



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 MESSAGE

Dear Parents & Carers,

I am delighted to welcome you back to the new academic year and hope that you have all had a wonderful summer break. A huge congratulations to Year 11 and our sixth formers who have all had a very successful summer achieving another set of fantastic results! We are really proud of the fact that so many of our sixth formers got into some of the top universities in the country! Many of the sixth form will now be off to university, and we wish them luck as they move onto a new journey.

Welcome to our Year 7 students and their families. It was such a pleasure to welcome the girls into the school on their first day. They were so enthusiastic and keen, and they all looked incredibly smart!

Over the summer, we have been busy across the school continuing our programme of refurbishments. We have remodelled the old reception areas, turning this into a student services area where students can access support. Additionally, the school has been completely refurbished. We hope that you notice the difference the next time you visit us.

We also welcome a number of new staff to the school this year. A list of new staff with their role is listed below.

Ms Croft , Assistant Headteacher

Ms Humphries, Assistant Headteacher

Ms Geen , Teacher of Health and Social care

Mr Lok , Teacher of Maths

Ms Nollman, Teacher of MFL

Mrs Rai , Teacher of Science

Mr Smith, Teacher of Science

Wishing you all a very productive half term. We are looking forward to working with you all over the next year.

Best wishes,

Ms Leenders

Executive Headteacher

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. The school is a hive of activity following the summer break. The students have returned with a very positive attitude towards their studies and school. It is important we are able to support each pupil in reaching their own personal targets. As we start the new academic year the Heads of Year and I would like to take the opportunity to welcome all of our students back, with a particular welcome for all of our new students in Year 7 and our 6th form.

There are a number of ways in which you can help your daughter succeed during her time at the Brentford School. Firstly by creating a calm and quiet space for your daughter to complete homework and revision. During home study periods, removing all distractions that may get in the way of your daughter's focus is a must, including television and mobile phone access.

Create a work routine, so that your daughter is aware that each night they are expected to complete a set time of home study. Help to plan and organise your daughter, ensuring they are ready and fully equipped for each day at school. Insist on regular reading, this should take place for at least 30 minutes every day to improve your child's vocabulary and creativity.

Ensure that your daughter is fully rested and having enough sleep each night in order to arrive at school, fully alert and ready to learn each day.

What pupils eat really does matter, so please take the time to carefully choose what your child is eating both in and outside of the school day. Please be reminded that family bags of crisps and energy drinks are not permitted in school.

Remain in contact with the school, report any concerns you have in order for the school to act as quickly as possible to support you and your daughter. Attend all parent events and subject evenings so you are up to date and fully aware of the progress your daughter is making. These evenings allow you the opportunity to have any questions or queries answered or indeed hear directly from staff any concerns we may have as a school.

Finally, ensure your daughter is on time and in school each day to avoid any unnecessary gaps in pupils' learning. The school day begins at 9:40am, so please ensure your daughter is on school site no later than 8:30am.

I look forward to your continued support in upholding the expectations and strong reputation of the Brentford School for Girls.

Each year group will have its own specific challenges this year and it is important as staff and parents that we do what we can to ensure all students are supported, no matter what the challenge, in order to create a positive transition across the year groups.

Year 7- As we welcome our newest members of the school it is important the pupils are given the opportunity to make a smooth and happy transition from primary to secondary school. We, as a school, ensure your daughter is organised throughout the day and that any questions are answered thoroughly to avoid any concerns, allowing each pupil to navigate both the school grounds and their specific lessons easily. Pupils should aim to complete all homework on the night it is set and pack their bag ready for the next morning to ensure they arrive at school fully prepared for each day.

Year 8- This year is particularly important for Year 8s as they begin the options process where they select their GCSE subjects. They will receive lots of information and guidance from subject teachers, careers advisors and tutors to assist them in this choice. It is vital that they are working hard this year to allow them to have the best opportunity to develop their skills in all of their subjects which will allow them to make an informed decision on their GCSEs.

Year 9- As you are aware, the girls have now started their GCSE courses. Please ask them about the content of the course and how and when they will be assessed in each subject. Homework and equipment are a focus this term and it would be a real help if you could remind the girls to make sure they have completed all homework by the due date and are bringing the correct equipment to school.

