



BRENTFORD BULLETIN

KEEPING YOU IN THE LOOP

HEAD TEACHER'S UPDATE

I am delighted to welcome you back to a new school year. A very warm welcome to new Year 7 parents whose daughters joined us at the start of the academic year. It has been a pleasure watching the new students excited and happy about their school. They have settled in so well at Brentford already.

Our focus this year, as always, remains on ensuring that your daughter is happy, safe and achieving her very best at school. We had another fantastic year of examination results, with our school out-performing all other non-church schools in the local authority. We will continue this year to work hard to ensure that your daughter is successful and achieves her potential; we really value and encourage your input whenever possible.

This year's return to school saw the girls in perfect uniform across the year groups, with almost no infringements of the uniform policy. Thank you for your support in ensuring that your daughter was dressed properly for the start of school year - it really does make all the difference.

Punctuality will be a big focus for us this year. A small number of students in each year group have already been late for school on at least one occasion. This is not acceptable; if they were at work, they would lose their jobs! Good habits developed at school are good habits taken into adult lives. Please support the school and your daughter by ensuring that she is in school every day and on time.

I look forward to meeting you all during this term's welcome meetings and working with you and your daughter over the coming year.

NEW STAFF

We are pleased to welcome a number of new staff who joined our school community in September. I am sure that you and your daughter will make them feel very welcome here.

- Mr Haresnape - Deputy Head Teacher (Maternity Cover)
- Ms Singh - Assistant Head Teacher
- Ms Bose - Maths Teacher
- Ms Jama - Science Teacher
- Mr Mathews - Geography Teacher
- Mr Mechie - Student Teacher
- Mr Siad - Science Teacher
- Ms Say - Science Teacher
- Ms Vandara - MFL Teacher
- Mr Akhter - Finance Officer
- Ms Birch - Administration Assistant
- Mr Clements - Cover Supervisor
- Ms Goodall - Administration Assistant
- Mr Olubi - Cover Supervisor

SAFE PARKING AND DROP OFF

A reminder that driving onto the school site to drop students off is not permitted. The site is very busy in the mornings, so we request that you find a suitably safe place, off site, to drop students, which is much safer. Parking to drop off on the zigzag lines outside school is an offence and you could be liable to prosecution. Our Community Police Officers regularly patrol this area and we do not want a parent to receive a parking ticket or for any accidents to occur. We have had several 'near misses' both on the Zebra crossing and along that stretch of road, so please park legally, sensibly and safely.

FREE SCHOOL MEALS

Is your child entitled to a free school meal? Do you receive any of the qualifying benefits: Income Support, Income Based Job Seekers Allowance, National Asylum Seekers Support Scheme (NASS), Pension Credit or Child Tax Credit (income less than £16,190) but not Working Tax Credit? If you do, but have not applied, please do so because this will open up so many other avenues of funding for you and for the school. Pupil Premium funding's key indicator of poverty is a school's free school meal numbers. For further information on how we used our Pupil Premium funding last year, look at the school's website, www.brentford.hounslow.sch.uk. With the money we received last year, we offered subsidies for trips, held revision classes during school holidays for Years 10 and 11 and a whole lot more.

FSM is not just about the meal, although it is a proven fact that eating a healthy diet increases a child's ability to concentrate. If your child is entitled, PLEASE apply. Forms need to be completed either online from the Local Authority that you live in or we do have some local borough forms available from the Finance Office. If you have a problem completing the form, don't worry, come into school and a member of staff will happily assist. We will be having a big push on promoting FSM over the next few weeks to try and raise the profile of how much this can help your daughter, so please support us by applying - even if your daughter chooses not to eat the meal, it is important that you apply if you're entitled.

