



## Friday 20<sup>th</sup> October | Welcome Back

Dear Parents/Carers and Students

I hope this finds you well. We had made it through a successful first half term of this academic year!

For my piece, I want to focus on 'democracy' as this has been a running thread throughout this week and, given what has been going on nationally with by-elections yesterday in England and international events that have dominated our news stories, such things may be at the forefront of our minds.

Throughout the week, assemblies have focused on two elements: Student Representatives pitching for their selection on the School Council followed by the Head of Year teams sharing and showcasing some end of half term awards. I have attended each one and not only have there been some insightful speeches but students' respect and response to their peers has been endearing. I thanked each year group on their start to the academic year and long may it continue.

Student Council is formed of Representatives from every year group: 7 right through to 13. Members are elected by their peers. The Council meets to discuss the views from peers in their year groups. I shared some precise examples of how student voice and democracy in action can have a positive impact on our school.

- a. Last year, the Council discussed toilet access and availability of sanitary products. As a result, over the summer we changed the ground floor toilets only to make one for the male gender and another for the female gender. The female toilets are now closer to the medical room where they can access products as they wish. Furthermore, every office throughout the school is regularly stocked up with sanitary products so that students can gain access to these from multiple members of staff. We have also provided products to students and families over the holiday period should they require it. This change was a direct result of School Council's discussion.
- b. The Council also discussed rewards and opportunities for this academic year. As a result, we introduced Culture Cards as a mechanism to capture students' positive attitude to different aspects of the school. A separate comms on this is being shared to outline the 'what' and the 'why'. Furthermore, as I write this, 'Brakenchill' is about to start! This is a reward event for every year group with a simple criteria for entry: at least one House Point throughout the half term and not one suspension. Every student will have an ice cream and a lesson to play games, listen to music etc. throughout the morning. This is a change to anything we have done before. We have another rewards opportunity in the last week of the next half term, in December, which will include a trip to bowling! More of this will be shared on the first day back after half term. Such rewards are an addition to House Points and Golden Tickets from last year. Again, this change was a direct result of the School Council discussions last year.

### Upcoming Dates

Y11/Y13 PPEs

*Monday 30<sup>th</sup> October to  
Friday 17<sup>th</sup> November*

Y7 Meet the Tutor Evening

*Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> November*

PSHE UK Parliament Week

*Monday 6<sup>th</sup> to Friday 10<sup>th</sup>  
November*

Public Exams (Retakes)

*Monday 6<sup>th</sup> to Friday 17<sup>th</sup>  
November*

Y12 What's Next Careers Fayre

*Friday 10<sup>th</sup> November*

Careers Enterprise Week

*Monday 13<sup>th</sup> to Friday 17<sup>th</sup>  
November*

Rewards Lunch with Head

*Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> November*

Sixth Form Open Evening ▲

*Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> November ▲*

Drop Down Day 1

*Friday 24<sup>th</sup> November*

Y11 Progress Evening

*Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> December*

Rewards Lunch with Head

*Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> December*

Sixth Form Taster Day

*Friday 8<sup>th</sup> December*

Musical Theatre Showcase

*Friday 8<sup>th</sup> December*

Christmas Holiday

*Monday 18<sup>th</sup> December to  
Monday 1<sup>st</sup> January*

*(Please note that dates may be subject  
to change)*

- c. Some of our younger students had brought to the discussion 'corridor movement' and so we refined this. Whilst we narrate 'walking on the left', over the summer, lines were drawn throughout the corridors to help visualise this for all. All teachers, during transitions, remind students of this. This has helped the flow and continues to enable the calm and orderly movements throughout the school. Again, this change has been a direct result of last year's School Council discussion.

There are more examples of the above. However, what this shows is that students putting themselves forward in democratic processes can enable change. As I shared with all year groups, such requests as "can we finish school at 1pm everyday" will not happen! However, some of what is discussed and shared will be enacted.

As I communicated two weeks ago, the half termly newsletter is now refined. Last year, this came to all of you and was 40+ pages. It had too much in it. As of this year, it will be simpler and shorter. Here is our first one. It includes the highlights from the half term. We will continue to share updates on our Facebook page. I know not all of you are on it but it's another avenue whereby we can communicate what is happening in the school. Year team updates will be sent to respective year groups families only.

