

Brakenhale School Parent News

2nd February 2018



Dear Parents/Carer

This week, as promised, has been the start of our 'standards fortnight', which has been an overwhelming success. Although we have had a number of young people in detention for not quite meeting expectations, this has been far outweighed by the number of golden tickets that have been issued. So far we have given out over 800 tickets! I have been overawed by the impact this has had on students who have responded so well to the initiative. I taught a lesson this morning and every single Year 8 student participated in answering questions, had immaculate uniform and were incredibly respectful to myself and each other and they all gained a golden ticket. The initiative has promoted such a positive #teambrokenhale community spirit.

Last night we held our options evening for Year 9 students. The information had been sent to parents and students prior to the evening and a presentation was given by our Deputy Headteacher, Mr Gibson with a short speech about fundraising by our Chair of Governors, Karen Roche. There were subject stands set up, enabling parents and students to speak to teaching staff and view the curriculum to understand the subjects they may want to choose. The written feedback we received was 100% positive. Advice was on hand for all visitors. The evening was incredibly busy and we are grateful to all parents for taking the time to work with the school to ensure their child is choosing the right options for them. I would also like to offer a big thanks to all the staff that made the evening possible by planning so meticulously and in particular to Miss Danset-Sales who came straight to the evening after being in hospital all day.

Tomorrow we have our second all-day rehearsal for the Whole School Show. I would urge any parents who wish to attend the shows next week to purchase tickets as soon as possible. The shows take place on the evening of Wednesday 7th and Thursday 8th next week. The students and staff have been working really hard to make this a success and I am very excited to see the end result!

Our Fab & Drab initiative has continued to prove both successful and very useful.

Fab comments this week include:

'What a great idea to have the 'Standards Fortnight'. It is excellent to see how the ethos of High Expectations is being reinforced all the time. Learning to have self-respect and respect for others is critical for our young people. Knowing that they can come to school each day, with clear boundaries and expectations means that they can get on with learning and achieving. No one can possibly learn in a chaotic environment, so kudos to Brakenhale leaders for courageously pushing forwards and upwards. With thanks!'

Drab comments and action taken this week include:

Queuing for packed lunches: we have now changed the system to allow a separate entrance for Year 7 and 8 packed lunch students.

Year 9 football not starting as planned and no communication: we have increased the schoolcomms messages home and ensured matches are more organised.

Students of the week are Poppy Richardson and Reece Powney. They have been allowed to use a teacher's classroom at break/lunch and they have stayed behind voluntarily to tidy up and ensure the classroom has been left tidy for the following lesson. Thank you to both of them for being so well mannered and conscious of their surroundings. Well done!

Staff member of the week goes to:

Miss Gillett who has received multiple nominations this week including: 'Miss Gillett helps me in lessons and explains in detail to me'; 'She is a kind teacher who always helps me a lot'; 'She is always very helpful when I need support and is such a nice tutor'.

Finally, a big congratulations to Mr Yeates, Head of PE, on the arrival of his new baby son. Mother and baby are both doing well despite arriving a little earlier than expected!

Don't forget, next week we have our 'School of Rock' performances on Wednesday and Thursday which we are all looking forward to. The quote for next week is: "If you can't be kind, be quiet".

Wishing you all a lovely weekend.

Jane Coley, Headteacher

What's on

Tuesday 6th February

Wednesday 7th February

Thursday 8th February

Monday 12th to Friday 16th February

Year 12 Parents' Evening

Whole School Show – School of Rock

Whole School Show – School of Rock

Half Term

Current Vacancies

We have the following exciting opportunities at Brakenhale. Please see the website for more details.

<http://brakenhale.co.uk/about/vacancies/>

- Exam Invigilator
- Science Teacher

Performing Arts News

School of Rock

I can't believe that we are nearly there. The cast have been working really hard since October in rehearsals for School of Rock. We have had our first Saturday rehearsal and are looking forward to practicing again this weekend. We have the acting, singing, dancing, lighting, sound and set all organised and all we need now is you! Please come along and show your support for our students and Performing Arts Department.