Year 10- It is important as we start the second year of the GCSE courses that revision programmes are well under way and each of the students is now completing at least 40 minutes of planned revision each evening, as well as the homework they are set. If this can be achieved, last minute cramming and exam stress can be avoided due to proactive preparation.

Year 11- This is a really important year for the students and the time will fly by and before we know it the 2025 summer exams will be upon us. We urge all students to ensure they are fully prepared for the rest of the year. Students must work hard to keep all work up to date and help is sort where it is required. We are sure with a last push this can be another successful year.

We look forward to your continued support in helping your daughters achieve their full potential

The Brentford School for Girls Pastoral Team.

FOCUS FOR THE AUTUMN TERM

We have decided as a school to have a clear focus for personal development each term. This focus will inform classroom and pastoral opportunities for your daughters to develop beyond the curriculum.

In the Autumn term our focus will be "Settling Back at School" for September and "Black History Month" in October.

YEAR 6 OPEN MORNINGS AND OPEN EVENING

We are delighted to be able to welcome prospective future students and their parents to our open mornings and welcome events. As always, our current students will be asked to help and support these events as they are superb at representing the school to show its full merits. The events will occur on the following dates and are aimed at students in Year 4 and Year 5: -

Open Mornings

- 25th September
- 2nd October
- 9th October

Open Evening this year is on Thursday 19th September (school will close at 12.50pm).

YEAR 7 SCHOOL PHOTOS

On Thursday 19th September, all Year 7 students will have their first photos of them in their nice new secondary school uniform.

Parents will be given information about how to purchase the photos following these being taken.

YEAR 7 CATS TESTS

At the beginning of the new academic journey for Year 7, all students will take a CATS (Cognitive Ability Test) so that we can set appropriate targets and give support where needed. The tests are conducted on a computer and are purely designed for students to show their ability.

There is no need to prepare for or be concerned about the test.

GCSE PE CYCLING EXAM

Our GCSE PE cohort will be trialling a new adventure with The Cycle Coach in Hillingdon. The course entails 2 days of 3 hours learning the skills needed for GCSE and track cycling in order to be marked against the GCSE specification to get their final grade in cycling. This grade goes towards their final 30% practical grade.

YEAR 7 MEET THE TUTORS

There will be an opportunity for Year 7 parents to meet form tutors on Thursday 26th September. This will be a virtual event and a link will be sent out to all parents in advance of the event. This event is for parents and tutors to discuss how the girls have settled in and is not a parents' evening to discuss academic progress. Year 7 Parents' evening takes place in January.

HOUSE REWARD TRIP - LONDON EYE

As Reflective House won the house points competition last academic year, pupils in Years 8-12 are being invited on a trip to the London Eye and a river cruise on Thursday 3rd October. This will be an excellent opportunity for the girls to celebrate their hard work across the year.

YEAR 11 TRIP TO THE NATIONAL PORTRAIT GALLERY

Year 11 art and photography students will have the opportunity to visit the National Portrait Gallery in London to see the wonderful art on show to help them to prepare for their GCSE work.

6TH FORM KNITTING & STITCHING SHOW TRIP

A key aspect of the textiles A level is the appreciation of textiles and the influence that artists' work can bring. On Friday 11th October, I will be taking all of the year 12 and 13 textiles students to the Knitting and Stitching show at Alexander Palace.

This will be a fantastic opportunity for them to see a range of contemporary textiles work, and meet the artists to discuss their use of techniques and themes. They will also have the opportunity to take part in different workshops. All of this is invaluable and will inform their own project work.

PSCHE PARENT CONSULTATION

As part of our commitment to ensuring parents are fully aware of our PSCE curriculum, we will be holding an opportunity for parents to come into school and meet the Head of PSCE on Tuesday 22nd October.

There will be an opportunity to ask questions and to give suggestions to help us develop further.

YEAR 11 AND 13 TRIP TO THE V&A UPSTART CREATIVE CAREERS FESTIVAL

Year 11 and 13 textiles students will be attending the Upstart creative careers festival at the V&A museum on Friday 15th November, where they will be offered a range of different workshops and careers talks. They will get to see a vast range of different opportunities available within the creative industries.

