - Meet Mrs Fear and Miss Weller**

#### Mrs Fear - SENCO

Being a SENCO is a demanding role, but one where I can really make a difference. There is a lot of paperwork involved in my role, so organisation is key. I'm fortunate to have a great team of people around me and with SEN being the responsibility of all members of staff, it's

#### What have been your highlights at Brakenhale?

This is a difficult one! I'm incredibly proud of how invested my colleagues are in One of my personal highlights this term has been the introduction of the cubbie, which has had a remarkable impact on individuals feeling regulated and able to return to lessons with minimal disruption.

#### A work/life balance is important. Do you have any interesting hobbies?

I am a massive animal lover and spend my free time caring for my three cats, one dog, two rabbits and eleven chickens. I'm also a volunteer for a hen rescue charity and have helped rehome 1, 800 chickens this year.



#### Miss Weller - KS4 Teaching Assistant

Very rewarding. Being able to directly support the learning of students has been an amazing experience so far. Getting to know the students and how to directly support and see the difference it makes is incredibly rewarding.

#### What have been your highlights at Brakenhale?

As I am new to the school, getting to meet and know the students has definitely been a highlight. This has been a wonderful journey of learning how best to work with the students I work with and being able to support them through any problems that might be troubling them. Additionally, being able to celebrate what may seem small milestones with them as the big achievements for each student.



#### A work/life balance is important. Do you have any interesting hobbies?

Outside of work I enjoy a variety of different hobbies. One that a lot of students can relate to is that I watch anime. I do also enjoy knitting and sewing my own clothes as a creative outlet and I really enjoy practising kendo which is a Japanese sword fighting martial art. Of course my main hobby is doting on my two cats, two dogs, and two tortoises at home.

#### Mrs Bracken - Emotional Literacy Support Assistant ELSA and Interventions Coordinator

ELSA stands for Emotional Literacy Support Assistant. My role is to help students with things like self-esteem, friendship issues, bereavement, social skills and emotional regulation.

I see the individual students once a week and I make sure that they have a calm, friendly environment to explore their feelings and emotions.

Sometimes we just talk, sometimes we play a game like 'Emotions Jenga' or 'Who am I?' and sometimes we will do some craft or colouring. We may look at, among other things: how feelings, thoughts and physical responses are all linked; we look at personal strengths; what it means to be a good friend; social (e.g. conversation) skills and explore strategies for handling worries or anger.



Every half term, ELSAs across the borough, along with Educational Psychologists, meet to discuss best practices and ask for advice (it all stays anonymous, of course). I find these meetings very helpful, as every student is different, and I am constantly learning. Having this regular support helps me ensure I am doing the job to a high standard that I can keep improving. I have also been able to support other ELSAs by sharing (anonymously) my own experiences.

A student will normally attend ELSA sessions for between 6 and 12 weeks. At the end of their sessions, I aim to give them tools they need to deal with any situations which may arise, and I hope that they leave believing in themselves and being more self-confident.

I feel very privileged to be able to support students in this way, and I love getting to know them. Seeing them leave with confidence in their emotional literacy, and making them feel better about themselves is incredibly rewarding and fulfilling. I am happy to be part of the pastoral team at Brakenhale.

*How can I seek ELSA support for my child?*

Contact your child's tutor or head of year to discuss. They can then refer your child to the early intervention panel.

Submit a request through the Contact Form at SEND (on the Brakenhale website's SEN page).

### **SEN Activities List – in and around Bracknell**

#### **BRACKNELL FOREST PROVISION - THE INCLUSION FUND:**

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The Short Breaks Inclusion Fund is designed to support children and young people with disabilities to access play and leisure activities within universal and mainstream settings by funding 1:1 support. Children accessing these settings would typically require minimal supervision and have mild to moderate learning difficulties and may need some initial support to build confidence.

Families pay the activity cost and the Inclusion Fund will pay for additional identified needs such as a one to one support worker. The priority for this scheme is to support access to out-of-school activities and/or holiday activities, such as guides, karate, dance, youth club or a holiday club.

