



○ MARCH ○ 2014

BRENTFORD BULLETIN

KEEPING YOU IN THE LOOP

HEAD TEACHER'S UPDATE

Dear parents and carers

Thank you for all of your support over the last half term, particularly for ensuring that your daughter is in school, on time and ready to learn. As always, the school continues to be a very purposeful and focused learning community and it has been a hive of activity over the last few weeks.

Two weeks ago, we had an external review of the school. An Ofsted inspector and a number of senior leaders from other schools in the country carried out the 'Challenge Partners' review, from which we were delighted to receive an 'Outstanding' grade. Although this is not a full Ofsted inspection, the review demonstrates that the school is moving upwards in the right direction. Teaching was highlighted and the visiting team graded it as 'outstanding' - they were absolutely in awe of some of the fantastic lessons they observed. All of the inspection team were incredibly pleased with the excellent behaviour and enormous confidence shown by our girls. On behalf of the school, I'd like to thank the staff and students who work so incredibly hard. They have demonstrated that this is a fantastic school, and even better that this has now been endorsed by the external review team.

Whilst students have been busy learning and achieving in their lessons, a number of exciting activities have taken place. These are vital and continue to not only encourage students, but support our vision of the 'Brentford Girl.' The school production of *The Witches* takes place next week, on the 1st, 2nd and 3rd April - the entire cast and staff have spent an enormous amount of time preparing and the performances are going to be fantastic. Please do try to come along to support the girls. Tickets are still available.

The Easter edition of the Highlights magazine will be published at the end of this term. Please look out for all the wonderful activities, which the girls have been involved in over the last term.

Many best wishes,

M Leenders

SIXTH FORM STUDY LEAVE

Both Year 12 and 13 students will start their study leave on Friday 9th May. Students will be expected to come in after this date for revision sessions. Your daughter's/son's teachers will arrange this individually with their classes and all students will be given the details for each session. Year 12 are expected to return from study leave on Monday 16th June at 8:30am and will be expected to meet in the theatre. They will take part in Brentford University, a mimicked university environment, until Friday 4th July. Following this, they students will go on work experience for two weeks, starting on Monday 7th - Friday 18th July. Further details will follow.

YEAR 13 GRADUATION EVENT

We would like to invite all Year 13 students to a graduation event on Wednesday 18th June at 4:00pm. An invitation will be sent home after their exams. Save the date!

SCHOOL CANTEEN

After Easter, the cost of a main meal in the school canteen will be increasing from £2.00 to £2.50. We have not increased our prices since January 2011 but with the rise in food costs we can no longer offer the service that we want in a cost effective way. There will be a letter going out giving further details this week. For further details of menus and prices please look on the school website: www.brentford.hounslow.sch.uk.

SCHOOL UNIFORM TO MOVE TO SANCO

After much discussion, the Governors have decided that the school can no longer stock the amount of uniform that it needs to, in order to offer parents and carers the service they deserve. They have decided that Sanco, the school uniform shop, will become the sole provider of our uniform with no increase in prices. They are a family run business, and their values on quality of uniform are exactly the same as ours. They currently have a shop in Hounslow.

We will continue to sell uniform, in school, until the Easter holidays (every Tuesday and Thursday after school from 3.30pm to 3.45pm). From 4th April you will only be able to purchase uniform from Sanco. No uniform, other than the agreed uniform from Sanco will be accepted. A letter giving further details will be sent out this week.

ACADEMIC REVIEW AFTERNOON

The second Academic Review Afternoon of the academic year took place on Thursday 27th February. The afternoon was very well attended by parents and we would like to say a massive thank you to those who came to an appointment. A full evaluation of the event took place and we were pleased to see that 81% of parents/carers thought that the afternoon was very useful or useful.

Feedback from parents about the afternoon was as follows: "It's nice to actually see how my daughter is getting on and to set targets is great mid-term", "The tutor was very helpful about my daughter's study and I am pleased.", "We discussed my daughter's report and how to improve her grade and boost her confidence. It was very informative and detailed". "I am very pleased with the help and support my daughter is getting. Very organised and on time. Very good." Suggestions for improvements included providing tea and coffee and for Year 7 tutors to have more information from subject teachers given that the Year 7 parents evening isn't until next term. We will take on board your comments. Thanks again for your support to ensure your daughter achieves her potential.