Brakenhale Presents...

THE NEXT GENERATION

SCHOOL of ROCK

THE MUSICAL

SCHOOL PRODUCTION

BASED ON THE PARAMOUNT MOVIE WRITTEN BY MIKE WHITE

MUSIC BY ANDREW LLOYD WEBBER LYRICS BY GLENN SLATER SCRIPT BY JULIAN FELLOWES

Performances in the main hall

Wednesday 7th February, 6pm

Thursday 8th February, 6pm

Tickets £2 each, available on Parent Pay

Drama Trip

Our Year 10 Drama students had a fantastic evening out last week at the Wilde Theatre to watch John Godbers production Teechers. The students had a fantastic time and laughed all the way through the performance. Jemma T. said "It was very funny and delivered young humour, I would definitely watch it again".

Mrs A Raby, Teacher of Drama and Dance





Enrichment Dance Timetable

Starting from Monday 29th January

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Break time 11:00 - 11:25	Open for rehearsals	Year 10 - 13 rehearsals	Open for rehearsals	Open for rehearsals	CLOSED
Lunch time 1:25 – 1:55	Dance Club (MS) Ellicia Darby Open to all	DARK MATTER (MS) Dance Company Associates/invites only	Contemporary (MS) Lauren Williams Open to all	DARK MATTER (MS) Dance Company Associates/invites only	Year 11 GCSE/ BTEC Support (MS) Miss Raby & Miss Haley
After School 3:05 onwards	Cheer (MS) Kiera and Kier Audition only AURORA Dance Company (JNS) Chloe Johnson Open to Year 8 & 9 girls 3:05 until 4:15	DARK MATTER Dance Company (MS) Auditioned company only 3:05 until 4:05 Year 12 Rehearsal Space (JNS)	School of Rock Dance Rehearsals (MS) Dance chorus rehearsals 3:05 until 4:30 Year 10 – 13 Rehearsal Space (JNS)	LIFT OFF PROJECT (MS) Miss Haley Invitation only 3:05 until 4:30 Disney Show Rehearsals (JNS) Alex Elsey For Year 7 & 8 students	The Mini's (MS) Fay & Chloe Open to Year 7 girls 3:05 until 4:05 Year 10 – 13 Rehearsal Space (JNS)

Free Fall and Terranova to start officially next term

Miss Haley, Head of Dance and Drama

Feedback Initiative

In our efforts to continually improve Brakenhale School for the whole community, we have introduced a new forum where you have the opportunity to provide feedback on the things we get right and where you think we could improve.

We now have a “Fab” and “Drab” box located in our main reception where you can leave your comments (anonymously or with contact details if you would like a response).

Alternatively, you can click on the links below to submit your thoughts electronically. We welcome views from both parents and students so please encourage students to share their views as well.

In addition to the above we have also introduced a “Staff Member of the Week” recognition scheme where you or your students can nominate a member of staff who is exceeding your expectations – once again please use the link below or the box in reception.

Electronic submission: [Fab](#) [Drab](#) [Staff Member of the Week](#)

We would like this to be an ongoing initiative and would encourage you to submit your views and feedback anytime, we look forward to hearing from you regularly. Please see a round up of Fab things below, and I have outlined the progress we are making on Drab items at the beginning of this newsletter.

Ms Coley, Headteacher



EAB

Round-Up (to 25th to 31st January)

You think we are doing great at the following things at Brakenhale:

- ✓ I like that you have somewhere to go if you feel stressed at break or lunch.
- ✓ It's great how we know what's going on at school every week and that we are able to read about other students doing so well. I feel our views as parents are valued.
- ✓ The teachers that don't forget about the good behaviour of students rather than focusing always on the not so good behaviour; good behaviour can be overlooked as dealing with bad behaviour. My daughter would like to thank those that don't always fuss over the students who aren't focusing on their work.
- ✓ The brilliant support from the SSC
- ✓ What a great idea to have the 'Standards Fortnight'. It is excellent to see how the ethos of High Expectations is being reinforced all the time. Learning to have self-respect and respect for others is critical for our young people. Knowing that they can come to school each day, with clear boundaries and expectations means that they can get on with learning and achieving. No one can possibly learn in a chaotic environment, so kudos to Brakenhale leaders for courageously pushing forwards and upwards. With thanks.
- ✓ Big enough playground and school

PE News

Reward Trip

12 lucky students who have all represented Brakenhale across a variety of sporting fixtures got to attend the BBL final in Birmingham on Sunday.

