



# BRENTFORD BULLETIN

“TOP 100 NON-SELECTIVE STATE-FUNDED SCHOOLS IN THE COUNTRY” NICK GIBB, MINISTER OF STATE FOR SCHOOLS (FEBRUARY 2016)

KEEPING YOU IN THE LOOP

## HEAD TEACHER'S UPDATE

Dear Parents / Carers,

Happy New Year! Thank you for your support in ensuring that your daughters returned to school settled and focused after the Christmas holidays. It has already been a very busy first half term of the year, with students engaged in Arts activities, public speaking events, sports competitions, choosing options and getting down to the hard work of learning in the classroom.

At the start of the term, I shared with students my New Year resolution, which is to spend less time in the evening switching between an ipad, telephone and my kindle. I have asked all students to really think about what face to face communication they might be missing out on, particularly at home. Technology can be a fantastic resource. When I was at school we had to read a text book to find out factual information. Our children, your daughters, can now all 'ask google' or another search engine and get the information back in seconds. However, we must not forget the other very important skills that we sometimes lose when absorbed in our personal technology! I ask you, as a parent, what do you think they miss out on?

We have held a number of parental events this term, which have been brilliantly attended. I know it can be difficult for some of you to get here in the evening with work and other child care commitments, so we really do appreciate the excellent turnout, and I know it means a lot to your daughters.

As we move into the second half of the spring term, some year groups will be receiving interim reports. Please look out for these, as they will show you where your daughter is in terms of her learning and attitude to learning. If you do have any concerns or questions about these, please do contact your daughter's form tutor to discuss these.

Have a lovely half term

Ms M Leenders

## BEHAVIOUR UPDATE

As always at Brentford School, we remain focused on ensuring that each and every pupil reaches their full potential and has a positive school experience. We have reached the half way point in the Spring term and it is pleasing to see the students maintaining the positive start they have made to this calendar year.

We are very fortunate to have a fantastic group of students at the school and we aim to ensure that pupils have the opportunity to showcase their qualities each and every day during the school term. Creating a positive and safe culture around the school is paramount and as a school it is our belief that the students should be at the forefront in the maintenance of this culture. Our pupils are very proud of our school and are keen to involve themselves in all aspects of school life. As a school we offer our students many leadership opportunities including becoming one of the schools HUB ambassadors, sports leaders, house captains as well as the role of school and sixth form prefects. These roles are taken up by enthusiastic pupils to promote positive behaviour across the school and ensure the schools visions is shared with the students by the students. This year we had a record number of pupils applying for these leadership roles and look forward to the summer term when applications for September 2018 open.

## YEAR 8 OPTIONS

Thank you to all students and parents who attended the Options Evening on Thursday 18th January. We hope you found it useful and we were delighted at such a good attendance.

All of the resources from the evening can be found on the school website including the presentation, the options selection form and the "Informed Choices" booklet referred to in the talk published by Russell Group Universities. These are in the "Learning" section of the website.

To help remind you of the process from now, we have outlined the timeline for upcoming events and dates to remember for the rest of the process:

19th February-2nd March 2018	<b>Lunchtime Taster Sessions for Year 8</b>
9th March 2018	<b>Interims Issued</b>
22nd March 2018	<b>Year 8 Parents Evening</b>
28th March 2018	<b>Deadline for options forms to be returned</b>
18th April 2018	<b>Year 8 Interviews with Mr May to confirm choices where necessary</b>
23rd April 2018	<b>Year 8 Informed of their Final Option Choices</b>
30th April 2018	<b>Deadline to request changes</b>
7th May 2018	<b>Changes made and relayed to students</b>

## REPORTS

Each year your daughter receives a report from school, this is an opportunity for you to discuss with your daughter how they are progressing academically as well as offering you a holistic idea of how your daughter is progressing as a student within her particular year group. The reports will offer your daughter's tutor to give you an idea of your daughter's general progress to date, including your daughters target grades, forecast grades as well as the outcome grades of any examinations that have been set, giving you an overview of the progress being made as well as the gaps between current achievement and where staff expect them to be. Tutors will also share brief particulars of achievements, highlighting strengths and room for development. Attendance and punctuality will also be discussed, particularly if there is a concern in this area. Your daughter's report will also highlight their attitude to learning in each of their lessons, with a score of 1 being outstanding and a 4 being a concern. The report will then be summarised by the Head of Year as well as a senior member of staff. If you have any questions or queries following receiving your daughters report, please, in the first instance, make contact with your daughters tutor who can answer any of your questions or put you in contact with the member of staff that can. Please find below report dates for the remainder of the academic year:

**Year 7** - 19th March

**Year 8** - 25th June

**Year 9** - 25th June

**Year 11** - 5th February

**Year 12** - 25th June

**Year 13** - 2nd April

## YEAR 11 PPEs

Year 11 PPEs are taking place straight after the half term (week beginning 19th February). These are the second PPEs that students will be sitting in all their subjects and will be a good indicator of what they will achieve in the real exams on condition that they put in the appropriate amount of revision and focus. Please ensure that your daughter has a robust revision timetable in place over the half term holidays and that she attends any intervention classes that have been planned in this time. Please be mindful that this may be a particularly stressful time for your daughter and please contact the school if you require any information on how best to support her.

## STRESS RELIEF FOR EXAMS

### Preparation is everything

By engaging with revision and structuring this time well in advance, you avoid the stress of last minute cramming.

### Make time to sleep

There is no doubt that it is important to study, but it is equally important to give yourself a break and allow yourself time to sleep, so that you are prepared for the next day.

### Build helpful habits

Eat well, and drink loads of water. Take frequent (scheduled) breaks, during which you could make a cup of tea or go for a little walk. Think about your study environment and any possible distractions. Equally, think about which time of day is your most productive.

### Get organised

Exams are time-bound, which means that you can pinpoint when you will be done revising. Make plans for what to revise each day, which will help you avoid feeling overwhelmed. Also ensure to schedule breaks, and protect these, as you need the time to rest.

### Talk to someone you trust

If you feel worried or anxious, talk to a friend, relative, teacher, or tutor. It will help to get things out of your system, you may see solutions to your concerns which you had not previously considered, or they may be able to give you some helpful advice.

### Maintain the bigger perspective

With exam pressure, passing can seem like a defining moment. However, it is important to remember that there is a lot more to you than your success in one subject, and ultimately, developing your individual skills will mean a lot more throughout life.

## INDEPENDENT LEARNING

For many students it is time to prepare for PPEs. This is a good opportunity to develop those independent learning skills and take responsibility for preparing effectively.

### 1. Plan your revision

- Draw a revision timetable to plan when you will revise.
- Divide revision into 30 minute blocks to keep your mind fresh.
- Prepare your revision materials in advance so the timetabled session is as productive as possible. This can be done by referring to your PLCs.
- Build in time for review e.g. test what you have learnt.
- Remember to allocate time to relax/refresh (do something between revising topics that is active – spaced learning – to give your brain a chance to refresh).

### 2. How to Revise

- Summarise information you need to remember using mind-maps, revision cards or listing key words as prompts.
- Create questions and answer them to test how much you have understood and remembered.
- Use of consolidation cards, revision guides/websites, past exam papers etc. are encouraged – ask your teacher if you need help with these.

### 3. Work together in pairs or small groups to:

- Create revision notes and split the workload.
- Push each other to keep going.
- Test each other.

## YEAR 9 PARENTS' EVENING

Year 9 Parents' evening takes place on **Thursday 22nd February** from 5pm to 8pm. This evening provides parents and carers the opportunity to meet with each pupil's subject teachers in order to discuss your child's attainment and progress. If your daughter is now in the first year of her GCSE option choices, the evening provides an excellent opportunity to review how she is adapting to the new challenges GCSE courses present and discuss strategies you could use at home to support your daughter in the coming months. Attendance at these evenings is vital, so please do ensure you are available to attend.

## SIXTH FORM PARENTS' EVENING

6th Form Parents' evening is taking place on **1st February**; all teaching staff and the Senior Leadership Team will be on hand to discuss our students progress and advise on how best to support your child as they prepare for their exams and ultimately transition on to the next phase of their lives.

## SCHOOL PRODUCTION

After an incredibly successful performance last year, this year's school production of **Hairspray: The musical** is set to be even better!

The story revolves around a dance loving teen Tracy Turnblad in 1960s Baltimore. Tracy auditions for a spot on "The Corny Collins Show" and wins. She becomes an overnight celebrity, a trendsetter in dance, fun and fashion. Perhaps her new status as a teen sensation is enough to topple Corny's reigning dance queen and bring racial integration to the show, and end the segregation of her and her friends.



Rehearsals have been full on since September and the students are working hard to learn all their lines, songs and dances. The performances will take place on **Thursday 8th February and Friday 9th February** at 19:00. Tickets have been selling fast, but are still on sale from Miss Marsh in A5 at break and afterschool or can be reserved via email [kmarsh@brentford.hounslow.sch.uk](mailto:kmarsh@brentford.hounslow.sch.uk). Tickets are £4.

