

Brakenhale School Parent News

20th October 2017



Dear Parents/Carers

I cannot believe that this first half term has come to a close, it has certainly been a very busy and successful one. We have had over 520 visitors on our school tours and we again expect to be full in September 2018. Students and staff alike have been extremely welcoming to all of our guests and have really shown Brakenhale to be a warm and supportive learning environment.

On Monday I had the privilege of attending Buckingham Palace and meeting Prince Andrew along with a number of other Headteachers for an Education Forum. This was an opportunity to share best practice and network with other like-minded individuals. We were introduced to a number of enrichment activities that are supported by the Prince himself. It was very exciting and interesting and a real opportunity to discuss the fantastic work we are doing at Brakenhale at the highest levels.

Tuesday gave us the opportunity to show off the new building plans to parents and neighbours. We had a great turn out and feedback was very positive. It is lovely to now be able to share our excitement and to watch the vision begin to become a reality. The plans were left displayed in our hall so that our students could also have a look and begin to see how their new school will be developing. As soon as the final aspects of planning have been passed we will upload everything onto the school website.

On Wednesday we held a Year 10 information evening, similar to the Year 11 evening the week before. The team gave information on how you could support your child during this first year of their GCSEs and how the curriculum and new grading scheme will work. Thanks to the team for giving up their time for this and to all the parents who attended and supported the evening, there was an excellent turn out.

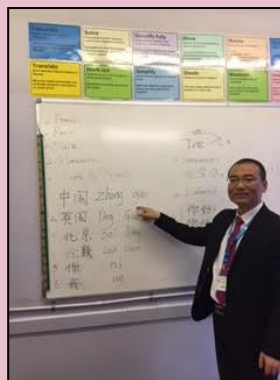
We have so many students who are involved in sport at a high level and it is lovely to be able to recognise them as they achieve at national levels. Ella Hammond Baveystock in Year 10 has now been selected to play for the English golf team, congratulations Ella!

Additionally we have had 8 Chinese teachers visit us across this week to experience how we teach here in the UK. They were very gracious and found our children to be very creative and imaginative. They thoroughly enjoyed their experience, as we did in having them, and are looking forward to taking back with them what they have learnt. It seems they do things very differently at home and they were overwhelmed by the confidence of our students and their ability to ask questions and try out new things.

Finally I would like to wish you a very restful half term and look forward to seeing our students on their return.

Best wishes

Jane Coley, Headteacher



What's on next week

23 rd to 27 th October	Half Term
Thursday 2 nd November	Year 13 Parents' Evening, 4-7pm

Current Vacancies

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

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

- English Teacher
- Science Teacher & Second in Science
- Design Technology Teacher
- Nurture Group Lead
- Cleaning & Maintenance Assistant
- Cover Supervisor

EAL (English as an Additional Language)

The EAL department is looking for a Romanian speaking volunteer to support students within the department. Please contact Miss Cmok at the school if you are able to help or would like more information.



Miss I Cmok, EAL Coordinator

PTA AGM



PTA AGM

Next month, on Tuesday 7th November, we will be holding our Annual General Meeting (AGM), where last year's committee is dissolved and we elect new members for the coming year.

If this is something you would be interested in, please see our PTA page on the [website for more information](#). Alternatively, you can contact the school.

Clothes Recycling Initiative

We are once again collecting your unwanted clothes, shoes, accessories and other household items for recycling. Please see our flyer for more details of items that are collected.

We will be sending bags home with students after half term, or you can put your items in an ordinary bin liner or other plastic bag.

Please bring all bags to main reception. We will be collecting until Thursday 23rd November.

Brakenhale School

RECYCLE!

Don't send your unwanted items to landfill...

The more bags you bring the more money we raise for the school.

