

Brakenhale School Parent News

9th December 2016



Dear Parents/Carers

We have had a real focus across the last two weeks on students acknowledging all of their personal achievements and Mrs Powell has presented assemblies all week emphasising this.

We are encouraging the students to have a positive influence on others and we have suggested the following things that they could be doing very easily:

- Smile
- Say 'Good Morning/Afternoon'
- Pick up your litter
- Hold the door open
- Say 'Thank you'
- Say 'Please'
- Stick up for someone
- Listen
- Help someone to do a job
- Support someone else doing a good thing
- Give someone a compliment
- Dob in someone for being amazing
- Tell the truth, kindly
- Share

#challengeforall

It would be great if you could encourage these at home.

We have also started this week our new Year 7 Ambassador initiative. Fourteen Year 7 students were successful in gaining an Ambassador role and this week they have been busy helping out at both the Dance sShow and the Year 8 parents' evening. Their service to the school is very impressive.

Although Miss Haley has included a write up about the Dance show further on in the newsletter I would like to give my personal thanks to her for all of the time and effort she put into producing the show and giving our talented young people such a fantastic opportunity.

Year 8 parents' evening last night was a great success with around 85% of parents attending. Our target in the School Improvement Plan is 80% attendance at parents' evenings and it was wonderful to see so many parents/carers at the school last night. We made some changes to how we communicate to you before parents evening and how the hall was laid out. If you have any further feedback about the evening please do not hesitate to get in touch with me.

Next week is our final week before the Christmas holidays and we have a number of events going on across the week including house competitions during the school day. Our presentation evening for last year's Year 11 and 13 students is on Tuesday and our music show on Thursday night, however lessons will of course run as normal apart from Friday 16th December when we will have our Christmas assemblies. Please see the schoolcomms sent out this morning regarding the timings for the day.

Finally, can I remind you that Friday is also Christmas Jumper day in aid of Save the Children and a Christmas jumper may be worn to replace the blazer but all other uniform must be worn as normal.

Best wishes

Jane Coley, Headteacher

Post 16 Experience Day – Friday 2nd December

Last Friday saw all of Year 11 participate in a Post 16 Experience Day. The purpose of the day was for students to have the chance to try out four subjects that they may be interested in studying next year. For example, students got the chance to sit in and participate in a Psychology or Economics lesson and in experiencing the lesson students gathered a much clearer idea of whether they would like to study it next year. We hope that wherever our students may study next September they will be doing so having made more informed choices about which subjects they will be studying.

The day was a great success and in a follow up feedback survey that the students undertook this Thursday, 95.6 % of Year 11 students said they found the day a useful experience. The students should be congratulated for their enthusiastic participation in activities such as solving crimes, undertaking chemistry experiments and performing a very hastily constructed but beautifully executed interpretation of a Radiohead song. There was a purposeful and buzzing atmosphere throughout the day and the students agreed that it was a really constructive event.



Mr Hartley, Deputy Headteacher

Take Over Day

On Friday 18th November students from across Bracknell Forest took over the council for the day. Four students from Brakenhale took part; Charlie Camp (Year 13), Emily Lamb and Charlie Wooden (Year 10) and Jack Wright (Year 8). Students were paired and allocated a member of the council for the day to shadow. All the students had a fantastic day and were able to witness the types of things that Councillors do. Charley and Emily attended various meetings and visited the top of Point Royal where they say they had a fantastic view of the school and Bracknell Forest (photo right). Jack and Charlie got to visit Lapland and see how it works and the planning that went into it. All the students met the Mayor and had a meeting together in the Council Chambers at the end of the day.

Miss C Thomas, Student Voice Coordinator



Sixth Form Decorating Competition

The Sixth Form Tutor groups took part in a competition over the whole of last week to decorate their tutor bases for the festive season. The students really engaged in the concept and some interesting ideas were explored. The competition was judged by Ms Silvey, our Sixth Form administrator. In the end three tutor groups were judged to have outstanding decorating skills and the 'Selection Box' prizes were shared between them. The event really got the students in the festive mood and also helped the tutor groups bond.



Mr Dale, Head of Sixth Form and Mr Hartley, Deputy Headteacher

Year 7 Bake Sale

On Monday 5th December tutor group 7E ran a charity cake sale as part of their PixiEdge experience and in conjunction with their PSHE (Personal, Social & Health Education) learning. They chose three charities based on experiences of students within the tutor group; Cancer Research, British Heart Foundation and SwanUK. The tutor group worked very hard on liaising with each other, their tutor, Mrs Wilkins and Head of Year, Mr Cooper. Their tasks not only included baking and bringing cakes, buns and biscuits but also advertising posters around the school and deciding on the prices for their wares. They sold their wares during Monday's breaktime and lunchtime. Some enterprising students walked around the open areas to encourage more sales. Mrs Wilkins baked and decorated a real gingerbread house (Mary Berry's recipe) and the tutor group ran a raffle for 20p a ticket raising an additional £20. In total they raised an incredible £91.46.

Well done and thank you to all the students of 7E.

