



Brakenhale News



Friday 24th May

Dear Parents/Carers and Students,

It has been a fantastic half-term with much to celebrate. We continue to be extremely proud of our wonderful students who strive to meet our values of being kind, aiming high, and taking responsibility everyday.

It has been wonderful to see so many students accessing our 'VIP' exit with their golden tickets and indeed those with multiple golden tickets receiving an additional reward. There are a large number of students on our leader board and we hope many more will achieve gold and join our Thorpe Park trip at the end of the term.

We look forward to celebrating the end of exams with Year 11 and 13 Proms. Students are working really hard and we look forward to happy faces when results are opened in August.

The final week of this term saw a visit from Ofsted; we are delighted that inspectors recognised how wonderful our students and staff are and look forward to sharing the report with you in due course.

Thank you to all parents that have taken the opportunity to visit and please do continue to sign up for tours.

Mrs Douglas, Headteacher



Upcoming Dates

Monday 27th to Friday 31st May - Summer Half Term
 Public Exams continue
 KS3 Rank Order Assessments Fortnight
Monday 3rd June to Friday 14th
 Environment Day
Wednesday 5th June
 Primary Outdoor Athletics Event
Wednesday 5th June
 U13 District Athletics
Thursday 6th June
 World Music Day
Monday 17th June
 Y11 Prom
Monday 17th June
 Y10 and Y12 PPE Exam Fortnight
Monday 17th to Friday 28th June
 Y9 Living Rain Forest Trip
Tuesday 25th and Wednesday 26th June
 Sixth Form Transition Days
Thursday 27th and Friday 28th June
 Sports Day
Tuesday 2nd July
 CCF Biennial Review Parade and Inspection
Tuesday 2nd July
 Year 6 Induction Day
Wednesday 3rd and Friday 4th July
 Drop Down Day 3: Diversity
Friday 5th July
 CCF Summer Camp
Sunday 7th to Saturday 13th July
 Careers Fayre
Monday 15th July
 Geography GCSE Field Trip
Tuesday 16th July
 Dance Show
Wednesday 17th July
 Last Day of Summer Term
Friday 19th July
 Monday 22nd July to Tuesday 3rd September
 – Summer Holiday
 (Inset Days: 22nd and 23rd July; 2nd and 3rd September)

(Please note that dates may be subject to change)



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.

Celebration Breakfast with the Headteacher!

Well done to all those students who were invited to the new weekly Celebration Breakfast with Mrs Douglas on a Friday during Tutor time.

Criteria this half term have included 'Culture and Ethos' Champions, Improved Attendance and Zero Heroes.

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



School Council

Mr Budden, DT Teacher

The Brakenhale Eco Committee members were selected during this half term to represent their class.

We were looking for students with the following qualities:

- Enthusiastic about environmental issues
- Willing to lead by example and support projects in school
- Confident to encourage others to change their behaviours in school

They would have the following responsibilities - You will:

- represent their tutor group at Eco Council meetings
- encourage their tutor group to become more environmentally friendly
- help organise events in and around school
- keep their tutor group informed of the Eco Club Action Plan
- be a role model for others around school

We asked candidates to:

- Explain why they are interested in environment and sustainability issues
- Describe activities they have carried out in school or at home to improve the environment
- Suggest how they will encourage other students to get involved
- Explain how the school can further reduce waste going to landfill
- Suggest ideas on how we could improve our school grounds

SCHOOL COUNCIL

eco COUNCIL

ECO COUNCIL

BECOME A MEMBER OF OUR ECO COUNCIL!

We are looking for a maximum of 10 students across all year groups to put themselves forward to become members of our ECO Council. You will represent both your Tutor group and Year Group, helping to support, promote and lead environment and sustainability projects around the school, as well as in the wider community.