The following 'good quality' items are accepted for RE-USE:

- ✓ Men's, Ladies' and Children's clothing
- ✓ Paired shoes (tied together or elastic band around)
- ✓ Handbags
- ✓ Hats and Bags
- ✓ Scarves and ties
- ✓ Jewellery
- ✓ Lingerie and Socks
- ✓ Belts
- ✓ Soft toys
- ✓ Household linen
- ✓ Curtains
- ✓ Towels
- ✓ Bedding (bed sheets, pillow cases and duvet covers)

Please note that the following are not accepted:

- ✓ Duvets and Blankets
- ✓ Pillows and cushions
- ✓ Carpets, rugs and mats (including bath, shower and toilet mats)
- ✓ Soiled, painted, ripped or wet clothing
- ✓ School uniforms with and without logo
- ✓ Corporate clothing and workwear
- ✓ Textile off cuts, yarns or threaded material

Bags are also available from main reception, or put your items in a black bin bag.

Thank you for supporting the school!

Year 8 Disco – Thursday 9th November

The Brakenhale School Parent Teacher Association and Year 8 Team are hosting a Year 8 Disco on Thursday 9th November from 7pm until 9pm for Year 8 students only.

The disco will be held in the Main Hall and will be supervised by teachers. Admission to the disco costs £3.00, payable in advance. Letters will be sent home this week.

Refreshments will be on sale during the disco and money raised is going towards PTA projects for the school.

We hope that Year 8 students will be able to attend what will be a thoroughly enjoyable Year 8 evening. Should you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact the Year 8 Team.



Christmas Market – Thursday 30th November

We will once again be holding our annual Christmas Market on Thursday 30th November from 7pm to 9pm.

This is a wonderfully festive occasion and we look forward to seeing many of you there.

If you or a friend would like a stall please contact Sarah Hartley at the school, or email shartley@brakenhale.co.uk.

You can download a stall booking form from our website [here](#).

Art News

The Brakenhale School were very excited to be part of the celebrations for the opening of the new Lexicon shopping centre by being invited to decorate one of the quotation marks that have been popping up all around the area.

Our lovely Art Club, which meets every week on a Thursday after school, decorated ours with lots of Brakenhale logos, which as you can see from the article in the Bracknell News is very eye-catching.

You can read the article [here](#).

Miss Wilhelmy and Mrs Hemmings, Art Department



Dance News

Year 13

Year 13 Dance students participated in a trip to South Hill Park on Monday to interview Creative Director Mark Hooper for their Performing Arts Business coursework. Students really enjoyed the opportunity and gained further insight into how our local Arts Centre operates.

Dark Matter Dance Company

Congratulations to the following students for being selected for the Dark Matter Dance Company or Associate Roles:

- Company: Jack Moore, Ethan Vine, Ciaran Cullen, Zac Box, Jamie Prior, Teddy Gray, Thomas Hamilton, Callum Richards
- Associate Roles: Elliot Harvey, Steven Richardson, Eduardo Crittenden



You can see the audition candidates warming up with Kieran West above.

Miss C Haley, Head of Dance and Drama

Exams Update

Year 9 Pre Public Exams

Please find attached the timetable for the Year 9 Pre Public Exams (PPEs) that they will be sitting in November.

Hard copies have been given out to students.

Brakenhale School Year 9 Pre Public Exams (PPEs) – November 2017					
	Monday 20 th November	Tuesday 21 st November	Wednesday 22 nd November	Thursday 23 rd November	Friday 24 th November
Period 1 & 2	English 1 Hour 45 min	Maths 1 Hour Geography 1 Hour	French 1 Hour 15 min Spanish 1 Hour 15 min Religious Studies 30 min	Normal Lessons	
Period 3 & 4	Maths 1 Hour Science 1 Hour	Normal Lessons	History 1 Hour		
Period 5	Normal Lessons	Normal Lessons	Normal Lessons		

Year 10 Pre Public Religious Studies Exam

Year 10 will be completing a PPE (Pre Public Exam) on Thursday 30th November at 14.05pm. This is in preparation for their GCSE Religious Studies Exam that they will be completing in May 2018.

The exam will be taking place in the main hall, in exam conditions, and is 1 hour long.

The exam will be on Islam and revision material for this can be found on Show my Homework.

Please do not hesitate to contact the Exam Team if you have any further questions.

Year 11 Pre Public Exams

Please find attached the timetable for the Year 11 Pre Public Exams (PPEs) that they will be sitting in November and December.

