



# Brentside High School

Learning and Achieving Together

Email: [info@brentsidehigh.ealing.sch.uk](mailto:info@brentsidehigh.ealing.sch.uk)

Website: [www.brentsidehigh.ealing.sch.uk](http://www.brentsidehigh.ealing.sch.uk)

Dear Parent/Carer and Student,

As we reach the end of the autumn term, a significant era also draws to a close as Arwel Jones retires from his position as Headteacher of Brentside High School after 17 years and one term.

Mr Jones's commitment to the school and local community has shaped Brentside into the inclusive and harmonious school that it is today. He leaves behind a vibrant, diverse and oversubscribed school which has successfully served the students and families of the local area for many years.

Those in the community who remember Brentside prior to 2003, will remember the somewhat dilapidated original school buildings. One of Mr Jones's early roles as Headteacher was to lead our move into the new school building, which has been supplemented in recent years by an additional new building, enabling the school intake to further grow. It is easy to see the impact of Mr Jones's leadership in the physical appearance of the school, but it can also be seen throughout the years in the achievements of our students and the excellent practice and teamwork of our staff.

Brentside is a school well-known in the local area and far beyond for the achievements of our school community. Mr Jones has worked closely and in partnership with local school leaders for many years. He has also supported leadership teams of other schools across the country as part of his National Leader of Education status.

It is impossible to sum up in words the contribution that Mr Jones has made to the lives of so many, and so we will simply close by saying that Mr Jones will be greatly missed by all and we wish him a happy, healthy and well-deserved retirement.

Mr Jones will write to parents, carers and students in the new year.

## 2020

As we approach the end of the calendar year, we look back on 2020 as one which has been extraordinary. The Coronavirus has had, and continues to have, a significant impact globally. The national school closures of the last academic year brought about many changes to the way that the school community has functioned.

In September, we returned to school with many changes to our day structure and ways of working. Despite the challenges that we have faced, Brentside staff, students and parents have continued to support one another by working in partnership and we have been able to maintain our focus on our core business of *learning and achieving together*.

This term we have enjoyed being able to get back to learning and achieving, in person, together. More details of some of this term's highlights are included in the

newsletter. We hope that you enjoy reading about them.

There is more to follow in the rest of this newsletter but, from us, may we wish you all a very happy Christmas and a peaceful new year.

Yours faithfully

**Charlotte Hames and Christine MacInnes**  
Interim Co-Headteachers

## **Coronavirus Positive Cases**

In the first six days of the Christmas holiday, if a Brentside student or staff member tests positive for coronavirus (COVID-19), having developed symptoms **within 48 hours of being in school**, the school will identify close contacts and advise them to self-isolate where relevant.

The school must be informed of any student or member of staff who tests positive for COVID-19 up to, and including, Wednesday 23 December 2020 (12:00) if symptoms developed or, in the case of an asymptomatic person, the test was taken within 48 hours of last being in school. In these instances, the school will conduct a risk assessment along with Public Health England and, in turn, contact staff and parents/carers of students who are identified as potential close contacts to advise them to isolate.

Confirmation of positive cases should be communicated to the school by emailing [covid@brentsidehigh.ealing.sch.uk](mailto:covid@brentsidehigh.ealing.sch.uk) as soon as confirmation is received from the NHS stating:

- The child's name and date of birth
- Date that symptoms started
- Date COVID-19 test was taken
- A copy/screenshot of notification of the positive test result

The school will contact parents/carers of any student who has been identified as a potential close contact via email before 12:00 on the day that notification is received, or the subsequent day if notification of a confirmed positive case is sent after 12:00.

Parents/carers are reminded that if their child displays any of the symptoms of COVID-19 (a high temperature, a new, persistent cough, or the loss of usual sense of taste or smell) they should book a test as soon as possible for COVID-19 via the NHS testing website or by calling 119.