We look forward to seeing all of our students back on Monday 30<sup>th</sup> October. Year 11 and Year 13 students begin the first round of Pre-Public Exams (PPEs). Their dedication and hard work will pay off; they must devote time during the half term to ensure success in these. In terms of results, national data on the GCSE outcomes from this summer was released yesterday. As a school, our progress score is the highest it has been since this measure has been in place. Not only is it higher than last year when there were some adjustments to exams and students' prior knowledge of topics, the progress score is higher than in 2019 which is pre-Covid times. Well done to everyone who has played a part in that journey. This year's Year 11 will surpass this too!

Have a restful half term break.

Kind regards

*Mr Tailor, Headteacher*



## Rewarding Students

*Mr McKane, Assistant Headteacher*

Our 'Golden Ticket' is given out in every lesson, every day, to recognise and reward students. Furthermore, we regularly hold 'Reward events with the Headteacher'. We host this event approximately every three weeks, which means twice per half term.

### Pizza Lunch with the Headteacher!

Well done to all the students - from Year 7 right the way through to Year 13 - who were chosen for gaining the top House Points this term and having a flying start to the academic year; they were treated to Domino's Pizza lunch with Mr Tailor. We celebrated Years 7 to 11 on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> October and our Sixth Form students on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> October, and on both occasions had practically a full house with a real buzz of conversation around the table.

These students all fulfil our values of Aim High, Be Kind and Take Responsibility and Mr Tailor is very proud offer this treat and to meet with them in this way.

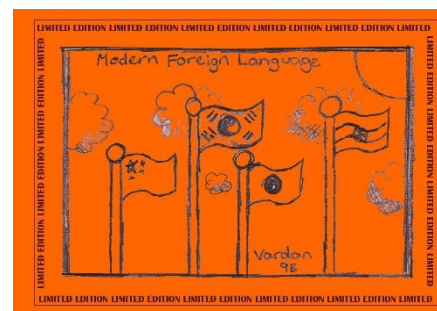




## European Day of Languages

### Miss Appleton and the MFL Department

On Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> September we celebrated European Day of Languages, a day that celebrates and promotes the diversity of the thousands of languages which are spoken worldwide. As a community at Brakenhale we speak an incredible 37 languages between us, and have so many staff and students who operate in more than one language every single day. This is not only impressive, but extremely good for your brain! We celebrated with special Limited Edition Golden Tickets (one of which was designed by Vardan), staff profiles about the languages they speak and would love to learn, and finally a lovely lunch time activity with more than 20 students turning up to play quizzes and games about languages! Thank you and well done to all of those who came and got involved!



The MFL Department encourages language learning of any kind and are always impressed by those of you who harness your love of languages by practising French or Spanish outside of school or learn a completely new language using platforms such as Duo Lingo. We are running an MFL Languages Club every fortnight on Tuesday Week A at lunchtime where we will have different activities about languages from around the world. There will be films, music, quizzes, games and lots of new words - so if you didn't sign up at the Extra Curricular Fayre please come along and join us in F02!



