

# Brakenhale School Parent News

21<sup>st</sup> April 2017



Dear Parents/Carers

I am delighted to be back and this week has been a seamless transition from last term.

The students have returned to us from their Easter break in a very positive way and have immediately thrown themselves into their studies. I have presented assemblies to all year groups this week sharing with them stories and examples of accepting and responsibility and they have fully engaged in this agenda.

Our Post 16 students have received their PPE results this week and are now fully focussed on what they need to do to achieve their very best in the upcoming A Level examinations.

Year 11 have only 15 school days remaining until the start of their GCSE exams and they are heavily focussed on finalising their revision and coursework. This week the PE moderator spent a day with GCSE PE students and was extremely impressed with the quality of their work. Congratulations to the students and the department. We look forward to seeing a set of excellent final grades.

Many of the Year 11 students came in across the Easter holidays for additional tuition and I would like to thank all staff who gave up their holiday time to support the students.

I hope you have a lovely weekend.

*Jane Coley*  
Headteacher

## What's on next week

Monday 24 <sup>th</sup> April	<b>Year 11 Meningitis Injections</b>
	<b>Year 11 BTEC Sport Resit</b>
Tuesday 25 <sup>th</sup> April	<b>PTA Meeting, 7pm</b>
Wednesday 26 <sup>th</sup> April	<b>Year 11 Dance Exam</b>
Thursday 27 <sup>th</sup> April	<b>UKMT Junior Maths Challenge</b>

## 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.

## Welcome back to the summer term

### Uniform

We continue to be delighted with the standard of uniform at Brakenhale. This drive has been achieved because you as parents have supported the school's ethos. As a school we continue to look at ways to improve things. Part of this drive will be that from now on any new ties that are purchased from our uniform shop will be clip-on ties. These ties look very smart and enhance the 'sharp' image our students have.

### Tools for Learning

Can I ask that you help us to maintain the 'Tools for Learning' for your son or daughter. This has been very successful and has allowed our students to be more productive in lessons as teachers spend less time giving out equipment and more time teaching. Tutors will be giving short break or lunch detentions to anyone who does not have the equipment to be an autonomous and successful student. The equipment list is printed below. Any gaps can be filled by purchasing from our equipment shop in the Print Room where we sell at cost price.

<i>Item</i>	<i>Cost (may be subject to change depending on supplier)</i>
Casio Fx - 83GT Plus Calculator (battery powered), (model recommended by the Mathematics Department)	£5.50
Colouring Pencils – 12 pack	£0.80
Large Clear Pencil Case	£1.00
Protractor	£0.25
30cm Ruler	£0.20
3 Pens – Bic Cristal – black/blue/red	£0.15 each
Pencil – HB	£0.08
Highlighter Pen	£0.22
Rubber	£0.10
Single metal pencil sharpener	£0.20
Glue Stick	£0.40
Brakenhale Art Sketch Book for Key Stage 3 students	£0.95

### Detentions

We will be changing the way we run detentions from next week. At the moment, we have S55 detentions on a Friday. These will now be called "Thursday Surgery" and will be, as you can guess, held on a Thursday! The session will last from 3.05 until 4pm. These sessions will be for anyone who has been deemed by the Head of Year to need a strong sanction. They will also be for anyone who has missed a shorter class teacher detention or a late/uniform/tools for learning sanction. Our intention is that where possible class teachers, tutors or Heads of Department will take time out to visit this session and talk to the students about what has led to the sanction so the student will be able to understand and subsequently improve their future conduct. Sometimes students will not always get things right, however, as a school, whilst it is our job to hold the students to account and ensure they understand how they have got things wrong, it is also our role to discuss events with them and persuade them to get it right in the future. We believe this updated and simplified system will perform this function more effectively. As part of this tweaked system class teachers and form tutors may also keep a student after school for 15 minutes on the same day that an issue has occurred. This is in an attempt to give students 'fast feedback' where the student has got something wrong so they can understand and rectify any issues very quickly.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you would like to discuss any of these matters further.

*Mr Hartley, Deputy Headteacher*

## Parent Zone

### 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

Please see our website for information on downloading the 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.

More information is available on <http://brakenhale.co.uk/pastoral-support/parent-zone/>

### Biometrics



We use fingerprint scanning at school as a safe a secure way for students to take their books from the library and to purchase their food from the canteen.

