

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 Parent/Carer,

Thank you for all of your support over the last half term. It was an incredibly busy half term and I hope you and your daughter managed to get a rest over the half term break.

It was lovely to see so many of you at the various events that the school ran over the last half term. Parental attendance at school events is always fantastic, and it means such a lot to your daughters and the staff who work here at Brentford when you are able to come in and work in partnership with us.

We were inundated again this year with Year 6 families visiting us at our Open Evening in October and to the Open Mornings. Their feedback about the girls was absolutely tremendous. Parents spoke so highly about the confidence and attitude of our students and that they represented the school and its values incredibly well. Please do pass on our thanks to your daughters.

As we move into the new half term, and the festive season, the school becomes a haven of activities, alongside the learning in the class. Please encourage your daughter to get involved in whatever she can and embrace some of the opportunities available to her.

I look forward to working with you over the next half term.

Best wishes,



Marais Leenders
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 has been a hive of activity leading up to the half term break. The students have displayed 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. We are now halfway through the first term of what is set to be a very busy year and it is important you work with the school to further ensure your daughter reaches her full potential.

There are a number of ways in which you can help your daughter succeed during her time at 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 pupils are 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 to school fully alert and ready to learn.

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. 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 parents 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, ensuring your daughter is on time and in school each day to avoid any unnecessary gaps in her learning. I look forward to your continued support in upholding the expectations and strong reputation of Brentford School.

Each year group will have its own specific challenges 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 - Our newest members of the school have now completed their first half term. 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 to school fully prepared for each day.

Year 8 - This year is particularly important for year 8's 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- The second year of the GCSE courses and revision programmes are well under way and each of the students must now be 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 summer exams will be upon us. We urge all students to ensure they are fully prepared for the rest of the year and use the half term break wisely. Students must work hard to ensure all work is up to date and must ask for help where it is required.

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

CHRISTMAS LUNCH

It's that time of year again when we like to celebrate the festive season with a Christmas meal. This year, the school Christmas lunch will be held on Thursday 12th December in the school canteen. The meal, which is a roast turkey dinner or a vegetarian option of baked tomato, cheese and basil tart with all the trimmings and Christmas pudding, mince pies or chocolate yule log will cost £2.50. The hall and tables are decorated and students really do enjoy sharing this meal with their friends. Please can we ask that student ScoPay accounts are topped up online beforehand as cash cannot be taken on the day and we would not want to disappoint anyone from having a meal.

AUTHOR VISIT

On the 31st of October, we had the privilege of welcoming the performance poet, Adisa to Brentford to perform for the year 9 girls. Adisa spent the first lesson entertaining the girls with his humour and performing his poetry to a captivated audience. Throughout the hour, Adisa addressed topical issues currently prevalent such as racism, power of the media, terrorism and corporate greed whilst encouraging the girls to address these issues through language and poetry.

The remainder of the day, Adisa worked with small groups of girls writing poetry. Using mind maps, themes and topical issues, Adisa encouraged the girls in the group to write about what they would like changed in society. This activity gave the pupils a voice and the confidence to speak out about issues and ideas that were important to them.

Adisa left Brentford having encouraged and enthused pupils and staff alike to use poetry and language more frequently.

6TH FORM OPEN EVENING

We were very excited to welcome prospective students to our Sixth Form Open Evening on Thursday 7th November from 6-8pm. Brentford Sixth Form prides itself on its inclusive nature. The evening was a real success and gave students the opportunity to meet with 6th Form subject teachers and find out as much as they could about the courses they were interested in taking. If you have any questions, please see Ms Agnihotri. The deadline for applications is Thursday 5th December.

OCCASIONAL DAY

School will be closed on **Friday 29th November**.

6TH FORM RE DAY

Once again, the RE department is looking forward to running the annual Philosophy and Ethics day on Thursday 21st November 2019. 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?

I am delighted to say that the event this year 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.

SO YOU WANT TO BE A...LUNCH

Tuesday 26th November - Interior Architecture

Our termly 'So You Want to be a ...' lunch and learn careers talk will be about Interior Architecture.

An ex-Brentford student, Tasneem will be talking about what it is like to study a creative degree at a prestigious institution (Chelsea College of Arts) and more specifically about this interesting career

YEAR 9 V&A TRIP

On Tuesday 3rd December, Year 9 will be going to the V&A museum to see both the Mary Quant exhibition and the costume gallery. Primary source research is an essential part of the course and helps to inspire the pupils with their work. I know that this will be a very valuable part of their curriculum.

YEAR 11 PARENTS' EVENING

Year 11 parents' evening will be taking place on Thursday 5th December 5.30pm to 8.00pm. This evening will give you the opportunity to speak to subject teachers and form tutors regarding your child's progress.

Please check that your daughter makes appointment times with her teachers and marks them in her journal. This is the last parent's evening students have before the GCSE exams start, parent's/carers attendance is of vital importance.

As you realise this is a very important evening, I hope that you will be able to attend. For your daughter to be successful in school and reach her full potential, it is important that both homework and schoolwork is complete.