## **Contact details (telephone number and/or email address)**

If your telephone number or email address has recently changed, please inform the School by emailing your name, updated contact details and your child's full name and year group to [reception@brentsidehigh.ealing.sch.uk](mailto:reception@brentsidehigh.ealing.sch.uk)

## **Mock Examinations**

Year 11 have just finished their GCSE mock examinations and demonstrated high levels of maturity during a very demanding two week period. Hopefully, all students will be

rewarded with pleasing result when they receive these in January. Year 10 also sat their examinations earlier in the term and again showed great focus and commitment. Year 12 and Year 13 will have their own mock examinations when we return to school in January and we wish them the very best as they make their final preparations.  
Yours faithfully,

**Arwel Jones (Executive Headteacher)**  
**Charlotte Hames (Interim Co-headteacher)**  
**Christine MacInnes (Interim Co-headteacher)**

#### **Year 7**

Year 7 have worked incredibly hard this half term. They have taken part in our first Target Setting Day and have celebrated the winners of our Black History Month Art competition and our Citizenship competition. Winning students have been rewarded for their efforts with VIP lunch passes and art materials.

At the start of term, members of Year 7 attended a mask-making workshop where they showed off their sewing skills making face masks. The textiles department were very impressed with their skills and their hardworking attitude. Year 7 have also taken part in the PE department's Origin competition, which saw the P side of the year group take on the Q side of the year group at football and netball. At football, P side won by 2 goals to 1 and at netball P side won by 10 goals to 3. Huge congratulations to the winners and to all participants.

Finally, we were very grateful to the Year 7 students who volunteered to help make the Christmas hampers. It has been a wonderful half term for Year 7 and a joy to work with them. They should be incredibly proud of themselves and we wish them a happy and relaxing Christmas break.

#### **Year 8**

We have had an excellent start from Year 8 throughout this term. Staff have showered the year group with positive comments about their hard work and dedication towards their studies. Some of the many comments left by teaching staff in the positive jars are as follows, students 'participated in all tasks fully', 'always well prepared', 'very enthusiastic and always willing to learn.' As a result, we have also been celebrating and rewarding students in the year group with a VIP lunch, which allows them to 'skip the lunch queue' and finish the lesson a little earlier preceding lunch time. 30 students were invited to a prestigious Christmas lunch on Tuesday, 15 December and a special well done goes to Razvan 8N, who has 182 merits just in this term and remains the student with the most merits in Year 8. Year 8 have also taken part in the PE department's Origin competition which saw Q side winning the girls' netball and the boys' football. Both events were tense affairs with the girls winning in sudden death 3-2 and the boys in penalties. It's good to be back and more things wonderful and brilliant to come next year.

#### **Year 9**

Year 9 students have progressed well this term, as they continue their Key Stage 4 journey. When dropping into lessons, we have noted mature attitudes to learning and have seen students utilising lesson time fully and challenging themselves to ensure progress is their priority. Students attended Target Setting Day in November and collected a report published with their first GCSE style grades. This was a real milestone for Year 9 students and an opportunity to be reunited with their tutors. Conversations were positive and productive and targets set were meaningful and aspirational.

Year 9 students continued to show their commitment to learning by collecting an impressive amount of merits and

their grand total stands at 13,483. This is a real display of individual hard work and a real team effort.

During this half term we have had a focus on determination, perseverance and learning how to apply these to our work and wellbeing. Students have risen to the challenges finding a real sense of purpose and an abundance of positive energy.

As we approach the end of 2020, we are only too aware that we have all had to face challenges that we could not have foreseen. We remain proud of our Year 9 students for their continued resilience and resolve during this time and know that this will stand them in good stead as they go into 2021. We would like to take this opportunity to thank you as parents and carers for your continued support and of course we thank our wonderful Year 9 students for their good attitude, kindness and teamwork. We wish you all the very best for a safe and happy holiday.

#### **Year 9 Athletics**

Amy in 9S, has been awarded the Jack Petchey award from her athletics club outside of school for her effort, attitude, and achievements in athletics as well as the unique and valuable contribution she has made to her local community. Amy, a GCSE PE student, has demonstrated that hard work, effort and striving to achieve to the best of her ability have paid off! The PE department and the rest of the Brentside High School community are extremely proud of Amy's achievements. She has been awarded £250 to invest in her athletics club and has been invited to an awards ceremony to receive her Jack Petchey Medallion.