FOR FURTHER DETAILS ON HOW TO APPLY FOR THIS ROLE, PLEASE EMAIL MR BUDDEN (BRAKENHALE ECO COORDINATOR)

jbudden@brakenhale.co.uk

GET INVOLVED



Maths

Miss C Hateley, Head of Maths

Maths Challenge

This term we celebrated the Junior Maths Challenge entrants! We were immensely proud of all the students who took part. The Maths Challenge is a true test of students' resilience and willingness to do things that are hard. It tests their mathematical reasoning, precision of thought and fluency to make students really think. It's tough for any mathematician, and yet we had so many wonderful students having a go!

Students achieved certificates in Bronze, Silver and Gold, with 3 students even reaching the next level - the Kangaroo! These students were Freddie F (Best in Year 7), Josh D and Manny W (Best in School).

Well done to all the students in Year 7 and Year 8 that participated! Great work.



Sparx Maths

At the end of April we had a phenomenal week for our Brakenhale students across the Trust Sparx leaderboard.

21 Brakenhale students overall were placed within the top 10 and an incredible 80% of the Year 8 leaderboard were Brakenhale students. Brakenhale students were placed in every year group.

A huge well done to all students. Congratulations!

YEAR 8	Position	Name	School	XP Boost Points
	1		Brakenhale	3,510
	2		Brakenhale	2,223
	3		Brakenhale	2,126
	4		Brakenhale	1,955
	5		Brakenhale	1,902
	6		Brakenhale	1,817
	7		Broadwater	1,796
	8		Broadwater	1,775
	9		Brakenhale	1,727
	10		Brakenhale	1,549

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YEAR 7	Position	Name	School	XP Boost Points
	1		Brakenhale	6,430
	2		Blaise	5,279
	3		Sir John Hunt	2,616
	4		Blaise	2,460
	5		Brakenhale	2,167
	6		Blaise	1,994
	7		Brakenhale	1,815
	8		Brakenhale	1,698
	9		Sir John Hunt	1,650
	10		Brakenhale	1,519

SPARK STAR STUDENTS YEAR 7

Star Students @ Spaxx

GREENSHAW LEARNING TRUST

YEAR 10	Position	Name	School	XP Boost Points
	1		Blaise	1,910
	2		Blaise	1,674
	3		Sir John Hunt	1,540
	4		Brakenhale	1,369
	5		Blaise	1,366
	6		Brakenhale	1,340
	7		Sir John Hunt	1,326
	8		Blaise	1,030
	9		Park House	1,025
	10		Broadwater	1,010

SPARK STAR STUDENTS YEAR 10

Star Students @ Spaxx

GREENSHAW LEARNING TRUST

YEAR 9	Position	Name	School	XP Boost Points
	1		Yate	4,260
	2		Sir John Hunt	2,915
	3		Brakenhale	2,398
	4		Brakenhale	1,950
	5		Yate	1,919
	6		Brakenhale	1,840
	7		Brakenhale	1,746
	8		Yate	1,660
	9		Park House	1,620
	10		Brakenhale	1,613

SPARK STAR STUDENTS YEAR 9

Star Students @ Spaxx

GREENSHAW LEARNING TRUST

YEAR 11	Position	Name	School	XP Boost Points
	1		Yate	2,110
	2		Blaise	2,020
	3		Brakenhale	1,610
	4		Sir John Hunt	1,600
	5		Sir John Hunt	1,434
	6		Park House	1,400
	7		Sir John Hunt	1,381
	8		Sir John Hunt	1,227
	9		Blaise	1,217
	10		Sir John Hunt	1,190

SPARK STAR STUDENTS YEAR 11

Star Students @ Spaxx

GREENSHAW LEARNING TRUST

Combined Cadet Force

Brakenhale’s CCF were gold winners at this year’s Pride of Bracknell awards ceremony, for Team of the Year. Held at the Royal Sandhurst Military Academy on Friday 19th April, this event recognises the best and brightest individuals, teams and businesses across the borough.

Nominees were put forward by their community for their dedication to their chosen category.

It is a tremendous way to celebrate our wonderful community.