CASHLESS TILLS IN CAFE B

Our dining hall, Cafe B, runs on a cashless till system. Students must top up their accounts from two machines that are situated in Cafe B. Cheques should be left in the box provided before school and this will be credited to the student's account before break. Our new online payment system is working well. This is where parents can top up their daughter's account from home - not just for lunches, but school trips as well. Login details were distributed last term, allowing payments to be made using credit or debit cards. Should you experience difficulties or have not received these details, please contact the Finance Department in school. For our newly arrived Year 7 parents, login details will be sent out within the next few days. We ask that lunch accounts are not loaded daily, as this can

cause long delays in Cafe B and can be avoided if sufficient money is given for the whole week or half termly if you prefer. Menus are sent to students via email every day and parents can see the menu for the week by logging on to the school website.

YEAR 11 FOCUS

Congratulations must go to many of our current Year 11 students on the excellent exam results that they achieved in their GCSE exams taken at the end of Year 10. The results show that, for many of the students, it was beneficial for them to have been entered early for these exams. A special mention must be made of a group of the following 13 girls who achieved A or A* grades in all 4 exams which they took. Well done girls, what a fantastic way to start Year 11!

- Lara Abu Dabat
- Ruwayda Ali
- Sana Arshad
- Nafisa Bari
- Cara Doyle
- Isabella Eaves
- Isabel Gray
- Nayan Gurung
- Adiva Khan
- Ayesha Khan
- Primerose Ndlovu
- Madina Sediqi
- Rimsha Syed

As part of raising achievement at Year 11, extra academic classes will be running during lunch times and after school. Teachers have identified students who need specific intervention in their subjects and letters will be sent out to parents informing them of the sessions that their child will need to attend. In addition to the revision classes, throughout the year there will be residential study weekends, academic mentoring of students at risk of not achieving their targets grades, motivational talks to the year group and a focus of high quality provision in Year 11 lessons, all with the aim of maximising student outcomes in Year 11. We would greatly appreciate your efforts in encouraging your daughter to attend these sessions, as we are keen to ensure that every girl achieves the grades that she is capable of and that the results achieved by this cohort of Year 11 are the highest ever for BSfG.

THE 6TH FORM TERM AHEAD

Year 12 and 13 students have made a positive start and we are looking forward to the year ahead. We ask you to support your son or daughter with the transition into A-levels. Students often find this transition a huge jump from their GCSE, as the work associated with A-levels requires much more independence. Students should be studying for at least five hours per subject, per week, to ensure that they are equipped with the necessary knowledge and skills. All students have a number of free periods on their timetable, so please encourage them to use the 6th Form Centre during this free time. To help you support your son or daughter with this, we will be sending home a copy of their timetable.

6TH FORM ATTENDANCE AND PUNCTUALITY

All 6th Form students should refrain from booking medical appointments, holidays and/or driving tests during lesson time. For extenuating circumstances, students must complete a special Consideration of Absence Form at least 48 hours before the planned absence, in order for the absence to be authorised. These forms can be located in the 6th Form Admin Office. Thank you for your support in ensuring that your son or daughter remains in lessons - this is a key contributor to success.

6TH FORM PUNCTUALITY

Over the last year, we have seen punctuality to lessons drop. To support your son or daughter in developing the skills required for

the future, we will be assigning a supervised study period for 25 minutes at lunchtime, based in the 6th Form Study Centre if your son or daughter is late on more than one occasion.

NEWNHAM PARENTS EVENING

The Newnham Project is a course which focuses on increasing the opportunity for students in the 6th Form to access and get accepted into some of the top universities in the UK (Russell Group). There will be a Parents Evening for those students who successfully secured a place following their GCSE results. This meeting will take place in the 6th Form Study Centre from 6pm-7pm on Wednesday 17th September.

6TH FORM BUSINESS DRESS CODE

A reminder of the business dress code that all students are expected to follow:

- Wear smart trousers or skirt and top

Students should not be wearing the following:

- denim or t-shirts with logos
- trainers, Uggs, Vans, Converse or canvas shoes
- hoodies
- caps
- tracksuit bottoms or tops
- leggings
- coloured hair
- piercings or heavy make up

Any student who arrives dressed incorrectly will be sent home to change and will be required to come back into school in appropriate attire. Thank you.

