



Parent and Carers' Newsletter

Friday, 11 February 2022

Email: info@brentsidehigh.ealing.sch.uk

Website: www.brentsidehigh.ealing.sch.uk

Dear Student, Parent or Carer,

As we reach the end of this half term, I would like to start by thanking parents and carers for all that you have done to support your child's progress and to work in partnership with the school this term. It has been wonderful to have parents and carers back on site for some of our events and to continue to work with you online through SchoolCloud and other platforms. Our school website's Contact Us section gives the email addresses of our staff and many of you have contacted us to share feedback or ask questions, enabling us to work together more closely to support your child, which has been much appreciated.

Last night we had many of our Year 11 parents on site for our Examinations Information Evening and it was wonderful to be able to say directly to you all that there is nothing that we cannot achieve if we work together. Your partnership and involvement matters.

Schools are always about continual improvement. Next half term we will be having a real push on punctuality to all lessons, by all children, and on bringing the correct equipment. These both sound like basic expectations, and they are, but they are also barriers to learning if not in place. I thank you in advance for your support with this. If your child does not have a filled pencil case (or calculator) you can purchase one easily through the School Shop link on the school's website. The pencil cases are £2.05.

As I write this, the sun is shining and I can see our students sat on the new picnic benches in the playground. The scene captures the positivity in the air at Brentside. Our students have achieved so much this year so far. We have record numbers of students being awarded the Gold Merits Award (100 merits) and a growing list of Platinum winners (200) merits, our School Cabinet has elected new members, our sports teams have represented us valiantly and with skill, our students continue to be award winners (Jack Petchey, artist of the month, poetry, mathematics, STEM Aspire winners and so much more). We remain so proud of our students for the progress they are making and the gaps in any knowledge, understanding or skills that they, working with their teachers, are closing daily.

On behalf of all the staff at Brentside we wish you and your family an enjoyable break.

Yours faithfully,

Ms Charlotte Hames
Headteacher

Year 7

Year 7 students have completed another successful term and there are many things to celebrate. In particular, congratulations to form group 7E, for consistently achieving the highest merits within the year group and Form group 7S, who have worked very hard on their attendance as a form have secured first place last term. With the Year 7 doing so well in so many assessments this term, we know that they are feeling more confident in their high school experience. A special mention and congratulations to Ninia 7D, who contributed to and participated in our fantastic *Harry Potter* event with Ms Parr. As we reach the end of this half term, it is important for Year 7 to set targets to attend as many clubs as possible and also to continue to strive for the rewards that will be received at the end of the spring term with a pizza and movie event. Let the competition continue! Have a lovely break Year 7 and we look forward to seeing you on your return.

Year 8

Year 8 have had a fantastic start to 2022. We have had record numbers of students visiting the Headteacher to receive their gold and platinum merit awards which has been lovely to see. We have also been supporting the girls' and boys' football teams in recent tournaments and at the end of last year we saw a number of Year 8 students performing in the Winter Concert. This year we have also



seen a large number of Year 8 students making successful applications to become members of the school cabinet and it is brilliant to see a year group with so much talent and ambition.

This will be the last good news post from me, as I will be leaving at the beginning of next term to start maternity leave. I love being the Year Leader of such a wonderful group of young people and will miss them all dearly. Their new year leader will be Mr Hole with whom they will be in very safe hands and of course Ms Matthews will be continuing as SAFE worker. I am already looking forward to coming back and seeing how grown up they have become when I return. I want to thank you all for your support as parents/carers this year and to give the students a massive congratulations for what they have all achieved so far. I cannot wait to find out what more they have achieved when I return – Ms Carter.

I am really looking forward to taking on the role of Year Leader and covering for Miss Carter while she is away and to working closely with you throughout my time as Year Leader. I am very proud to be part of such a fantastic year group and know that we can achieve some amazing things together - Mr Hole.