If your child has not had their fingerprint taken, they can do this by going to the Library during break or lunchtimes. They will need to have the consent form completed and signed before the fingerprints can be taken, which you can find on our website.

More information is available on <http://brakenhale.co.uk/pastoral-support/parent-zone/>

### School Dining Hall

The School Dining Hall is open daily for all students from 7.45 to 8.30am for breakfast food which includes:

- Fresh Fruit / Yoghurts / Cereal / Bacon or Sausage Rolls / Toast and Preserves / Danish Pastries / Hot Chocolate

Other opening times include:

- 11.00 – 11.25 Break-time
- 1.00 Lunch-time service starts for Key Stage 5 students
- 1.25 – 2.00 Lunch-time service starts for Key Stages 3 and 4 students
- 3.05 Any unsold food may be purchased at half price by cash or account

We have a number of different meal deals and a hot school meal, which includes either a drink or a pudding, for the cost of £2.30. A selection of sandwiches, pizza slices, salad and pasta are also available daily.

More information and sample menus are available on <http://brakenhale.co.uk/pastoral-support/parent-zone/>

There are 3 weekly menus which are rotated in order.

## Parent Pay

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 to 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 to enable them to purchase their food.



## Student Zone

### Biometrics



Students who haven't had their fingerprint taken can hold up the queue in the dining hall.

Students use their scanned fingerprint as a safe and secure way for to take books from the library and to purchase food from the canteen.

Please could students make sure they have had their fingerprint scan taken. They can do this by going to the Library during break or lunchtimes. They will need to have the consent form completed and signed before the fingerprints can be taken, which parents can find on our website.

More information is available on <http://brakenhale.co.uk/pastoral-support/parent-zone/>

### Show My Homework and Other Logins

If students need a login for Show My Homework they should see their tutors. If students have any other issues with login details or email/IT issues, they should please ask or email main reception and they will be able to help.



## Sporting Opportunity

Bats is a great, free opportunity for all children of all abilities; the children get to mix with others and work as a team.

Please see the poster to the right for more information.



## Drama Congratulations

Continuing the good news from the Dance and Drama Department, one of our Year 11 Drama students Keir B, performed as part of South Hill Park's Seussical over Easter.



Seussical is a musical by Lynn Ahrens and Stephen Flaherty based on the stories of Dr. Seuss (mainly "Horton Hears a Who!", "Horton Hatches the Egg" and "Miss Gertrude McFuzz") that debuted on Broadway in 2000. The play's story is a complex amalgamation of many of Seuss's most famous books.

The show was a fantastic success with large audience numbers and had a five day run. Keir demonstrated his ability to sing, dance and act in a highly character-based role.

*Miss C Haley, Head of Dance and Drama*

## PE News @brakenhalePE

### Reward Trip – Reading v Blackburn

On Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> April Mr Yeates and Mr Jackson Sankey took our best attendees at sporting extra-curricular clubs to the Championship fixture, Reading v Blackburn Rovers. The trip was organised by Miss Willimott as a reward for those students who had attended the most PE clubs in the Spring Term.




The students had a great evening despite our seating being directly in front of the deafening Reading drumming band!

Reading beat Blackburn 3-1 so the students were able to see some great goals at a fantastic stadium!

### New Extra Curricular Timetable

Please find attached the new extra-curricular timetable for this term. This will start the week beginning Monday 24<sup>th</sup> April.

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

## Literacy Favourites

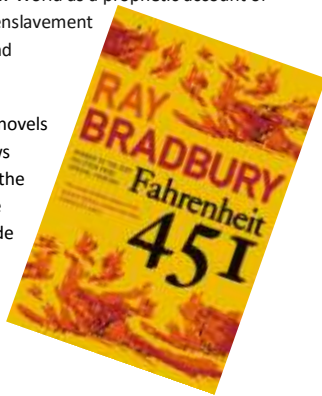
Ray Bradbury's "Fahrenheit 451" is in my list of Top Ten Novels.

This is a tale of a future in which books are banned because they are dangerous. In this future firemen are employed to burn books. Montag, our hero, is one of these firemen whose job it is to destroy the books. However, he is curious and begins to steal the books he is employed to burn. As a consequence, the Mechanical Hound of the Fire Department, armed with a lethal hypodermic, escorted by helicopters, is ready to track him.