Mrs Wilkins, Maths Teacher & Tutor



Rewards Lunch

Throughout this week and next Mr Gibson is providing lunch for those Year 11 students who have gained 70 or more achievement points or very few behaviour points. During the sessions students are able to talk to him about how they are finding school, their aspirations and suggest improvements for their final term and a half.

Well done to all students invited.

Mr Gibson, Deputy Headteacher

Dance Show – Wednesday 7th December

Well done to Miss Haley and all the students who produced and took part in the Dance Show on Wednesday, for all their hard work and commitment to put on such a fantastic show.

Such amazing talent! Graceful, on point, elegant, professional!! Everyone thoroughly enjoyed the evening watching the show and it was great to see so many students taking part and putting on such an amazing production. Miss Haley said that 'the event was really successful and we have received positive feedback from staff, parents and students who attended. The standard of performances was very high and the students worked incredibly hard. The students who performed said they were overwhelmed by the amount of congratulatory feedback – it is so positive for them and lovely that so many people took the time to do this and come and watch them in the show.'



Year 11 – Extension to the school day

From Monday 9th January to Friday 31st March next year we will now have a period 6 for students in their final year here at The Brakenhale School to ensure that they are fully prepared for their summer examinations.

These lessons will be formally timetabled and consist of an extra hour at the end of the normal school day, meaning that students will now finish school at 4.05pm. Students will receive extra sessions in English, Maths, Science and their options subjects.

These extra lessons will be taught by their normal class teacher and will be geared towards covering outstanding content, completing controlled assessment and working on examination technique. We are excited to be in a position to offer this to our students and I would like to thank our committed staff for giving up extra time and also you and your child for your continued support.

I genuinely believe that this initiative, running alongside all of the extra interventions we are currently implementing, will have a significant positive impact on our students' results in the summer.

Should you wish to discuss this further, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Mr Gibson, Deputy Headteacher

English as an Additional Language (EAL) Support

I am available anytime to support/mentor/advise/help with anything for all students (and parents) for whom English is a second language, and particularly after school on Monday (EAL Homework Club) and Thursday (Young Interpreters Club) in the LRC.

Miss I Cmok, EAL Coordinator, icmok@brakenhale.co.uk

Application from Wildridings Primary School to join The Greenshaw Trust

The Governing Body of Wildridings Primary School in Bracknell is proposing that the school should become an academy and join the Greenshaw Learning Trust.

The Governing Body and school leadership team have been carefully considering the school's future and evaluating its options. The Governing Body agreed unanimously that it believes that the best way to secure the future of Wildridings is for the school to become an Academy and join the Greenshaw Learning Trust.

Pat Watts, Chair of Governors at Wildridings said:

"The Greenshaw Learning Trust shares the ethos and values that drive Wildridings. The Trust works in the community that our school serves and understands our pupils' strengths and needs.

Becoming part of the Greenshaw family of schools will enable Wildridings to collaborate more closely with like-minded schools - both primary and secondary – and secure the support the school needs to continue to help its pupils to 'be the best they can be'"

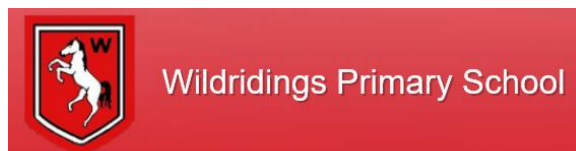
Mike Cooper, Chair of the Greenshaw Learning Trust said:

"We are delighted that Wildridings Primary School wants to join our Trust. As part of the Greenshaw Learning Trust Wildridings will both benefit from and contribute to the close working between our schools and share in economies of scale."

As an academy in the Greenshaw Learning Trust, Wildridings Primary School will maintain its existing character and ethos, will not change its name or its admission arrangements, and will maintain terms and conditions for its staff.

Nearby Crown Wood Primary School is also proposing to join the Trust.

Over the coming weeks Wildridings will be consulting its stakeholders, including staff and parents, on this proposal, with further information about the proposals and opportunities for people to ask questions and give their views.



PE News

@brakenhalePE



The PE department are starting to feel the festive vibe with our sport themed Christmas tree!

PE House Competitions

As we get closer to the end of term, we have House Competitions to look forward to. This term house competitions are Rugby 7s for the boys and Netball for the girls.

House who enter a team will have a chance to win the HOUSE CUP at the end of the year!

The Year 8 and 9 House competition will be held on Tuesday 13th December then the Year 10 and 11 House competition will be held on Wednesday 14th December. The Year 7's competition will be confirmed.

Badminton

On Tuesday we had our first badminton fixture and luck was not on our side even though we had some fantastic performances from Key Stage 4 (KS4). The boys (Tom N, Ben C, Dan L and Ben L) had the closest games and Claudia P had the only victory for the KS4 girls, winning 21-10 but sadly Ranelagh won all age groups.

Football

We finally managed to play the Sixth Form football match against Bracknell and Wokingham College this week. The team played well and were in good spirits. Brakenhale students showed that they could work well together as a team and the final score was 4-1 to Bracknell and Wokingham College. Man of the Match was awarded to Matt Nower who scored an amazing goal from 30 yards!