Outstanding displays of basketball prowess were seen from both the women and men's teams. Very close scores for both finals saw Nottingham Wildcats for the women and Cheshire Phoenix for them gain victory over their opponents.

All students were impeccable in their behaviour and approach to the event and thoroughly enjoyed the day.

A massive thank you to Mrs Fotheringham for driving the mini bus at late notice and allowing the event to still go ahead.

If you are interested in attending events like this get yourself along to an extra curricular club! We run reward trips for selected students throughout the year!!

Miss L Willimott and Miss Rushby

PE EXTRA CURRICULAR

MONDAYS - STAFF MEETINGS

TUESDAY
HOCKEY - ALL YEARS - LWJ
NETBALL - ALL YEARS - LRJ
U15 FOOTBALL - CMY
U13 FOOTBALL - WYE

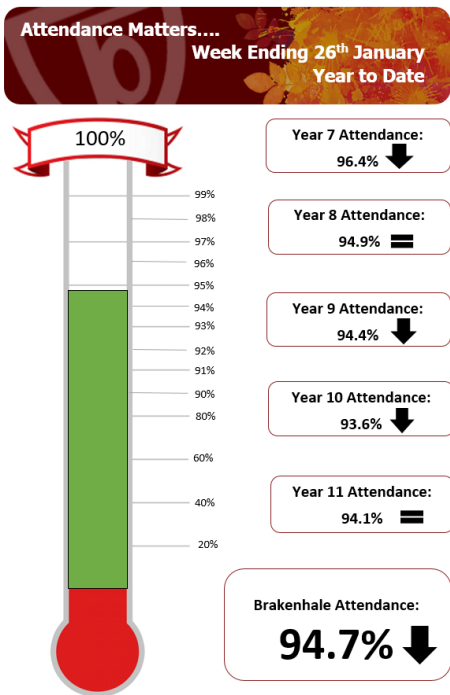
WEDNESDAY
TABLE TENNIS - ALL YEARS - WYE
GIRLS FOOTBALL - ALL YEARS - CMY
U16 FOOTBALL - PSI (GRASS PITCH)
LUNCH - HANDBALL - JBO

THURSDAY
U14 FOOTBALL - JBO
U12 FOOTBALL - RBE
TRAMPOLINING - ALL YEARS - LWJ
BADMINTON - ALL YEARS - LRJ
DRY SKIING (SKI TRIP ONLY) - FEB AND MARCH

@BRAKENHALEPE

Attendance

This Year so far

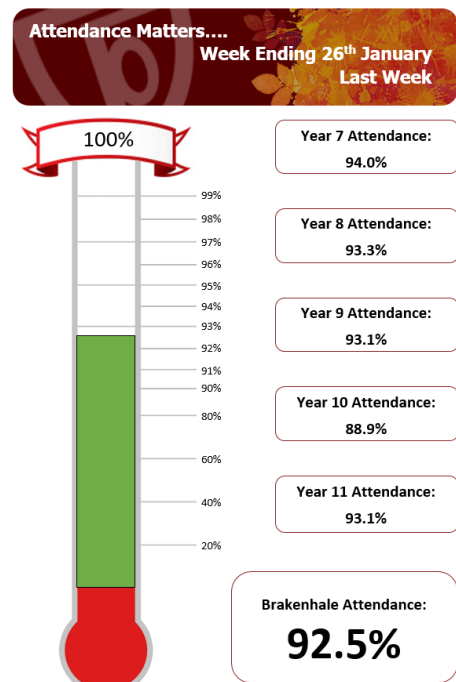


Last week was a tale of two halves.