### Extra-curricular clubs at Brakenhale 2023/24 (Personal Development)

Tuesdays	Wednesdays	Thursdays	Fridays
<p>Sparx Help Club 13:20-14:00 F18 with DSM</p> <p>MFL Club 13:20-14:00 F02 with CPH</p> <p>Netball Club 15:15-16:15 Courts with NLA &amp; JMN</p> <p>Table tennis Club 15:15-16:15 Sports Hall with AMV</p> <p>Rugby Club 15:15-16:15 Field with ABI &amp; JBO</p> <p>Choir 15:05-16:00 M02 with EHO (Wk A)</p> <p>Band Club 15:05-16:00 M01 (Wk A); M02 (Wk B) with SFU</p> <p>Textiles Club 15:10-16:00 G05 with ARU</p>	<p>Karaoke Club 13:30-14:00 Movement Studio with EHO (2nd Wed of every month)</p> <p>Into Film Club 13:30-14:00 B16 with HIO &amp; MTH</p> <p>Girls Football Club 15:15-16:15 Astro with SAN &amp; GBE</p> <p>Basketball Club 15:15-16:15 Sports Hall with AMV</p> <p>Boys Football Club 15:15-16:15 Field/Astro with ABI &amp; CMY</p> <p>The Addams Family 15:05-16:30 Main Hall with GMI, SFU &amp; KTO</p> <p>STEM Club 15:20-16:20 S07 with LSC, NMA &amp; SME</p>	<p>Production Club 13:30-14:00 M02 with CCH</p> <p>Badminton Club 15:15-16:15 Sports Hall with LHI &amp; SCO</p> <p>Trampolining Club 15:15-16:15 Trampolining Centre with JBO</p> <p>The Addams Family 15:05-16:30 Main Hall with GMI, SFU &amp; KTO</p> <p>Nerd Space 15:20-16:20 S12 with DWO</p> <p>Art Club 15:05-16:00 A02 with JBR &amp; EFA</p>	<p>Keyboard Club 13:30-14:00 M02 with SFU</p> <p>GCSE Further Maths (Y11 only) 15:00-16:40 F17 with VMO</p> <p>Craft Club 15:05-16:00 A02 with DPA &amp; SWI</p> <p>Design and Technology and 3D Design Club 15:15-16:15 G03 with JBU &amp; HHE</p> <div> <p><b>Every Day</b></p> <p>Homework Club 15:05-16:00 LRC with TAs</p> </div> <div> <p><b>Open to All Years</b></p> <p><i>Just turn up!</i></p> </div>







## PE and Extra Curricular

*Mrs Lazarczuk, Head of PE, Mr Maye, Second in PE and PE Team*

### Year 7 Rugby

Year 7 Rugby has made an excellent start this term. The boys got their first taste of contact Rugby representing Brakenhale at Edgbarrow at the end of September. Mr Maye took 13 keen, hungry boys over and with a quick expert tutorial from Mr Boucher the boys won their first game against hosts Edgbarrow! Buzzing from that victory they went into the second game against a very organised and strong Sandhurst team (many of whom are coached by our own Mr Boucher). Alas they were too strong but the boys gave their all and unfortunately lost out. The final game was a hard-fought end-to-end game against Ranelagh that finished in a draw... As first attempts go our boys were AMAZING! The players voted Charlie S as man of the festival.

On Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> October the boys boarded the bus to Sandhurst this time with a few new faces and playing some new teams! We started off against Sandhurst and having lost 5 tries to 0 last time we started bright and some big tackles and agile running saw us take the lead! This lasted well under constant pressure from Sandhurst who kept plugging away but sadly breached our defence twice in the last minute to win.... Spurred on by this the boys then ran out winners comfortably over EP, Garth, Ranelagh and Kings Academy to finish second. A brilliant effort from the boys and such an improvement over a short space of time, taking on information brilliantly! The players voted George W as man of the festival.



### Year 8 Rugby.

Well done to all our Year 8 rugby players who recently took part in the rugby tournaments at Edgbarrow and Sandhurst. The boys all performed extremely well and showed great teamwork, commitment and energy in every game across the two tournaments. Whilst scores were not recorded, every game Brakenhale participated in, in both tournaments, were played with a fantastic hard but respectful attitude and every game was extremely well contested. Thank you to Edgbarrow and Sandhurst for hosting and for all the students who attended and helped make each tournament so successful.

### Netball

The Netball Club has had a fantastic start this year, and it's been amazing to see the impressive turnout of enthusiastic girls at our training sessions. Our Year 11 and 10 members have already made us proud by representing our school in the Bracknell Forest tournament, showcasing their outstanding effort and resilience on the court. As we look ahead to the next term, we're gearing up for an exciting schedule with upcoming tournaments for Years 7, 8 and 9. We're keen to invite more girls to join our training sessions, as we aim to build a strong, competitive team for these events. We look forward to seeing you all there.



