

Brakenhale School Parent News

7th October 2016



Dear Parents/Carers

This week has seen a return of visitors to the school interested in the progress that we are making. Today we have hosted 9 local councillors and local authority representatives along with executives from the Greenshaw Trust, on a tour of the school and a question and answer session about the work we are doing. They were very impressed by the learning in the classrooms particularly in Maths and Media and the pride that the students had in themselves and the school. It is lovely to be continually praising students for the quality of their work and their exemplary behaviour as they continue to meet our high expectations.

Next Friday sees the first of our charity uniform days with Daisy's Dream and Jeans for Genes – both chosen by our students. I am really pleased that our students are coming to talk about charity work and wanting to support others and I look forward to further work in this area through our student council in particular.

Wednesday saw the last of our primary school tours, over 200 parents and students visited us across these mornings along with over 500 on Open Evening. The feedback has been extremely positive and I would like to take the opportunity to thank the Head Boy and Girl Team, Lewis Clothier, Laura Maryon, Ryan Lodder and Charlie Camp who have given up hours of their time to support myself and the senior team in showing people around.

Have a good weekend.

Best wishes

Jane Coley, Headteacher

What's On Next Week

Wednesday 12th October **Year 11 Information Evening, 7pm**

Thursday 13th October **Year 7 Information & Meet the Tutor Evening, 4-7pm**

Friday 14th October **Non-Uniform Day for Jeans for Genes and Daisy's Dream**

Students can wear non-uniform clothes to school in return for a £1 donation which will be collected in tutor time and split between the two charities.



Year 11 Information Evening

On Wednesday 12th October we will be holding our Year 11 Curriculum Information Evening from 7pm to 8pm for parents and students.

During this evening we will share information on the coming year and offer suggestions for ways in which parents can support their child as well as keeping parents informed on the support they will be receiving from the school. There will be a number of sessions during which staff will explain the best ways of supporting study, the way forward for 2016-2017 and information on the new GCSEs in English, Science and Maths that Year 11 students have now started. The evening will also be an opportunity for parents to meet with the new Senior Leadership and Pastoral Team members who will be working with the students.

Miss S Douse, Head of Year 11



Year 7 Meet the Tutor Evening

**Year
7**

We will be holding our Year 7 Meet the Tutor Evening on Thursday 13th October 2016. This will be an excellent opportunity for Year 7 parents to meet their child's Form Tutor and we hope that by developing a positive relationship between parents, tutors and other staff, it will help and support the Year 7 students to make a seamless transition into secondary school life. Mr M Cooper (Head of Year 7), Mrs D Tobin-Desson (Assistant Head of Year 7), Mrs L Baveystock (Assistant Headteacher, SLT Link Year 7), Miss L Ball (SENCO) and Miss I Cmok (English as an Additional Language (EAL) Co-ordinator) will also be available during the evening to meet with parents.

During the evening there will also be three 10 minute presentations by Mrs Powell (Assistant Headteacher), about our homework setting and tracking system 'Showmyhomework' at 4pm, 5pm and 6pm.

Mr M Cooper, Head of Year 7

Fire Station Open Day

Bracknell Fire Station are running an open day on Tuesday 25th October 2016 from 10am to 4pm. As it's half term they are running an event that gives the local community somewhere to go for a bit of fun. There will be demonstrations involving fire scenarios, vehicle extrications and chip pan explosions as well as having some of their larger vehicles on display. There will be concession stands, a bouncy castle and various static displays to entertain and educate.

DWM Sawkins, Stn 16 Blue Watch, Bracknell Fire Station

FIRE STATION OPEN DAY





COME AND VISIT YOUR LOCAL FIRE STATION!