6TH FORM CHRISTMAS EVENTS

We have many Christmas events coming up in the 6th form this term; many of these will be organised and led by the Student Leadership Team and 6th Form students. These include the Christmas entertainment, Christmas jumper day and a Christmas Quiz. These will help to raise money for charity and support for the end of year prom for Year 13.

In addition to this we have visits to the local elderly home to look forward to on Thursday 19th December during which our 6th Form students, in keeping with the festive spirit, create hampers and plan fun filled activities for the residents.

YEAR 7 PANTOMIME TRIP

The Year 7 cohort will be going out to Hounslow Arts Centre on Friday 13th December to see the Jack and the Beanstalk pantomime. It should be an enjoyable event for everyone involved.

6TH FORMER FOR A DAY

Year 11 students will get the chance to experience the 'Day in the life of a 6th Former'. This day will give our Year 11 students the opportunity to come to school in their own smart business attire and be taught 6th Form lessons. Students will have the same privileges as Sixth Formers during breaks and lunches as well as having the opportunity to meet with Year 13 students and ask them questions about their experiences. We have had very positive feedback from our students in the past about their experiences on the day and how it has helped them with their choice of remaining at Brentford in our sixth form.

THE BUTTS - PARKING

We have had a complaint from a neighbour who lives in The Butts which is a side road in close proximity to the school. Her complaint is that parents/carers waiting to pick students up from school in the afternoon are leaving their engines running for sometimes as long as 30 minutes. This will be having a huge impact on the environment around The Butts but also the quality of air around the school, something that we are very concerned about. When waiting for students during the day or in the evening, please turn your car engine off whilst waiting for students to finish school. Many thanks in advance for your cooperation

REVISION MATERIALS

On the curriculum section of the website, there is guidance on how to revise effectively for GCSEs. On this page you will find:

An extensive revision guide which gives advice on different methods that are commonly used to revise and how to create the conditions to revise effectively.

Direct links to three effective general revision websites including GCSE Pod, a platform purchased by the school, for all students to provide visual support for more difficult concepts or revisit previous learning I hope you will find the resources useful in helping to support your child.

TERM DATES

AUTUMN TERM 2019:

WEDNESDAY 30TH NOVEMBER - THURSDAY 19TH DECEMBER

- 4TH NOVEMBER - Y13 PPE WEEK BEGINS
- 5TH NOVEMBER - DEBATE MATE LAUNCH
- 6TH NOVEMBER - BOROUGH MARKET TRIP - 9.30AM - 2.30PM
- 7TH NOVEMBER - 6TH FORM OPEN EVENING - 6PM - 8PM
- 13TH NOVEMBER - HUB PARENTS EVENING - 6PM - 7PM
- 13TH NOVEMBER - PENS DOWN DAY
- 21ST NOVEMBER - 6TH FORM RE DAY
- 26TH NOVEMBER - SO YOU WANT TO BE A...LUNCH
- 28TH NOVEMBER - Y11 DEADLINE FOR 6TH FORM APPLICATIONS
- 29TH NOVEMBER - OCCASIONAL DAY (SCHOOL CLOSED)
- 2ND DECEMBER - Y9 V&A MUSEUM TRIP
- 2ND DECEMBER - UNIVERSITY PATHWAYS TRIP
- 5TH DECEMBER - Y11 PARENTS EVENING 5.30PM - 8PM
- 6TH DECEMBER - UCAS STUDENT APPLICATION DEADLINE
- 12TH DECEMBER - CHRISTMAS LUNCH
- 13TH DECEMBER - Y7 PANTO TRIP
- 17TH DECEMBER - 6TH FORM CHRISTMAS ENTERTAINMENT
- 18TH DECEMBER - CHRISTMAS CONCERT AND BONANZA
- 19TH DECEMBER - END OF TERM, HOUSE FAIR COMPETITION
- 19TH DECEMBER - 6TH FORM ELDERLY VISITS

CHRISTMAS CONCERT

Our annual Christmas concert takes place on Thursday 18th December from 6- 7.30pm in the main school hall. We look forward to welcoming staff, students and parents to a very special event which showcases many talents. This always draws the term to a lovely close.



BRENTFORD SCHOOL FOR GIRLS

EXTRA CURRICULAR CLUBS

MONDAY

FREE BREAKFAST CLUB

(YR 7-13)

08.00-08.30 (T1)

LUNCHTIME HOMEWORK

CLUB

(YR 7-13)

13.00-13.30 (T2)

GYMNASTICS

(YR 7-13)

13.00 - 13.30

PANKHURST GYM

FOOTBALL

(YR 7-8)

13.00 - 13.30

COURTS/ASTRO

FILM ACADEMY

(YR 7,8 & 10)

13.00 - 13.30 (C1)

NETBALL (YR 7)

15.20 - 16.20

NETBALL COURTS

DUKE OF EDINBURGH

(YR9-10)

15.20-16.20 (T1)

TUESDAY

FREE BREAKFAST CLUB

(YR 7-13)