SCHOOL UNIFORM (MAIN SCHOOL)

All uniform needs to be purchased at Sanco in Hounslow. We have a school tie, shirt, jumper and skirt, all of which are sold at Sanco and cannot be bought from any other shop. Trousers can be bought elsewhere, but must not be 'skinny' fit. Shoes must be plain black leather shoes and must not be a plimsoll style. We are incredibly proud of our uniform and what it represents, so all students must be dressed correctly on their way to school, in school and leaving school. A reminder that hair dye and make up are not allowed and no piercings other than a small pair of studs - one in each ear lobe, is permitted.

INFORMATION EVENINGS

Tuesday 16th September – Welcome to Year 8 Evening
Thursday 25th September – Welcome to Year 9 Evening

These evenings are valuable opportunities to meet with other parents, meet with your daughter's form tutor and discuss any concerns. The evening will enable us to share our priorities and show how we will ensure your daughter has success. We look forward to seeing you there.

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

Our A' Level results were good and our students should be very proud of their achievements. The attainment at AS was as follows: A*-B 41%, A*-C 72%, A*-E 99%. This compares favourably to last year. Some of our most outstanding achievements were as follows: Lucy Whitmore A* and 2 As (now studying at Manchester University), Lisa Burna-Asefi 3 A's, Ama Badu 1 A* and 2 B's (studying at Queen

Mary's) and Amy George 2 A's and 1 B (now studying Anthropology at Durham). Our best wishes to all our former 6th formers who are studying at universities across the country, as well as to those moving into further education and training.

GCSE Results - Y11 Results

Our girls achieved another fantastic set of GCSE results this year. On the key threshold 5A*-C (+Eng & Maths) we achieved 70% this year. Our results make us the leading non-denominational school in the London Borough of Hounslow!

Our students, again, made truly outstanding progress! In English, 82% made expected progress (national average 67% in 2013), whilst 44% made above expected progress (national 28% in 2013). In Maths, 89% made expected progress (national 68% in 2013) and 47% above expected progress (national 31% in 2013).

A very high number of our students achieved the very top grades, with the percentage of A*-A grades rising to 29%, which is up 3% on last year. This means our girls are very well placed for the next step in their education. Student achievement was also very strong across almost all subject areas, with most subjects making improvements on last year.

Excellent progress was made across the school, last year by most students and in all subjects. The majority of our students are on target to exceed their data targets and are well on track to achieving their aspirational Brentford targets.

We will be working closely with our new Year 7 girls over the next few weeks to ensure that they have an understanding of where they are on their academic journey.

Many thanks to all our parents and carers for your continued help and support! You play a vital role in ensuring our students achieve their very best. We look forward to another record-breaking year in 2015!

COMMUNITY EVENTS

As part of our commitment to the wider school community, Liz Gers will be hosting information sessions for targeted parent groups later on in the half term. Please look out for a letter inviting you to these sessions.

INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL STATUS

We are delighted to announce that the British Council has re-accredited us as an International School. The International School Award is in recognition of our work in promoting international understanding in lessons, as well as our partnerships with schools in Rwanda, France and Sweden. This year, we will be extending our relationship with a school in India, as well as having a group of staff and 6th formers working at an Eye Camp that provides free health care for locals. Please look out for further information about our international activities throughout the year.

OPEN EVENING

This year's Open Evening takes place on Wednesday 24th September, 5pm-8pm. It is a terrifically important night for the school, as it is a showcase for potential students and their parents. If you have a friend or neighbour with a daughter in Year 5 or Year 6, please let them know that Open Evening is taking place - they will be more than welcome to visit!

TERM DATES

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

- INSET DAY: WEDNESDAY 15TH OCTOBER
- HALF TERM: MON 27TH OCTOBER - FRI 31ST OCTOBER
- OCCASIONAL DAY: FRIDAY 28 NOVEMBER
- 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
- END OF TERM: FRI 18TH JULY

CONTACT US

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

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