- Meet your local firefighters and enjoy some exciting demonstrations
- See our different vehicles and equipment
- Food and bouncy castle available

FUN FOR ALL THE FAMILY

Bracknell Fire Station
Downshire Way
25/10/16
1000hrs-1600hrs

ROYAL BERKSHIRE
FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE
www.rbfrs.co.uk

[@RBFRSofficial](https://twitter.com/RBFRSofficial)
[RoyalBerksFRS](https://www.facebook.com/RoyalBerksFRS)

Cycling to School



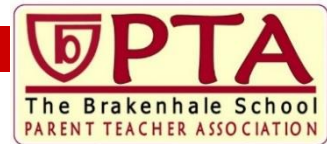
It has been said that children who cycle frequently are 'confident, more independent and brainer'. Cycling is certainly good for the person and for the environment and so we encourage students to cycle to school and provide a dedicated bike compound for them to lock their bikes in.

Please remember that safety is paramount at all times.

- Students should have road safety skills, be aware of traffic at all times and follow the rules of the road.
- Students should be as visible as possible to other road users and pedestrians, with high visibility clothing, lights and reflectors on the bike.
- Student should carry heavy bags with care to be stable and always wear a cycle helmet, which are designed to give protection from a fall.
- Students should not leave their bikes anywhere on the school site other than in the school bike compound and they should always lock them up to prevent theft.

We would like to remind parents and students that the bike compound is unlocked every school day at approximately 7.30am and re-locked at 8.50am for the duration of the day. The compound is unlocked at 3pm and left unlocked until the school is locked up at the end of the evening. Any bikes left in the compound after 7pm will be locked in overnight.

If a student needs to access their bike during the school day they should go to main reception who have a key to unlock the compound. If it is an emergency or after hours the site team will be able to store a bike safely if they are given the details of the bike and a key to unlock it.



PTA Upcoming Events:

- PTA Unwanted Clothes Collection up until Thursday 17th November
- PTA Year 8 Disco Thursday 20th October
- PTA AGM: Tuesday 1st November, followed by the monthly meeting
- Christmas Market: Thursday 24th November
- PTA Meeting: Tuesday 6th December

We look forward to welcoming you to our future events.



PTA Annual General Meeting (AGM) Tuesday 1st November 2016 at 7pm

All parents and members of the school community can get involved in the PTA. Even if you only have a small amount of time available, all parents are automatically members when your children join our school.

The PTA exists to provide closer links between home and school. It is a fun way to bring staff, parents and students together in support of a common goal. Currently, we have raised sufficient money to purchase sustainable benches to improving the outside space for students and we are looking at funding requests from departments.

We meet on the first Tuesday of each month from 7pm in the Student Support Centre.

The Annual General Meeting (AGM) of The Brakenhale School PTA, will take place on Tuesday 1st November 2016. The evening will commence at 7pm with the PTA Annual General Meeting, followed by the monthly PTA meeting in the school's Student Support Centre. Refreshments will be provided.

The PTA plays a vital part in the school community and all parents/carers and staff, as members of the PTA, are invited to support the AGM. This is your chance to hear and see how the funds you have helped to raise have been used for the benefit of the students at our school. Without the PTA there would be no school discos, no Christmas Market or events such as Quiz Night, Bingo Evening or Race Night and less money raised to support projects such as the purchase of the new school minibus and improved outdoor spaces for the students. The school values all the effort and hard work of the PTA to raise money for the school's benefit.

The PTA Committee

Future Diary Dates

Wednesday 19 th October	Year 10 Information Evening ,7pm
Thursday 20 th October	PTA Year 8 Disco
Monday 24 th to Friday 28 th October	Half Term
Tuesday 1 st November	PTA AGM and monthly meeting, 7pm
Thursday 3 rd November	Year 13 Parents' Evening
Tuesday 8 th November	Sixth Form Open Evening
Wednesday 9 th November	Year 12 Safe Drive Stay Alive trip (Reading)
Thursday 24 th November	PTA Christmas Market
Tuesday 6 th December	PTA Meeting

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: Wednesday
21st 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)*

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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