08.00-08.30 (T1)

LUNCHTIME HOMEWORK

CLUB

(YR 7-13)

13.00-13.30 (T2)

NETBALL (YR7)

13.00 - 13.30

NETBALL COURTS

NETBALL (YR 10-11)

15.20-16.20

NETBALL COURTS

THE WRITE STUFF

(YR 9-13)

15.20-16.20 (M11)

WEDNESDAY

FREE BREAKFAST CLUB

(YR 7-13)

08.00-08.30 (T1)

LUNCHTIME HOMEWORK

CLUB

(YR 7-13)

13.00-13.30 (T2)

BADMINTON (YR 7-13)

13.00-13.30

CURIE GYM

GCSE PE CLUB (YR 10-11)

13.00-13.30

PANKHURST GYM

NETBALL (YR 8-9)

15.20-16.20

NETBALL COURTS

DEBATE MATE* (YR 7-10)

15.20 - 16.30 (M16)

*STARTS NOVEMBER 2019

THURSDAY

FREE BREAKFAST CLUB

(YR 7-13)

08.00-08.30 (T1)

LUNCHTIME HOMEWORK

CLUB (YR 7-13)

13.00-13.30 (T2)

JUST DANCE (YR 7-13)

13.00-13.30

THEATRE

NETBALL (YR 8-9)

13.00-13.30

NETBALL COURTS

SPANISH CLUB

(YR 7-13)

13.00-13.30 (M15)

CODE MASTERS

(YR 7-13)

13.00-13.30 (T1)

EAL LUNCH CLUB (YR 7-13)

13.00 - 1.30 (A3)

HARLEQUINS RUGBY

(YR 7-13)

15.20 - 16.20

COURTS/ASTRO

FRIDAY

FREE BREAKFAST CLUB (YR

7-13)

08.00-08.30 (T1)

LUNCHTIME HOMEWORK

CLUB (YR 7-13)

13.00-13.30 (T2)

MULTI-SPORTS (YR 7)

13.00-13.30

COURTS/ASTRO

INDOOR GAMES (YR7,8 & 9)

13.00-13.30

(P1)

EAL LUNCH CLUB (YR 7-13)

13.00 - 1.30 (A3)

MENTAL HEALTH TEAM AND HUB MEETING- WEDNESDAY 13TH NOVEMBER 6-7PM

Over the past few years we have continued to develop our school culture and ethos to focus on the mental health and wellbeing of all of our girls. As part of this strategy, students receive targeted support and education through tutor time, assemblies and the PSHCE programme.

In addition to this students' experience themed weeks each half term; this half term's topic is 'Digital Citizenship.' This focusses on the safe use of online technology. Outside of the curriculum the 'Helping Undo Barriers' team (HUB) and the 'Mental Health Strategy' team deliver the following interventions; pet therapy, resilience groups, counselling, self-esteem support and one to one mentoring. Lillie, our school dog, visits every Monday and is a vibrant part of our school community. This term, we are focusing on supporting parents and we are delighted to welcome you to our very first HUB information evening on Wednesday 13th November from 6-7pm in the main school hall.

HUB information evening's will take place once per term and will cover a range of topics to ensure that all parents/carers feel confident to support their daughters with a variety of 'topical issues'.

The first meeting will cover the following topics:

- The support structures and programmes in school to support wellbeing
- Supporting your daughter to become an 'educated digital citizen'
- A CAMHS professional will discuss how to support mental health in young people and will be available to answer any questions

If you would like to attend the event, please rsvp by accessing the link below:

<https://www.brentford.hounslow.sch.uk/>.

If you have any queries please contact Miss Coleman on kcoleman@brentford.hounslow.sch.uk.

The mental health team in school is as follows:



MS COLEMAN
Assistant Headteacher
Safeguarding Lead



MS FALCONER
Cover Supervisor



MS DAVIES
Wellbeing Co-ordinator



MS OGUNFIDODO
Head of Sociology and
Psychology



MR MCINNES
Head of RE
SMIC Lead



MS STONE
Child Protection Officer



MS WILLIAMS
Head of HSC/ Blossom

The poster features a logo for 'THE HUB' with a colorful umbrella icon and the tagline 'HELPING UNDO BARRIERS'. The main text reads 'STUDENT SAFETY AND WELLBEING EVENING' on '13TH NOVEMBER 2019' from '6-7PM'. It lists topics: 'HOW TO SUPPORT YOUR CHILD'S WELLBEING', 'HOW TO SUPPORT YOUR CHILD TO BECOME AN EDUCATED DIGITAL CITIZEN', and 'HOW TO SUPPORT MENTAL HEALTH IN YOUNG PEOPLE*'. A note states '* A CHILD AND ADOLESCENT HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONAL (CAMHS) IS PRESENTING'. At the bottom, it says 'ALL PARENTS WELCOME - BOOK VIA WWW.BRENTFORD.HOUNSLOW.SCH.UK'. The background of the poster shows a hand reaching towards the sun.