## DUKE OF EDINBURGH AWARD

We are looking forward to another successful year of the Duke of Edinburgh award at Brentford School. Our current cohort of Year 9 and 10 students is a large group with 47 students currently signed up, which is a dramatic increase on last year's numbers. We have a busy schedule ahead and some great opportunities for the girls to get involved amongst the community with the volunteering expectations of the Duke of Edinburgh Award. There will be 3 expeditions a practice walk in Richmond Park, a practice weekend expedition in Chalfont and an assessment weekend expedition in Chesham.

We also have the awards ceremony for last year's cohort which takes place at Heston School on Wednesday 14th March; this event gives the pupils who have completed the award the opportunity to dress to impress before receiving their award at a borough wide celebration.

## LOVE LITERACY EVENT

The 'Love Literacy' event for Year 7's takes place on **23rd February 9:30 - 10:30** and is an opportunity for parents and carers to join us and their daughters in celebrating their reading success in the first half of the Spring Term. Additionally there will be the opportunity to meet our Librarians Ms Baker (Head of Library) and Ms O'Sullivan (Library Assistant) and to look at Accelerated Reader access using a computer. Ms Baker, will also be delivering a short presentation on 'How to support your daughter with her reading, with a Q&A after. Last year we had lots of parents and carers attending, after which we had some wonderful comments including: "The workshop was good to understand the progress of my daughter, thank you for running this workshop!" Please contact [lgers@brentford.hounslow.sch.uk](mailto:lgers@brentford.hounslow.sch.uk) if you have any questions.

# CAREERS

## AT BRENTFORD SCHOOL FOR GIRLS

The main aim of the careers department is to prepare all pupils for life beyond Brentford School for Girls by linking them to the real world of work through mentoring, workplace visits, careers fairs, guest speakers and work related learning. Careers education is delivered across the whole curriculum, through PSHCE lessons and complemented with activities. We are also committed to providing access to impartial and independent careers advice.

### MS BROWN

Ms Brown is in her fourth year as the Careers Education Co-ordinator at Brentford, having qualified as a Careers Adviser in 2005 through Canterbury Christchurch University. She worked in the community advising young people how to get into education, employment and training and in a range of educational institutions including schools and colleges before joining Brentford in 2013.



### WHAT STUDENTS LEARN AT KEY STAGE 3

Career lessons during PSHCE, including getting to know one's own strengths, making choices and career planning. During Year 8 Option choices, we provide support from tutors and senior leadership team. We host Year 8 Careers day: a whole day off timetable to develop learning style, CV writing, research different careers and talk to up to 25 different professionals.

### WHAT STUDENTS LEARN AT KEY STAGE 4

Career lessons during PSHCE, including skills for work, how to research career choices, Apprenticeships and Post 16 choices. We have a visit to a local university and listen to talks on a variety of aspects of student life, including information on finance. Students take part in a mock interview and receive individual feedback from a local professional. First-hand experience of the world of work can be attained by undertaking a day of work shadowing, in a working environment, arranged through family or friends. We also provide a Year 10 Industry day during the summer term and Year 11 one-to-one career guidance interviews.

### WHAT STUDENTS LEARN AT KEY STAGE 5

Brentford Futures Fair – as part of this annual programme, students are given support to investigate their Higher Education choices and alternative post-18 options (including degree apprenticeships and school leaver programmes). We give access to information on and support with applying to a wide range of seminars, activities, summer schools and other HE events.

### VOLUNTEERING

Volunteering is a fantastic way for students to increase their confidence and gain employability skills such as communication, team work, numeracy, IT, leadership and initiative. There are many opportunities here at school for students to get involved with volunteering. As well as the School Leadership opportunities (which include Year Council Rep, Sports Leader and House Captain), students are encouraged to take part and help out at whole school events including open evenings and the school's Christmas and summer fayres.

The vInspired awards scheme is a respected way for 11 – 25 year olds to get official recognition for their volunteer activities (both in and outside school). The school has a dedicated portal where students can log their volunteering activity and the skills they have gained. Certificates are available for 10, 30, 50 and 100 hours voluntary work.