The awards play an important role in the local area, giving recognition to those people and organisations that make the local community flourish.





PE and Extra Curricular

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

League Play-Off

**YEAR 9 BOYS - LEAGUE PLAY OFF
SEMI FINALISTS 2nd YEAR RUNNING!!!**

Monday 22nd April AWAY vs FOREST SCHOOL

Congratulations to the boys!



Year 9 Boys Football Semi-Final - 25.04.24

Sadly the boys lost 2-1 to Forest Boys; however congratulations are due as Ms Belstone has coached these boys since Year 7 and has never been prouder of a performance!

They were up against a very accomplished team on a very difficult pitch and right from the first minute they worked tremendously hard as individuals and collectively as a team.

Despite the result every one of them held their head high and could say "I gave everything!"



Year 8 Boys Football Semi-Final - 07.05.24

Sadly the boys lost 8-0 to a very good St Crispins side, but they gave their all and certainly didn't make it easy for St Crispins, making them work very hard for their semi final result.

With this match bringing the season to a close for both the Boys and Girls Teams and with 2 semi finals and lots of great action and hard work, we are all very proud of everyone who pulled on the Claret Shirts of Brakenhale this season! Well done and Thank You!

District Athletics - 2.05.24

Mr Maye took 8 students to District Athletics to compete against ALL the schools in East Berkshire, state schools and private!

The students below were amazing! They ran, jumped and threw the best they could! Athletics is not group by year but by age so our 3 Year 8 boys were competing against Year 9 boys in their events, which makes the results below even better! Congratulations to them all.

- Year 10 - Grace S - Won the U17 girls 200m and 300m - *QUALIFIED TO REPRESENT BERKSHIRE!*
- Year 9 - Louie D - Came 4th in his U15 boys 800m Heat
- Year 8 - Harrison H - Came 3rd in his U15 boys 800m Heat
- Year 8 - David S - Won the U15 Boys Triple Jump and won the U15 Boys Long Jump - *QUALIFIED TO REPRESENT BERKSHIRE!*
- Year 9 - Seb P - Came 4th in his U15 boys Shot Putt
- Year 9 - Harry K - Came 2nd in his U15 boys Shot Putt *QUALIFIED TO REPRESENT BERKSHIRE!*



Year 9 Rounders - 7.05.24

The Year 9 girls' rounders team participated in a six-team tournament away at Sandhurst. Initially, nerves were evident as the girls took time to find their rhythm. However, by the third game, they began to settle and demonstrate great teamwork. Facing off against the eventual tournament winners, we managed to secure a draw, making us their only draw of the day!

Some highlights from the day were: Alex for her commendable efforts and stepping up for her first-ever school fixture, Divija and Katie who showcased amazing fielding skills, contributing significantly to the team's performance, all the girls who all gave 100% energy and commitment throughout.

Year 8 Rounders - 21.5.24

On Tuesday, the Year 8 girls travelled to Sandhurst to participate in the Bracknell Schools Tournament. As a newly formed team, the girls approached the event with great enthusiasm. In their first game against Sandhurst, they worked extremely hard, but it took some time for them to find their rhythm. Despite this, their spirits remained high, and they came back strong in the second game, securing an outstanding win against Garth.


The final game was against Edgbarrow. The girls worked tirelessly, showcasing amazing fielding skills from Ishikha, Summer, and Maisie. Although this game ended in a narrow loss, I am incredibly proud of all the girls. Their enthusiasm and effort were faultless throughout the tournament. Special mention goes to Ruby and Maisie, who stepped in at the last minute to support the team. I can't wait to see what our next tournament holds. Well done to everyone involved.



Next Term

After half term we have lots of fixtures including more Rounders, Cricket and Athletics events, so look out for these and get involved in the Extra Curricular clubs in preparation for these. We have Fitness, Girls' Football and Tennis clubs too!


