



Brakenhale School

Year 9 News



Friday 14th December 2018

Dear Year 9 Students

The holidays are coming! The holidays are coming! Christmas is almost upon us, and what an exciting time of year it is!! The first term of year 9 is almost done, and though it has been a long haul, it has been a very successful term for most of us. With the dawn of GCSE courses we have embarked on new subjects like GCSE Religious Studies, as well as starting the GCSE programme of study for Maths and English.

The new term will be just as exciting! We will kick start with talks on the Options Process and this includes talks from senior members of staff as well as external agencies who will be coming in to support you in this important process. We will schedule a number of meetings with students and parents and carers, and for those of you who are not sure what additional subjects you would like to study for GCSE, we are here to guide you through the process.

We say farewell to Mr Gibson who leaves us for pastures anew. We will miss him, and we wish him the best in his new role. We say hello and welcome to Mr Correy who will be joining us in January. Mr Correy will be working with us through the Options Process as well, and we look forward to having him onboard.

Mr Thomas' assembly this week was poignant in reminding us how important it is for us to look after our environment. We are an important part of the eco -system and we are all dependent on each other. Any breakdown in this delicate structure will have catastrophic impact on the rest of us. Be mindful of the things he mentioned: choice of foods, how you use the internet and your use of energy, especially electricity.

We have kick started a number of Mentoring Programmes in Year 9 in order that we can push students to ever greater achievements and futures. We are delighted to announce that we have two successful applicants onto the Wellington College Wheeler Programme which involves a relationship lasting several years of work and support for these students from Wellington College. We already have two students on the AQA Unlocking Potential Mentoring Programme who have met with their elite athlete mentor and this looks like being a very exciting initiative. We also have a number of students on the Adviza 'Captain of My Own Ship' mentoring programme and 12 students on the Brilliant Club Mentoring Scheme working with Phd students at Exeter College, Oxford University. I am sure these programmes will have a positive impact, unlocking potential and helping you to find your niche and support you in achieving your potential in reaching future goals.

Brakenhale School, Rectory Lane, Bracknell, Berkshire RG12 7BA
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High Expectations and Challenge for All



This half-term's Standards Week was very successful with year 9 students achieving over 400 hundred achieving points. I am pleased to see that the behaviour points for this period had dropped over the last period. Well done to you all.

House Assemblies will be on next week. Please check with your tutors to ensure that you are in the right place. We will have notices in the C13, C15, and C15 areas to direct you to the rooms for registration.

Since our last newsletter, the new building has taken even more shape. We can see floors and stairs!! You get to appreciate how big the new school will be as new bits are added on. The new and improved Music block has been opened and operational for a couple of weeks now. I hope you are enjoying and looking after the new facilities.

The Rotary Club of Easthampstead is sponsoring a raffle with all proceeds going towards getting brand new equipment for our brand new school when we move in. Please support this cause as every penny raised will go to the school. First prize is a whopping £500 and goes down to fourth prize of £50. Tickets only cost £1. Support this cause!

The Options Process will start as soon as we return from the Christmas Holidays. Teachers will be making presentations to you to explain the demands of different subjects, especially those not done at Key Stage 3. Subjects like Health and Social Care and Economics as well as Business Studies and Computer Science will be highlighted. This will be an opportunity for you to speak to teachers and ask questions to clear up any misconceptions or just to seek clarification on different matters. We will also be scheduling meetings for parents so information can be shared about the changes in the curriculum as these affect subjects you are already doing like Maths and English.

Uniform standards have improved over the term. Students continue to look smart in full school uniform. If you need stocking up please let your parents and carers know in good time so they can get fresh stock from the uniform shop before they are closed for the Christmas holidays. Make sure you know where your ties and black socks are stored over the holidays so you can maintain the smart look when we return in January. Additional ear piercings should only be done at a time when they can heal for you to replace the jewellery with transparent plastic jewellery. You are allowed one earring in the lower lobe and it needs to be a gold or silver stud. Please leave the jewellery you get as Christmas presents at home. They are not for school wear.

Christmas is an exciting time of year when most of us get to see loved ones and spend time with family and friends. It's also exciting getting presents and being able to give presents as well. As you get older, I want to implore you to focus on the giving aspect. Give of your time to family and friends, share your time with others less fortunate, do something kind for people around you. Be mindful as well that not everyone will be seeing family at this time of year, and Christmas time can be sad for some young people for many different reasons. Again, be kind, and be sensitive to those who are less fortunate than you are. Share.

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As we continue to support numerous charities, we are reminded that we need to look after ourselves. The school has its very own charity which supports students with varying needs. This could be in the form of new school shoes, new uniform, supporting students to go on field trips, getting tools for learning and school bags. These are just a few examples of the ways we support students in school. We need to top up the fund to continue doing so, we are putting on a cake sale to help generate funds for this school charity. Please bring your cakes in and bring lots of money to support this worthy cause. Speaking of charities, our Christmas jumper day will be on the last day of term. Please bring a pound whether you wear a Christmas jumper or not. All proceeds from this initiative will be going to Save the Children Charity.

We are also doing a Food Bank collection during the last week of term. Please ask your parents for contributions of non-perishables and bring these to the Head of Years' office.

Details for last day of term for students are as follows:

Day finishes at 12:05 for students

Period 1: 9:00 - 9:45

Tutor Time: 9:45 - 10:30

Break: 10:30 - 10:50

KS3 Assembly: 10:50 - 11:50

Registration : 11:50 - 12:05

HAVE A WONDERFUL CHRISTMAS BREAK!!

Kind regards

Ms S Douse
Head of Year 8
sdouse@brakenhale.co.uk

Mr M Kingston
Assistant Head of Year 8
mkingston@brakenhale.co.uk



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May this Christmas end the present year on a cheerful note and make way for a fresh and bright New Year. Here's wishing you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Please share with us your views on what you like about the school and what we can do to improve by clicking on the links below:



Fab & Drab

[Fab](#)

[Drab](#)

Please let us have your nominations for any members of staff who have exceeded your expectations this week:

Staff Member of the Week

[Staff Member of the Week](#)

Paper copies of nominations can be dropped into the boxes in main reception

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KEY EVENTS – w/c 17th December 2018

	AM Tutor	PM Tutor
Monday	Tutor Reading	Registration in ICT Suite
Tuesday	Swinley: Sports Hall Jennetts: Main Hall CHRISTMAS DINNER IN DINNER HALL	Registration in ICT Suite
Wednesday	Farley: Sports Hall Temple: Main Hall	Registration in ICT Suite
Thursday	FINAL DAY OF TERM FOR STUDENTS. SEE SCHEDULE CHRISTMAS JUMPER DAY	Registration in ICT Suite
Friday	TEACHER TRAINING DAY. STUDENTS NOT IN SCHOOL	

Lunch-time and Period 6 detentions

Lunch-time detentions for lateness and uniform in S11
P6 in HoY office with Miss Douse/Mr Kingston from after school until 3:30pm

If you do not attend your lunchtime detention, there will be a message sent out via schoolcomms to your parents/carers and you will be expected to be in period 6 the following day.

Upcoming Events

Tuesday 8th January	PSHE P3
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