#### **Year 10**

Year 10 started this half term with the challenge of writing their first practice GCSE examinations in the hall in real examination conditions. They rose to the challenge with excellent attendance, organisation and revision resources. It proved to be an excellent learning experience, leading to useful and productive conversations about revision resources and skills, how to approach examination questions under pressure, and how to utilise our everyday work to prepare for those final GCSE examinations. We have also been focusing on keeping our physical body exam-fit by: eating healthy food, especially before examinations, getting the recommended 9 hours of sleep and limiting screen time.

Students had the opportunity to discuss their examination results with their form tutors on Target Setting Day, where tutors were very impressed with student self-reflections and determination to move their grades forward with different strategies. It has been good to see them using those strategies in lessons and homework following those conversations. We are also starting to make plans with the students for after their GCSEs, so that they can plan ahead, in order to know what grades they need to access their chosen course and career.

We continue to be impressed with the students' maturity in dealing with the COVID-19 protocols and the changes to the school day. We wish them all a good break and for those who celebrate Christmas a happy family time. We look forward to welcoming them back in the new year to share their aspirations for the year ahead.

#### **Year 11**

The main focus for our Year 11 students this half term, has been the GCSE mock examinations and their focus throughout has been excellent. There has been a real sense of maturity and determination from all our students. We are confident that they will learn a lot from these examinations and will carry this forward into the spring term and beyond.

We have also been extremely proud to see them preparing so diligently for their examinations. Attendance at the before and after school revision sessions offered by many teachers across the school has been excellent. It is also encouraging that students are being proactive in thinking about their post-16 education, completing applications and considering their future careers.

Even though some students are hesitant about what their future holds, they have sought out support and used it wisely. This has been a particularly testing time for our Year 11 students with the additional challenges that this year has thrown their way.

We are greatly appreciative of how our students are working to achieve the successes they richly deserve.

Their consistent and conscientious approach has been commented on by all staff. They can be thoroughly congratulated for their performance to date. We wish all our Year 11 students a well-deserved rest over the holiday.

### Sixth Form

#### Year 12 participation in Upskill Me

During our September Induction, Year 12 students were introduced to a programme called Upskill Me which aims to assist students with researching higher education and career pathways in order to help them acquire relevant and necessary skills. A number of students have been awarded certificates and vouchers as a reward for their active participation. They have engaged with activities designed to encourage them to develop useful skills and to find challenging and valuable work experience. Well done to them all.

#### Widening participation schemes for higher education

Year 12 students have been invited to apply for various schemes with universities and widening participation organisations such as K+ (Kings College London), Sutton Trust and Social Mobility Fund. These provide academic mentoring services, work experience opportunities and other activities to help students become competitive applicants for top tier universities. Congratulations to those who have already been accepted and good luck to those going through the application now.

#### Year 12 and Year 13 engagement with Speakers4Schools

We have a long-standing involvement with this organisation which pre-COVID provided us with prestigious and interesting speakers from industry, media and politics to speak to various year groups. Sixth Formers have also engaged with them individually to apply for work experience, internships and various other programmes.

Although these partners are all currently virtual, they still provide our successful students with invaluable contacts and experience.

#### Year 13 university applications

We continue to submit completed university applications to UCAS. Four of our students have been invited to attend interviews with the University of Cambridge whilst others have interviews for medicine at various universities.

In addition, at the Queen Mary University of London, one student impressed his interviewer so much, that they have awarded him an Outstanding Potential Award with a much reduced grade requirement. This is in recognition of the strength of his application, personal statement and interview for a place in their School of English and Drama. Congratulations.