It was challenging as we finished on 92.5% for the week, however we should celebrate this as it is such an improvement on this week last year when we finished on 86.7%.

There is no hiding from the fact that we have been struggling with illness in the last few weeks and below is the government information regarding influenza.

Last Week



INFORMATION ON INFLUENZA

Seasonal Influenza (flu) is currently at increased levels. Flu is spread by germs which can live on hands and surfaces for up to 24 hours. Flu is very infectious and can spread easily (particularly in the first days of infection).

Catch I - Bin it - Kill it - everyone can take the following actions to reduce the risk of spreading flu:

- Use a tissue
- Bin used tissues as soon as possible
- Wash your hands often and thoroughly with warm water and soap

Most people can treat the flu without seeing their GP and should begin to feel within a few days. Flu symptoms come on very quickly and can include:

- a sudden fever – a temperature of 38°C or above
- aching body
- feeling tired or exhausted
- dry, chesty cough
- sore throat
- headache
- difficulty sleeping
- loss of appetite
- diarrhoea or tummy pain
- nausea and being sick

Children will experience similar symptoms, but they can also get pain in their ear and appear less active. If your child does develop flu, here are some things you can do at home to help:

- Give your child lots to drink
- Try paracetamol (age appropriate dosage), do not give them aspirin.
- Keep them away from smoke and anyone who smokes.
- Talk to your Pharmacist about suitable over-the-counter medications that can ease symptoms. Remember that coughing is the body's way of keeping the lungs clear.
- Call 999 or go to A&E if you or your child:
 - develops sudden chest pain
 - have difficulty breathing
 - starts coughing up blood

For more information on flu symptoms and how to prevent spread please visit www.nhs.uk/staywell



As always, thank you for your continued support. Please, if you are having any problems encouraging your child to school, do get in touch and we will support you in any way we can. Should you need support or help with any other issues that are affecting attendance then please do not hesitate to get in touch by telephone on 01344 465050 or by email on schoolattendance@brakenhale.co.uk

Mrs Evans, Attendance Office

Easy Fundraising!



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

School Lottery

Don't forget to join up and purchase your tickets to start helping our school. If you haven't signed up now would be the time. This is an easy way to help us to make money for the school and be in with a chance for winning. Thank you to all who have bought tickets and who continue to support the school.

So far we have raised...

Since we launched the lottery in March last year we have raised the fantastic amount of **£976** for the school.

Why not join today and not only will you be in with a chance of winning in the weekly prize draws but you will be helping to raise money for the school at the same time.

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.



Future Diary Dates

Monday 19 th February	Year 9 Book Look Week
Thursday 22 nd February	Year 9 Parents' Evening
Tuesday 27 th February	PTA Meeting
Wednesday 28 th February	Duke of Edinburgh Presentation Evening
Thursday 1 st March	Year 11 Parents' Evening

Term Dates 2017-18

SPRING TERM 2018

Term dates for students:
 Wednesday 3rd January to Thursday 29th March
 Spring Half Term – Monday 12th to Friday 16th February
 Easter Holiday – Friday 30th March to Friday 13th April

SUMMER TERM 2018

Term dates for students:
 Monday 16th April to Friday 20th July
Inset Day: Monday 23rd July
 Summer Half Term - Monday 28th May to Friday 1st June
 Summer Holiday for students – Monday 23rd July to Tuesday 4th September
(Inset Days: Monday 3rd and Tuesday 4th September)

Term Dates 2018-19

AUTUMN TERM 2018

Term dates for students:
(Inset Days: Monday 3rd and Tuesday 4th September)
 Wednesday 5th September to Thursday 20th December
 Autumn Half Term – Monday 22nd to Friday 26th October)
(Inset Day: Friday 21st December)
 Christmas Holiday for students – Friday 21st December to Friday 4th January 2019

Bracknell Forest term dates can be found on their website:

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

#challengeforall

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

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

High Expectations and Challenge for All