## Maths: Casio's Film Crew

*Miss Moore and the Maths Department*

Selected Year 10 Maths students got to spend the day on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> October getting to know Casio's fantastic new calculator, the fx-83GT CW, which is available to buy in shops now. Their new advert will show our Brakenhale mathematicians in action, working through all the graphing tools that the new kit has to offer! If stardom wasn't enough, our students were lucky enough to be gifted with an engraved FX-991 EX of their very own! So, it is safe to say that was a successful day all round. Stay tuned for the advert coming to a screen near you!



## Creative Arts

*Miss T Wilhelmy, Head of Creative Arts*

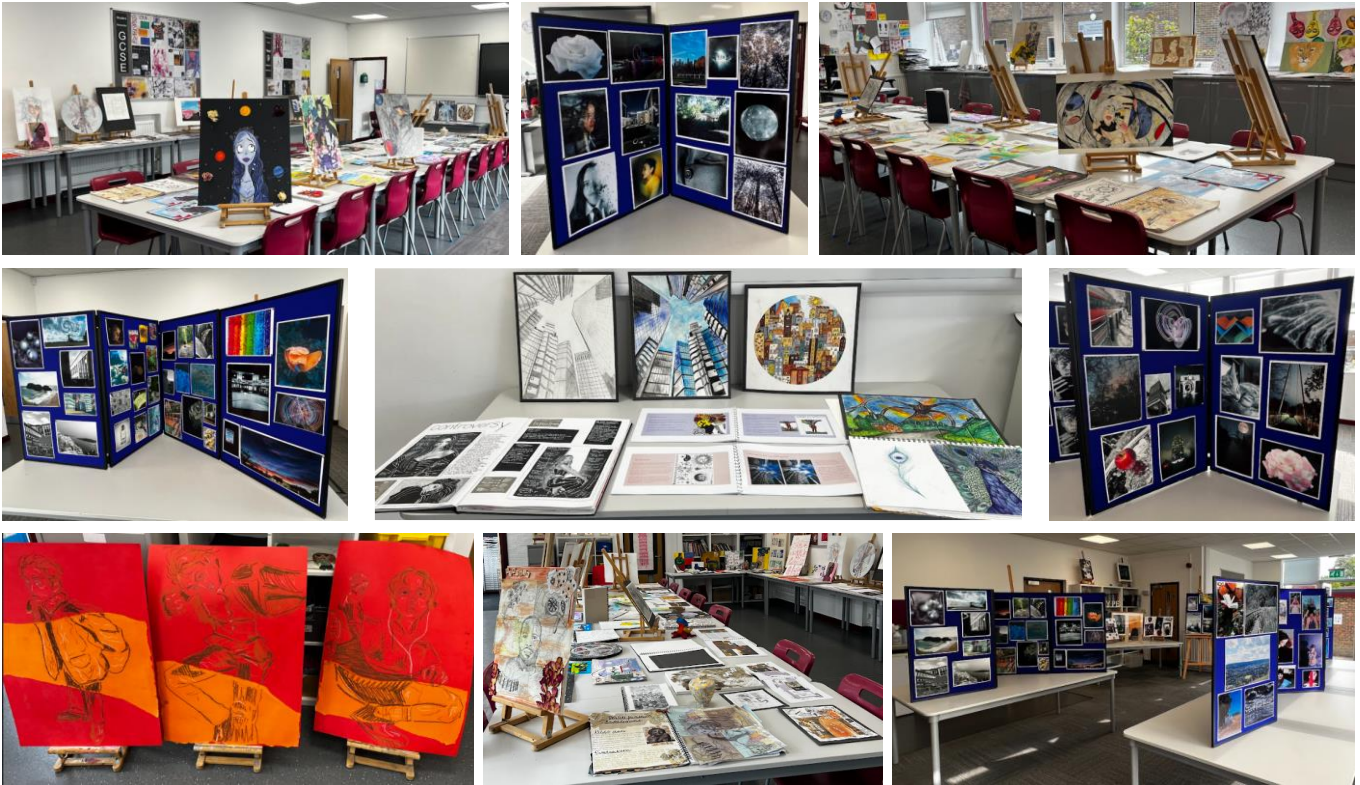
### Art & Photography Exhibition

We were delighted to welcome viewers to our annual exhibition to showcase the wonderful work of our students! The Creative Arts team worked really hard to set up the fantastic array of different and inspiring creations and it was an amazing spectacle!

