



Dear Student, Parent or Carer,

Reading this newsletter, you will see the shoots of a long-absented sense of pre-Covid normality that have begun to grow again at Brentside. Ms Kang and the science team are soon to welcome duck eggs that will hatch with us into ducklings, extracurricular activities are returning strongly in PE and our Year Leaders have all written about the achievements and progress made by our students as they move forward, strengthening their knowledge and understanding. Children in particular are resilient, and they will continue to adapt and learn and in doing so over time any gaps in their understanding will close. Next year will see an extended focus on a range of skills that will support students to accelerate their progress further, but for now, they are on the right track and working hard and I continue to be proud of both them and their teachers.

Against this backdrop of new growth, there are some aspects of life at Brentside that are drawing to a close. Students in Year 11, Year 13 and those in Year 12 on one-year courses come to the end of their formal timetabled lessons with us today. Whilst the majority of our Year 11 students will return to us for subject taster sessions and then full time from September, we realise that today is a significant day for all 'leavers' as it marks the end of one specific part of their journey through education.

This is a time of reflection and I am sure that students and teachers will be reflecting on the journey from new students in Year 7 to the young adults that we see today. There will have been ups and downs on the journey, as there are for all of us in life, but what our young people have achieved, particularly more recently against a backdrop of a global pandemic, is phenomenal. Our students are mature, responsible, hardworking, caring, entertaining and characterful; they are the reason we come to work and our reward for doing so. But I am summarising and generalising; those of you with children in these year groups will know exactly what they have become and what makes them uniquely special. I encourage those students who have completed Year 13 to go on to the next stage with confidence; you are ready for that next step and you are equipped to do well in it. You will find your way; give yourself the time to do so. I know that even where our last day celebrations have needed to be scaled down, there will be time shared with those who matter most and lasting mementos of these days.

I make no apologies for focussing for so long on our older year groups as this is their time, but I do also want to commend our other year groups, or perhaps more specifically the hundreds of individual children who add value to their lessons, share their learning and ideas with peers and work with their teachers so positively and constructively. I would like to recognise the fantastic manners, kindness and community spirit that hundreds of our students show so consistently. Well done; it matters who we each are and how we choose to act.

Finally, I would like to share my continued thanks to all of our students and the families who support them for the way that we all continue to adhere or adapt to Brentside's Covid response measures. Whilst I have written about the signs of hope and change that we are starting to feel in the school, I must also remind our whole school community that there are Covid Variants of Concern in nearby areas and that we must all continue to home test and to maintain our Covid hygiene measures in order to avoid a resurgence of the virus.

I wish all of our students and their families a half term break that is restful and enjoyable and potentially that even involves a little sunshine.

Yours sincerely,

Ms Charlotte Hames
Headteacher



Year 7

Year 7 have had a fantastic half term. In recent weeks, we have welcomed the return of clubs and Year 7 have been very keen to get involved. There has been a high uptake with football, table tennis and running clubs amongst others. Some of our Year 7 students have even been meeting before school to walk the daily mile. We have continued to celebrate achievements in mathematics with weekly shout outs and have been using a weekly league table of merits to see which tutor group has gained the most. Currently, it is a very close race between 7R, 7T and 7H.

We look forward to seeing many more students rewarded for their excellence next half term. Congratulations to all of our students on a fantastic half term and we look forward to seeing them after the break, in their final term as Year 7.

Year 8

Another brilliant term has been completed by Year 8. It has been engaging and busy with students receiving their results and progress grades for this year. We have been

proud of the resilience and determination shown by so many in the year group towards their assessments and their overall progress this year. Many have also engaged in extra-curricular activities on offer after school, such as football, table tennis and netball. It is great to see some normality coming back to Brentside life. A particular well done to all the students nominated in the mathematics shout outs and our winners of the art competitions. A big shout out to tutor group 8D for their fantastic attitude to learning in the classroom, resulting in them being top of the merit board for 3 weeks in a row! Brilliant work all round by these students. Let us hope for a wonderful summer, allowing many to enjoy their first experience of wearing the red Brentside polo shirts!

Year 9

Year 9 started this half term with the challenge of writing their internal assessments in the hall and in their classrooms under 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 and how to approach examination questions under pressure. We have also used tutor times to provide guidance on revision skills, such as retrieval practice and it has been good to see students using these strategies in lessons and homework following those conversations. In addition, Year 9 students have been attending the Confident Learners' Group for additional academic support as well as to provide support for student wellbeing. We have also been delighted to see so many Year 9 students attending the before school table tennis club. We continue to be impressed with their maturity in dealing with the Covid protocols and the changes to the school day and are very proud of them.

