



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 MESSAGE

Dear Parents & Carers,

I write to you with utter disbelief about how quickly this half term has passed and amazement at how much the students and staff have achieved over the last 6 weeks. I want to express my sincere thanks to all students who volunteered at our successful Open Evening for prospective parents held on the 5th October and our 6th Form Open Evening held on the 12th October. As I always say, our girls are the best ambassadors of the school when it comes to recruiting new students and parents and their energy and enthusiasm on both nights was once again a testament of this. Our Year 13 cohorts have started submitting their UCAS applications for university places and we wish all our early entrants applying for places to Oxbridge, medicine and dentistry the best of luck.

Our Year 11 cohort, who celebrated fantastic results in their English Literature exams at the end of Year 10 have wholeheartedly embraced the expectations that come with being in their final year of GCSEs by attending our 'Welcome to Year 11' evening at the start of term, attending all additional intervention sessions and starting their applications to sixth form. We are hoping that many of them will be in attending at the intervention sessions that are taking place across different subjects over the half term break.

Year 9 have made a successful start to their GCSEs with many students relishing the opportunity to still study Music, Drama and Art through our weekly morning enrichment programme which will continue to run for the remainder of the year. And last, but not least, I am incredibly proud of how well our Year 7s have settled into not just a new term but a new school. Almost every single student in Year 7 has signed up to at least one extra curricular club which is a fantastic way to meet students from other year groups, many of them supported at the Open Evening which in itself is an achievement given that they are quite new to the school themselves and one hundred twenty of them have signed up to the cast of our whole school production 'The Little Mermaid' which will take place in February.

As I write to you to thank you again for all of your support across the last term, the atrocities that are taking place across the other side of the world are never far from my mind. The conflict which is going on in Israel and Palestine has been widely publicised on the news and social media. Many of our students are understandably shocked and upset by what they are seeing. As we know, for young people social media is the way in which they see and pass on news. This may not always provide them with a well informed understanding of the background behind such atrocities. During school we have spoken to the students about the history of the issues in this part of the world. We have also discussed the humanitarian crisis that is taking place, and many of the students have talked about fundraising to support families who may be affected by such conflict. We will, always in line with our school vision, promote values which are in keeping with celebrating our diversity as a school and 'tolerance for all'. Extreme views and negative words and actions within our community would never be acceptable. I ask as parents that you do reinforce this at home. Whilst there may be conflict across the world, at Brentford we will continue to promote that our community will always remain a place of safety, tolerance and togetherness.

Finally I wanted to let all parents know that in the summer term I trained to be an Ofsted inspector! This is a role that I will do alongside my current role as headteacher, as we are only expected to complete 9 inspections in a year. You may be wondering why I would want to do this alongside what I already do in school. I have already inspected 3 schools and it has been fantastic to understand how schools are inspected so that we can be in the best possible position when we are visited! Additionally it's great to get into other schools to see what good practice there is that we can bring back and use in Brentford. It's a win win!

All of the above would not be possible without the tireless efforts of our staff and would like to take this opportunity to thank them for all their hard work over this half term. I hope all our staff and the students and their families have a restful break over the half term.

With best wishes,

Ms Leenders
Headteacher

YEAR 11 SPEAKING ASSESSMENT

In order to get ready for the summer exams, Year 11 French/German students will have a formal speaking assessment on 1st November. This will help them become more familiar with the format of the GCSE speaking exam and feel more prepared and confident! The speaking assessment will consist of the description of a picture as well as answering a few questions on the topic of the picture, followed by a conversation in the form of a series of questions and answers on various topics. Year 11 students should use October half term to learn those questions and answers!

YEAR 9 PARENTS EVENING (VIRTUAL) (5PM-8PM)

It has been a busy but very positive start to the academic year for Year 9. We look forward to meeting the students and parents of our year 9 cohort on Thursday 2nd November, to discuss the progress the students have made during the first half term of their GCSE courses.

WHOLE SCHOOL STUDENT PHOTOGRAPHS

Taking place on Friday 3rd November. These will be individual photos taken and details how to order any copies will be sent to you in due course.

