



BRAKENHALE SCHOOL

 **Brakenhale
School**

RECEPTION

AIM HIGH | BE KIND | TAKE RESPONSIBILITY

brakenhale.co.uk



**"There are many things that
I can say about this school.**

I love it when the teachers support
each student, and sort out situations
really nicely. Thank you to every
staff member who has put 100%
into their role!"



Welcome to Brakenhale

I would like to welcome you to Brakenhale School. My firm belief as Headteacher is that education is a vehicle for change.

Education opens doors and we will do our absolute best, every single day, to ensure our students get the very best from being here.

We have a bold vision for every one of us. We are a **school at the heart of the community where we instil the values of aspiration, kindness and responsibility to prepare our students for their individual successes and future careers.** The values of **Aim High, Be Kind** and **Take Responsibility** permeate everything that we do.

Brakenhale is a popular school in Bracknell Forest. We are also heavily oversubscribed. This year (2023) we had over 400 preferences for 210 places in Year 7. This is an accolade to our staff who have worked collaboratively, and continue to do so, to make a difference. It is also thanks to our students for being great ambassadors for our school. We are

open to visitors coming in and seeing what we do on a daily basis. Many who have done this previously, leave with an excellent and lasting impression.

In recent years, GCSE outcomes and those at Sixth Form have steadily improved. This has been a result of high quality teaching so that students can make rapid progress in each subject. In fact, for those students who stay on into our Sixth Form, our results are amongst the best in the area.

As Headteacher, it is also my aim that students are given ample opportunities to develop themselves as young people, ready for the wider world. Developing the 'whole' child is paramount; their social interactions, their emotional literacy and their cultural awareness will help to ensure their readiness for life beyond

Brakenhale. Whether this is participating in a club to develop their debating skills, a trip to a theatre in London or an expedition with the Duke of Edinburgh award; just three examples of our pursuit to develop the 'whole child'.

With our vision and values driving what we do, we will do exceptionally well. I look forward to welcoming your child here in September 2024.

Bhavin Tailor, Headteacher





“Love that our daughter had a huge smile on her face when she came home from her first day as a Year 7 student.”

High Quality Teaching and Learning | Aiming High

At Brakenhale we believe that great teaching leads to great outcomes. Teachers regularly engage in training and in the sharing of practices so we continue to provide high quality teaching and learning.

Lessons are structured so that students start each one of them by recalling prior learning. This refreshing of their knowledge enables them to progress with new content which our teachers explicitly instruct. Lessons have an opportunity for all students to practise what they have learned and this is checked in a variety of ways.

We believe that our brains are like any other muscle. Like other muscles, it needs exercising. We endeavour to show our students

that nothing is fixed and that our ‘intelligence’ can be enhanced through persistent and purposeful effort. This is done through creating a ‘growth mindset’ culture in both staff and students. Together we all develop ourselves. Effort and resilience are qualities which we seek to foster and nurture.

In order to persist with high quality teaching and learning, teachers regularly share their ideas and practices. We observe each other teach and this, in

turn, develops everyone’s planning and learning. This approach is deliberate because we know the greatest asset to a student’s learning is their teacher.



"I have to say from day one I have had a wonderful experience with how the school conducts itself and the positivity it carries and the care that can clearly be seen."



Raising Achievement and Aspirations | Aiming High

As a staff body, we work hard to ensure our lessons not only engage our students but stretch their thinking. This, in turn, enables them to attain excellent outcomes.

We endeavour to raise aspirations through everything we offer in our school.

For all students we set aspirational targets. This is deliberate so that they can aim high and excel themselves in each subject. As a result, students' entry into the Sixth Form is based on their GCSE results.

Our curriculum is broad, balanced and designed to offer memorable experiences. There is

a blend of academic and vocational qualifications at both Key Stage 4 (Years 10 and 11) and 5 (Years 12 and 13), including partnerships with local colleges and businesses. This enables students to aspire high and leave Brakenhale with the achievements and qualifications to succeed thereafter.

Furthermore we strive to ensure that there is effective communication between home and school. This creates a partnership so that your child's

education is co-ordinated, allowing everyone to raise both their aspirations and achievement.





