



Dear Parents/Carers

We are now at the end of our first full week back after the Easter holidays, and it has been an extremely busy time, particularly for the students preparing for their examinations. The Year 11 Dance students had their moderation day on Wednesday and the moderator was full of praise for their outstanding work.

The GCSE PE students spent last weekend completing their trek qualifications and a big thanks to the PE department for camping out with them.

Post 16 students had their rewards assembly this week and it was lovely to see so many of them achieving above their target grades and achieving 100% attendance. Although it might seem obvious, being in school is a huge indicator for success in all areas and our focus on this continues.

This is a very important time of year for staff recruitment and I have been delighted this week with appointments that have been made in English and Languages. This week we have welcomed our new permanent music teacher Ms Hope, who joins us from a school in Hampshire with a wealth of experience; and a Dance and Drama teacher, Miss Raby, who has a significant track record in this area, will join us from a West Berkshire school. I am delighted that despite the national shortage of teachers and the extensive problems in recruitment, we are still attracting candidates of a very high calibre.

Year 10 were lucky enough to have Liz Peaceful, International Business Change Manager and HR for Royal Mail speak to them during PSHE. It is a privilege to be able to welcome so many high calibre professionals into the school as they continue to remind students of the very high expectations we have for them.

I hope you all enjoy a peaceful bank holiday weekend and let's hope the forecasters have got it wrong about the rain!

Jane Coley, Headteacher

What's on next week

Monday 1 st May	Bank Holiday
Tuesday 2 nd , Wednesday 3 rd May	GCSE Photography Exam
Wed 3 rd , Thursday 4 th , Friday 5 th May	Year 10 Science Exams
Thursday 4 th , Friday 5 th May	GCSE Art Exam
Sunday 7 th May	PTA Half Marathon Water Station at Coningsby – volunteers welcome

Vacancies

We currently have the following support staff vacancies in school:

- **Administration Assistant**
- **Caretaker**

We have exciting opportunities for the above experienced, committed and enthusiastic staff. The successful candidates will join a team who are passionate about engaging and inspiring young people in their learning. We are looking to recruit colleagues with both the commitment and relevant skills to drive our raising standards agenda across the whole ability range.

Reminders



It's the final week to collect Active Kids vouchers from Sainsbury's - please send in all the vouchers you have as soon as possible.



Attendance Update

Last week's attendance was **93.8%** so we still have a little work to do to achieve our goal of **95%**. Last week we sent out a letter to parents explaining how we are striving to achieve this and the students, with the exception of Year 11, have all had an assembly to reiterate the importance of being in school and how that can affect their grade and subsequently how those grades could affect their earning potential... ask them what they would do with £350,000?

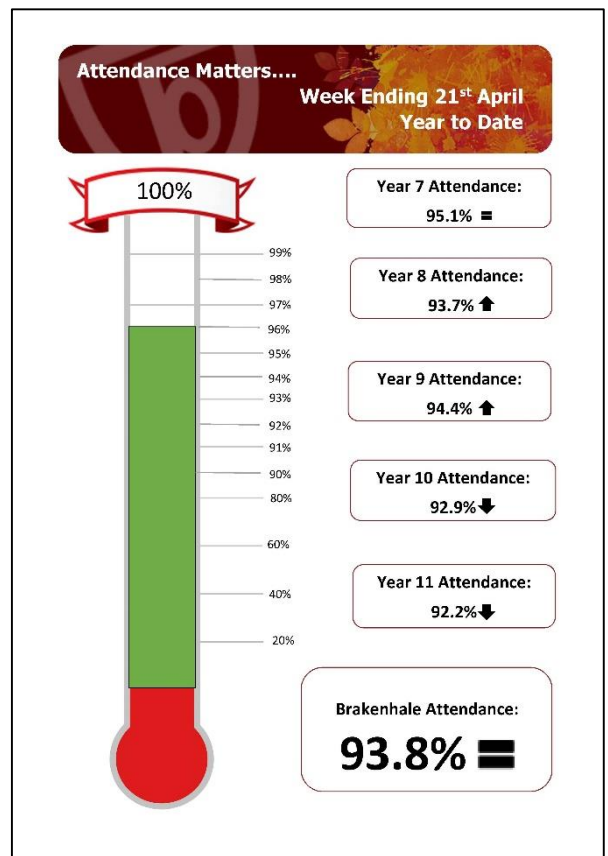
Across the school 782 students achieved 100% attendance last week, which is a fantastic result. Year 7 were the superstars with a 184 students achieving 100% just beating Year 8 who had 173 students with 100%. We hope that these numbers can continue across the rest of the term.