This is a book described as "a classic dystopian novel of a post-literate future, Fahrenheit 451 stands alongside Orwell's 1984 and Huxley's Brave New World as a prophetic account of Western civilization's enslavement by the media, drugs and conformity."

Like a lot of dystopian novels "Fahrenheit 451" shows what might happen in the future, if we don't take care. Read it and decide whether you think Bradbury was right!

Mr H Smith



MY FAVOURITE READ.....

## LORD OF THE RINGS TRILOGY



Mrs Matthews

Unputdownable tale of adventure, mystery, war, betrayal, magic and love.

Frodo the unsuspecting hobbit inadvertently comes into possession of "The One Ring", it gives him the power of invisibility but also draws evil to him as the malevolent, disembodied Sauron wants to possess the ring and so control Middle Earth. These books follow Frodo and his trusted companions as they struggle to reach Mordor and destroy the ring. We follow each member of the fellowship as they grow and mature in the adversities that are thrown at them.

Don't just watch the films and think you know the story, the books contain many more characters, adventures, poems and story lines not even touched on in the films.

Once you have read the Fellowship you will find you won't be able to stop reading until you get to the end of the "The Return of the King."

Mrs Powell and Miss Baveystock,  
Assistant Headteachers



## Bracknell Half Marathon

The 2017 Lexicon Bracknell half Marathon is now less than a month away and preparations are going well.

As always around this time of the year the excitement is building for the participants, and as a school we are pleased to be able to support this event by manning the first water station and marshalling 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.



Brakenhale PTA

**Brakenhale School PTA**

**Bracknell Half Marathon WATER STATION 1**  
**Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> 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 7<sup>th</sup> 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 marshalling 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 1<sup>st</sup> April:** Ms E

**Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> April** Ms L

**Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> April** Tina S

And thank you to Ms L who has donated her winnings back to the school.

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

We currently have 38 supporters who have 57 tickets in the draw between them. We have now raised £80 for the school.

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



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/>

## PTA News

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

Our next meeting will be taking place on Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> April 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:

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



Sainsbury's  
**Active Kids**  
Eat well • Move well • Live well

Don't forget to shop through [www.easyfundraising.org.uk](http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk) to effortlessly help raise money for the school!



## Future Diary Dates

Monday 1 <sup>st</sup> May	<b>Bank Holiday</b>
Tuesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> , Wednesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> May	<b>GCSE Photography Exam</b>
Wed 3 <sup>rd</sup> , Thursday 4 <sup>th</sup> , Friday 5 <sup>th</sup> May	<b>Year 10 Science Exams</b>
Thursday 4 <sup>th</sup> , Friday 5 <sup>th</sup> May	<b>GCSE Art Exam</b>
Sunday 7 <sup>th</sup> May	<b>Half Marathon Water Station at Coningsby</b>
Monday 8 <sup>th</sup> May	<b>Year 8 Book Look Week</b>
Monday 8 <sup>th</sup> to Wednesday 10 <sup>th</sup> May	<b>AS/A2 Art Exams</b>
Wednesday 10 <sup>th</sup> May	<b>Year 8 Girls HPV2 injections</b>
Monday 15 <sup>th</sup> May	<b>BTEC Music Exam</b>
Monday 15 <sup>th</sup> to Wednesday 17 <sup>th</sup> May	<b>AS/A2 Photography Exams</b>
Monday 29 <sup>th</sup> May to Friday 2 <sup>nd</sup> June	<b>Summer half term holiday</b>

### Term Dates 2016-17

#### SUMMER TERM 2017

Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> April – Friday 21<sup>st</sup> July 2017

Summer Half Term - Monday 29<sup>th</sup> May to Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2017

Summer Holiday for students– Monday 24<sup>th</sup> July to Monday 4<sup>th</sup> September



#### AUTUMN TERM 2017

*Inset Days: Friday 1<sup>st</sup> and Monday 4<sup>th</sup> September  
Inset Days: Monday 18<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> December*

Term dates for students:  
Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> September – Friday 15<sup>th</sup> December 2017  
Autumn Half Term – Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> to Friday 27<sup>th</sup> October

Bracknell Forest term dates can be found on their website:

<http://www.bracknell-forest.gov.uk/schooltermandholidaydates>

**#challengeforall**

### Term Dates 2017-18

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

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

☎ 01344 423041 ~ ✉ mainreception@brakenhale.co.uk ~ 🌐 www.brakenhale.co.uk

*High Expectations and Challenge for All*