

Brakenhale School Sixth Form News

12th December 2018



Dear Parents and Carers,

With Christmas drawing ever closer I'd like to take this opportunity to give an update on how things are going with the Sixth Form.

We have had an incredibly positive start to the year and the students here never fail to impress; what a fantastic Sixth Form they are building. This half term has seen our Sixth Form Open Evening, where a huge number of our current Sixth Formers attended to help promote the school to prospective students and parents of students. I can't think of a better way to 'sell' the school than to let people see what mature, articulate, well-rounded individuals this school and Sixth Form is producing. It certainly seems that way, with over 120 students indicating that they'd like to apply to the Sixth Form next year already. We've also had parents evening for our year 13's and the sense of positivity and excitement in the room was palpable and it was wonderful that the attendance rate was over 90%. Alongside all of this, Stewart Kingsley (a senior partner in one of the UK's largest wealth management companies), has been continuing his sessions on personal finances, tax, loans, debt and all things finance, which has been great to see and we feel it important that our young people have this knowledge as they mature into adults who need to look after themselves and make good future financial choices. We have also had a trip to the Safe Drive Stay Alive event in Reading to ensure that our students get accurate, hard hitting information about road safety as they start learning to drive. The Sixth Form football team is in full swing, and after thrashing the staff 6 - 0 in a 'warm - up' match (not much of a warm - up!!), they went on to beat Kennet School from Thatcham in extra time in the County Cup, earning them a home tie in the new year against Edgbarrow. It's coming home lads! We have also had a fixture against Ranelagh in Sixth Form Netball, and while the result may not have gone our way the ladies represented themselves fantastically and there will be more fixtures to come to secure our sporting dominance across the county.

We have further academic achievements with Jordan and Abitha achieving Silver in the Senior Maths Challenge, and Ella and James achieving Bronze. We are very proud of our academic achievements, and this is being seen in our University applications already. Jordan has had his interview with Oxford to read Physics and we await the outcome, but we have already had a huge increase in the number of University applications this year and we are expecting that number to rise further. It is so gratifying to see our students' happy faces when they get offers and it hopefully even further incentivizes the importance of hard work! We have some incredibly strong candidates applying for extremely impressive apprenticeships too; the future of our students in year 13 is looking very bright indeed and we are excited to see what they achieve this summer and in their futures. Keir Buist continues to impress with his dramatic and musical gifts, and after performing as 'Tommo' in 'Private Peaceful', is currently performing at South Hill Park in the Pantomime along with some of our other students. I mentioned football earlier, and our star striker Ellis Day has signed a contract with Bracknell Town's first team as well. Less impressive is our Sixth Form Pool competition, the quality of performance has been patchy, let's say (naming no names Ronnie!), but what can't be denied is the effort the Ben Cary has put into the organisation and running of it, and I'm hoping for a Duffy/Little victory after the final on the last day of half term - that will certainly be in Parent News!

One area of the Sixth Form that I am incredibly proud of is the willingness of our students to engage in areas outside of their studies. We have a number of students involved in the Anti-Bullying initiative the school is running, and I know they will continue to make a real difference in the lives of the young people they work with over the coming months. Mr Boucher has also worked hard to introduce our new 'Personal Growth' programme for year 12 and 13, where students volunteer to help in departments and with lessons. We have had a huge uptake in this and we start rolling out the programme this week officially, although there are lots of students who have already taken the initiative to go and support departments where they can. Part of building this amazing community is the charity work we see going on in the Sixth Form. We have had several events and sales take place to raise money, and there are more planned in the future. The Sixth Form involvement in the Dance and Drama show was significant as well, and not only were there amazing

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

☎ 01344 423041 ~ 📧 mainreception@brakenhale.co.uk ~ 💻 www.brakenhale.co.uk

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performances on the night from our students, the work they put in to support the lower years in their performances is truly valued.

There isn't space here for me to outline any more achievements or events, but I am well aware that our young people are doing so much more than this. I am so proud of the young people in our Sixth Form, and count myself very lucky to be able to come and work alongside this group of students; what they are building here is very special indeed.

A huge thank you to all of the parents and carers that support us as well, we have seen a fantastic increase in punctuality and attendance and we know that we get a lot of support from home in order to achieve this. Attendance is currently around the 96% mark, and there are very few lates at all. We hope you have a fabulous winter break, and we are already looking forward to welcoming back our students in the new year on January 7th after some time to recharge, ready for the PPE's (Mock Exams) starting on the January 14th.

Yours,

Mr J Duffy
Head of Sixth Form

Sixth Form Tutor's – September 2018

P16B – Chloe Keljarrett	ckeljarrett@brakenhale.co.uk
P16R – Beth Byers	Bbyers@brakenhale.co.uk
P16A – Helena Ioannidis	hioannidis@brakenhale.co.uk
P16K – Aisling Duddy	Aduddy@brakenhale.co.uk
P16E – Tracey Wilhelmy	twilhelmy@brakenhale.co.uk
P16N – Frederick Green Nickel	fgreennickel@brakenhale.co.uk

Sixth Form Team – September 2018

Head of Sixth Form – Mr Duffy	jduffy@brakenhale.co.uk
Assistant Head of Sixth Form – Mr Boucher	jboucher@brakenhale.co.uk
Deputy Headteacher – Mr Hartley	ahartley@brakenhale.co.uk
Sixth Form Administrator – Ms Perryman	sperryman@brakenhale.co.uk