As you can see from the chart Year 8 and 9 both moved their attendance forward last week, so a massive well done to them and Year 7 held their top spot hitting the all-important 95%. For individual tutor performances, 7N was the tutor group with the highest attendance last week with 96.8%, closely followed by 7R with 96.6% and 9E with 95.6% in third.

Can we remind you that with the summer looming Brakenhale cannot authorise family holidays except in exceptional circumstances. The recent High Court ruling on school holiday fines means that Bracknell Forest have recommenced fines for term time holidays.

Thank you for your continued support.

Mrs Evans, Attendance Officer and Mr Hartley, Deputy Headteacher



Music Department News

Brakenhale awarded Bronze Certificate by the Incorporated Society of Musicians

Brakenhale has been awarded the ISM/ISM Trust's Bronze Certificate. This means that more than 10% of all the whole of the school's GCSE cohort achieved an A* to C in GCSE music.



Deborah Annetts, Chief Executive of the ISM – the professional body for musicians – congratulated the school, saying:

'We are delighted to recognise Brakenhale's achievement in music and celebrate the commitment to music education shown by the school in their high uptake and high achievement of students'.

'Music is a valuable subject, it brings value in itself to students as well as supporting achievement in other subjects. Music also opens doors and generates educational opportunities for students from all backgrounds. We are delighted that Brakenhale values music within their school curriculum and as the professional body for musicians and a subject association for music education, we are delighted to recognise this high level of achievement with this certificate.'

Mr Duffy and the Music department are really proud of this achievement, and are looking forward to building on it going forward.

Level 2 BTEC Music

BTEC Music students in Year 10 are getting a visit from Joao Caetano to give some insight into the music industry before their exam on Monday 15th May. Joao currently plays percussion for Incognito, but has also played for Chaka Khan, Anastacia, Leona Lewis, and Jessie J, as well as being a recording artist in his own right. The students are undertaking an exam on the music industry on 15th May, and a professional musician coming in to share his experiences is going to prove very useful!

Mr Duffy, Head of Music

Dance Department News

The Dance department is proud to be in its second year of partnership with Berkshire County Dance Company Youth (BCDCY) and celebrates the past success of Brakenhale students gaining places in the company.

Berkshire County Dance Company Youth are auditioning for new dancers to join the company from September this year. Students and parents who attended Lift Off Dance Festival at South Hill Park last month may have seen them perform four wonderfully diverse contemporary dance pieces created by some of the best new choreographic talent in the country!

BCDCY offer professional level contemporary dance training for those dancers who are preparing for full time training and offers a bridge from school and after school club dance sessions to the full time discipline and technique required to undertake professional training, as well as offer guidance on how to successfully audition.

The company meet on Sundays during term time and during some half terms in order to create new performance pieces and often perform alongside professional dance companies at South Hill Park. Artists the company have worked with and performed alongside include Rambert Dance Company, James Cousins Dance, Joss Arnott Dance, James Wilton Dance, Tavaziva, Luke Brown Dance, Experiential, Anna Watkins Dance, EDIFICE Dance Theatre and many, many more...

Students interested in auditioning can receive an application form through contacting Lena Dee via the website or get an application from Miss Haley. Auditions take place at South Hill Park on Sunday 4th June, students do not need to prepare anything - they will participate in a short class and creative task. BCDCY welcomes students from all dance backgrounds with a range of experience.

For more information about the company visit: www.bcdcy.org.uk and www.youtube.com (search BCDCYouth) and visit their facebook page www.facebook.com/BCDCY

Please feel free to contact Miss Haley with any questions about the process or for support. Depending on the number of Brakenhale applicants a second audition date may take place at the school similar to last year, this will be confirmed late May.

Miss Haley, Head of Dance and Drama



PE News

@brakenhalePE

We have had an excellent start to the summer term despite the weather! Across two days of clubs we have had 49 students attending.

Please encourage your son/daughter to attend after-school clubs as we have a number of fixtures coming up and a brilliant reward trip at the end of term. More details on the reward trip will follow.

GCSE trekking

Well done to the GCSE PE group who completed their trekking moderation in Windsor Great Park. The group covered a distance of 20km, navigating their way through the park. The final challenge came with the groups having to cook and tidy up for themselves!!