Summer Term Extra Curricular



HT
5 & 6



PE AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<p>What is this? An opportunity to take part in school sport or activities, to get another fix of PE!</p> <p>When is it on? Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday</p> <p>Plus fixtures (these will be communicated with you)!</p> <p>AFTER SCHOOL 3.15 – 4.15pm</p> 	<p>Staff Meetings</p>	<p>Rounders Field JMN</p> <p>Fitness GYM JBO</p>	<p>Girls Football Astro GBE/SAN</p> <p>Athletics Field CMY</p>	<p>Tennis Courts GBE</p> <p>Athletics Field CMY (A) JMN (B)</p> <p>Cricket Nets/Astro JBO (A)</p>	<p>Staff Well-Being Badminton</p>

Open to all year groups

No need to sign up

Sign in with the PE staff

Change in the changing rooms



Performing Arts

Mrs G Millard, Head of Performing Arts

Hamilton Trip

GCSE Performing Arts students were given the opportunity to attend an educational performance of Hamilton at the Victoria Palace Theatre, London, on Tuesday 30th April.

This gave the students a unique opportunity to see a world class performance of a culturally relevant and popular show.



The Year 10 students had a Q&A with the cast at the end of the show where they discussed job roles in the theatre and were shown how all the tech worked backstage.

The students had the best time!

Hamilton is the story of America's Founding Father Alexander Hamilton, an immigrant from the West Indies who became George Washington's right-hand man during the Revolutionary War and helped shape the very foundations of the America we know today. The score blends hip-hop, jazz, blues, rap, R&B and Broadway – the story of America then, as told by America now. The Olivier, Tony and Grammy award-winning production of Hamilton originally opened at the Public Theatre in New York in 2015. Later that year, the Broadway production opened and, in December 2017, the London production opened at the newly rebuilt and restored Victoria Palace Theatre.

Les Misérables Trip

Our high-attaining Year 9 students were invited to an educational performance of *Les Misérables* on Tuesday 14th May.

This was a unique opportunity not only for students to attend a world class production at the Sondheim Theatre in London but to take part in a technical demonstration and question and answer session with the cast and crew after the show.

Set amid the social and political struggles of 19th century France, West End favourite *Les Misérables* tells the story of former prisoner Jean Valjean, who is pursued for decades by his policeman nemesis, Javert. Their epic cat-and-mouse journey will take them from the French fields to the gritty Parisian sewers, amidst an enthralling story of broken dreams, unrequited love, passion, sacrifice and redemption – a timeless testament to the survival of the human spirit.



Thank you to the Performing Arts team and additional support from elsewhere in the school that make trips like these possible to extend and enhance the learning experience of our students.



Creative Arts

Miss T Wilhelmy, Head of Creative Arts

World Art Day

Monday 15th April was World Art Day. In 1452 this is the day Leonardo Da Vinci was born and World Art Day celebrates his legacy. 2024 is the fifth year that World Art Day has been celebrated.

The Creative Arts department celebrated with 'one of a kind' Golden Tickets. These unique tickets were handmade and hand drawn by the Creative Arts staff!



Year 7 students used their creative skills on World Art Day to produce some lovely, bespoke cup-cake decorating!



Reminder



Outgrown or Leavers' Uniform

If you have any outgrown uniform or PE kit, or if your child is leaving at the end of Year 11, the school would be most grateful to receive your donations to help us fulfil second hand uniform requests.

We are especially interested in blazers, ties and school skirts.

Many thanks

Curriculum Support Team



Careers

Mrs K Allum, Careers Lead

kallum@brakenhale.co.uk

The Summer term can be a good time to reset the mind and think about what we want to achieve in the next academic year ahead. Please remember there are so many resources on our Brakenhale School website to help you form ideas of next steps.

Year 11:

Please ensure you have 3 post-16 applications that meet each of these criterias:

- Better than expected GCSE grades
- Expected GCSE grades
- Lower than expected GCSE grades

Year 11 Top tips:

Ensure your post-16 provider has your email address as well as your parent/carer email address. It is a good idea to have a parent/carer also being sent emails, in case you miss any key correspondence from your next step provider. As it is getting so close to starting your next venture, it is imperative that you are keeping up with all correspondence.

