



BRENTSIDE HIGH SCHOOL

LEARNING AND ACHIEVING TOGETHER

Email: info@brentsidehigh.ealing.sch.uk

Website: www.brentsidehigh.ealing.sch.uk

Dear Parent/Carer and Student,

The sunshine we have welcomed this week seems a fitting and celebratory end to a term that has seen much change and some challenge for us all. It feels a very long time ago that we were listening to public announcements signalling a national return to lockdown at the start of 2021. After more than half a term of staff and students working together remotely, we were delighted to return to on-site provision from 8 March. This return came with a real focus on welcoming back and supporting our students to confidently embed their understanding of learning carried out at home. In addition, we faced the challenge of setting up a COVID-19 testing facility capable of testing 1,600 students, three times, as part of the national plan to train students to tests at home.

I am taking this opportunity to thank you, our parents and carers, firstly for your fantastic work in supporting your child's home learning and secondly for overwhelmingly supporting the testing programme. We understand that there are individuals for whom testing has not been appropriate and we thank you for sharing that information with us also.

I would also like to thank publicly our brilliant NHS-trained testing team of school administrators, learning support staff, school governors, teachers, leaders, and external staff who worked to ensure that our students were reassured, supported and guided effectively.

As we have long come to expect, Brentside's students have risen to the challenge, readjusting to learning in class, positively engaging and sharing their ideas and questions, supporting each other in the process. It is always impressive what can be achieved when we work together towards shared goals and we have been overwhelmed by the contributions of everyone to keeping each other safe and making progress in learning. Student attendance has been excellent, as it always is at Brentside; a strong reflection of our students' commitment to their learning and our school.

Our students in Year 11, Year 13 and those in Year 12 on the one-year courses, have also adapted to national changes in assessment. We learned this term that grades will be based on a range of evidence illustrating the standards that students are working at. We will continue to share nationally released and school specific information with students and families through assemblies, letters and filmed presentations. For now, our students should feel confident that they have already illustrated a great deal of what they know, understand and can do during their courses and we know that they are keen to take the opportunity to reflect the new progress have made in their May assessments. Many students will be joining us during the school break to take part in revision sessions, which are always well attended. We wish all of our students well in their final assessments and we are confident that all Brentside students have the opportunity to achieve well

through this system in relation to their own abilities.

The most recent guidance around grading this year was released today. Having reviewed that and last week's national releases, we ask for your support in managing a change to the calendared Early Closure staff training date, which will move from Wednesday 23 June (which will now become a usual full length day) to Tuesday, 27 April (which will see students attending school but leaving early as detailed at the end of this newsletter). This will enable staff to work through the newly released requirements of the grade awarding process, including working with examination board training materials illustrating the standards expected at each grade at GCSE, BTEC and A Level this year.

In addition, as we go into the holidays, prior to returning to school for the summer term, we ask for parent and carer support to ensure that all students return to school after the break comfortable to remove hats and hoods in the buildings. The ventilation in classrooms as a risk reduction measure meant that in the winter months, despite the increase in classroom heating, some areas of the classroom were cooler and so coats were allowed. Most students have now removed these, but some have felt uncomfortable about 'lockdown hair'. We know that appointments at the hairdressers will be popular and so please book early if 'lockdown hair' is something that your child is conscious of. We will expect all students to remove hats and hoods in the building next term.

Finally, I look forward to returning to school next term in the role of Headteacher. I would like to thank Mrs MacInnes for her work as Interim Co-Headteacher; I could not have had a better partner.

Wishing you all a good break and we look forward to seeing all of our students back with us on Monday, 19 April.

Ms Charlotte Hames
Headteacher



Year 7

Year 7 have made a fantastic return to school. It was an absolute joy to see their smiling faces again after so long and we are incredibly proud of the way they have settled back into learning. In the last few weeks, we have celebrated some fantastic work in maths, with weekly shoutouts from their teachers. Several students have been commended by the art department and received 'artist of the month' awards and some have entered a national art competition to make a piece of art celebrating our planet to be shown at the UN COP meeting later this year. I am so impressed by their resilience and adaptability and while we wish them a relaxing Easter break, we cannot wait to see them all again in April.

Year 8

It has been wonderful to be back at school and to be able to continue our successful academic journey as a year group. A lot has happened since the return from lockdown in Year 8! During this spring term Year 8 have completed their internal assessments and completed their options forms. Year 8 students have done very well to achieve so much in the short time we have been back in school. We would specially like to congratulate Stella 8D for her brilliantly written personal statement for the 'You're Hired' competition. Stella was provided with a £20 voucher from Amazon for her efforts and outstanding work. The mathematics department are also completing 'shoutouts' to students who are making brilliant strides in mathematics. We would also like to congratulate all students who took part in the COVID-19 testing, it has been a new experience for all of us and Year 8 students again have been able to rise to the challenge. Once again congratulations to all in Year 8 and enjoy a restful Easter holiday.