Top marks scored all round for the groups - well done.




GCSE PE moderation

Congratulations to the GCSE PE group who have now completed 60% of their final grade for PE. The group was moderated over the day on football, circuit training, rounders and trampolining. All efforts are now to be focussed on the theory exam on Friday 19th May.

New Extra Curricular Timetable

Please find attached the new extra-curricular timetable for this term.

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
AFTER SCHOOL 3:10 - 4:30	Staff Meetings 	Athletics Mr Jackson-Sankey, Mr Yeates, Miss Willimott Cricket KS3 Mr Boucher	Rounders and Rounders Leaders All Years Miss Willimott, Miss Rushby Cricket KS4 Mr Beukes Softball All Years Mr Jackson-Sankey	Athletics Mr Boucher, Mr Beukes, Miss Rushby Tennis All Years Mr Yeates	GCSE Revision/ BTEC Catch up (Year 10 and 11) Mr Yeates, Miss Rushby, Mr Beukes, Miss Willimott, Mr Boucher

* Trampolining to be confirmed

Miss L Willimott, Lead Coordinator of Girls PE and Teacher in Charge of Health and Social Care

New Menus in Dining Hall

New Menus

The Brakenhale School

Week 1	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Hot main meal option	British Farm Assured Lasagne	British Farm Assured Chicken Balti	British Farm Assured Honey Roast Gammon	British Farm Assured Chicken and Bacon Carbonara	MSC (Marine Stewardship Council) Battered Fish
Hot vegetarian meal option	Cheese and Spinach Frittata	Vegetable Balti	Vegetable Samosas	Veggie Burger	Veggie Pizza
Carbohydrate option	New Potatoes	Rice Naan Bread	Roast Potatoes Noodles	Baked Potatoes Wedges Garlic Bread	Baked Chips
Vegetables options	Mixed salad Peas	Carrots Sweetcorn	Mixed Seasonal Vegetables	Baked beans Sweetcorn	Peas Mixed Salad
Hot Pudding	Sticky Toffee Apple Sponge served with custard	Belgium Waffles served with chocolate custard	Mixed Fruit Crumble served with custard	Chocolate Tart served with fresh cream	Drop Pancakes served with maple syrup

We have available every day

- Yogurt bar for breakfast
- Salad bar where you build your own salad
- Homemade bread

We use locally sourced ingredients when available and in season

All our menus are nutritionally analysed to ensure they meet and in most cases exceed The School Food Standards

The Brakenhale School

Week 3	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Hot main meal option	British Farm Assured Bolognese	British Farm Assured Chicken Tikka	British Farm Assured Roast Beef	British Farm Assured Chicken Burger	MSC (Marine Stewardship Council) Baked Fish
Hot vegetarian meal option	Veggie Bolognese	Veggie Curry	Spring Vegetables Stir fry	Cheese and Tomato Tart	Veggie Pizza Cheese Omelette
Carbohydrate option	Spaghetti Pasta	Rice	Roast Potatoes Noodles	Baked Potatoes Wedges	Baked chips
Vegetables options	Mixed Green Vegetables	Broccoli	Carrots Cauliflower	Mixed Salad Sweetcorn	Mixed Salad Peas
Hot Pudding	Cherry Bakewell Tart	Apple and Pear Crumble served with custard	Bread and Butter Pudding	Strawberry Flan	Double Chocolate Muffin

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Starting Next Week

With Week 3

The Brakenhale School

Week 2	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Hot main meal option	British Farm Assured Beef Chilli Con Carne	British Farm Assured Chicken Korma	British Farm Assured Roast Chicken Breast	British Farm Assured Cumberland Sausages	MSC (Marine Stewardship Council) Battered Fish
Hot vegetarian meal option	Spinach and Cheese Cannelloni	Veggie Curry	Roasted Vegetables Tart	Vegetable Nuggets	Veggie Pizza Cheese Omelette
Carbohydrate option	Rice Garlic Bread	Naan Bread	Roast Potatoes	Mashed Potatoes Wedges	Baked chips
Vegetables options	Broccoli Mixed Salad	Courgettes	Mixed Salad Carrots	Baked Beans Sweetcorn	Peas Baked Beans
Hot Pudding	Apple Crumble served with custard	Chocolate and Banana Sponge	Raspberry and Coconut Tray Bake	Baked Cheesecake	Baked Mixed Fruit Pie served with fresh cream