This support can be provided for up to one day per week during the school holidays in line with our targeted provisions or once a week for a regular after-school activity

If you have a query or would like more information, please contact Becky Durrant Short Breaks Co-ordinator on 01344 352733 or email [short.breaks@bracknell-forest.gov.uk](mailto:short.breaks@bracknell-forest.gov.uk)

#### **BRACKNELL FOREST PROVISION - KIDS PLAY AND LEISURE SCHEME – SATURDAY AND HOLIDAY CLUB**

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The Council commissions a charity called Kids to provide a targeted Saturday and Holiday Club tailored to the children and young people with disabilities who have moderate to high needs and require significant support.

Eligibility for Kids is assessed through a home visit with parents/carers and child or young person by the Kids Play and Leisure Senior Practitioner to create a care portfolio for each child and ensure their identified needs can be met. It is determined in line with the commissioned contract and based on factors such as age, type of disability, level of support needs, peer group availability and potential risks.

Sessions run from 10am to 4pm and the scheme offers a variety of activities including, swimming, bowling, trips out and centre days with cooking, arts and crafts, trips to the park, messy play

Bracknell Forest Council subsidises the play and leisure scheme. The parental contribution is £20 per session. Parents/carers can self-refer to Kids, there is no need to come through the Short Break Service. Please contact Hannah Tomkinson, Senior Practitioner at Kids on 01344 453266 or email [hannah.tomkinson@kids.org.uk](mailto:hannah.tomkinson@kids.org.uk)

#### **UNIVERSAL SEN ACTIVITIES IN AND AROUND BRACKNELL**

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The following activities are universally available to all families with children / young people with SEND and you can simply contact them directly for more information:



**Make Sense Theatre Creative Youth Assembly on Tuesday evenings**

Weekly creative workshops exploring drama and dance for young people aged 11-25 with autism and/or learning disabilities at South Hill Park.

Half Assembly - 6pm to 7pm; Full Assembly - 6pm to 8pm

Tel: 0118 946 1739 Email: [team@makesensetheatre.com](mailto:team@makesensetheatre.com)

Web: [Make/Sense Theatre \(makesensetheatre.com\)](http://Make/Sense Theatre (makesensetheatre.com))

**Silwood Park Karate Club SEN session on Tuesday evenings**

Specialist lessons for children and adults with additional needs with a number of assistant instructors who support and provide small group teaching and 1-2-1 support.

Wildridings Primary School

Children's lessons 7pm

Adult lessons 7:45pm

Tel: 01344 440328 Email: [karate@silwoodparkkarate.co.uk](mailto:karate@silwoodparkkarate.co.uk)

Web: [Lessons | Silwood Park Karate](#)

**Coral Reef Accessible Sessions on Wednesdays**

Accessible for Everyone sessions are an opportunity exclusively for customers with disabilities their families, carers and friends to enjoy Coral Reef and its iconic waterslides. Online booking only

[Buy Tickets for NEW Accessible For Everyone session \(digitickets.co.uk\)](http://Buy Tickets for NEW Accessible For Everyone session (digitickets.co.uk))

**Dance Unite on Thursdays (Windsor)**

An inclusive dance group open to young people ages 9 - 13 of all abilities. Led and facilitated by our most experienced SEN specialist dance teachers.

This course concludes with a live performance

6pm to 6:45pm at 4Motion Studio, The Studio, Kardelto House, Windsor,

Tel: 01344 202425 Web: [Our Classes | 4Motion CIC](#)

**Smiles for Sibs - Siblings Support Group on Thursday afternoons**

A group run in both Wokingham and Bracknell to give siblings aged between 8 and 13 some 'me time', let off steam and have fun by taking part in a range of different activities.

To attend the group the family will need to become Promise Inclusion members (£15 for Jan to Dec).

The club costs £1 per evening and during the group they play games, cooking, arts and crafts. During the school holidays they organise subsidised trips as well.