Year 10

Year 10 have been consolidating their learning over the last term, in preparation for their end of Year 10 assessments which start on Monday, 14 June. It has been good to see many of our students taking up the opportunities after school to further their own learning as well as those using the online resources which the school provides. Their latest reports were shared with families this week which showed that we have a lot to celebrate in terms of academic progress as well as excellent attitude to learning across all subjects. We have started looking at options for our students post-16 and all students will be offered an appointment with our careers advisor from Connexions over the coming months to discuss their choices. We will also continue to explore Post 16 options in assemblies and tutor time.

We would like to share our significant congratulations to Basmala 10R for winning the borough Inspire competition for the second time.

We wish all our students a relaxing and restoring half term ahead of their final term in Year 10.

Sixth Form

It has been great spending these last few months with our Sixth Form students. They have had a lot to deal with in the last year and teachers have enjoyed being able to teach their students face to face again. Students continue to engage fully in their lessons and to sign up for a variety of additional programmes to continue to increase their competitive edge over their peers as they plan for their futures.

Saying goodbye to Year 13 students

No sooner have we welcomed back our Year 13 students when it feels as if we are saying goodbye again.

They have worked extremely hard these last few weeks to

prepare for their May assessments in order to demonstrate their true potential. They have also been finalising their university choices and completing their applications for student finance. This is always a challenging and busy time of year for Year 13 students, but they have demonstrated their resilience, dedication, and maturity throughout. We are all extremely proud of them.

Mahima, Year 13 says *"It has been lovely to be back following our lockdown and be able to spend a little bit of time with everyone at school before we continue onto our next stage in our lives. We are all very excited!"*

Level 2, Year 12 students

The Level 2 business administration course is also finishing and students are being encouraged to apply for Level 3 courses that interest them. They have worked diligently to complete their coursework assignments and prepare for assessments.

We wish them great success in whatever they choose to pursue and hope to see them back at Brentside in September for Level 3 business.

Level 3, Year 12 students

Year 12 students continue to work hard in their lessons.

Those that are not achieving their target grades in two or more subjects have been enrolled in *5 o'clock club* where they can work to improve their weaker subjects. Their Year 12 Summer Examinations will take place the first week back after half term (starting 7 June). They are also beginning to consider their options for the future. Friday 25 June is called Futures Day and is when Year 12 students will participate in workshops and seminars designed to help them make decisions about life after sixth form and to start the university application process. Our Connexions Officer – Ms Dionne Bailey – continues to advise students on their options. Appointments can be booked via email.



Red polo shirts are allowed to be worn by all year groups instead of your shirt and tie from Monday, 7 June 2021. Students may alternatively, continue to wear the usual uniform.

You can purchase these from our school uniform suppliers:

✚ **Ke vins** - 17 The Broadway, Greenford, UB6 9PH

Click for website [here](#).

✚ **Sanco** - 60 Bell Road, Hounslow, TW3 3PB

Click for website [here](#).



Inter Borough Inspire competition

Once again, one of our Inspire students, **Basmala 10R** has won an inter borough Inspire competition.

This time competition was based on the last two Inspire sessions which covered mathematics and geography modules.

We are especially pleased to point out that this is the second of such competitions that Basmala has won. We are proud of all of our Inspire students.

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Good News from the MFL Department

In MFL, since we returned from lockdown, we have been very busy with our students and the different assessments that have taken place in Years 8, 9 and 11.

We have now successfully completed the final internal assessments with our Year 11 groups and we look forward to the results that the students will receive in August.

We will then be assessing the progress and understanding of our Year 7 and Year 10 students in June.

In our lessons we have been building in a lot of exciting new techniques for students to use in the future, with an emphasis on communication and building confidence in speaking. We expect that from next year, students will be able to travel again with the school for an overseas trip to France or Spain and therefore the spoken language is vital for our young students to develop. Not only this, but it is a big part of the GCSE examinations, which are planned to return as normal in 2022. It is going to be good times ahead and there is a lot to be positive about.

United Kingdom Mathematics Trusts (UKMT)



The aim of the UKMT is to advance the education of young people in mathematics. Problem

solving, teamwork and other mathematical enrichment activities are promoted through the biggest competition; Junior, Intermediate, Senior and Kangaroo Mathematical Challenges. This year the UKMT has had to deal with the additional challenge of Covid-19. However, our students have embraced the changes and the Maths Challenges have all had to be taken online. Over 380 students of Brentside High School have taken part with the following results:

- **Senior Challenge** - 1 Gold, 7 Silver and 16 Bronze
- **Intermediate Challenge** - 1 Gold, 6 Silver and 16 Bronze
- **Junior Challenge** - awaiting results.

Congratulations to **Yakub 11E**, for qualifying in the Pink Kangaroo Challenge and being awarded a Merit.

Congratulations to all students for their participation and achievements!

British Science Week is a ten-day celebration of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics that takes place between 11-20 March 2022!