Year 9

It has been a pleasure to welcome Year 9 back into school in early March – and what a fantastic transition it has been to see them back in the classroom and engaging with their learning. The main focus for our Year 9 students this half term has been preparation for the internal assessments 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 assessments and will carry this forward into the summer term and beyond. In assembly, we have celebrated outstanding achievements in a variety of lessons, whilst encouraging participation of extracurricular activities, such as writing and performing poetry to celebrate World Poetry Day and writing a report as part of the United Nation's investigation into water usage. A big congratulations to Fatimah 9G, who has been selected for the UCL Scholars Programme and is also a finalist of the 'You're Hired' competition.

Year 10

Year 10 have returned to the classroom with a renewed energy for learning and are to be commended for their focus in class and good work. It has also been wonderful to see friendships renewed as well as collegiality in class. We have also been impressed by their mature approach to the new COVID-19 protocols and testing which has enabled us to have excellent attendance. Year 10 have access to many resources online to support their learning and we will continue to encourage them to use these, as well as the support offered in school, as they prepare for their GCSEs at the end of next year. We look forward to you all continuing with positive and ambitious attitudes.

Year 11

As we come to the end of term a huge congratulations

goes out to our Year 11 students for the positive way in which they have returned to school post lockdown. They have managed so much including the new COVID-19 protocols and waiting patiently for information from the government about their final assessments. Year 11 have been very mature and have conducted themselves in a way that we are beyond proud of as your teachers.

This is a testing time for our Year 11 students as the end of year assessments draw nearer. As ever students have been mature and positive, and they are to be reminded that they can reach out to the team at any time for further support. We look forward to welcoming students to the Easter revision sessions and know they will use this as an opportunity to receive the additional support from their teachers. A big well done goes out to Emilia 11I, who has won the 'You're Hired' careers competition for Year 11. We were informed that the application process was difficult, and employers were extremely impressed!

We wish you a lovely Easter break and please do keep safe and well.

Sixth Form

It was lovely to welcome Sixth Formers back into school this half term. The first week provided us with the opportunity to re-integrate students with classroom teaching and to review their learning. Our mock exam week went smoothly with students completing all of their exams. 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.

Year 12 students

Year 12 have made a positive start to their in-class lessons and are beginning to consider their options for the future. To launch our programme of events, which support Year 12 students in finding the best option for their future, we have invited them to sign-up for the UCAS Online Discovery Days which, for the London area, are 20-21 April 2021. There will be opportunities to explore the following options and take part in live sessions:

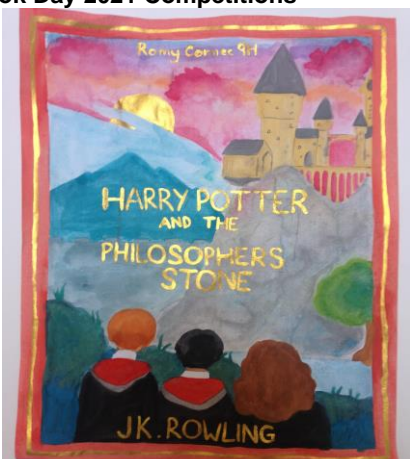
- explore over 100 UK universities.
- get inspiration and explore different career opportunities.
- understand if an apprenticeship is right for you.
- take part in live sessions and get your questions answered by the experts.
- get practical help on personal statements, accommodation, student loans, and more.
- hear from current university students.

Year 13 students

Year 13 students continue to engage in their lessons knowing that this is their opportunity to show us what they are truly capable of. Alongside their studies, they are making important choices about their futures. We celebrate that most of our students have secured offers for multiple universities, so they are in the fortunate position of being able to choose from their firm and back-up choices. We are conducting face-to-face interviews with students to provide them with the support they need to make the best choice they can.

Our Connexions Officer - Ms Dionne Bailey, held an MS Teams session to inform students of the various options regarding student finance (loans and grants), bursaries and scholarships. She continues to offer her time and advice to students as and when they need it.

English/Library Event World Book Day 2021 Competitions



Congratulations to Romy 9H, Stella 8D and Samrat 13I, winners of our World Book Day competitions.

Romy's well-deserved prize was for her stunning book cover design for 'Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone'. An engaging, thorough review of Jacqueline Wilson's 'Hetty Feather' earned Stella a prize too.

Those students who borrow regularly from our eBook Library were automatically entered into a prize draw; Samrat was the lucky winner. Thank you to everyone who entered our competitions.