Tel: 07827 340 405; Email: [admin@promiseinclusion.org](mailto:admin@promiseinclusion.org)

Web: Activities and Services – Promise Inclusion

**The Wayz Youth Club SEN sessions on Fridays**

Chillout - 5pm to 6:30pm - 12 to 16 year olds

Hangout - 7:15pm to 9pm - 16 to 25 year olds

Tel: 01344 483596 Email: [admin@thewayzyouth.co.uk](mailto:admin@thewayzyouth.co.uk)

Web: [The Wayz | \(thewayzyouth.co.uk\)](http://The Wayz | (thewayzyouth.co.uk))



### GEMS Social Groups

For children with or likely to have ADHD/ASD living in East Berkshire

- Bear Cubs - 5 to 10 year olds - 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday of the month at 4pm
- Wolf Pack - 11 to 15 year olds - 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday of the month at 4:30pm
- Connectionz - 16+ years old - Last Tuesday of the month at 6:30pm

Activities are online or face to face in locations across Bracknell, RBWM and Slough.

Tel: 0800 999 1342

Email: [GEMS.4health@nhs.net](mailto:GEMS.4health@nhs.net)

Web: <https://www.gems4health.com/>

### Chance to Dance - Term time Saturdays at Martins Heron Community Centre

A dance school for students and families in the disabled community with various classes between 9am - 12:00pm held every other week on a Saturdays.

8<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> October; 5<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> November; 3<sup>rd</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> December

Tel: 07736343570

Email: [sendanceclub@hotmail.com](mailto:sendanceclub@hotmail.com)

Web: <http://www.sendanceclub.co.uk>

### Bracknell Trampoline Centre on Saturdays

BTC has a team of experienced coaches on hand with a passion for working with people with additional needs to ensure everyone can enjoy the amazing feeling of bouncing on the trampoline whilst remaining in a safe and positive environment.

- Saturday at 12:30pm and 1:30pm
- Holiday courses

Tel: 07977 790337

Email: [lexi.lawton@bracknelltrampolinecentre.co.uk](mailto:lexi.lawton@bracknelltrampolinecentre.co.uk)

Web: <https://www.bracknelltrampolinecentre.co.uk/activities/special-needs/>

### Pinewood Gymnastics SEND class on Sunday

Additional Needs session give children a chance to enjoy the benefits of gymnastics and all it has to offer in a smaller, quieter class. Paid termly Parents usually remain on site for duration of class.

5 to 16 year olds at 10.10am to 11:05am

Tel: 01344 773 237

<https://thomley.org.uk>

Email: [enquiries@pinewoodgymnastics.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@pinewoodgymnastics.co.uk)

Web: <https://pinewoodgymnastics.co.uk/gymnastics-classes/additional-needs-classes>

### Red Kangaroo Kanga Calm Session on Sunday (Reading)

Kanga Calm sessions are specifically for those who are aged 2+ with disabilities/additional needs.

4:00pm – 5:00pm

Tel: 03333 445 933

Email: [jump@redkangaroo.co.uk](mailto:jump@redkangaroo.co.uk)

Web: <https://www.redkangaroo.co.uk/>

### Berks County FC Inclusive Football sessions at Cantley Park (Wokingham)

Berks County are a local community charter standard football club and will shortly be running some 'inclusive' session's for children aged 12- 18 that struggle to attend mainstream sessions

Email: [wayne@berkscountyfc.com](mailto:wayne@berkscountyfc.com)



**Disability Challengers (Farnham)**

A Charity that gives disabled children and young people the opportunity to play, have fun, and make friends in a safe and supportive environment. Supporting children and young people aged 2 – 18.

Saturdays | Wednesday Youth Nights | Half-term | Easter & Summer Holidays (Mon – Fri)

Tel: 01483 230 939

Email: [FarnhamYouthscheme@disability-challengers.org](mailto:FarnhamYouthscheme@disability-challengers.org)

Web: [Play - Challengers \(disability-challengers.org\)](http://Play-Challengers(disability-challengers.org))

**Camp Mohawk (Wargrave)**

Camp Mohawk is a multi-functional day centre for children with special needs and their families, set in 5 acres of beautiful countryside, just outside Wargrave. Throughout the year the centre provides a range of activities, facilities and natural space to encourage children with a variety of special needs to play, socialise and learn in a secure and caring environment.

Tel: 0118 940 4045

Email: [info@campmohawk.org.uk](mailto:info@campmohawk.org.uk)

Web: <https://www.campmohawk.org.uk>

**Thomley (Buckinghamshire)**

Thomley is an activity centre for people with disabilities and their families/carers. It has the skills, experience and expertise in providing a wide range of active and creative activities/workshops contributing to the development of social and general life skills to enhance the physical/emotional well-being of people with disabilities throughout their lives.