Brakenhale School Year 11 Pre Public Exams (PPEs) – November/December 2017					
	Monday 27 th November	Tuesday 28 th November	Wednesday 29 th November	Thursday 30 th November	Friday 1 st December
Period 1 & 2	Maths Non Calculator 1 Hour 30	English 1 Hour 45	Maths Calculator 1 Hour 30	English 1 Hour 45	Sixth Form Taster Day
Period 3 & 4	Normal Lessons			Maths Calculator 1 Hour 30	
Period 5	Science Biology 1 Hour	Science Chemistry 1 Hour	Science Physics 1 Hour	Normal Lessons	

Brakenhale School Year 11 Pre Public Exams (PPEs) – November/December 2017					
	Monday 4 th December	Tuesday 5 th December	Wednesday 6 th December	Thursday 7 th December	Friday 8 th December
Period 1 & 2	Normal Lessons				Art all day Exam in A02 Photography all day Exam in B17 All other students in normal lessons
Period 3 & 4	OPTION A Art - All day Friday A02 Bus Studies 2 x 1 Hour Economics 2 x 1 Hour Geography 2 x 1 Hour History 1 Hour 15 plus 45 min Spanish 1 Hour 30 HSC Resit students 1 Hour Photography - All day Friday B17	OPTION B Bus Studies 2 x 1 Hour Engineering TBC French 1 Hour 30 Geography 2 x 1 Hour Graphics 2 Hours History 1 Hour 15 plus 45 min HSC Resit students 1 Hour BTEC Drama 2 Hour practical exam in L01	OPTION C BTEC Bus Studies 1 Hour Com Science 1 Hour Engineering TBC Food Nutrition 1 Hour 45 French 1 Hour 30 Geography 2 x 1 Hour History 1 Hour 15 plus 45 min Media No Exam Spanish 1 Hour 30	OPTION D BTEC Sport 1 Hour Bus Studies 2 x 1 Hour RM 2 Hours Dance GCSE 2 hour practical exam in MS with ARA Geography 2 x 1 Hour ICT 1 Hour Music GCSE 1 Hour L51 GCSE PE 1 Hour Spanish 1 Hour 30 BTEC Dance 2 hour practical exam in JNS with CHL Music BTEC TBC	
Period 5	Normal Lessons				

Mrs Seymour, Exams Officer

Year 11 Half Term Study Programme

Monday 23 rd October	All day - Business with Ms Morgan in B16 (All Business groups) PE with Mr Boucher in B13 – morning only.
Tuesday 24 th October	English essay writing session with Mrs Cresswell, Head of English. Open to all students and will be in the main hall starting at 9am for the morning only.

Mr Gibson, Deputy Headteacher

Be Prepared!



Remember to check your Tools for Learning over the half term break and restock any missing items.

If you are going to purchase a new winter coat next week please remember that only black coats are permitted in our uniform policy.

School Office

School Production



School of Rock rehearsals have started. The cast have made a fantastic start and are impressing the staff with their effort and talent!

Reminder that rehearsals are Wednesday and Thursday after school, until 4:30.

Mrs Alison Raby, Teacher of Drama and Dance

School House News

News from our School Houses:

- Farley: Mr Bell
- Jennetts: Mr Duffy
- Swinley: Mr Jackson-Sankey
- Temple: Miss Haley



Farley

FARLEY:

A great week, Farley. I am very much impressed at how many of you are gaining house points. You're an asset to the house and we couldn't succeed without your contribution! Well done! Those that haven't signed up for an extracurricular group then please do so – try new things, make new friends and gain house points at the same time!

We're quickly approaching the half-term mark so departments will be assessing the top two performers in their classes! Stand out and shine, and gain a few last minute house points for your group!

Again, the leader board is very close!

A special mention to the top 4 who have been in the top 5 for the last two weeks! The first person in Farley to achieve 50 house points will receive a prize!

Fantastic! Keep it up!

Mr Bell, Head of House

Top 5 (amazing) Farley members!

Hristina M	8A
Adam M	7R
Tegan R	10R
Liberty G	7N
Sophie H	8R



Jennetts

It's been another fantastic week as far as the House System and Team Jennetts goes, and as the half term draws to a close I'd like to say thank you to every single member of Team Jennetts for making the start of our House journey a success. We might not be in first place for house points (yet) but we will be by the end of the year and that's what matters!