BRENTFORD SCHOOL FOR GIRLS				
EXTRA CURRICULAR CLUBS				
MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
BREAKFAST CLUB 07:45 - 08:30 (T1)	BREAKFAST CLUB 07:45 - 08:30 (T1)	BREAKFAST CLUB 07:45 - 08:30 (T1)	BREAKFAST CLUB 07:45 - 08:30 (T1)	BREAKFAST CLUB 07:45 - 08:30 (T1)
ART GCSE (YR 10 - 13) 12:50 - 13:30 (C7)	ART GCSE (YR 10 - 13) 12:50 - 13:30 (C7)	ART GCSE (YR 10 - 13) 12:50 - 13:30 (C7)	ART GCSE (YR 10 - 13) 12:50 - 13:30 (C7)	ART GCSE (YR 10 - 13) 12:50 - 13:30 (C7)
LUNCHTIME HOMEWORK CLUB 13:00 - 13:30 (T1)	LUNCHTIME HOMEWORK CLUB 13:00 - 13:30 (T1)	LUNCHTIME HOMEWORK CLUB 13:00 - 13:30 (T1)	MICHAEL JACKSON EXPERIENCE 12:50 - 13:30 (THEATRE)	LUNCHTIME HOMEWORK CLUB 13:00 - 13:30 (T1)
GYMNASTICS 13:00-13:30 (PANKHURST GYM)	NETBALL 13:00 - 13:30 (PANKHURST GYM)	SCIENCE CLUB (YR 7, 8 & 9) 13:00 - 13:30 (M7)	YOGA (YR 11) 12:55 - 13:25 (CURIE GYM)	DANCE 13:00 - 13:30 (PANKHURST GYM)
DUKE OF EDINBURGH (YR 9, 10 & 11) 15:20 - 16:20 (T3)	NETBALL 15:20 - 16:20 (PANKHURST GYM)	TRAMPOLINE 13:00 - 13:30 (PANKHURST GYM)	LUNCHTIME HOMEWORK CLUB 13:00 - 13:30 (T1)	KARAOKE 13:00 - 13:30 (DRAMA)
ART GCSE (YR 10 - 13) 15:20 - 16:30 (C7)	ART GCSE (YR 10 - 13) 15:20 - 16:30 (C7)	BADMINTON 13:00 - 13:30 (CURIE GYM)	BRENTFORD SINGERS 13:00 - 13:30 (A6)	GAMES CLUB (YR 7, 8 & 9) 13:00 - 13:30 (P3)
TEXTILES CLUB (YR 7, 8 & 9) 15:30 - 16:30 (D2)	PUBLICATION PLATFORM 15:30 - 16:30 (C7)	DEBATE MATE (YR 7, 8, 9 & 10) 15:30 - 16:30 (M14)	DODGEBALL 13:00 - 13:30 (PANKHURST GYM)	UKULELES! 13:00 - 13:30 (A6)
	BAKE OFF (YR 7 & 8) 15:30-16:30 (D1)	FITNESS 15:20 - 16:20 (A6)	DUKE OF EDINBURGH (YR 9, 10 & 11) 15:20 - 16:20 (T3)	GENDER EQUALITY FORUM 15:20 - 16:20 (C1)
		ROCK SCHOOL (YR 10 & 11) 15:20 - 17:00 (A6)	ART GCSE (YR 10 - 13) 15:20 - 16:30 (C7)	ART GCSE (YR 10 - 13) 15:20 - 16:30 (C7)
		ART GCSE (YR 10 - 13) 15:20 - 16:30 (C7)		

## HOUSE COMPETITION

House Competitions have been very closely fought so far this year. The first competition took place at the end of the first half term. All of the students in each of the houses came up with ideas about how they would raise money and the House who raised the most money would win. At lunchtime the hall was full of students across all year groups and there was a lovely atmosphere. We had popcorn, candyfloss, cakes and lots of other fantastic stalls and activities going on. The whole day was a real success with the lunchtime activities raising over £300 and together with the mufti money the school raised over £800 for Breast Cancer Awareness. Many congratulations to all of the girls and especially to Confident House who were the overall winners.

Just before the end of the term, the House singing competition was won by Inquisitive House. Well done to all of the pupils in Years 7-11 who performed brilliantly in the celebration assemblies.

This half term's competition is a general knowledge quiz and pupils will be taking part over the next few weeks. The Housepoint Cup competition is very close, but last term's winners – Inquisitive – are still in pole position. Can anyone catch them???

## ONLINE SAFETY

As teenagers, we often think we are tech-savvy, but how much do we really know about keeping safe online?

We often make the assumption, as teenagers, that we are light years ahead of most adults when using technology, and with young people using their phones and tablets so quickly and naturally, it's easy to believe you know all there is to know about the online world. However, it's safe to say even the most computer literate of you need to know more about staying safe online and what to do when something goes wrong...

