



BRENTFORD BULLETIN

KEEPING YOU IN THE LOOP

HEAD TEACHER'S UPDATE

Dear Parent/Carer

It has been a long and busy half term, with all of the girls settling back in following the summer break. I have been especially impressed with our new Year 7 students, who have adapted well to their new secondary school. I have visited many of their lessons over the last few weeks and they are enthusiastic, engaged and hungry to learn, as well as embracing the school vision by getting involved in as many extra curricular activities as they can. The music room and PE clubs have been buzzing with Year 7 girls since the beginning of September!

During the half term break, you will receive information about how your daughter has been doing over the last eight weeks at school. The interim report you will receive identifies areas of strength and areas for development in your daughter's learning. Please take some time over the holiday to talk this through with her. If things are going well, please praise her, if not, talk to her about how she can improve and what support you can offer as her parent/carer. If you are unhappy with your daughter's progress, please contact her form tutor and remember that 'the child who is criticised learns to condemn.'

The terrible and sad loss of Alice Gross within our community reminds us about how important safety is. London is still one of the safest cities in the world, and whilst it is important to ensure that our young people are safe, it is equally important that we don't scare them. As the nights begin to draw in, please remind your daughter to always stick to well-lit streets and, where possible, not to travel alone and, of course, to always let you know where she is going. We have reduced the detention time on Fridays to one hour and very few of our clubs take place after school for this reason. We have made the staff who are running the school play very aware of the need to ensure that girls are travelling home together or that suitable arrangements are made. Our hearts and thoughts go out to the family of Alice and all of the staff and students at Brentside School in Ealing.

On behalf of the staff at Brentford, I wish you all a very happy and restful half term break.

Best wishes
Marais Leenders

DRIVING ONTO SCHOOL SITE

Following concerns raised at a recent School Council meeting and concerns that we have raised with parents before about the increasing number of parents driving into school and illegally parking outside school to drop off, we must ask for your urgent co-operation in this matter. No cars, other than staff cars, are permitted to drive on to the school site either first thing in the morning or at pick up at 3.20pm. Whilst we appreciate that the parents who are doing this think they are protecting their daughter, they are putting the lives of the other 823 students at risk. We have decided that, should this practice continue, we will have no option but to pass information on to the police. Safeguarding our students is of paramount importance to us and we look for your co-operation in this matter.

HOME-SCHOOL COMMUNICATION

We are in the process of making sure that all means of communication with

parents/carers is kept up to date. Year 11 data checking sheets went out last week and we will, over the next half term, be sending these home for the rest of the school and asking you to check the details contained within in it. This information, especially up to date mobile phone numbers or email addresses, is paramount for us to be able to communicate with you quickly and efficiently, either in an emergency or giving details about a forthcoming event. With events that have happened locally over the last few weeks, we want to make sure that we can let parents know of anything that might concern or inform them about activities to do with their daughter or that might be going on elsewhere. This may be that a school club is cancelled or letting you know that students will be coming home at a different time because there is an emergency in school and we have to close early. Whatever it may be, it would be of great help to us if you could keep us informed of any changes to your contact information. We already have a system in place to be able to text and email parents giving them such information, so please help us to make sure every single family is covered by this electronic means of communication by the end of the year.

CHANGES TO OUR ACADEMIC REPORTS

Following feedback from parents and students last academic year, we have made some small, but significant, changes to the way subject progress will be coloured red, amber or green in our academic reports. Previously, subjects were coloured green based upon students making progress above their aspirational KS3 Target or KS4 Brentford Target. This meant that only a relatively small number of subjects were showing green and students often found this could be a little de-motivating.

We have now changed this so that subjects will show green if students are working at or above their KS3 Target or Brentford Target (above expected national progress from Key Stage 2), amber if working at their Data Target (nationally expected progress from Key Stage 2) and red if working below their Data target.

In Year 7, only the core subjects Maths, English and Science will be coloured.

All subjects showing as red will now indicate progress below national expectation and staff will plan in-class and, at times, out of lesson support for these students. At GCSE level, all students with subjects showing as red will require additional support and after-school attendance will be compulsory where this has been put in place. You will receive information advising you of when these intervention support sessions will be running.