On the GCSE results day, prioritise collecting your results. Then as soon as you have your results let your post-16 provider know, and confirm your place on the course or apprenticeship, etc. Most courses only have 20 spaces and it will be on a first come first served basis - there is no time to waste on this day.

Year 10:

It is never too early to start thinking about your post-16 option. Please take advantage of the open events that some of the Colleges are planning. These events will give you a great idea of the personality of the establishment and also the courses on offer. We are also planning a Year 10 careers assembly for you in July, that will be a big kick-off.

Open Events (for Year 10 and 11)

- Reading College - Wednesday 1st May, 4.30-7.30pm
- BCA - Wednesday 1st May, 5.00-7.30pm
- Bracknell & Wokingham College - Wednesday 8th May, 4.30-7.30pm
- Langley College - 8th May, 4.00-6.30pm
- Windsor College - Tuesday 2nd July, 4.30-7.00pm
- Strodes College - Thursday 4th July, 4.30-7.00pm
- Holyport College - Open Days in September 2024 (sign up to their website to register)
- Farnborough Sixth Form College - 17-19 September 2024
- Farnborough College - No dates set as yet

All Years

Please remember there is a Careers Club in G03 during Monday lunchtime. A great chance to prepare your CV, find out more about apprenticeship opportunities or learn about the options open to you next.





Support for Parents

Safeguarding Team

Please see below the latest information regarding Inge Taylor Parenting Courses:

Supporting Your Children Workshops

To book a space please email your full name to Inge.Taylor@bracknell-forest.gov.uk

These sessions are universal (not specific for SEND) and for adults supporting children not the children themselves so please arrange childcare if needed

Each course is a standalone 2-hour session - please be aware that spaces are offered on a first come first served basis and parents should not just turn up

Once you have completed an enrolment form your space will be confirmed

Please only book onto the sessions if you are going to be able to attend to avoid other parents missing out on the opportunity to have a place or let the course leader know if you can no longer attend.

Helping children to overcome anxious thoughts and worries.

A 2-hour session looking at:

- What happens when children become anxious?
- Impact current events have had on children's mental health.
- Techniques for helping children deal with their fears / worries.

Thursday 23rd May 2024

@ Bracknell Open Learning Centre

9.30 – 11.30 am

Wednesday 19th June 2024

@ Bracknell Open Learning Centre

6.30 – 8.30 pm

Managing Behaviour in a Positive Way

A 2-hour session looking at:

- Gain insight into your parenting style / relationship with your child.
- Learn or revisit positive ways of managing behaviour!
- Strategies to deal with unacceptable behaviours.

Thursday 20th June 2024

@ Bracknell Open Learning Centre

9.30 – 11.30 am

Supporting Children to get a Healthy Night's Sleep

A 2-hour session looking at:

- The different sleep issues facing our families.
- Tips on how to get a good night's sleep.
- Help children develop good sleeping habits.

Tuesday 11th June 2024

@ Bracknell Open Learning Centre

6.30 – 8.30 pm

Parenting pre / early-teens in a Positive Way (aged 10 – 13)

A 2-hour session looking at:

- Gain insight into the impact of your parenting style!
- Positive techniques for managing older children's behaviour.
- Boosting your relationship and communication with your child.

Please let the course leader know if you would like to go on the waiting list for future sessions

Encouraging Resilience – Keep Calm and Bounce Back

A 2-hour session looking at:

- How to build natural resilience.
- Encouraging positive social skills.
- Encouraging children out of their comfort zone and not to give up.