Netball

This term we have played a whopping 21 matches against local schools across all year groups. All girls have shown real commitment to the team and training and as a reward we will be holding a netball Christmas party on Wednesday 14th December from 3.05 to 3.30pm. Remember to bring in a treat!

Rugby

Due to the weather this term we have had to postponed some matches, the majority being Year 7 and 8 rugby. These matches will hopefully played in early January, so please watch this space.

Staff v Sixth Form

We had the second instalment of the Staff v Sixth Form Netball match. The Sixth Formers gave a good fight but the staff were victorious. Everyone played well, even if there was some cheating going on by the Sixth Formers! Poor Mr Dale was having his jumper being pulled and being trod on for the whole game!

A massive thank you to Asha and Claudia in Year 10 for umpiring the game - them we would not be able to have played. Details of the next fixture to follow.

Reward Trip

Over this term we have worked extremely hard as a PE department but it would be all pointless without the enthusiasm and dedication of the students. So as a thank you to those top 20 students who have attended the most extra curricular clubs and fixtures we would like to reward them with a trip to The Basketball Finals in Birmingham on Sunday 15th January.

It should be an amazing day out as we will get to see the men's and women's finals as well as cheerleaders and a whole host of entertainment. There are only 13 spaces so it will be a first come first serve basis. The deadline for payment is Thursday 15th December.

In next week's parent news I will issue the new extra-curricular timetable starting after Christmas.

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



What's On Next Week

Tuesday 13 th December	Presentation Evening to celebrate GCSE and GCE results, by invite only
Wednesday 14 th December	Christmas Dinner in the dining hall, by ticket only
Thursday 15 th December	Music Concert
Friday 16 th December	Last day of Autumn Term for students Christmas Jumper Day – raising money for Save the Children - £1 donation to wear a decorative jumper for the day
Monday 19 th December	Inset Day Year 11 ISA Day
Tuesday 20 th December	Inset Day



Christmas Lunch – Wednesday 14th December

Payment is via ParentPay and tickets will be issued once payment is received.

Christmas Jumper Day – Friday 16th December

£1 donation to wear a festive jumper, raising money for Save the Children.



Music Show – Thursday 15th December

With performances from students across the whole school. Refreshments will be on sale.

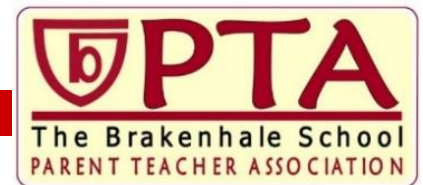


Vacancies

We currently have the following support staff vacancies in school:

- **Teaching Assistant**
- **Sixth Form Administrator**
- **Finance Officer**

We have exciting opportunities for an experienced, committed and enthusiastic Teaching Assistant, Sixth Form Administrator and Finance Officer. The successful candidates will join a team of teachers 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.



PTA News

PTA Upcoming Events:

Next Meeting Tuesday 10th January

Easy Fundraising

Did you know that whenever you buy anything online - from your weekly shop to your annual holiday - you could be collecting free donations for The Brakenhale School - Bracknell?

There are over 3,000 shops and sites on board ready to make a donation, including Amazon, John Lewis, Aviva, thetrainline and Sainsbury's – it doesn't cost you a penny extra!

It's as easy as 1, 2, 3...

1. Head to <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/brakenhaleschool/> and join for free.
2. Every time you shop online, go to easyfundraising first to find the site you want and start shopping.
3. After you've checked out, that retailer will make a donation to your good cause for no extra cost whatsoever!

There are no catches or hidden charges and The Brakenhale School will be really grateful for your donations.

Thank you for your support.



Future Diary Dates

Monday 19 th December	Inset Day
	Year 11 ISA Day
Tuesday 20 th December	Inset Day
Wednesday 4 th January 2017	First day of Spring Term
	Apologies, not Tuesday 3 rd as published in last week's edition
Week commencing 9 th January	Year 11 BTEC Exams
Friday 20 th January	Year 7 & 8 Careers Day
Week commencing 23 rd January	Book Look Week for Year 10

Term Dates 2016-17

*Inset Days: Monday 19th and Tuesday 20th December 2016
Tuesday 18th April 2017*

AUTUMN TERM 2016

Monday 5th September – Friday 16th December 2016

Monday 19th and Tuesday 20th December 2016 **Inset Days**

Autumn Half Term - Monday 24th to Friday 28th October 2016

**Christmas Holiday
(including Inset days):
Monday 19th December 2016 to
Tuesday 3rd January 2017**

SPRING TERM 2017

Wednesday 4th January – Friday 31st March 2017

Spring Half Term - Monday 13th to Friday 17th February 2017

**Spring Holiday: Monday 3rd April
to Monday 17th April 2017**

*(Good Friday 14th April,
Easter Monday 17th April)*

*Please note Tuesday 18th April is
an Inset Day*

SUMMER TERM 2017

Tuesday 18th April **Inset Day**

Wednesday 19th April – Friday 21st July 2017

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



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

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High Expectations and Challenge for All