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Literacy Favourites

My Favourite Book

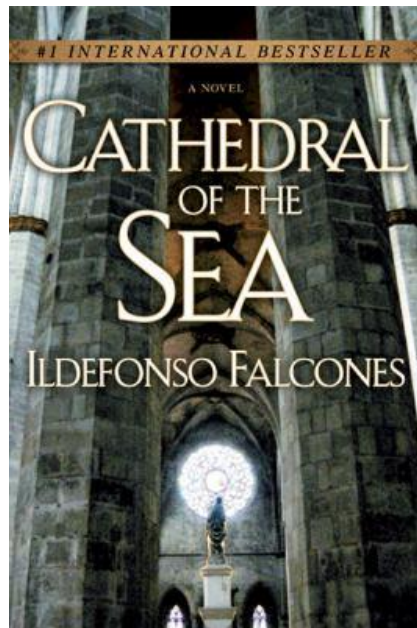
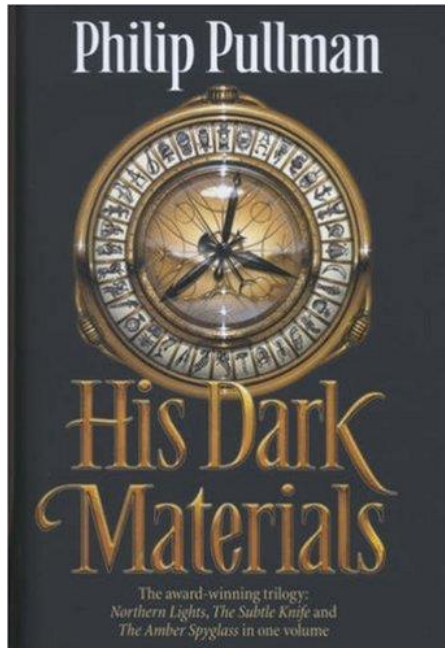
His Dark Materials Trilogy by Philip Pullman

I first read the 'His Dark Materials' trilogy when I was in Year 8 and I could still re-read it over and over as a proper adult. The three books ~ Northern Lights, The Subtle Knife and The Amber Spyglass ~ are packed with adventure as they switch between different versions of the same world, and are really thought provoking – I still get something new from them when I read them now.

Lyra is a feisty and wilful protagonist, and her accomplice, Will, balances her out with quiet power and control. The three books each give you loads to think about in terms of how powerful children can be, the position of religion in society and whether it's easy or difficult to determine what "evil" really is. The characters are complex and multi-layered, and the forces of evil in the book are really sinister.

One of the aspects of the book I loved when I first read it was each character's "daemon", that being an embodiment of each character's soul in the shape of an animal that accompanies them at all times. Aside from that, there are witches, angels at war, giant polar bears that battle at the North Pole, a beautiful, prolific kidnapper, parallel universes and an object that men are desperate to obtain at any violent or sacrificial cost. It is well worth a read!

Mr. Slade



Ildefonso Falcones "Cathedral of the Sea" is in my list of Top Ten Novels.

This book is a historical novel by Spanish author Ildefonso Falcones. The action takes place in the 14th century in Barcelona at the height of the Inquisition, with the construction of the Santa Maria del Mar church serving as the background to the story. This is a tale of revenge, honour and how pursuing your dreams will take you further than you expected.

This is an exciting, very readable novel, enriched by realistic descriptions of medieval life. The king taxed the Jews to finance his wars and his nobles ravaged the countryside to feed the city. Peasants starved. Ildefonso Falcones's adventure novel is set just at this moment of Catalonia's greatest glory, when ostentatious wealth is barely papering over imminent collapse.

Like many other historical novels "Cathedral of the Sea" shows how the power of the people always triumphs over greed because it is more powerful. Commence this journey that will take you back to the Middle Age and decide whether you agree with me or not!

Miss Garrido

Keep Reading... Keep Imagining...

*Mrs Powell and Miss Baveystock,
Assistant Headteachers*

PTA News

The PTA meets once every half term. Everyone is welcome to join us.

Our next meeting will be taking place on Tuesday 13th June at 7pm, everyone is invited.

Our next exciting event will be Race Night so we look forward to seeing you all there.