We've had lots of applications for House Captains so another thank you to everyone that applied, it just goes to show the brilliant community spirit we are building - you will know the outcome after half term. We have a list of our next round of House Heroes, so well done to those that managed to get the most house points in each of the year groups so far. Keep going if you are top, earn more points if you aren't!

Thank you again, guys and I hope you have a brilliant half term.

Mr Duffy, Head of House

Here are the highest achievers in each year:

Year 7 - Harvey W

Year 8 - Jay J

Year 9 - Leanne P

Year 10 - Emily C

Year 11 - Claudia P

Sixth Form - Carys H

Temple

It has been an absolute pleasure to interview Temple students for House Captain roles this week, each candidate has demonstrated amazing qualities and a real passion to make a change in our school.

A big thank you to everyone who has applied for the role, it will be very difficult to make a decision! The successful candidates will be announced when we return to school after half term.

We have had a really strong week in terms of house points and the overall leader board reflects this. Have a wonderful half term and come back ready to push to first place!

Miss Haley, Head of House

Top points scorers for the half term:

Year 7 - Rebecca W

Year 8 - Tayla S

Year 9 - Victoria M

Year 10 - Charlotte B

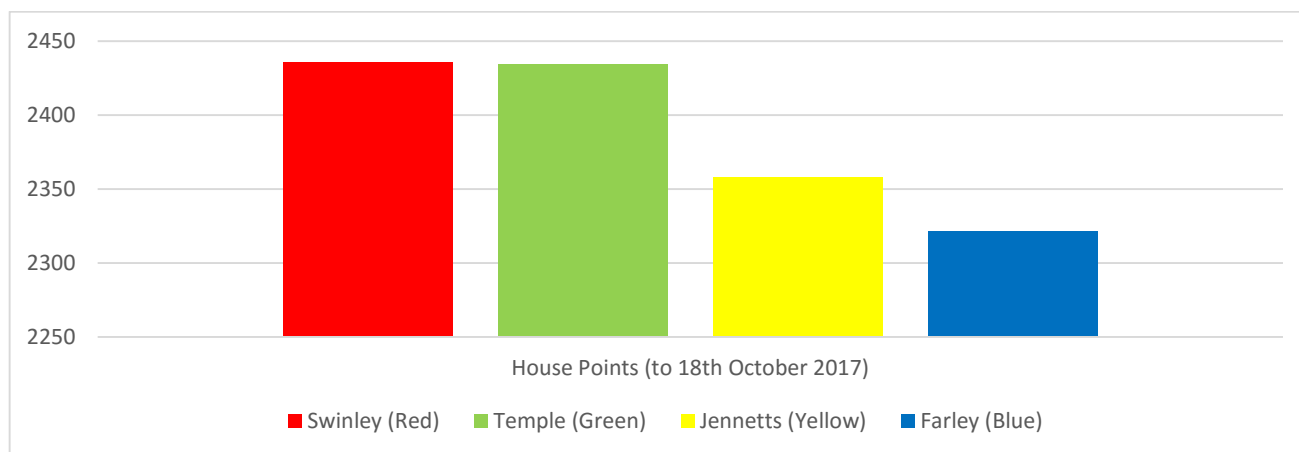
Year 11 - Amy C

Year 12 - Joseph B

Year 13 - Kieran W

Here is the overall picture so far this academic year - Half Term totals for each House (as of 11.25am on Wednesday 18th October)

- 1st Swinley 2436 points
- 2nd Temple 2434 points
- 3rd Jennetts 2358 points
- 4th Farley 2321 points



Will Yeates, Head of PE

Attendance

This half term 7B have been the highest attending tutor group with 98.9% and Year 7 have been the highest attending year group with 97.7%. In addition 482 students have achieved 100% attendance this half term.

Attendance so far this year is 95.8% which is fantastic when you compare it to last year at 94.8%. The number of persistently absent students (students with attendance below 90%) stands at 95 compared to 126 at the same point last year which again is a brilliant achievement.