Year 9

The Year 9 students continue to do well in lessons and are starting to appreciate the demands needed to succeed in their GCSE subjects. Many teachers continue to provide positive feedback, and this is shown in the number of merits achieved across all subject areas and form tutors. It has been fantastic to see so many Year 9 students continue to enjoy the extra-curricular activities, such as football and netball. Again, if you haven't already done so, get signed up to the many clubs on offer. There is something for everyone, even in the mornings, if you enjoy table tennis. The Year 9 football team brilliantly represented the school in their quarter final against Gunnersbury High School, unfortunately losing to them in penalties. Their resilience and team spirit were amazing. We wish our Year 9 students a restful half term break and look forward to welcoming them back to the second half of their journey in Year 9.

Year 10

The Year 10 students have worked hard this half term and continue to progress with their GCSE studies and have shown a good level of commitment and a thirst for learning. During assemblies they have been reminded that having a positive mind set for every challenge that comes their way will enable them to progress even further. There has been an increase in the number of students that have met with the Headteacher to celebrate receiving their Gold and Platinum awards and this is a wonderful achievement. Several students in the GCSE Physical Education group have been supporting the department at the fixtures and events for younger year groups. Their support and encouragement have been a motivating presence for the Key Stage Three groups – Well done!

Year 11

Year 11 have made a very positive start to 2022 and the final weeks of lessons before their exams. We held a Mock Results afternoon, where they were given their December Internal Assessment grades. We had a lot of achievements to celebrate, as well as looking at the next steps to achieving our goals. Each student has a booklet to use to set themselves personal targets in each subject based on their own grades. Each student has been invited to different subject exam preparation sessions which are



offered at different times of the day, and it is pleasing to see how many are making use of these sessions. We held a very successful English Walking Talking exam day, where the teachers went through the English exam question by question, with all students to focus on

improving exam technique. This saw a real improvement in marks. In addition, we had very good attendance at the Saturday exam preparation session on Charles Dickens' *A Christmas Carol*.

In addition to preparing for the upcoming exams, our Year 11 students have been having meetings with our Connexions advisor as well as applying for their Post 16 Options to prepare for life after GCSE. It is inspiring to see all the different careers they are aspiring to and the future they are building for themselves. Year 11 deserve praise for their resilience, hard work and the kindness they are showing toward each other as they face their exams. We know you can do it!

Sixth Form

It was lovely to welcome our Sixth Formers back following the Christmas holidays. The term started with Mock Exam Week for Year 12 and Year 13, with many of our students demonstrating they are on track or exceeding their target grades. Following our parents' evening, Year 13 students continue to work hard in their lessons, knowing that this is their final opportunity to ensure they demonstrate their full potential. 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 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 – regularly informs 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.

Year 12 students 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 Day events.

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 real students.

Online Criminology conference

In February, the sociology and psychology department organised attendance to an online criminology conference. The aim of the conference was to give students an insight into the study of criminology and criminal investigations at undergraduate level and included talks from leading experts in the field. Professor Graham Pike discussed miscarriages of justice, Professor Winlow discussed the relationship between men and violence, and Dr. Graham Hill discussed the use of offender profiling.

The students were most enchanted with Noel 'Razor' Smith; a convicted bank robber, who has spent most of his adult life behind bars. Whilst in prison, he taught himself to read and is now a celebrated author who has contributed to newspapers such as the Guardian, the New Statesman and others.

Architects run Year 13 Art and Design Workshop

Year 13 Art and Design BTEC students have had the wonderful opportunity to take part in the National Schools Programme, run by the Royal Institute of British Architects and Pitshanger Manor Gallery.

During the programme, students visited the Pitshanger Manor Gallery where they researched the work of John Soanne and met two professional architects from the Royal Institute of British Architects. Following on from the Pitshanger trip the architects gave the students a brief and delivered a series of model making workshops in school. The architects were very inspired and impressed by the work of Brentside High students.

The outcomes from the project will be exhibited on the Royal Institute of British Architects' website, which is very exciting news. The dates of the exhibition will be released soon. Thanks to Ms Pinner for leading on this exciting opportunity!