“Brakenhale really is the best school around. With the modern and spacious new building AND the committed, hard-working yet down-to-earth teachers, Brakenhale truly is a breath of fresh air! I am proud to be a parent of the school. Each and every one of you do an amazing job! Keep it up!”

“Even though keeping the school running and safe is a top priority, we would like to thank the school for maintaining such high standards of uniform, behaviour and staff that see our children are safe to and from school.”



Enrichment | Taking Responsibility

As a school we firmly believe in developing the ‘whole child’. Yes, academic excellence matters; their development as students into young adults matters as much.

We have staff members who forge links to the surrounding businesses and youth projects. These offer opportunities to our students so that their personal and enterprising skills are ever-growing. The Personal, Social, Health and Economic (PSHE) education programme covers everything from social skills to study skills, understanding your body and internet safety to preparing a CV. Each year group follows an age relevant programme of study designed to support their personal development. This is delivered by their own form tutors.

Extra-curricular opportunities are essential to nurturing students. For example, we offer quality sport,

dance, drama, music and art opportunities. Students can represent Brakenhale in local and national competitions in their chosen field. A distinctive feature here at Brakenhale is the Combined Cadet Force (CCF). This programme is on offer for Year 8 to 13 students to deliver leadership, teamwork and adventure opportunities. In partnership with the British Forces, the CCF programme allows students to challenge themselves across a range of activities from first aid and survival, parading, shooting and adventurous activities.

The prestigious Duke of Edinburgh award has continued to grow in success at Brakenhale. Students can access the Bronze, Silver and

Gold awards from Year 9 onwards.

Throughout the year, Brakenhale students are fortunate to access a range of academic, career, adventure and rewards trips. Working in partnership with universities, businesses and organisations we can offer students a diverse delivery of educational and work related skill opportunities.

These opportunities are a testimony to everyone working together and for each other. The way in which strong relationships are formed between staff, students and families, due to our common goal of seeing every child achieve the best they can be, is clear for all to see.



“Students are extremely complimentary about the Sixth Form. They feel highly valued and respected.”

[Ofsted, 2019]

Dynamic Futures - Post 16 |

Aiming High

Brakenhale Sixth Form is ‘Outstanding’ and we are incredibly proud of our provision.

Over the past few years our results have consistently shown our students are making excellent progress and this has led to a rapid change in university and apprenticeship destinations. This year we have had students go to universities near and far as well as students embarking on apprenticeship courses in their field of interest. We are delighted that

our students are aiming high and are ambitious with their career choices.

Our curriculum is broad and offers a range of A-Levels and BTEC Level 3 courses to cater for our student intake. Beyond the curriculum students are asked to volunteer and support the younger students as well as completing an enrichment course such as Sports Leaders,

the Extended Project or Arts Award. The Student Leadership Team is led by Post-16 students who are keen to share ideas and commitment to our school. We encourage this as we believe in the development of the students’ characters as well as their academic excellence.



“Thank you for the open evening last night [2022], my daughter and I came to view the school and were blown away by the friendliness of the staff and students, the fantastic facilities and the quality of the open evening in general.”



A Place to Grow | Being Kind

At Brakenhale, we do our best to ensure our children develop and grow to succeed in life, beyond the confines of our school.

Form Tutors follow a tutor group through their school career whenever possible. This structure allows us to ensure that no student goes unnoticed. Relationships between our students and Tutors are warm and open. We pride ourselves on

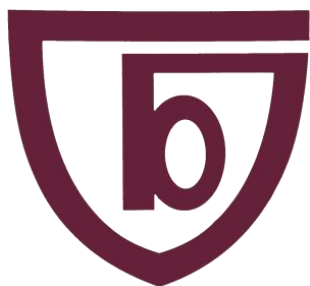
understanding and providing for the needs of all our students. We understand that sometimes extra support is required if students are to succeed in school and in turn the school allocates resources and staffing to facilitate this. Our SEN (Special Educational

Needs) department works with students and their families to help ensure individual needs are met.



‘I would just like to say how fantastic the staff have been, especially our son’s Tutor, who we feel has gone way above and beyond for us. From the moment we met we knew she was going to be amazing . Wow! What a fantastic place to be so thank you.’





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