



Brentford

KEEPING YOU IN THE LOOP

bulletin

Welcome...

Welcome to the February edition of the Brentford Bulletin. I'm delighted to announce that in January, I received a letter from David Laws, MP (Minister for Education), which acknowledged and commended the hard work and commitment of students and staff at BSfG. Our school has been identified as one of the top 100 schools nationwide which has made the most sustained improvement in GCSE results between 2011 and 2013.

Over the course of three years, we have seen our results shoot up from 53% of students gaining five grades A*-C including English and Mathematics in 2011, to 72% in 2013. This sustained improvement has been achieved by dedicated teaching staff committed to getting the best from their students, who on their part, have been working harder than ever to achieve their full potential.



In the letter, David Laws, states, *"The results are a shining testament to the hard work and success of your staff, governors and pupils. I would like to offer my thanks to you and all at your school for your pursuit of the highest standards of educational achievement."*

I am delighted that the school has been commended. Students, staff and parents have all worked exceptionally hard over the last few years and this has really paid off. The school is now in an incredibly strong position, both locally and nationally. We are very much looking forward to another set of splendid results this summer.

Our Year 11 and Sixth Form students are busy preparing for their end of year exams and our school predictions are, again, looking excellent. We are offering as much support as we can to ensure that they perform their very best on the day.

We have worked incredibly hard over the last few years to ensure that our girls are positive role models in the community. On the whole, the feedback from the general public is very positive. However, on rare occasions this is not as favourable and we certainly do not want BSfG to be seen in a negative light. Please support us in reminding your daughter to behave sensibly when travelling to and from school whilst wearing her full school uniform. We have very high expectations of our girls and it is essential that they are dressed appropriately on their way to, during and leaving school. The girls should not be arriving at school in trainers and then changing. They are representing the school whenever they are in their uniform. The Uniform Policy is in your daughter's journal.

A reminder that school is closed to students on February 24th for staff training.

Thank you for your support and enjoy the half term break.

Ms Leenders - Head Teacher

Vivos

House Points Spring Term 2014

- Aphrodite House - 4474
- Hera House - 4817
- Demeter House - 4319
- Artemis House - 3758
- Athena House - 3708

Term Dates

Spring Term 2014

- Half Term: 17th - 21st Feb
- Easter Holidays: 7th - 21st April
- INSET Day: 24th February
- Last day of term: 4th April

Summer Term 2014

- Summer Term begins: 22nd April
- Bank Holiday: 5th May
- May Bank Holiday: 26th May
- May Half Term: 26th - 30th May

Student Services

At BSfG, we have four Learning Mentors who can support students at difficult times. Our Student Services Team is available each day during lessons, break and lunchtimes and provide a variety of interventions to meet the needs of our girls. We also have a trained counsellor who visits once a week. This is a confidential service which the girls can access. If you would like more details, please contact Mrs. Littlefair mlittlefair@brentford.hounslow.sch.uk.

Key Policies

As government legislation changes and life in school evolves, so do our key policies.

Our current policies cover a cross-section of school life, giving you important financial information about the school - for example, how we spend the Pupil Premium - and what you can expect from us with regard to dealing with behaviour, what we would do if we needed to close the school because of bad weather and much more. All of these policies can be found in the Key Policies section of our school website.

Valuable Items

A reminder to all parents and carers that students should not bring valuable items, including mobile phones into school, and that the school accepts no liability for these items if they are damaged or stolen whilst on school premises. Any loss or damage is at the owner's risk.

New Sixth Form Centre Opens!

We are happy to announce that our new Sixth Form Centre opens on Friday 28th February at 3.20pm. Mary Macleod, MP for Brentford and Chiswick, will be officially opening the centre. We are very excited about the move, as we have increased in numbers, therefore, moving to a larger space will support our students. It has a quiet study space, chill out zone and dining area which will be a welcome addition to the Sixth Formers' learning environment.

Careers Event

As part of their options-choosing process, on Thursday 6th March, Y9 students will attend an in-school careers networking event. Students will have the opportunity to discuss their career with visiting professionals, and ask them questions about their jobs.

We are still on the lookout for parents to take part in this event and if you are interested in contributing, please contact Liz Gers, Community Coordinator or Emma Brown, Careers Advisor, at school.

Make Your Own YouTube or Pop Video

Calling all Brentford students! Looking for something to do this half-term?

Why not learn how to make a YouTube or Pop Video with your own smartphone?

The course takes place on Wednesday 19th February at the

Watermans Arts Centre, Brentford. The course is led by Chocolate Films and you will learn to make professional and imaginative films. You will learn directing, use of camera techniques, filming and editing. This workshop is **FREE** and is for young people aged 13-18 who are residents of the London Borough of Hounslow.

To find out more or to book a place please contact the Watermans Arts Centre, Brentford on **020 8232 1010**.

Academic Review Afternoon

The second Academic Review Afternoon takes place on Thursday 27th February. You and your daughter may be invited for an appointment to discuss her progress and how we can best support her to achieve her potential.

If you are invited for an appointment, a letter will be sent out on 14th February. If your daughter is not invited for an appointment, then she will be dismissed from school at 12.30pm on 27th February.

Interim Reports

All teachers entered assessment data about your daughter on 31st January. You will be receiving a one page summary of your daughter's progress, attitude to learning and attendance.

Please do contact your daughter's Head of Year if you have any questions regarding the report. Thank you for your ongoing support to ensure that your daughter meets her potential.

Vivos And Parents

One of the key features of the Vivo system is that it allows parents to monitor their daughter's achievements. With a personal login, parents can track their achievements and teacher feedback as it happens, and set-up alerts and notifications directly to their phone using our handy phone apps.

Parents can also celebrate their child's achievements with our easy-to-use Pledge feature. They simply set their child a target related to the number of Vivos they earn, with a promise of a treat when completed. Praise from home is enormously beneficial to a child's academic development.

The Witches

Students and staff have been busy rehearsing and prop making in preparation for their production of *The Witches*.

We hope that you can come along to support the girls for what promises to be our best show ever.

Performances take place in the Main Hall on:

- Tuesday 1st April at 4.30pm
- Wednesday 2nd April at 7.30pm
- Thursday 3rd April at 7.30pm

Tickets are £2 and students can buy them in the Main Hall during break and lunchtimes after the half term. The show is sure to sell out so buy your tickets quickly!