6TH FORM CENTRE

On Friday 28th February, we opened our very new and exciting 6th Form Centre. It is equipped with some fantastic facilities including a canteen style dining area, a comfy chill out zone and study area where students can work in groups or individually. The centre was opened by Mary Macleod, MP for Chiswick and Isleworth.

It was a lovely event, with lots of staff and 6th formers present to celebrate. This is a really exciting time for our 6th formers and they love their new space.

YEAR 9 CAREERS' DAY

On Thursday 6th March, Year 9 had a day off timetable to learn about the world of work. The girls sat personality tests to work out their aptitude for different types of work. They also wrote CVs and spent time researching online various careers and professions. They also took part in an afternoon session of careers speed networking, meeting professionals from career paths such as accountancy, hospitality and marketing as well as a diverse range of organisations including the London Fire Brigade, Audi and Brompton Bicycles. Our visitors were able to share with students information about what qualifications and skills are needed to enter their profession or trade. The girls found the whole experience invaluable and of very much help in supporting the process of choosing GCSE options.

EXAMINATION TIPS

The cycle of external and internal examinations is looming and all students should be busy revising in order to do as well as they are able. Students should also take full advantage of the intervention sessions and revision classes being offered by their teachers at lunchtime and after school. In order to revise successfully, please note the following tips:

- Find a revision style that suits you - perhaps drawing memory maps, writing key words on post-its or making lists and bullet-points
- Draw up a revision timetable to help you to set up a routine and keep on track
- Remember that smaller amounts of regular revision is better than last-minute revision and always take breaks every so often
- Revise in a quiet space that is well-lit and neither too hot nor too cold. You should avoid distractions such as TV, music and mobile phones

By following these strategies you will maximize your chances of success. Good luck!

YEAR 8 SUCCESS PROGRAMME

- How many hours sleep is good for you?
- Can you sleep too much?
- Does drinking a fizzy drink really affect your mood and how you learn?
- Would doing 20 minutes of exercise a day before school really help you to concentrate more and do better in exams?

It's been an interesting term for the Year 8 girls on the YES programme, trying to find the answer to these and other questions. As I write this the girls are getting ready for their live experiment - "the perfect week". They will be arriving at school early each morning to do 20 minutes of exercise, before having a healthy breakfast. They will also be cutting out sugar for the week and eating only healthy snacks and meals to see if it really does make a difference to their learning. How will they survive? Watch this space for updates and hopefully some answers to those questions!

VIVO MILES

APHRODITE - 5251

HERA - 6183

DEMETER - 6015

ARTEMIS - 5251

ATHENA - 5653

TERM DATES

(*TAKEN FROM HOUNSLOW WEBSITE)

SPRING TERM 2014

- END OF TERM: FRI 4TH APRIL
- EASTER HOLIDAYS: MON 7TH - MON 21ST APRIL

SUMMER TERM 2014: 23RD APRIL - 18TH JULY

- MODERATION DAY (STAFF ONLY): MON 22ND APRIL
- STUDENTS RETURN: 23RD APRIL
- BANK HOLIDAY: MON 5TH MAY
- MAY HALF TERM: MON 26TH - FRI 30TH MAY

AUTUMN TERM 2014: TUES 2ND SEPTEMBER 2014 - FRI 19TH DECEMBER

- HALF TERM: MON 27TH OCTOBER - FRI 31ST OCTOBER
- CHRISTMAS BREAK: MON 22ND DECEMBER - FRI 2ND JANUARY

SPRING TERM 2015: MON 5TH JANUARY - FRI 27TH MARCH

- HALF TERM: MON 16TH FEBRUARY - FRI 20TH FEBRUARY 2015
- SPRING HOLIDAY BREAK: MON 30TH MARCH - FRI 10TH APRIL
- GOOD FRIDAY: FRI 3RD APRIL
- EASTER MONDAY: MON 6TH APRIL

SUMMER TERM 2015: MON 13TH APRIL - MON 20TH JULY

- MAY DAY: MON 4TH MAY
- HALF TERM: MON 25TH MAY - FRI 29TH MAY

**WE WILL INFORM YOU OF ANY CHANGES TO THESE DATES*

CONTACT US

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WE'RE ONLINE!

HERE YOU WILL RECEIVE REGULAR NEWS STORIES AND UPDATES ON WHAT'S HAPPENING IN SCHOOL AS WELL AS LOTS OF PHOTOS.

FACBOOK: WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/BRENTFORDSCHOOLGIRLS
TWITTER: WWW.TWITTER.COM/BRENTFORDSCHOOL