School Cabinet



It is that exciting time of year, when we announce the names of students who have successfully completed their individual and group task interview for the School Cabinet. We were very impressed with the calibre of the applications this year and it was wonderful to be able to invite Ms Hames to present the School Cabinet ties to successful candidates this week. We think you will agree that they look very smart in their new ties!

Thanks to Miss Kass for her ongoing work with the School Cabinet. This is a fantastic opportunity for students to develop their skills in communication, teamwork, problem solving and leadership. We are immensely proud of the work that they do each week.



Congratulations to the following students who will now be joining us each Thursday at School Cabinet meetings after school, to discuss issues important to the students of Brentside High School:

Year 7: Sarina, Andrei, Elena, Sarra

Year 8: Khalid, Rayan, Bozhihda, Siyaman, Kacper, Asutosh.

Year 9: Shania, Sapphire, Priya

Year 10: Alina.

They should be very proud of this achievement. Well done!

School Cabinet meet catering company

The School Cabinet were delighted to meet with Lee Fatcher, Regional Manager from Chartwells, our school caterers and Gary Greenwood, our school chef. Students

asked about the possibility of introducing halal food into the canteen and learned about religious guidelines about halal food as well as government guidelines for school caterers.

Students were fascinated as they heard how beetroots were hidden in chocolate brownies at primary school to increase children's vegetables intake. They were also treated to a taste test of different wraps! The Student Cabinet will now research students' favourite pizza toppings and vegetarian favourite recipes.



Parent Forum



Our Parent Forum is open to all parents/carers to discuss issues linked to the school development plan.

Our next meeting is on **Wednesday, 16 March 2022** from 18:30-19:30 via Microsoft Teams.

Our agenda will include:

- Reviewing the parents' newsletter
- Target Review Day and Parents' Evening: Online and Face to Face
- Workshops: How to support your child's learning
- Homework review
- Website review

To access the Teams login details, please email info@brentsidehigh.ealing.sch.uk

Friends at Brentside (F@B)



Friends at Brentside (F@B) is our school PTA.

We welcome all parents/carers and meet after each Parent Forum meeting to discuss fund raising and events ideas. We would really welcome your support. We are pleased to be able to offer £500 to the school and are currently reviewing bids from departments. Please do feel free to join us on Microsoft Teams straight after the Parent Forum meeting on **Wednesday, 16 March 2022**.

To access the link for the meeting, please email

info@brentsidehigh.ealing.sch.uk

We are also currently looking for someone to take on the role of finance officer for F@B. For further information about this role or about the work of F@B in general, please contact hello@friendsatbrentside.org.uk

Teenage Perceptions Parenting Workshop.

This will be held on **Tuesday, 22 February 2022** between 10:00-12:00 via MS Teams.

This session is aimed parents/carers of young people aged 13/17 years, and will explore how teenagers view their world, their impact of their actions and current issues affecting teenagers.

If you would like to enter this workshop, please email: parentingserviceadmin@ealing.gov.uk Parenting Team.

FREE ONLINE PARENTING WORKSHOP

Teenage Perceptions

A targeted workshop for parents and carers of 13-17 year olds

Exploring how teenagers view their world
The awareness of the impact of their actions
Issues affecting young people today
A space to share your experiences with others
Tips on accountability and contracting

RESCHEDULED
Tuesday, 22nd
February 2022
10am-12pm
via MS Teams

Delivered by
Rachael Coggins & Aneisha Sandhu
SAFE Youth Workers

To register for this workshop, please email
parentingserviceadmin@ealing.gov.uk

Ealing
www.ealing.gov.uk

Merit Achievement Board

Congratulations to the winning tutor groups for leading on the merit achievement board this week.

Merit achievement board

Well done to everyone in their positive achievements so far!