Tel: 01844 338380

Email: [enquiries@thomley.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@thomley.org.uk)

Web: <https://thomley.org.uk>

**Thames Valley Adventure Playground (Maidenhead)**

A charity that offers a unique range of adventurous, therapeutic and educational play activities in a safe, caring and stimulating environment, catering for both children and adults with all types of disability, however mild or profound.

Tel: 01628 628599

Email: [theplayground@tvap.co.uk](mailto:theplayground@tvap.co.uk)

Web: <https://www.tvap.co.uk>

**Swings and Smiles (Thatcham)**

Swings & Smiles offers play sessions for children with special needs and their whole family at their specialist centre. They have specialist play resources to enable children with a wide range of disabilities to play with siblings and other family members in a secure and safe environment.

Tel: 01635 285170

Email: [office@swingsandsmiles.co.uk](mailto:office@swingsandsmiles.co.uk)

Web: <https://www.swingsandsmiles.co.uk/>

**Our House (Wokingham)**

Wokingham based, parent led charity providing activities, support and therapy for children with disabilities and/or additional needs and their families. They are based at Our House - fully accessible play centre, where families can meet, and all children are celebrated.

Tel: 07967 105842

Email: [admin@bftf.org.uk](mailto:admin@bftf.org.uk)

Web: <https://www.bftf.org.uk/>





## Dear Year 7 Parents/Carers and Students

You have successfully completed your first full term here at Brakenhale and wow, you have truly excelled yourselves. It has been lovely to see you transition so brilliantly into Brakenhale and become fully fledged members of our school community. On Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> September I was greeted with lots of nervous faces and now every morning I am greeted by confident smiling faces who are ready to take on the school day. I am exceptionally proud of how far you have come and I very much look forward to our next half term together, and embarking on the next stage of our Brakenhale journey.

I would like to congratulate each and every one of you for your achievements this term, especially those who were invited to our 'Breakfast morning' and 'Hot chocolate with the Headteacher'. It is wonderful to be recognised for all your hard work and a very big well done to you all.

I make reference to our 'blank book' continuously in our assemblies and highlight that you are in control of what your pages consist of, we can help guide you but ultimately, you are the authors. I hope you can reflect back on our first term here at Brakenhale and you are proud of the first chapters of your 'book.' I hope they show that you have embedded our school values and you have aimed high, been kind and taken responsibility throughout the term. I know as a cohort, I look back on our first chapters together and I am very proud of how you have blossomed from primary school students to secondary students.

### Tutor achievements points

We also have achieved the highest number of achievement points every week since the start of September. Currently we have a grand total of **24,954** achievement points thanks to your hard work! This is much higher than the other year groups in the school. This is a remarkable achievement and one that we need to continue. Last term we seen 7R win the highest amount of achievement points and the current score are below:

7B = 3707

**7R = 4127**

7A = 2831

7K = 3804

7E = 2707

7N = 3771

7H = 4007

As you can see 7R are STILL our reigning champions, however 7H are not too far behind. A big well done to 7R! Let's see if we can have a new champion next half term. Please remember everything you do counts and goes towards your overall total.

### Thank you and Goodbye

Sadly, we are saying goodbye to Ms Shan at the end of this term. I would like to thank Ms Shan for all her support and guidance she has shown the students at Brakenhale, not only in 7R but across the wider community. I am sure you will join me in wishing Ms Shan all the best of luck for the future.

A huge thank you to all of your tutors who have worked extremely hard behind the scenes to ensure your first term here at Brakenhale was successful, I am sure you will join me in wishing them a restful break. A massive thank you to Miss Campell-Watson and Mr Coley for their continuous guidance and support over this term.

### Final Message

During the Christmas holidays it is important to reflect on our first term here at Brakenhale and to take the time to rest and enjoy time with your friends and family. Christmas can be a difficult time for some people due to a number of different reasons so please remember to uphold all of our school values especially our value of being kind.