#### ART AND PHOTOGRAPHY EXHIBITION

You are cordially invited to attend the 2023 Art and Photography exhibition at Brakenhale School to celebrate the talent and skills of our Year 11 and Year 13 students from last year!

Wednesday 20th September  
3.30pm to 6.00pm  
Rooms A01 and A02

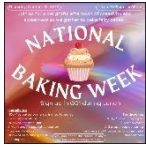


### Textiles

Year 9 Textiles classes have been busy creating tie-dye designs on fabric and then using them to make very colourful and practical phone beanbags using their sewing machine skills.







### National Baking Week

On Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> October we hosted a delightful Bake-Off featuring students from Years 7, 8, 9, and 10 to celebrate National Baking week. Their challenge was to create the finest fairy cakes and the competition showcased creativity, teamwork, and culinary skills. The various year groups collaborated effectively, offering mutual assistance and sharing their baking techniques. Following the announcement of the winner, students graciously exchanged their fairy cakes with one another. This Bake-Off was a sweet success, uniting the school community in a delicious celebration of talent and creativity, encouraging students to embrace the art of baking with enthusiasm and flair.



### Careers @ Brakenhale

*Mrs K Allum, Careers Lead and Mrs Whitaker-Flower, Deputy Headteacher*



It's been a very focused and successful term from a Careers perspective.

Year 11 students had an informative Post16 options guidance session with Adviza, which explored their options and drew attention to Labour Market Information. Complete Academy also came to the School to talk through their Football Diploma provision for 16-18 year olds. The students enjoyed the goal scoring and were truly inspired by what they could achieve.

Lots of planning is taking place for online activities, focused assemblies, workshops and a careers fair for across the year groups. More information will follow soon!

If you work in any of the following sectors (Animals, Art (graphic design, photography), Beauty, Dental, Games Designers, Journalism, Law, Media, Medical, Performing Arts, Public Services or Armed Forces or Science then I would be really interested to have a conversation to see if there is a way our students can benefit from your insight and help us at some key career events later on in the year.

Please contact me, Mrs Kate Allum - [kallum@brakenhale.co.uk](mailto:kallum@brakenhale.co.uk)



## Black History Month

*Ms H Ioannidis, PSHE Lead*

### Great Big Live Assembly



On Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> October Brakenhale joined the Great Big Live Assembly for Black History Month, hosted by the Sanctuary Foundation. This assembly focused on this year's theme: "Celebrate Our Sisters", where black women were celebrated for their excellent contribution to all areas of society. Brakenhale was chosen to be involved in a live interview during the assembly where Luke in Year 7 shared that Michelle Obama was a black woman he was inspired by due to her humble beginning and her fantastic achievements. This segment was filmed by Sky Kids programme FYI and you can watch the

assembly here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch>

### Poetry Competition

The National Black History Month Poetry Competition is a unique opportunity for our school community to engage with the achievements and contributions of black women while developing your creativity and literary skills.

We want everyone to be a part of this celebration! It's also a great opportunity for us to celebrate black women.

Here you can see a poem submitted by one of our students:

You can submit a poem about a **pioneering black woman who has made an impact in their chosen field, explaining why she is an inspiration to you**. Remember, the poems don't have to be about famous people; they can be about members of your family, women who have inspired you in your community, or even about you and your experiences. We want you to get creative and have fun with it!

#### Billie Holiday

There once was a woman  
A jazz and swing music writer  
She influenced jazz and pop  
Which made our music brighter  
She pioneered a new way of  
Manipulating phrasing  
Which I'm sure we're all praising  
Known for her improvisational skills  
Lady day was her nickname  
Holiday lit the spark of music  
She shone bright like a flame  
For this I thank you  
Billie Holiday who lived once  
I'll always look up to you  
And happy Black History month

- The poem must have a title, does not have to be very long however should include the theme above.
- The poem should be no longer than 50 lines (excluding title).
- All poems must be submitted by **Friday 10<sup>th</sup> November 2023** to [hioannidis@brakenhale.co.uk](mailto:hioannidis@brakenhale.co.uk)



## Community Safety

*Ms Peacock, Site Manager*

We have noticed that on occasion some cars have been waiting by the exit gate in Coningsby and coming onto site in the wrong direction to avoid the one-way system when the gate is opened by cars leaving.