The science team have already become involved by celebrating the diverse careers in science. On top of that we challenged students to create models to represent a topic in science.

Here are the top entries:

1. **Vinu 8R**, created an excellent poster on the solar system.
2. **Farah 8I**, created an impressive poster discussing the benefits of healthy eating.
3. **Shenola 7S**, created a wonderful 3D model to represent a cell.

However, after such a difficult deliberation we decided to award **Suruthija 8R**, first place for the excellent 3D model of a DNA, cleverly using plasticine. Congratulations!

BRENTSIDE HIGH SCHOOL LEARNING & ACHIEVING TOGETHER

Science Week in Brentside High School

Vinu Year 8
Suruthija Year 8 Winner
Farah Year 8
Shenola Year 7

The science team introduced to all Key Stage 3 students the **Step into the NHS Careers competition.**

BRENTSIDE HIGH SCHOOL LEARNING & ACHIEVING TOGETHER

Step into the NHS Careers competition

Vinu Year 8
Suruthija Year 8
Zahra Year 7
Good Luck!

We wanted students to choose an NHS career that interests them and to create a job description and an advert to tell their friends and other young people about it. The competition also offers students in Years 7 and 8 the chance to win a £25 or £50 Amazon voucher and a prize for their class!

The Learning Support department - are delighted that we have been able to restart our **Speech and Language groups** and **Catch Up reading programme.**

We are renewing our focus on improving literacy and oracy skills and everyone involved is pleased to be working together again. Well done to all.

Religious Studies: Year 8 Learning in Action

Year 8 students have been learning about Judaism in religious studies, as part of their study of major world religions. We were delighted to see how well the students responded to this scheme of work, and particularly pleased to receive an email from Antony 8B celebrating his home made challah bread. Challah is traditionally eaten by Jewish families every Friday night at the start of the sabbath. It looks delicious- well done!



Imperial College students working with Brentside physics students

From January to March of this year, Brentside was fortunate enough to work with physics undergraduate students from Imperial College London. They worked with a sample of our A Level physics and GCSE physics students to support them in their studies by teaching them many challenging topics whilst producing a series of resources to aid our students in their understanding and revision. Our students received invaluable insight and the presence of role models from very diverse backgrounds - a student from the Shetlands (whose family rear sheep,) a female

physicist excelling in her field, and a physicist from an urban background similar to Brentside's- showed our students the value of education and the opportunities which may come from it.

Science Department brings you Chick Club!

You all have the opportunity to be a part of a unique experience and see life hatch right in front of your eyes.

We are hatching ducklings this year.

You will get the chance to meet the ducklings.

We will have to remain in our bubbles when meeting the ducklings.

Look out for posters and information and updates closer to the time.

Any questions please feel free to direct them to Miss Kang.

Incredible eggs
Responsible Experienced Ethical

Coming Soon!
A truly unforgettable 10 day experience...

BRENTSIDE HIGH SCHOOL Learning and Achieving together

We are going to hatch some ducklings!

Our eggs arrive on: **Tuesday 08 June 2021**

They will be hatching around: **Thursday 10 June 2021**

The ducklings will be leaving us on: **Friday 18 June 2021**

Please see Miss Kang (F6) for more details

Sixth Form Sociology and Psychology

This week our Year 13 students sat their final internal assessments, and we in the **sociology** and **psychology** department wish each student every success. Since the first lockdown was announced in March 2020, our students continued to work tirelessly towards their future success. Online learning was available from the very beginning and **sociology** and **psychology** students pictured below

maintained excellent attendance, motivation, and enthusiasm for learning from the very outset. We wish all our students every success.



School Cabinet

The School Cabinet continue to meet online. Our recent focus is on developing our careers provision by contacting alumni and employers to create videos about their jobs. Thanks to Leena and Olla in Year 7 who emailed our linked employers. We are delighted that Simphiwe Micheline and Lucy Cranwell-Ward have created videos about their role as nurse and entrepreneur respectively. These videos will be shown to all year groups in assembly to develop students' understanding of the range of career paths on offer and the skills and qualifications needed to reach these goals.

Parent Forum

The Parent Forum is open to all parents/ carers and we



look forward to welcoming you to our next meeting on **Wednesday, 9 June at 18:30 via Microsoft Teams**. If you would like to propose an agenda item and/or attend this meeting, please email info@brentsidehigh.ealing.sch.uk by **Monday, 7 June at 17:00**.



We are delighted to welcome Irum Hamad and Susan Powrie as the new Co-Chairs of Friends@Brentside. Our PTA will be sending a separate newsletter about their fund raising proposals. Please check your email inbox for further details.