### So what are the basics to keeping safe online?

1. Be nice to people online.
2. Take care with what you share: once it's out, there's no going back.
3. Keep personal information private, such as where you live or go to school.
4. Check your privacy settings: who can see and share your posts?
5. Know how to report posts, read the reporting section on each individual website or social media that you are accessing.
6. Keep your passwords safe.
7. Never meet anyone in person, that you have met online.
8. If you see anything online that you don't like or you find upsetting, tell someone you can trust, such as a teacher, friend, parent or family member.
9. Know how to block a person who is bothering you online.
10. Contact CEOP (child exploitation and online protection command) if you are worried about someone who is contacting you, if you feel pressured to do something you know is inappropriate, or if you are worried about a friend.
11. How do I make a report to CEOP? Your report is made online and you will be asked some questions in relation to your reasons for contacting them. [www.ceop.police.uk/ceop-reporting/](http://www.ceop.police.uk/ceop-reporting/)
12. Alternatively, you can contact the NSPCC, Child Line on 0800 1111; they are there to listen and advise 24 hours, 7 days a week.

## CAR PARKING

Can we please ask parents dropping off students to be mindful of our neighbours when parking their cars in side streets around school by not blocking driveways. Can we also remind parents that dropping students on the zigzag lines outside school is an offence which is punishable by penalty points on the drivers licence, but most importantly is incredibly dangerous for the students getting out. Can we please ask that dropping students off is done in a safe and controlled way – not just opening a car door and jumping out whilst the car is driving off which was witnessed recently. We take the safety of our students very seriously: keeping our students safe and our neighbours happy

is paramount. Thank you very much for your cooperation in this matter.

## RE DAY

With great anticipation all 6th form students are taking part in a Philosophy and Ethics day on **8th February**. The aim of this day is to explore philosophical, moral and ethical questions surrounding spirituality. We will look at questions like: What are the benefits of spirituality? Is everyone's spirituality the same? Is religion needed to be a spiritual person? How can people gain spirituality through art? This year's day will involve a focused visit to both the Tate Modern Museum and St Paul's Cathedral. We will also be incorporating lunch on the Southbank. The event will take place from 8:30am in the hall and students will be dismissed at 2:45pm from either location. Please ensure your daughter/son has paid £5 on Scopay.

## SIXTH FORM RECRUITMENT

We are now conducting interviews from external applications into the 6th form. We have had a high volume of applications to our 6th form this year, which is excellent, in addition to nearly all of our Year 11s applying for various courses! The enrolment date is 4th September. We look forward to welcoming you.

# TERM DATES

## SPRING TERM 2018: THURSDAY 4TH JANUARY- THURSDAY 29TH MARCH

- 01ST FEBRUARY: 6TH FORM PARENTS' EVENING
- 02ND FEBRUARY: 6TH FORM INTERVIEWS
- 7TH & 8TH FEBRUARY: SCHOOL PLAY YEAR 5 PERFORMANCES
- 08TH & 09TH FEBRUARY: SCHOOL PLAY EVENING PERFORMANCES
- 12TH - 16TH FEBRUARY: HALF TERM
- 20TH FEBRUARY: SO YOU WANT TO BE A... LUNCH
- 22ND FEBRUARY: YEAR 9 PARENTS' EVENING
- 23RD FEBRUARY: YR 7 LOVE LITERACY EVENT
- 26TH FEBRUARY: END OF 'THROUGH THE LENS' ARTS EXHIBITION
- 01ST MARCH: WORLD BOOK DAY
- 07TH MARCH: 6TH FORM THEATRE TRIP, CHOOSE US TRANSITION EVENT
- 08TH MARCH: GENDER EQUALITY FORUM, 2:30 PM EARLY FINISH
- 14TH MARCH: TRANSITION EVENING
- 16TH MARCH: INTERHOUSE QUIZ, LIBRARY TRIP
- 20TH MARCH: SO YOU WANT TO BE A... LUNCH
- 22ND MARCH: YR 8 PARENTS EVENING
- 23RD MARCH: 6TH FORM DE-STRESS EVENT
- 28TH MARCH: LUNCH TIME TALENT SHOW
- 29TH MARCH: YR 8 OPTIONS PAPERWORK SUBMISSION DATE, END OF TERM

# CONTACT US

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## WE'RE ONLINE!

FACEBOOK: [WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/BRETFORDSCHOOLGIRLS](http://WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/BRETFORDSCHOOLGIRLS)  
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