Have a lovely break Year 7 and I look forward to welcoming you all back in the New Year.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

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



## Dear Year 8 Parents/Carers and Students

The end of the calendar year and the first term of the has come to a close with the usual excitement associated with going off for the Christmas holidays. Year 8s have culminated this term with a number of positive and exhilarating activities. Well done on a very positive term and let us maintain the momentum for the rest of the year.

During the last 3 weeks, we have had students visit Jamie’s Farm for a week of activities. Students were a credit to themselves, their families and the school. The report from the team is that the students were a dream to work with. We had to say a firm no to students wanting to bring animals back with them! We commend the students for the positive reflection on themselves as well as the school.

This term’s attendance is lower than usual due to the number of bugs and illnesses of the last two weeks. A very well done to every single one of you who persevered to the end, and wishing a healthier next term to those who fell foul of any of these illnesses. That being said, a hearty congratulations to Tutor group 8K who ended the term with the highest percentage for this term (92.1%). Following closely in second position is 8N with just 1 % less than 8K at 91.1%, and trailing behind 8N with a 0.5% difference is 8R at 90.6%. The competition will continue next term and it will be interesting to see who is at the top of the board especially after the first 6 weeks.

The number of achievement points amassed by Year 8 has not been hampered by illnesses! With a total of 23324 achievement points, the to three tutor groups are listed below:

8E	4036
8A	3917
8N	3284



A very well done to every single one of you who were awarded achievement points this term. Let us purpose in our minds to increase the numbers received next term. We will continue to celebrate your individual achievements with an audience with the headteacher, and other awards for attendance next term, watch this space, and remember you have to be in it to win it, so keep an eye on your individual attendance!!

We will not be seeing each other for the next two weeks. Please remain safe, look after your families and loved ones, and whether you celebrate Christmas or not, use the time to reflect and introspect. Try to do at least one ‘random’ act of kindness over the period and enjoy the time with your loved ones.

Have a lovely Christmas, and see you in 2023.

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



## Dear Year 9 Parents/Carers and Students

It’s hard to believe that we are already one term into this academic year. It has been a successful start to the year for Year 9 in many ways and I am very proud of what has already been accomplished. Our focus for Year 9 remains to work towards becoming “GCSE Ready” as we move into the next phase of our academic careers. Expectations remain that all Year 9 students live and breathe our school values of “Aim High, Be Kind and Take Responsibility” every day. 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.

This week we were able to celebrate a number of our students who had been successful this term through our termly awards assembly. The majority of Year 9 students put a tremendous amount of effort into their lessons every day so it is always a privilege to be able to acknowledge and recognise just a few who have been exceptional. Collectively as a year group, we were also able to celebrate our almost 1,700 Golden Tickets that have been achieved this term by Year 9 students. We were also able to recognise 9N as a tutor group for being the winners of the Year 9 Attendance Award with 93.6% achieved collectively.



### Our individual award winners were:



- Academic Excellence Award - **Connor S**
- Most improved Term Award - **Zach W**
- Resilience Award - **Pippa G**
- Above and Beyond Award - **Maja S**
- “Be Kind” Award - **Callum B**
- “Aim High” Award - **Isabella QC**
- “Take Responsibility” Award - **Mikey M**
- Spirit of Year 9 Award - **Aleksej K**

Next term, we will move one step closer to GCSE by making some big choices when it comes to our GCSE subjects. Students will be supported by their teachers in making the right choices for them through conversations and advice given in lessons. Parents will be invited to attend a Year 9 Choices evening on Thursday 16th March for more in-depth information on the process involved as well as tips and advice when it comes to making the appropriate choices for your families. Of course, parents can have detailed discussions with class teachers during the Year 9 Progress Evening on Thursday 23rd March where I’m sure KS4 subject choices will be a focus for many of the conversations had.

For now, I would like to wish all of our families a wonderful Christmas holiday! For many, this may be the first time in a while that full extended families are able to come together for Christmas (due to Covid disruptions) so I hope you are able to make the most of it and enjoy the time with your loved ones. This year, we will be making the usual trip back to Belfast to spend Christmas with my family! As usual, this involves taking Bayley on the Stena Line for the eight hour journey. Thankfully, we’ve done this with her a few times before so she’s somewhat used to this, so it is much less of a procedure than it was previously! However, somehow she still isn’t used to her “little pudding” Christmas jumper we force her to wear on the big day!