The winning tutor groups in each year group are:

- 7E with 6431 merits
- 8D with 5765 merits
- 9G with 4188 merits
- 10S with 3564 merits
- 11T with 4367 merits
- 12S with 1728 merits
- 13N with 2442 merits

Careers

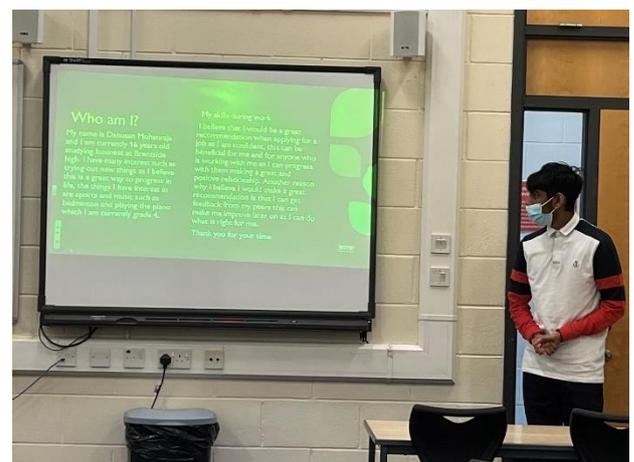


Brentside continues its commitment to careers by signing up for re-accreditation for the Quality in Careers Standard. Throughout this process we continue to review and develop our careers provision for students of all ages to ensure they are fully prepared for life beyond Brentside. This month we celebrated National Apprenticeship Week, informing students of the range of apprenticeships on offer, what they are and also what they are not! It is a common misconception that apprenticeships are only for those who don't reach the grades for university. Did you know that apprenticeships are offered at a range of levels, including degree level and master's degree level? Apprenticeships offer the opportunity to work, earn money and study at the same time. They offer progression into employment and on-the-job training. Congratulations to our alumni Latwarn, who is enjoying her apprenticeship in childcare and has kindly agreed to talk with our students in assembly.

Preparing our Sixth Form students for life in the world of work is a key part of our careers programme. We are very grateful to our two Enterprise Advisors, Elliott Murphy (Skills, Employment and Education Manager at BBVS JV) and Andrew Bishop (Legal department at 1E) who listened to our students' presentations and gave them feedback about their strengths and targets for improvement when they visited us on Tuesday, 8 February. Presenting skills are key for students when they apply to apprenticeships, university, internships and employment and although nerve wracking for some, this was vital practise in preparation for later life.

Thanks also to those parents/carers who kindly offered to support with the delivery of our careers programme. We look forward to working with you in the term ahead. We are currently recruiting employers to participate in our Year 10 and Year 12 Mock Interview Day. If you are able to join us in this exciting event on Wednesday, 23 March, please contact info@brentsidehigh.ealing.sch.uk.

As part of National Apprenticeship Week, five Year 12 classes also met with an apprentice from BBVS and learnt about the advantages of apprenticeships as a route into employment.





The Music Department



The Music Department is proud to announce that Brentside has been nominated as a **Music Mark school for 2021/2022**. This recognises our commitment to a broad and balanced curriculum and the value that we place on music.

Library news

Harry Potter

Night, Thursday, 3

February 2022. Students were so excited to get to the library after school on Thursday to celebrate Harry Potter Night.



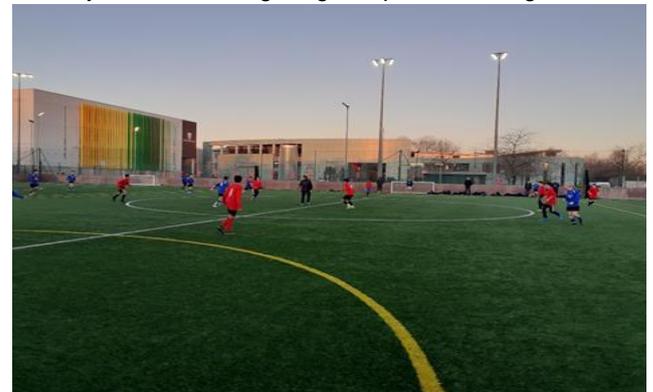
Students lucky enough to have secured a ticket were first treated to a 'Hogwarts Hunt'. Hedwig the owl, Harry's firebolt, Fang's dog collar and the Golden Snitch were among the treasures hidden in the library. Students searched high and low to find the whereabouts of 10 objects. Students then dipped into the sorting hat to see which Hogwarts house they were in and proceeded to the quiz.