Thursday 6th June 2024

@ Bracknell Open Learning Centre

9.30 – 11.30 am

Wednesday 3rd July 2024

@ Bracknell Open Learning Centre

6.30 – 8.30 pm

Reducing Sibling Rivalry

A 2-hour session looking at:

- Encouraging a more harmonious sibling relationship
- Learn / revisit techniques for children to cope with being a sibling.
- Boosting children's emotional literacy

Tuesday 25th June 2024

@ Bracknell Open Learning Centre

6.30 – 8.30 pm

Single Parent, Separated and Blended families – supporting children to cope with different family dynamics.

A 2-hour session looking at:

- Different family dynamics and how they can work.
- Parental conflict resolutions
- Being the best parent that you can be for your child

Wednesday 26th June 2024

@ Bracknell Open Learning Centre

6.30 – 8.30 pm

Supporting a smooth secondary school Transition (YR 5/6 parents)

A 2-hour session looking at:

- What the transition involves
- The positives and concerns of transitioning to a new setting
- Boosting your child's ability to have a smooth transition

Thursday 23rd May 2024

@ Bracknell Open Learning Centre

6.30 – 8.30 pm

Wednesday 5th June 2024

@ Bracknell Open Learning Centre

9.30 – 11.30 am

Supporting a smooth transition from Year R to Year 1 and beyond

A 2-hour session looking at:


- What's involved in transition from reception to year 1.
- The best ways to support the transition.
- Boosting your child's resilience to cope with the change

Monday 24th June 2024

@ Bracknell Open Learning Centre

6.30 – 8.30 pm

Reminder



Outgrown or Leavers' Uniform





If you have any outgrown uniform or PE kit, or if your child is leaving at the end of Year 11, the school would be most grateful to receive your donations to help us fulfil second hand uniform requests.

We are especially interested in blazers, ties and school skirts.

Many thanks


Curriculum Support Team

Meaningful May 2024

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
 6 Look for people doing good and reasons to be cheerful	 7 Make a list of what matters most to you and why	1 Do something kind for someone you really care about	2 Focus on what you can do rather than what you can't do	3 Take a step towards an important goal, however small	4 Send your friend a photo from a time you enjoyed together	5 Let someone know how much they mean to you and why
13 Find out about the values or traditions of another culture	14 Get outside and notice the beauty in nature	8 Set yourself a kindness mission to help others today	9 What values are important to you? Find ways to use them today	10 Be grateful for the little things, even in difficult times	11 Look around for things that bring you a sense of awe and wonder	12 Listen to a favourite piece of music and remember what it means to you
20 Share photos of 3 things you find meaningful or memorable	21 Look up at the sky. Remember we are all part of something bigger	15 Do something to contribute to your local community	16 Show your gratitude to people who are helping to make things better	17 Find a way to make what you do today meaningful	18 Send a handwritten note to someone you care about	19 Reflect on what makes you feel valued and purposeful
27 Focus on how your actions make a difference for others	28 Do something special and revisit it in your memory tonight	22 Find a way to help a project or charity you care about	23 Recall three things you've done that you are proud of	24 Make choices that have a positive impact for others today	25 Ask someone else what matters most to them and why	26 Remember an event in your life that was really meaningful
						

ACTION FOR HAPPINESS

Happier · Kinder · Together





Our Vision and Values

AIM HIGH

“Faith is taking the first step even when you don’t see the whole staircase.”

Martin Luther King Jr



BE KIND



TAKE RESPONSIBILITY

Please ensure you adhere to the **5 mile an hour speed limit** when driving through school site to support us in keeping children safe.



Term Dates 2023/24

SUMMER TERM 2024

Monday 15th April Inset Day

Tuesday 16th April – Friday 19th July 2024

Summer Half Term - Monday 27th May to Friday 31st May 2024

(May Bank Holidays Monday 6th and Monday 27th May)

Monday 22nd and Tuesday 23rd July 2024 Inset Days

Summer Holiday: Wednesday 24th July 2024

INSET Days

Monday 22nd and Tuesday 23rd 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>



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

☎ 01344 423041 | ✉ mainreception@brakenhale.co.uk | 💻 www.brakenhale.co.uk

Part of the Greenshaw Learning Trust