Have a great Christmas and a happy new year!

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



## Dear Year 10 Parents/Carers and Students

Wow, what another fantastic half term. We are now really into the new courses chosen this year, as a team we are incredibly proud of how everyone has taken to their GCSE journey. This has been a huge step and the challenge has been embraced by all.

Firstly, I would like to say a huge congratulations to our new prefects. They have really embraced their new roles and I am incredibly proud to have these individuals as great advocates of the year group.

Well done and keep up the good work.

This academic year at Brakenhale has seen the return of the school council. Our tutor reps have been bringing ideas together for Alessanda and Fabrizzio to take and present to the whole school council. This really is a great achievement and allows the students to help be part of their own democracy in school.



Going on to the celebrations for our tutor groups:

Top Achievement points this half term:	Top attendance this half term:
E - 725	10K
H- 680	10E
N - 664	10N
B - 580	10B
R - 526	10A
K - 500	10R
A - 410	10H



Final thing from us, please look after yourselves during the break; be kind to your friends and family. Enjoy the festivities. All the best,

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



## Dear Year 11 Parents/Carers and Students

And, just like that, it is another term down and only three half terms left until the Summer Exams begin. We are incredibly proud of all the hard work and effort you have put into this half term, we know it has not been an easy one and for some it has been quite stressful. You have successfully navigated your way through a second round of PPEs and we really hope that the results you receive back from teachers reflect the hard work we know you have done. If they have not quite gone to plan, remember, these are just a practice and therefore there is still plenty of time to reflect and think about how you can make the next ones more positive.

There are approximately 18 school weeks left before the start of your summer exams which begin on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> May. Whilst that seems a long time, it is about 90 school days roughly, or 450 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. We do believe that you should definitely rest and relax over the Christmas holidays, but it may also be a good idea to just double check that all your current work you have been completing is turned into useful revision material so that you are keeping on top of this. Otherwise it will feel like you have a mountain to climb in February when you start thinking about the final round of PPEs.

We also had your virtual parents evening on Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> November. We hope this was a positive experience for you and you now know where you are currently working and what small areas you need to make improvements in to make those marginal gains for success. For some these conversations may have been quite frank and not what you wanted to hear, but it is really important that we are honest with you about how you are doing so that you can rectify this now rather than when it is possibly too late. Please reflect on what your teachers have said and try to put some of their strategies to use.

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 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 online tutoring that has been offered. If you complete an hour of study at home for a particular subject, email your teachers 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 otherwise it is not really a celebration of you and your awesomeness. We do not want this to be an impossible task to achieve, you can all do this. we know you can!!

If you have not signed up for our Brakenhale Sixth Form Taster day, then please make sure that you are filling in the form that Mrs Manlay has sent to you. It is as we said in the assembly, you are not making an informed decision about your future if you don't attend this all-important day. It is really important that you experience what it is like to have a day as a Sixth Form student, so make the most of this opportunity, and it will either galvanise your next steps elsewhere, or get you enthused for choosing your A Level or Btec Level 3 courses, confirming that Brakenhale Sixth Form is the right place for you.

Finally I'd like to thank you all for persevering this term. It is a long term at 14 weeks, and is by far the toughest to negotiate your way through. 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 Christmas Holiday.

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



## Dear Sixth Form Parents/Carers and Students

Congratulations to all of our Post-16 students on a really successful term. 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. Success, which you will all achieve, is not something which should be easy. As US president Theodore Roosevelt once said, "Nothing in the world is worth having or worth doing unless it means effort, pain, difficulty. I have never in my life envied a human being who led an easy life. I have envied a great many people who led difficult lives and led them well." With this in mind, remember that your resilience and perseverance will become stepping stones for greater achievements. Things may not always be easy, but we can promise you that it will be worth it.

### 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 couple of weeks 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. It is important that all students use the Christmas break to reflect upon this feedback and use some of the time to continue to revise and consolidate their knowledge.

### Year 13 Parents' Evening

As we write this we are looking ahead to the Parents Evening on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> December. This is a crucial date as Teachers will be feeding back exam grades, providing some of the key feedback mentioned above and ensuring that everybody is clear about the next steps to ensure that students are able to make progress.