Has your child grown out of their uniform? If so, we are collecting all second hand uniform for our second hand uniform sale. Please drop your bag at reception labelled FAO: Friends@Brentside by Friday, 11 June. All funds raised by Friends@Brentside go directly to benefit students at the school. For more information about Friends@Brentside, visit our page on the school website: <http://www.brentsidehigh.ealing.sch.uk/349/friendsbrentside>

The next F@B meeting will be on **Wednesday, 9 June at 19:15**. If you'd like to join this meeting, please email info@brentsidehigh.ealing.sch.uk to access the Teams invite.

PE Clubs are Back!

It's a hive of activity in the main hall from very early in the morning as staff and students strive to be the table tennis champions. It was wonderful to see a mix of GCSE PE students, staff and students who just enjoy table tennis battling for first place in the round robin competition. Mr Reynolds held his own against Saskia in Year 9, but that could all change at any point!



Looking the part

We are delighted to introduce our new PE kit for Brentside football and netball teams and can't wait for our teams to play in fixtures soon.



Fundraising

While we are unable to fundraise in person, you can still support F@B in the following ways:

Amazon Smile: choose 'Friends at Brentside' as your designated cause at

<https://smile.amazon.co.uk> and donate to us while shopping but at no extra cost to you.

Easyfundraising: shop at more than 4,000 online retailers and donate to F@B, again at no extra cost to you, at www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/friendsatbrentside.



Facebook



Please follow us on Facebook at

<https://www.facebook.com/Friends-of-Brentside-High-School-107212870745020> or get in touch by email at

hello@friendsatbrentside.org.uk

We would love to hear from you if you have any fundraising ideas or would like to help in any way, no matter how small. Do get in touch if you would like to know more about our fundraising activities.

Careers at Brentside

Are you able to deliver an assembly or form time activity or run a workshop to educate our students about the job you do? If your answer is yes then we'd love to hear from you. Please email info@brentsidehigh.ealing.sch.uk

Please do take a look at the useful careers resources on our website by following the link [Careers Education, Information, Advice and Guidance \(CEIAG\) - Brentside High School](#)

Social Equality at Brentside

This week saw the first anniversary of the killing of George Floyd; a tragedy sparking international outrage and calls for institutional review. Many schools, including Brentside, also reflected on what more we could do to contribute to greater social equality in the future.

This week, our assemblies focussed on what each of us can do to support equality, as well as reflecting on the significant and impactful events of a year ago. We thought it apt to share with you an update on how Brentside is responding.

We are proud of the multi-faceted diversity of our school community and we recognise the value that the diverse experiences, identities, beliefs and cultures that our students and staff bring to our classrooms adds to our learning. In addition, this year, we identified three main priorities around equality:

1. Reviewing our curriculum to identify where we celebrate and educate about diversity.
2. Developing our curriculum to increase opportunities to reflect the creativity, literature, scientific and mathematical achievements of people from a wide range of backgrounds.
3. Undertaking training to extend our understanding as a staff body of unconscious bias.

In reviewing our curriculum, we identified many examples of how we explore and support our knowledge and understanding of our diverse society, for example studying artists across a range of cultures and experiences, learning about the six major world religions and looking at the diversity of life in the UK today. We believe though that we are able to develop our curriculum even further through our end of year reviews of our schemes of learning and we will work on this next half term.

Each week this year Brentside High School has celebrated an *Equality and Diversity Champion of the Week* through the student and staff bulletins. We seek to inspire our students, staff and the wider community through the many achievements of the featured British champions, who come from a variety of cultural backgrounds, faiths and times, and include both local and national heroes. We next plan to dedicate time towards celebrating histories and heritage through student-led assemblies in the future.

You may be aware that there were concerns raised nationally at the start of the year about unconscious bias influencing the grades that some students in examination groups last year achieved nationally. We can confirm that the analysis of our students' achievement last year does not mirror these national concerns. However, understanding unconscious bias is powerful and we have prioritised training on unconscious bias in our staff professional development programme this year and staff have taken part in a number of sessions.

In addition to our annual development focus, we continue to support equality of experience and achievement in a variety of ways through our usual practice. This includes through specific events, but also through the values, role models, behaviours and expectations within our school. By working together to educate and create greater knowledge

and understanding, we all have the ability to support a better future for our shared society and we thank you for supporting your child to contribute successfully to this.

We proudly stand together every day against discrimination in any form and we strive to ensure that the behaviours and language of our whole school community promote tolerance, understanding, kindness and inclusion for all.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

SUMMER TERM

May

Monday, 31 May 2021 (Bank Holiday) to **Friday 04 June 2021**

- Half Term Holiday

June

Monday, 7 June 2021

- School re-opens for students

Wednesday, 9 June 2021

- Parent Forum (via Microsoft Teams), 18:30
- Friends@Brentside (via Microsoft Teams) 19:15

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

August

Tuesday, 10 August 2021

- GCE results

Thursday, 12 August 2021

- GCSE Results