YEAR 12 & YEAR 13 ELEVATE

We are keen for our sixth form to develop their study skills throughout their courses. To help with supporting our students, Elevate is an organisation that we invite in to deliver these sessions.

The first sessions are in September for Year 12 and October for Year 13.

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

In October our school community will be celebrating Black History Month with the aim of celebrating the achievements and contributions of Black people in the UK.

Each department will be delivering an inclusive curriculum where all students will have the opportunity to discuss, create, watch and learn about the Black community's contribution to health and wellness.

This theme focuses not only on the achievements of black medical practitioners, but also looks at other forms of healthcare such as doulas, midwives and herbalists.

The contributions of each department will be invaluable in building the cultural capital of our students and starting the discussion around celebrating black history.

6TH FORM OPEN EVENING

Current students in Year 11 and external applicants are all invited to our Sixth Form Open Evening on Wednesday 23rd October.

The evening is a fantastic opportunity to speak with subject teachers about the level 3 courses available.

WELCOME TO YEAR 11 EVENING

Year 11 parents and students are invited to a welcome evening on Thursday 10th October.

Preparing for GCSE exams can be a challenging time for both students and parents. This evening will give an opportunity to hear the advice given by the school and to find out more about the important year.

PAL TALK FOR YEAR 10/11

Students in Years 10 and 11 will receive PAL talks from advisors about different choices for their future.

In these talks it will showcase the available post 16 routes that they can access so that they have a thorough understanding of A Level, vocational qualification and apprenticeships routes.

HOW TO COMMUNICATE WITH THE SCHOOL

Building a partnership between the Parent/Carer and the school is very important. We encourage the Parent/Carer to contact the school whenever you feel necessary.

During the school year we have a number of events including our parent subject evening for each year group. Parent/Carer attendance at these events is very important in order for staff to share vital information about your daughter's progression in each of her subjects.

Should you have any questions or concerns the first point of contact should always be your daughter's Form Tutor. You can contact the Form Tutor by writing a note in the journal, or by phoning the school. We aim to reply within 24 hours.

If you would like to contact someone else, your next point of contact should be your daughter's Head of Year.

Ms. Garrett (Head of Year 7)
Ms. Barakat (Head of Year 8)
Ms. St. Paul (Head of Year 9)
Ms. Hennessey (Head of Year 10)
Ms. Minors (Head of Year 11)
Ms Agnihotri (Head of Sixth Form)

IMPORTANT DATES IN AUTUMN TERM 1

- Monday 2nd September: INSET Day
- Tuesday 3rd September: INSET Day
- Wednesday 4th September: Year 7 Induction Day
- Thursday 5th September: Year 12 Induction Day
- Thursday 5th September: All Students Return (Staggered Start)
- Thursday 5th September: Year 7 CATS Tests
- Wednesday 11th & 12th September: GCSE PE Cycling Exam (12pm - 4:30pm)
- Thursday 19th September: Year 7 School Photos
- Thursday 19th September: Early finish 12:50pm
- Thursday 19th September: Year 6 Open Evening (6pm - 8:30pm)
- Friday 20th September: Late Start 10am
- Wednesday 25th September: Year 6 Open Morning (9:30am - 11am)
- Thursday 26th September: Year 7 Meet the Tutors (Virtual)
- Monday 30th September: Year 12 Elevate (9:15am - 10:15am)
- Wednesday 2nd October: Year 6 Open Morning (9:30am - 11am)
- Wednesday 2nd October: Year 11 Trip to National Portrait Gallery
- Thursday 3rd October: House Reward Trip - London Eye
- Friday 4th October: INSET Day
- Monday 7th October: PAL Talk for Year 10/11
- Tuesday 8th October: Year 13 Elevate (9:15am-10:15am)
- Wednesday 9th October: Year 6 Open Morning (9:30am-11am)
- Thursday 10th October: Welcome to Year 11 Evening
- Thursday 10th October: Year 10 Abba Voyage Trip
- Friday 11th October: 6th Form Knitting and Stitching Show Trip
- Tuesday 22nd October: PSCHE Parent Consultation
- Wednesday 26th October: 6th Form Open Evening (5pm-6pm)
- Friday 25th October: Wear It Pink Day
- Friday 25th October: Last Day of Term

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