### 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 29<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 Miss Loj.



### Opening Evening

On Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> November we held an Open Evening for prospective students. Year 11 students and their families listened to a presentation delivered by Mr Taylor, Ms Manlay, Ms Loj and our Head Students Ellie and Ethan. Guests then made their way into the canteen where a subject fair was set up to help inform students about their Level 3 subjects. The evening was incredibly busy and there was a very positive atmosphere. This was largely due to the support of the Sixth Form Student Leadership team and all of the Year 13 and 12 students who came to support their subjects during the evening. We were incredibly proud to see such a high turnout from our current sixth formers to support the evening and they were superb in engaging with Year 11s. Thank you again for making the evening such a success.

### Trips!

On Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> November all students in Year 12 and 13 attended the 'Safe Drive Stay Alive' Tour at the Hexagon Theatre in Reading. The campaign is aimed at pre and new drivers to influence their behaviour and attitude on the roads. The event was emotional and hard-hitting but crucial in ensuring that our students remain safe.





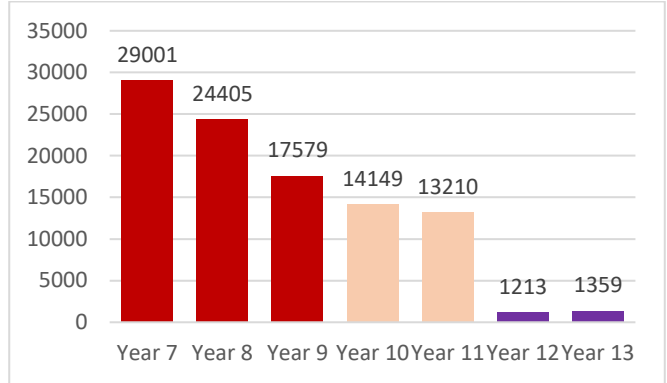
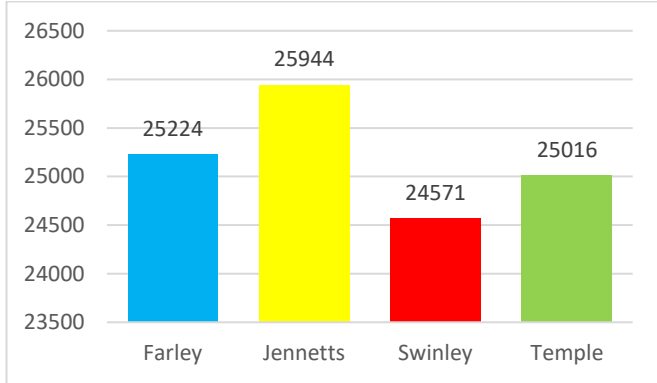
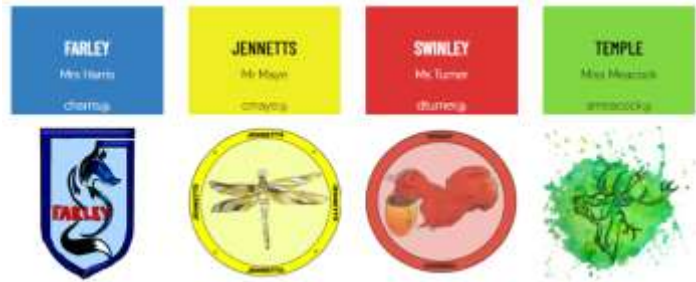
Students in Year 12 then took a trip to Olympia London on Friday 11<sup>th</sup> November to the What University? and What Career? Live Fair. Students had a couple of hours to speak to University and Apprenticeship representatives, attend mini lectures about everything from finance to the Arts and collect as many tote bags from exhibitors as humanely possible. Students found the event hugely informative and it was great to see many of them networking with potential future employers!

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



## School Houses and Housepoints

Pastoral Team



## School Dining Hall

Mr 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
- 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.