#### Year 13 SCAMP (The Study of Cognition, Adolescents

#### and Mobile Phones) participation

When our current Year 13 students were in Year 7, they were invited by Imperial College University of London, to participate in a longitudinal study to investigate how mobile phone use may impact adolescent health and wellbeing. They subsequently completed follow-up surveys as they progressed through the school. They have just completed the final survey and their anonymous responses will be added to those of 39 other schools across London for data analysis. As a reward for their participation, they will each receive a £10 Amazon voucher and Imperial College's Careers Service is providing advice and guidance with regards to career pathways and higher education in the new Year.

#### Library event: Ealing Teen Read 2021

An opportunity to focus on reading cannot be missed, as we continue to participate in the Ealing Teen Read. This annual activity invites local schoolbook groups to read and review a shortlist of six recently published books. This year's selection covers a range of subjects from the horrific aftermath of Hiroshima in *The Last Paper Crane*, to alternate worlds and dragons in *Burn*. There is something for everyone! Our Year 9 book group have until March to read and discuss the books and vote for their favourite. Please see the following link for more information.

<https://brentsidehigh.oliverasp.co.uk/library/home/news>.



**Friends at Brentside (F@B)** is Brentside High School's PTA. We are a registered charity (registration 1184493). Like everyone this year, our activities have been very restricted due to COVID-19. We have missed the friendly buzz of school events and being able to meet parents and raise money for the school. Even so, this year we have been able to fund a new stage piano for the music department which will benefit students across all year groups.



You may not know that F@B is open to all parents and carers of pupils at Brentside High. We provide refreshments and sell second-hand uniform at school events and organise raffles and other activities to raise funds for the school. We would like to do even more but need volunteers to help us do so! If you would like to be involved, please email us at

[hello@friendsatbrentside.org.uk](mailto:hello@friendsatbrentside.org.uk).

There is always something to do but there is no pressure to take on more than you have time for.

F@B meets at least once every term (usually more frequently, especially when there are events and activities to plan for). At present, we are meeting online via Microsoft Teams. Our next meeting will be our AGM and will follow the Parent Forum Meeting on the **Wednesday, 17 March 2021**. At that meeting, all our committee posts will be up for re-election and this year, one of our co-chairs is standing down. We hope someone out there who is a parent, carer or friend of the school would like to join us and get involved as we come up with ideas to bounce back from 2020 and

raise some money in 2021! Look out for information about the AGM in the school newsletter and by email.

You can also find us via the following Facebook link: <https://www.facebook.com/Friends-of-Brentside-High-School-107212870745020/>.

In the meantime, you can support us by choosing us as your designated charity on Amazon Smile. Amazon Smile is a way for customers to donate to their favourite cause while shopping at no extra cost to themselves. Please follow this link and select 'Friends at Brentside' as your designated cause: <https://smile.amazon.co.uk/>. We also have an easyfundraising presence, which allows you to donate to F@B whilst shopping online, again at no extra cost to yourself. You can choose to support us by following this link:

<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/friendsatbrentside>. We very much hope that before too long we will be able to get back to supporting all sorts of school events and activities, but for now, F@B wishes all students, parents, carers, teachers, support staff and friends at Brentside a happy and safe Christmas, and a healthy and hopeful New Year.

### Careers Updates



#### Upskill Me

In the last newsletter, we told you about a new online careers platform called Upskill Me that we introduced to all Year 12 and Year 13 students to help them prepare for their future. Upskill Me have continued to award prizes for students who regularly engage with their online platform and are demonstrating high quality reflections on their skills and achievements.

Congratulations to this month's prize winners: Charlotte 12R, for engaging in lots of activities to hone her future career interest in ecology and conservation and Aisha 12E, for proactively finding her own work experience and reflecting on the challenges and rewards of working in professional settings. Both Year 12 students have received a certificate and £10 gift voucher.

Do you have a child in Year 7-11?

Upskill Me is open to everyone from Year 7-13 and we encourage all students to create an Upskill Me account if they have not already done so. Students can register with this platform, free of charge, by logging onto Upskill Me with this link: [UpskillMe Create student account](#) Students must use their school email address when registering.