This certainly tested the knowledge of all things Harry Potter and great fun was had by everyone. The quiz was won by Gryffindor House: Chey (Y10), Mustafa (Y8), Jaylen, Dora, and Ella (Y7). Ninia, Tyrese, and Jayden (Y7) and Minahil (Y8) were also awarded prizes for successfully finding all the Hogwarts treasures. A magical time was had by all!

Brentside in Middlesex Semi Final

Brentside played in an exhilarating quarter final against Gunnersbury and lost in the cruellest of ways possible in football- the dreaded penalty shoot-out. Gunnersbury took an early lead with a long-range, hopeful swerving effort.



Moments later, an accurate through ball from Dominic was calmly placed in the bottom corner of the goal by Tyler. Gunnersbury replied quickly to make it 1-2, but Brentside were back level 2-2 when Wadea fired a long-range free kick into the top corner. Four goals in the opening 10 minutes of the match.

Brentside then started to control the game and were leading 4-2 at half time. A corner by Dominic led to a goal mouth scramble which Wadea forced over the line and then a low cross from Tyler was side footed home by Hasif. Brentside missed a penalty and were unlucky not to be 5-2 up by half time.

Gunnersbury came out very determined in the second half, but the defence of Ryan, Ellis and Kian looked solid and dealt with all the attacks protected by Mateen, Raheem (replaced by Abdul) and Alex.

Eventually with 7 minutes to go, the Gunnersbury pressure paid off and a very long-range effort went in the top corner. In the dying seconds of the game a goal mouth scramble saw two saves by Oskar and a block by Ellis, before Gunnersbury equalised with the last kick of the game deep in injury time.

Penalties are a lottery, as we all witnessed in the Euro 2020 final, and despite a fine save from one penalty by Oskar, Gunnersbury won what had been a highly entertaining game. The Year 9 boys showed their real character by quickly congratulating Gunnersbury and wishing them luck for the semi-final before consoling those players who had missed from the spot.

- **Friday, 15 July 2022**
- International Market Day
- Friday, 22 July 2022**
- Staff Training Day

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

SPRING TERM 2022

February 2022

Friday, 11 February 2022

- Last Day of Term

Monday, 14 February to Friday, 18 February 2022

- Half Term Holiday

Monday, 21 February 2022

- Start of Term (with Early Closure for staff training 13:25)

Monday, 28 February 2022

- Y11 Mock Examinations begin
- Teenage Perceptions Parenting Workshop (10:00-12:00) via MS Teams.

March 2022

Wednesday, 16 March 2022

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

Thursday, 17 March 2022

- Year 8 Options Information Evening (16:30-18:30)

Wednesday, 23 March 2022

- Target Review Day (follows same format as Target Setting Day)

April 2022

Friday, 1 April 2022

- Last Day of Term

Monday, 4 April 2022 to Friday, 15 April 2022

- Easter Holiday

Monday, 18 April 2022

- *Bank Holiday*

Tuesday, 19 April 2011

- Start of Term

SUMMER TERM 2022

May 2022

Monday, 2 May 2022

- *May Day Holiday*

Tuesday, 3 May 2022

- Year 10 2nd HPV vaccination

Tuesday, 10 May 2022

- Year 8 1st HPV vaccination

Thursday, 26 May 2022

- Year 9 Parents' Evening (16:30-19:30)

Friday, 27 May 2022

- Last Day of Half Term

Monday, 30 May 2022 to Friday, 3 June 2022

- Half Term Holiday

June 2022

Monday, 6 June 2022

- Start of Term

Wednesday, 8 June 2022

- Parent Forum

Tuesday, 14 June 2022

- New Intake Evening (parents 18:00)

Wednesday, 15 June 2022

- Staff Training (Early Closure for staff training 13:25)

Friday, 24 June 2022

- Year 12 Futures Day
- Year 6 into Year 7 Induction Day

July 2022

Tuesday, 5 July 202

- Year 8 2nd HPV vaccinations