School Cabinet

The School Cabinet continue to meet weekly online. Agenda items have included a review of the transition back to school; evaluation of National Careers Week; analysis of the student careers survey and preparing for the student panel as part of the headteacher interview process. We continue to be impressed by the commitment and professionalism of our student cabinet. Well done all!

Parent Forum

Thank you to all the parents/carers who attended the Parent Forum on 17 March. There were lots of positive comments covering a range of issues such as online parents' evenings, students settling into face-to-face learning and the support given to students on their return, ensuring a smooth transition. Parents/carers asked for information about lateral flow testing at home. Students have had the lateral flow test process explained in school and a letter has been sent to all parents/carers detailing this process. Questions were raised about whether online parents' evenings could continue in the future after lockdown, and we will review this proposal.

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.

Careers at Brentside

National Careers Week:

This month saw the launch of National Careers Week. Students of all year groups were given daily resources and events to develop their knowledge and understanding of a range of careers as well as the skills needed to be successful in the next phase of their life. We are delighted by the number of students who continue to register with Up Skill Me, our free online platform for recording students' successes and accessing careers resources and information.

You're Hired Competition Winners:

We are very pleased by the number of students who took part in our 'You're Hired' competition where students applied for their dream job. There were some fantastic applications, and the panel of judges were very impressed with the high quality of many of the applications.

- **Key Stage 3 winner: Stella (Year 8)**
- **Key Stage 4 winner: Emilia (Year 11)**

Form time activities:

We continue to explore careers through form time activities. Students have enjoyed taking part in a quiz about staff careers and learning jobs and skills for the future.

Parental Engagement:

We are very grateful to our parent governor, Mandy Cayford, who has kindly offered to run a workshop for students sharing her experiences of working at Sky. Mandy will be working closely with our head of media studies to deliver a workshop on this theme in the near future. We look forward to welcoming any parent/carer who is able to deliver an assembly or workshop to support our careers programme.

Please contact info@brentsidehigh.ealing.sch.uk if you would like to contribute to this exciting programme.

Careers Survey:

Thanks to all the students who completed our careers survey. This information has been analysed by the Careers Leader and the School Cabinet. Students told us they are clear on how different careers link to their curriculum and have asked for support with CV writing and preparing for interviews. We will be re-visiting these topics in our careers programme.

Careers Governor:

We are delighted that Hetal Joshi has taken on the role of Careers Education Information Advice and Guidance (CEIAG) governor. Hetal is very well qualified for this role and comes with a wealth of experience as Careers Leader in Further Education. We look forward to working closely with her over the coming months.

Careers Resources on our website:

Students and parents/carers can find useful careers guidance and resources on our website by following the link [Careers Education, Information, Advice and Guidance \(CEIAG\) - Brentside High School](#)



Friends at Brentside (F@B) is Brentside High School's PTA and a registered charity (number 1184493). Despite the impact of COVID-19 on our fundraising, we



have been able to fund a new stage piano for the music department which will benefit students across all year groups.

New committee and search for a new treasurer

At our AGM on Wednesday, 17 March, three of our wonderful founding committee members sadly resigned

due to increasing commitments but we are incredibly grateful to Jackie Morning, Tereza Ledlova and Pauline Hamri for all their efforts and years of commitment in setting up a PTA from scratch and raising money for the benefit of our students. We are delighted to welcome Irum Hamad and Susan Powrie as our new co-chairs, to support the secretary Michelle Duby.

We currently have a vacancy for treasurer, so please do get in touch at hello@friendsatbrentside.org.uk if you think you might be able to help with our finances. The role is not too onerous, and you will be supported by the committee and other volunteers.

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 us in any way, no matter how small. Do get in touch if you would like to know more about our fundraising activities.

SPRING TERM

March

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

Tuesday, 27 April 2021

- Early Closure for staff training

SUMMER TERM

May

Monday, 3 May 2021

- May Day Bank Holiday

Thursday, 6 May 2021

- Year 10 Parent's evening, 16:30-19:30 (via School Cloud)

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

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

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Changes to Published Calendar Dates:

Year 10 Parents' Evening will take place on **Thursday, 6 May 2021** remotely via School Cloud from 16:30-19:30. Details will be shared with families about how to access this user-friendly online tool.

Early Closure on **Wednesday, 23 June 2021**, will no longer go ahead as calendared. The Early Closure will now be **Tuesday, 27 April 2021**.

Students in Years 7 to 9 leave at 13:15, with the opportunity for students in Year 7 P side and Year 9, (who would usually have lunch at 13:15) to stay on site for lunch should they wish to. Years 10 and Year 12 finish at 13:40. Year 11 and 13 also finish at 13:40, with the opportunity to have lunch before they leave site.

There will be no provision on school site after 14:00, due to calendared staff training.