Could we please remind all site users that the one-way system has been put into place for safety reasons and by acting in this way you may be endangering yourselves and others. In addition any car involved in an accident whilst going the wrong way would be liable.

Thank you.





## Our Vision and Values

### AIM HIGH

Good attendance plays a direct part in how students do in school. Let's work together to ensure great attendance for all!



### BE KIND

Let's take action to be Happier and Kinder Together: <https://actionforhappiness.org/>



### TAKE RESPONSIBILITY

Year 11 and 13 have made a great start to this academic year. Time to focus on their first round of PPEs for a real indication of where they are on the journey to the final exams in May / June 2024.

Year 11 PPE Exam Timetable November 2023

	MONDAY 30 <sup>th</sup> October	TUESDAY 31 <sup>st</sup> October	WEDNESDAY 1 <sup>st</sup> November	THURSDAY 2 <sup>nd</sup> November	FRIDAY 3 <sup>rd</sup> November
Period 1	11:00 DT all day JBU	11:00 DT all day JBU	11:00 DT all day JBU	11:00 DT all day JBU	11:00 DT all day JBU
Period 2	11:00 V&P, CMY 11:00 V&P, JBO 8:15	11:00 V&P, CMY 11:00 V&P, JBO 8:15	11:00 V&P, CMY 11:00 V&P, JBO 8:15	11:00 V&P, CMY 11:00 V&P, JBO 8:15	11:00 V&P, CMY 11:00 V&P, JBO 8:15
Period 3	11:00 DT all day JBU	11:00 DT all day JBU	11:00 DT all day JBU	11:00 DT all day JBU	11:00 DT all day JBU
Period 4	11:00 DT all day JBU	11:00 DT all day JBU	11:00 DT all day JBU	11:00 DT all day JBU	11:00 DT all day JBU
Period 5	11:00 DT all day JBU	11:00 DT all day JBU	11:00 DT all day JBU	11:00 DT all day JBU	11:00 DT all day JBU



## Term Dates 2023/24

### AUTUMN TERM 2023

Friday 1<sup>st</sup> and Monday 4<sup>th</sup> September  
Inset Days  
Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> September – Friday 15<sup>th</sup>  
December 2023  
Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> – Years 7, 11, 12 and 13  
only - Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> – All  
Students  
Autumn Half Term - Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> to  
Friday 27<sup>th</sup> October 2023  
Christmas Holiday: Monday 18<sup>th</sup>  
December to Monday 1<sup>st</sup> January  
2024

#### INSET Days

Friday 1<sup>st</sup> and Monday 4<sup>th</sup> September

### SPRING TERM 2024

Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> January Inset Day  
Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> January – Thursday  
28<sup>th</sup> March 2024  
Spring Half Term - Monday 12<sup>th</sup>  
February to Friday 16<sup>th</sup> February  
2024  
Spring Holiday: Friday 29<sup>th</sup> March to  
Friday 12<sup>th</sup> April 2024  
(Good Friday 29<sup>th</sup> March, Easter  
Monday 1<sup>st</sup> April)

#### INSET Days

Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> January

### SUMMER TERM 2024

Monday 15<sup>th</sup> April Inset Day  
Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> April – Friday 19<sup>th</sup> July  
2024  
Summer Half Term - Monday 27<sup>th</sup>  
May to Friday 31<sup>st</sup> May 2024  
(May Bank Holidays Monday 6<sup>th</sup> and  
Monday 27<sup>th</sup> May)  
Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> and Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> July  
2024 Inset Days  
Summer Holiday: Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup>  
July 2024

#### INSET Days

Monday 15<sup>th</sup> April  
Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> and Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> July

Please check the school website regularly for current information.

Bracknell Forest term dates can be found on their website:

<https://www.bracknell-forest.gov.uk/schools-and-learning/schools/term-dates>



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