	Price	
	Regular	Large
<b>MEALS</b>		
Main Meal	£2.20	
Meal Deal (main meal + £0.60 drink or pudding)	£2.80	
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	£1.00
Fruit Salad / Cold Dessert / Jelly Pot	£1.00	
Pudding	£0.60	
<b>SNACKS</b>		
Pizza	£1.25	
Paninis	£1.80	
Beef / Chicken / Veggie Burger	£1.80	
Hot Wraps	£1.60	
Chicken Nuggets / Popcorn	£1.60	
Hot Dogs	£1.60	
Lentil Salads	£1.60	
Rapiti	£1.60	
Chicken Wings Pot	£1.60	
Potato Wedges	£0.80	
Waffles	£0.60	
Cookies	£0.50	
<b>DRINKS</b>		
Cold Drinks Range	From	£1.50 to £0.80
Hot Drinks	£1.00	
Fruity Slushes	£0.80	£1.00
Ice Cream / Lollies	£0.50	

4th November 2022





## 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](mailto: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](mailto: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

**GREENSHAW LEARNING TRUST**

**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 gray 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.

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

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



**Brakenhale Lost Property**

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

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

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

Email us on the address below and we will endeavour to locate the items 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**

## BRAKENHALE Table Tennis Bats & Balls

**Bats £5**  
**Balls £0.50p**

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




## 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.yourschoollottery.co.uk/play)

You have to be in it to win it.





**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](http://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:**

- ✓ Diapers and Blankets
- ✓ Pillows and cushions
- ✓ Carpets, rug 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

### Do Good December: Encouraging Small Acts of Kindness!

**December Kindness 2022**

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
			1 Spread kindness and share the December calendar with others	2 Contact someone you can't be with to see how they are	3 Offer to help someone who is facing difficulties at the moment	4 Support a charity, cause or campaign you really care about
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 elderly 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 2023	

**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

Christmas Holiday: Monday 19<sup>th</sup> December to Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2023

#### SPRING TERM 2023

Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> January Inset Day

Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> January – Friday 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023

*Spring Half Term - Monday 13<sup>th</sup> February to Friday 17<sup>th</sup> February 2023*

Spring Holiday: Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> to Monday 17<sup>th</sup> April 2023

*(Good Friday 7<sup>th</sup> April, Easter Monday 10<sup>th</sup> April)*

#### SUMMER TERM 2023

Monday 17<sup>th</sup> April Inset Day

Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> April – Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> July 2023

*Summer Half Term - Monday 29<sup>th</sup> May to Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2023*

*(May Bank Holidays Monday 1<sup>st</sup> and Monday 29<sup>th</sup> May)*

Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> and Friday 21<sup>st</sup> July 2023 Inset Days

Summer Holiday: Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> July 2023

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

*Please check the school website regularly for current information.*

Bracknell Forest term dates can be found on their website:

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



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



## Term Dates 2023/24

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

### Term Dates 2023-24

#### AUTUMN TERM 2023

Friday 1<sup>st</sup> and Monday 4<sup>th</sup> September Inset Days

Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> September – Friday 15<sup>th</sup> December 2023

*Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> – Years 7, 11, 12 and 13 only - Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> – All Students*

*Autumn Half Term - Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> to Friday 27<sup>th</sup> October 2023*

Christmas Holiday: Monday 18<sup>th</sup> December to Monday 1<sup>st</sup> January 2024

#### SPRING TERM 2024

Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> January Inset Day

Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> January – Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> March 2024

*Spring Half Term - Monday 12<sup>th</sup> February to Friday 16<sup>th</sup> February 2024*

Spring Holiday: Friday 29<sup>th</sup> March to Friday 12<sup>th</sup> April 2024

*(Good Friday 29<sup>th</sup> March, Easter Monday 1<sup>st</sup> April)*

#### SUMMER TERM 2024

Monday 15<sup>th</sup> April Inset Day

Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> April – Friday 19<sup>th</sup> July 2024

*Summer Half Term - Monday 27<sup>th</sup> May to Friday 31<sup>st</sup> May 2024*

*(May Bank Holidays Monday 6<sup>th</sup> and Monday 27<sup>th</sup> May)*

Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> and Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2024 Inset Days

Summer Holiday: Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> July 2024

**INSET Days**      Friday 1<sup>st</sup> and Monday 4<sup>th</sup> September 2023  
 Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2024  
 Monday 15<sup>th</sup> April 2024  
 Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> and Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> 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*