PTA Upcoming Events:

<i>Tuesday 25th April</i>	Summer Term 1 Meeting
<i>Sunday 7th May</i>	Support for Bracknell Half Marathon Water Station
<i>Tuesday 13th June</i>	Summer Term 2 Meeting
<i>Saturday 24th June</i>	Race Night



Don't forget to shop through www.easyfundraising.org.uk to effortlessly help raise money for the school!



Bracknell Half Marathon

Please join us to support this event by helping to man the first water station and marshall points close to the school.

This is a great community event so if you are able to help out on this Sunday morning for an hour or so we welcome all support.

On Sunday 7th May we are looking for student, parent and staff volunteers to help hand out water and sponges to the runners and help direct them from the marshalling points either side of the school from 8.00am. The runners will all have gone through the water station by 9.30am so we will be all closed up by then.



Brakenhale PTA



**Bracknell Half Marathon
WATER STATION 1**

**Sunday 7th May 2017
8.00-9.30am**

This year Brakenhale is once again responsible for Water Station 1 and associated Marshall Points in the popular Lexicon Bracknell Half Marathon.

On Sunday 7th May, from 8.00am, we are therefore looking for student, parent and staff volunteers to help at the water station outside the school's Coningsby entrance to hand out water and sponges, and to man the marshalling points close to the school.

The runners will all have gone through the Water Station and marshall points by 9.30am so we will be closed up by then!

This is a community event which we like to support annually and your help would be most welcome.

Thank you for your support.



School Lottery

Congratulations to the recent prize draw winners:

Saturday 22nd April: Ms T L

Don't forget to join up and purchase your tickets to start helping our school.

We currently have 39 supporters who have 58 tickets in the draw between them. We have raised just over £100 for the school already.

Click here to [Support the Brakenhale Lottery](#)



Spring into action!

Join our lottery and help our school grow!

- ✓ All of our profit goes to OUR school!
- ✓ A GUARANTEED prize to one of our supporters every week!
- ✓ A further chance of winning £25,000 in a separate draw every week!
- ✓ Tickets only cost £1 per week!

To Start Supporting, Visit:
www.YourSchoolLottery.co.uk
 And Search For:
Brakenhale

Supporters must be 16 years of age or older

Our School Lottery is a fun and effective way to raise money to help improve our school but we need your help to make it the best it can be.

School Lottery letters sent home can be found on the school website 'letters' page:

<http://brakenhale.co.uk/pastoral-support/letters-sent-home/>

Support us this term and you can

WIN

one of four

Kindle e-readers

- A GUARANTEED cash prize to one of our supporters every week!
- Match all 6 numbers and win £25,000!
- Tickets only cost £1 per week!
- Support our school and win prizes - WIN WIN!
- Joining is easy, it only takes a minute!

To Start Supporting, visit
www.YourSchoolLottery.co.uk
 and search for: **Brakenhale**

Supporters must be 16 years of age or older

Future Diary Dates

Monday 8 th to Wednesday 10 th May	AS/A2 Art Exams
Tuesday 9 th May	Year 11 English Trip
Week commencing Monday 15 th May	Year 8 Book Look Week
Monday 15 th May	BTEC Music Exam
Monday 15 th May	Summer Study Programme starts
Monday 15 th to Wednesday 17 th May	AS/A2 Photography Exams
Monday 29 th May to Friday 2 nd June	Summer half term holiday

Term Dates 2016-17

SUMMER TERM 2017

Wednesday 19th April – Friday 21st July 2017

Summer Half Term - Monday 29th May to Friday 2nd June 2017

Summer Holiday for students– Monday 24th July to Monday 4th September



AUTUMN TERM 2017

Inset Days: Friday 1st and Monday 4th September

Inset Days: Monday 18th and Tuesday 19th December

Term dates for students:
Tuesday 5th September – Friday 15th December 2017

Autumn Half Term – Monday 23rd to Friday 27th October

Bracknell Forest term dates can be found on their website:
<http://www.bracknell-forest.gov.uk/schooltermandholidaydates>



Term Dates 2017-18

Autumn Term: Friday 1 st September to Tuesday 19 th December 2017	Inset: Friday 1 st & Monday 4 th September, Monday 18 th & Tuesday 19 th December	Half Term: Monday 23 rd to Friday 27 th October
Spring Term: Wednesday 3 rd January to Thursday 29 th March 2018		Half Term: Monday 12 th to Friday 16 th February
Summer Term: Monday 16 th April to Monday 23 rd July 2018	Inset: Monday 23 rd July	Half Term: Monday 28 th May to Friday 1 st June

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

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