Please do encourage your child to register with Upskill Me and use this platform to record their successes and skill developments.

Students in Years 7 and 8 will need parental consent forms completed and returned to Upskill Me before having their accounts verified. Please find the following consent forms: [http://upload.reactcdn.co.uk/brentside/uploads/document/2\\_1462\\_upskill-me-information-for-parents-.pdf](http://upload.reactcdn.co.uk/brentside/uploads/document/2_1462_upskill-me-information-for-parents-.pdf)

and for further information for parents please click on the link

[http://upload.reactcdn.co.uk/brentside/uploads/document/2\\_1461\\_upskill-parental-consent-email-and-digital-form.pdf](http://upload.reactcdn.co.uk/brentside/uploads/document/2_1461_upskill-parental-consent-email-and-digital-form.pdf)

**We will be awarding prizes to students in Years 7-11 for their best reflections on Upskill Me, so do register now!**

#### Business Partnerships

We pride ourselves in the excellent partnerships we have built over time with universities, art institutions and

businesses and are delighted to be adding BBVS to our list of new, sustainable business links.

Elliott Murphy, the Skills, Employment and Education Manager of the HS2 Old Oak Common Station Project for BBVS is working closely with Brentside High School as an Enterprise Advisor to offer us a range of work-related learning and careers opportunities over the next 10 years. Students will benefit enormously from this partnership, both in terms of careers information linked to a significant number of jobs involved in the project, to site visits, mentoring and work experience to name but a few. Longer term, all 70 sub-contractors working on the Old Oak Common Station Project will commit to offering apprenticeships locally rather than nationally to ensure that our students benefit both now and in the future. We are very excited to be starting this journey with BBVS and look forward to working with them closely in the many years to come.



#### Parent Forum

This term we hosted our first online Parent Forum meeting, and we were absolutely delighted to welcome new parents to the group.

Feedback from parents of Year 7 students was incredibly positive and it was wonderful to hear how well students have settled into Brentside High School, how they always had someone they could talk to and how safe and happy they felt.

Parents of Year 11 students were impressed with how quickly students picked up from where they left off with their learning and how teachers are "working really hard offering intervention classes to ensure all students make progress."

A parent of a student new to the Sixth Form commented on how her son "settled in like he's been here all his life".

We always pride ourselves on focusing on the needs of every single child, but it's always warming to hear from parents when they tell us they "love the community feel" and how "teachers show a real personal touch". Thank you for your feedback!

It was also good to hear what we can do to make further improvements. We will share with you how we responded to your feedback at the next Parent Forum meeting.

Our next Parent Forum meeting will be on **Wednesday, 17 March from 18:30-19:30 via Microsoft Teams.**

#### How can I join the Parent Forum?

You do not need to formally join the Parent Forum but if you would like to attend a meeting, please contact the school office on 020 8575 9162 or email [info@brentsidehigh.ealing.sch.uk](mailto:info@brentsidehigh.ealing.sch.uk) before the day of the meeting and we will email you the Microsoft Teams invite.

#### How can I suggest an agenda item for the Parent

### Forum?

Please email [info@brentsidehigh.ealing.sch.uk](mailto:info@brentsidehigh.ealing.sch.uk) with your proposed agenda item by *Monday, 15 March 2021*.

*We look forward to welcoming you to our next meeting when we will be discussing:*

- Responses to last meeting's feedback
- Upskill Me evaluation

### School Cabinet

The School Cabinet (Brentside's school council) was delighted with the applications from Year 7 students. Students participated in a Microsoft Teams meeting to demonstrate their communication, teamwork, leadership, and problem-solving skills. Successful applicants were awarded with their School Cabinet ties this month and we are delighted with their enthusiasm and contributions to our weekly Microsoft Teams meetings. Agenda items have included making videos to support all students to access Microsoft Teams as well as fund raising ideas. Congratulations to Olla 7R, Shakiea 8B, Bianca 7B, Daniel 7G, Minahil 7B, Theodore 7R, Na'Imah 7E, Leena 7G, Karan 7R, William and Zahra 7B, who are now officially members of our School Cabinet!