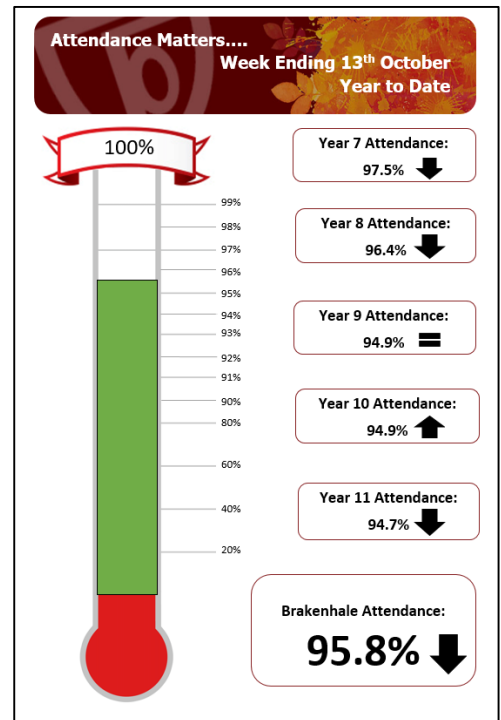
Improving punctuality in the morning is another of our foci and students who have been late to school 5 times since September will be issued with a Thursday surgery detention and a sanction for each subsequent lateness. Punctuality is a great life skill and leads to success not only in school but in the workplace and beyond.

Subsequent to our persistent absence assemblies, those students who showed a marked improvement in their attendance were entered into a draw for a £10 cinema voucher. David from Year 11 and Alfie in Year 8 were the 2 winners. 15 other students who showed improved attendance were invited to a pizza lunch this week.

Overall it has been a pleasure to work with parents who realise how important attendance is, thank you for your support and enjoy the half term!

As always please get in touch if there is anything that we can do to support you by telephone on 01344 465050 or by email on schoolattendance@brakenhale.co.uk

Mrs Evans, Attendance Office



Brakenhale Canteen

Please see below our new menu for after half term.

The Brakenhale School					
WEEK COMMENCING : 30 OCT, 20 NOV, 11 DEC, 15 JAN, 5 FEB					
Week 1	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Hot Main Meal	British Farm Assured Beef Stroganoff	British Farm Assured Chicken Balti	British Farm Assured Honey Roast Gammon	British Farm Assured Lamb Cottage Pie	MSC (Marine Stewardship Council) Battered Fish
Hot Vegetarian Meal	Courgette & Mushroom Stroganoff	Vegetable Balti	Roasted Sweet Tomato & Peppers Pasta	Vegetarian Quorn Cottage Pie	Veggie Pizza
Carbohydrate	Rice	Rice Naan Bread	Roast Potatoes	Creamy Mash Potato	Baked Chips
Vegetables	Seasonal Vegetables	Seasonal Vegetables	Seasonal Vegetables	Seasonal Vegetables	Peas, Baked Beans or 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

A meal deal costs £2.30, which includes a main meal and pudding.

If students prefer just to have the main meal, this costs £1.90.

Mrs Silvey, Catering & Enrichment Manager

PE News

This week has been another busy week for the PE department with a range of fixtures and clubs. We have had 149 students attending clubs.

Just a reminder to start/continue coming to clubs as we have reward students for the students who attend regularly. Make sure you are one of these students. A reward trip is already booked in... watch this space for more details.

Star of the Week

This week's star of the week is awarded to Scarlett H in Year 7 for coming third in her Tumbling competition in Portugal last week.

Claudia P has also been awarded star of the week for being accepted on to an American scholarship to play football (soccer) when she is 18.

Well done Scarlett and Claudia and good luck in all your future competitions!

Girls Rugby

After half term we have a new club starting – Girls' Rugby. It will be on a Thursday after school and run until 4.15pm. If you are interested please come and sign up in the PE office.

Netball

On Wednesday Year 8 and 9 had their first netball fixtures of the year against Garth.

The Year 9s played really well and showed good team work throughout the whole game. It was a delight to have a squad of 12 players and all students showed sportsmanship and a great attitude, which was noted by the Garth PE teacher who said that the students were a real credit to the school and they planning another game against us because of this! Unfortunately Garth's team just showed the better of us and they managed to win 28-6. Romy H received player of the match for her excellent energy throughout the whole game and determination to never give up. Well done Romy!