Please ensure your daughters are dressed in full winter uniform.

ROYAL INSTITUTE MATHEMATICS MASTERCLASSES

2PM-4.30

RI Masterclasses are a series of workshops which are led by mathematics enthusiasts from industry, academia and education. The Masterclasses aim to inspire young people in the beauty and wonder of mathematics and to develop a sense of enjoyment in the subject. They offer pupils in-depth investigations of topics in mathematics from beyond the normal curriculum.

Three of our enthusiastic mathematicians in Year 9; Umthapasi Kakarlapudi, Ryma Mekki, Aneesa Arani, have attended 3 sessions so far and there are 3 more next half term.

YEAR 11 FORMAL ASSESSMENTS

In order for us as a school to collate up to date and current information about the progress of Year 11, the students in Year 11 will be sitting formal assessments in the week beginning the 6th November until the 15th November. These are not mock examinations but are robust assessments sat under examination conditions that provide us with accurate grades for where your daughter is currently working at and inform any support that we may need to put in to get her closer to or exceeding her target grades by the Spring term. An exam timetable will be sent to you to help her prepare for these assessments. Good luck year 11, we know you can do it!

SYWTBA CAREERS TALK

Our next So You Want to be acareers talk is on the morning of 7th November when we welcome Becky, from Becky's Bazaar, over Zoom. Becky is a budding entrepreneur who's strong belief in sustainability and recycling led to her opening an on-line shop selling vintage sportswear. Becky will be explaining how she set up her business, how she uses social media to promote her shop and how she developed her entrepreneurial skills.

In December we will be welcoming Bhawana, a STEM ambassador, who will be giving a talk about software engineering. Our SYWTBA talks start at 8:30am and are a fantastic opportunity for our students to meet successful women from the world of work.

YEAR 13 FORMAL ASSESSMENTS

Year 13 will be sitting formal assessments in the week beginning 13th November in an effort to ascertain the grades that they are currently working and to identify any gaps in knowledge that will need to be addressed as they start preparing for their A level exams in the summer. An exam timetable will be sent to you so that you are aware of the exams she will be sitting each day. We wish all our year 13 students the best of luck in these formal assessments and hope that they view these as a valuable learning opportunity.

HOUNSLOW TEEN READ

Hounslow Teen Read is a great event which is organised by Hounslow School Library Services and involves other schools from the borough taking part. The librarians get together to choose the 6 books that each student will be reading. They then get to vote on their favourite book. All the votes are counted and the winning book/author is announced at the Final which takes place in March. It is a great way to encourage reading for pleasure and getting together to talk about books.

YEAR 8 QUIDDITCH

We have organised a fabulous opportunity for Year 8s to step into the world of Harry Potter and take flight in a game of quidditch. An external company is coming in to provide an insight into the skills needed to be a top flight quidditch player.

YEAR 11 COLLEGE TRIP

Selected students will be visiting a local college in November to help with their post-16 options planning. Colleges offer a large range of academic and vocational courses including entry level, level 1 and level 2 courses.

YEAR 8 FRENCH CINEMA TRIP

We have secured a fantastic opportunity for all Year 8 students studying French to attend the sumptuous Ciné Lumière in South Kensington to watch a French film at the cinema. This will take place on Tuesday 28th November.

6TH FORM V&A MUSEUM TRIP

Year 12 and 13 students will be going to see the 'Diva' exhibition at the V&A Museum on Friday 1st December. As well as being an enjoyable experience it will also inform their coursework as primary research is an essential part of the work.

FLU JAB FOR YEARS 7-11

The students flu immunisation will take place in school on Friday 8th December. Should you wish your daughter to have the immunisation please complete the online consent form which has been emailed home. Your daughter cannot have this immunisation without this completed consent form which goes straight to the Hounslow immunisation team. Please be aware this immunisation is not an injection but a nasal spray.