BRENTSTOCK 2014

On Friday 14th November, the family event 'Brentstock 2014' will take place. The event is a fundraising evening to support our on-going project in India. There will be music from students, including the ukulele band, guitar band and house band, solo artists and songs from the Jungle Book – our school play this year. There will be an opportunity to learn about the recent visit to Amritsar, from the students and teachers who were in India. Refreshments, food and drinks will be available. We will also be launching our 'Virtual' Cycle Ride to India', a stationary bike ride in the Hall, where everyone will be encouraged to donate £1 and cycle one mile of the journey. A massive thank you goes to Simon Paterson from Powerhouse Fitness for his support in loaning us the exercise bike (www.facebook.com/powerhousefitness.co.uk). Tickets are £1 per student and £2 for adults. Tickets will be available from Monday 3rd November, so do buy a ticket

and come along and support a great cause. For further information please call Liz Gers, Community Coordinator.

INTERVENTION

Following the analysis of data collected at Data Point 1, students across KS3, KS4 and KS5 have been identified for targeted revision sessions in specific subjects, where they may be at risk of not achieving their data targets. The revision sessions will be highly personalised to focus on your daughter's specific needs and it is compulsory that she attends the session/s that she has been asked to. The impact of the interventions will be measured at the next data collection following the mock exams (see dates below) and, hopefully, your daughter will have made the necessary progress in those subjects to be on track to achieve her data targets. Letters will be sent home informing parents of the dates and times of the sessions that are running, as well as the sessions that are compulsory for your daughter to attend. I hope that you will support our efforts with intervention to ensure exam success for your daughter.

Mock exam dates:

Year 11: 17th November – 21st November

Year 12 & Year 13: 24th November – 27th November

WALKING TALKING MOCK EXAM PRACTICE YEAR 11

Year 11 students will be sitting their mock exams in the week beginning 17th November. As preparation for the exams, the English and Maths departments will be holding 'walking talking' mock exams all day on Friday 14th November. This will involve students being given verbal instructions as they take an exam paper, with guidance on how to answer specific questions and how to manage their time when answering an exam paper. Research has shown this to be excellent preparation for the actual exams and we would be grateful if you could ensure that your daughter is present and punctual on the day and is fully equipped for the exam.

BREAKFAST CLUB

A Year 11 Breakfast Club has opened for business at Brentford. The purpose of the Breakfast Club is to encourage good punctuality amongst Year 11 students, by providing a place for students to go before school starts, where they may eat breakfast and complete coursework and homework. The Breakfast Club starts at 8am every day and takes place in the Year 11 study area. A Breakfast Club for younger students is planned to begin during the next half-term.

YEAR 7 WORKSHOPS

This month, a number of workshops took place for parents of Year 7 students. In these workshops, Liz Gers, Community Coordinator, and our KS3 subject coordinators explained to parents how they can support their daughters with English, Maths and Science. The workshops were well attended and feedback was positive, with parents reporting that the opportunity to talk to teachers so early in the term was useful. Further workshops are planned in the course of the year and parents should look out for letters promoting these events.

INDIA

This month, five Brentford 6th formers and Ms Brown and Ms Baker visited India to support Eye Camps in the Punjab. These are clinics for people who suffer with common eye conditions. People visiting the clinic are treated free of charge. The 6th formers' role was to book patients in, talk to them and ensure that they were feeling comfortable about any treatments that were being administered.

Our intrepid travellers also visited local schools, in order to build links with Brentford. Students taking part in the visit had to make an application explaining why they wanted to participate and how they would contribute to the project's legacy on their return. The students who took part in the Eye Camp project will act as aspirational role models to younger students, when they discuss their experiences with students in assemblies and presentations next half term. They

will also be at the vanguard of our fund-raising initiative to support future work in India. Please look out for a more detailed report on the Indian visit in this term's Highlights magazine.

SCHOOL SHOP

The school shop opened for business this term. The shop is a place for students to exchange their House Points for products such as pencils, erasers and note pads, as well as items such as lip balm and earphones. Students who use the shop are eligible for a prize draw where they have a chance to win a £50 voucher, so get spending those House Points!

YOU SAID... WE DID

Following student comments in School Council meetings, there will next term be some changes to the operation of the canteen to ensure that lunchtime runs more smoothly for all students. Students eating a packed lunch will be encouraged to eat in the Hall to create more space in the canteen and more prefects will be present to support staff in the area.

WELCOME TO YEAR 7 EVENING

This will take place on Thursday 6th November, from 6.30pm-8.30pm.

UNIFORM

After October half term, summer shirts are not allowed permitted. A winter shirt with a tie must be worn.

BRENTFORD SCHOOL FOR GIRLS 6TH FORM OPEN EVENING THURSDAY 13TH NOVEMBER 2014 6PM-8.30PM



TERM DATES

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

- HALF TERM: MON 27TH OCTOBER - FRI 31ST OCTOBER
- 6TH FORM OPEN EVENING: THURS 13TH NOVEMBER
- 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

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