The Year 8s played in an exciting game against Garth on Wednesday. Garth put up a great defence but we managed to score through this. Our squad of 8 played their best netball and really pushed themselves to the limit. All the girls worked as an excellent team and encouraged each other even when the score was against us. Hristina won player of the match for her outstanding contribution as Goal Defence.

Year 7 Rugby Tournament at Edgbarrow - 16.10.17

The Year 7 Rugby team played their first Rugby matches for the school on Monday evening at Edgbarrow. The boys played Edgbarrow A and B, Garth Hill College, Sandhurst and Ranelagh in short 10 minute matches in a round robin format. The tournament is held as an introduction to the sport and is used to coach the players to improve their skills.

The team managed some good performances and will have learnt a lot from the experience. Well done on your first Brakenhale fixture!

BTEC Sport Students

On Wednesday 18th October, the Year 10 BTEC students took part in a tag rugby session run by the Head Coach of Reading Rugby Club. The students are going to be leading a Tag Rugby Festival with local Year 3 and 4 Primary Schools on Wednesday 1st November. The session on Wednesday showed the students all they needed to know ready to lead the event on Wednesday. This is part of their BTEC award.

All students showed real enthusiasm but a massive congratulations needs to be awarded to Joel B, Reece P, Amy P, Ruben B and Alfie L for outstanding leading. I wish them all the best for the Primary School Tag Rugby Festival on Wednesday 1st November.

Fixtures for the first week back after half term:

Tuesday 31st October

Year 8 and 9 Netball @ Edgbarrow

Year 8 Rugby Tournament @ Sandhurst

Wednesday 1st November

Year 7 Rugby Tournament @ Sandhurst

Year 10 and 11 Netball @ Brakenhale v Ranelagh

Thursday 2nd November

U13 Football Girls @ Holyport TBC

Year 10 Rugby v Sandhurst @ Home



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

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 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.



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](#)

This term School Lottery are offering the chance to win an Amazon Echo Dot. You can find full details on their website.

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.

Why not join now!

Easy Fundraising

With easyfundraising.org.uk you collect free donations to your selected cause every time you shop. You can make a big difference on everything from groceries to getaways and it doesn't cost you a penny!

When you shop the easyfundraising way with one of their 3083 shops and sites they give easyfundraising a commission for your purchase which is turned into a donation for your selected good cause.

When you visit the website easyfundraising.org.uk - simply search for the retailer you want to shop with and click out to them using the green 'Go Shopping' button. You will be taken straight to the retailer's website and your experience will be identical as if you had gone there directly but easyfundraising will be able to track your purchase to ensure a donation for your good cause.

You can also install their Donation Reminder - this means a box will appear if you are shopping with a retailer who participates in the Donation Reminder and you don't even need to visit the easyfundraising site! All you need to do is click Activate Donations and any eligible purchase will be recorded for you. Take a look at the Donation Reminder [here](#). The Donation Reminder is supported by Chrome, Firefox, Internet Explorer and Safari but can't work on mobile phones or tablets.

Shopping on your mobile? No problem, for mobile phones and tablets there is the handy easyfundraising App, perfect if you like to shop on the go and available completely free of charge from your App store. Now not only can you shop using it but you can check out your own donation total and see how your cause is getting on too. More information can be found [here](#).

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



Future Diary Dates

23 rd to 27 th October	Half Term
Thursday 2 nd November	Year 13 Parents' Evening, 4-7pm
Monday 6 th November	Sixth Form Safe Drive Stay Alive
Tuesday 7 th November	PTA AGM, 7pm
	Year 7 Information Evening, 6.30-7.15pm
Wednesday 8 th November	Sixth Form Open Evening, 6.30-8pm
Thursday 9 th November	Year 8 Disco
Week beginning 20 th November	Year 9 exams

Term Dates

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

Christmas Holiday for students – Monday 18th December to Tuesday 2nd January 2018

SPRING TERM 2018

Term dates for students:

Wednesday 3rd January – 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 – 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 (date to be confirmed)

Bracknell Forest term dates can be found on their website:

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

#challengeforall

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High Expectations and Challenge for All