JACK PETCHY SPEAK OUT

Year 10 will have the opportunity to sign up for one of the thirty places in the Jack Petchey Speak Out workshop this term. It is a one day workshop where students will take part in activities designed to improve their confidence and delivery in public speaking. This will also help to prepare them for their English Language Spoken exam. The best speakers on the day will also have the opportunity to compete to represent the school at the Jack Petchey Speak Out Regional Final. We have a history of success in this competition as our girls are confident, articulate and passionate speakers. Last year we hosted this event, as we had the Regional final winner the previous year. In the recent past, we have also had two National finalists representing BSfG and hope to carry on this trend this year.

YEAR 12/13 PAL TALK

On 12th December, we will be welcoming one of our local training providers to talk to our 6th form students about the range of vocational options available as they consider their post-18 options. With the number of young people interested in apprenticeships growing, it is vital our students have all the information, advice and support to make the right decision for them.

YEAR 7 PANTO TRIP

As part of our festive celebrations and development of cultural capital, on Wednesday 13th December Year 7 will be going to watch Dick Whittington the pantomime at Richmond Theatre. This will be an action packed pantomime performance, which promises to be full of comedy, elaborate costumes and great scenery. The cost of the trip is £9 and all payments are to be made on scopay. Students will be accompanied by staff to and from Richmond Theatre on public transport. We look forward to this fun filled afternoon.

YEAR 11 PARENTS EVENING (IN PERSON)

Year 11 Parents' Evening will be taking place on Thursday 14th December. This will be an in person event. We look forward to seeing Y11 parents/carers and pupils to discuss progress in all subject areas.

6TH FORM XMAS ENTERTAINMENT & FUNDRAISING

Brentford will continue with our annual festivities, which will take place in the final week of the term. Our Christmas events will include:

- The sale of Candy Cane bags
- The Christmas Entertainment Show on Monday 18th December
- Christmas jumper day
- A tutor time Christmas Quiz

These events will be organised and led by the Year 13 Events coordinators and will help to raise money for charity and the end of year celebrations for Year 13.

CHRISTMAS LUNCH



The annual Christmas lunch is taking place on Tuesday 19th December, including all our delicious favourites and a Christmas Cracker! This is always very popular and we ask that you book in advance as usual on SCOPAY, using the 'main meal' option. Please note, this will be the only hot option on this day. Cold options will still be available.



6TH FORM ELDERLY HOMES HAMPER DROP OFF

We look forward to maintaining our wonderful relationship with our local care homes by providing them with a lovely hamper of gifts, non-perishable food products, a puzzle pack and some personalised letters/postcards from students all across the school. In Year 12, the creation of the hampers will be part of their house competitions. The hampers are beautifully packaged and delivered by our sixth form students on the last day of term.

IMPORTANT DATES IN AUTUMN TERM 2

FOLLOW US

Never miss a moment, follow us on all our social media platforms.

- Thursday 2nd November: Year 11 Speaking Assessment
- Thursday 2nd November: Year 9 Parents Evening (Virtual)
- Friday 3rd November: Whole School Student Photographs
- Saturday 4th November: Royal Institute Mathematics Masterclasses
- Tuesday 7th November: Year 11 Formal Assessments start
- Tuesday 7th November: SYWTBA Careers Talk
- Wednesday 15th November: Year 13 Formal Assessments start
- Wednesday 16th November: Hounslow Teen Read
- Wednesday 22nd November: Year 8 Quidditch
- Tuesday 28th November: Year 11 College Trip
- Tuesday 28th November: Year 8 French Cinema Trip
- Friday 1st December: 6th Form V&A Museum Trip
- Friday 8th December: Flu Jab for Years 7-11
- Tuesday 12th December: Jack Petchey Speak Out
- Tuesday 12th December: Year 12/13 PAL Talk
- Wednesday 13th December: Year 7 Panto Trip
- Thursday 14th December: Year 11 Parents Evening (in person)
- Monday 18th December: 6th Form Xmas Entertainment and fundraising
- Tuesday 19th December: Christmas Lunch
- Wednesday 20th December: 6th Form Elderly Homes Hamper Drop off



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