**Our new Year 7 School Cabinet members** were thrilled to formally receive their new ties from Ms Hames and Ms MacInnes on 10 December 2020. We're sure you'll agree they look very smart and are now easily identifiable as members of our School Cabinet, acting as role models for all to see. Congratulations!



### Brentside Helping Hand Appeal 2020

An enormous thank you for all the contributions and donations made to the Helping Hand Appeal 2020. Your generosity has been overwhelming and allowed us to exceed our goal allowing us to prepare 32 hampers and providing gifts.

The senior citizens and families really appreciated being thought of during this difficult time and praised the continuous generosity and community spirit of everyone at Brentside High School.



### PE Origin Series

This week saw the return to after school sports clubs following the recent national lockdown. To bring sport back with a bang, the PE department have introduced the Brentside Origin Series which will take place on three different weeks throughout the year, pitching students from P side against their counterparts on Q side, battling it out to decide which side is the best! Games started on Monday and continued throughout the week with the boys competing in football and the girls competing in netball.

The students have been very excited about taking part, continually checking the notice board to check they had been selected and talking tactics and formations. On Monday, Year 7 took centre stage producing thrilling games in both sports, the football was hotly contested with P side running out 2 – 1 winners and on the courts P side took the victory 10 – 3. On Tuesday last year's Middlesex finalists, Year 10, took to the field which was filled with tough challenges, top level skill and goals galore. In what was a tight game, Q side took home the spoils netting three late goals to take the win 4 – 0. On the courts the netball was fast paced and highly competitive with Yolanda leading her team to victory with calm and composed shooting with Q side 8, P side 4.

On Thursday, Year 9 took to the courts/astro to commence battle, in what was a celebration of sport and all that it entails. P side won 7-4 in netball and P side also won 4-2 in the football, a game which included 2 penalties!

Friday evening produced the most enthralling competition of the week when Year 8, P and Q sides went head to head. The boys led by Corey and Dominic competed in a very evenly matched contest ending 1 – 1 at the final whistle leading to a penalty shoot out to decide the winner with Q side taking home the bragging rights 3 – 1. In the netball P side took an early 2 – 0 lead only for Q side to battle back in the final quarter to even up the scores at the end of allocated time, but as with Origin, there must be a winner with Q side taking the spoils with a golden point goal.

Those results leave the current scores at P side 2, Q side 2. The first ever series will be completed when Year 11 return from mock examinations. Well done to everyone involved. The Origin Series will return later in the academic year to reignite the rivalry!



## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

### AUTUMN TERM

#### *December*

**Thursday, 17 December 2020**

- Last Day of Term
- Early Closure between 12:00-12:30

**Friday, 18 December 2020**

- Virtual INSET Day

**Monday, 21 December 2020 to Friday 01 January 2021**

- Christmas Holiday

### SPRING TERM

#### *February*

**Thursday, 11 February 2021**

- Last Day of half term for students

**Friday, 12 February 2021**

- Staff Training Day (School closed for students)

**Monday, 15 February 2021 to Friday 19 February 2021**

- Half Term Holiday

**Monday, 22 February 2021**

- School reopens for students

#### *March*

**Wednesday, 17 March 2021**

- Parent Forum meeting, 18:30-19:30 (via Microsoft Teams)

**Wednesday, 31 March 2021**

- Last Day of Term

#### *April*

**Thursday, 1 April 2021 to Friday 16 April 2021**

- Easter Holiday

**Monday, 19 April 2021**

- Start of Term

### SUMMER TERM

#### *May*

**Monday, 3 May 2021**

- May Day Bank Holiday

**Monday, 31 May 2021 to Friday 04 June 2021**

- Half Term Holiday

#### *June*

**Monday, 7 June 2021**

- School reopens for students

#### *July*

**Thursday, 22 July 2021**

- Last Day of Term
- Early closure (12:00-12:30)

**Friday, 23 July 2021 to Tuesday 31 August 2021**

- Summer Holiday