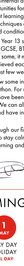
BRENTSIDE HIGH SCHOOL
LEARNING AND ACHIEVING TOGETHER

NEWSLETTER

28 April 2023

A MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHER



Charlotte Hames
Headteacher

We hope you have had a wonderful break from the routine of school over the holidays. We have now completed the first two weeks of the summer term, a term where students consolidate all that they have learnt throughout the year and when we check our students' understanding and the progress they have made. For some year groups this will be in the form of internal assessments. These are important opportunities for your child to practise their independent learning and revision skills, memory recall techniques and their ability to work under timed conditions.

Our Year 11 and Year 13 students are now in the final stages of preparing for their external GCSE, BTEC and A level exams. This is an important time and although for some, it may feel stressful, we know that by focusing on what can be achieved each and every day, students can make even more progress in the last few weeks before the exam season begins.

Last weekend saw some incredible performances by runners completing the London marathon. For many of our students, the exam season is their marathon- they have been in training for many months working towards the finish line. We will play a role in supporting our students to do their very best and have included some top tips for parents/carers in this newsletter.

As we move through our final term, the last leg of our marathon, let us help all our students to stay calm, positive, organised resilient and focused on the end goal: learning and progress.

UPCOMING EVENTS

1 MAY — MAY DAY HOLIDAY — ALL DAY

4 MAY — YEAR 9 PARENTS' EVENING — 4.30PM – 7.30PM

8 MAY — ADDITIONAL BANK HOLIDAY — ALL DAY

9 MAY — YEAR 7 EXAM WEEK BEGINS

15 MAY — PUBLIC EXAMS BEGIN

26 MAY — LAST DAY OF TERM

VIEW FULL CALENDAR | VIEW TERM DATES

WATER BOTTLES

ALL YEARS

Drinking water to stay hydrated helps us stay healthy and helps our brains to function properly. We now have three new water fountains to help students to access drinking water.

As we come into the warmer months, it will become even more important!

Students should bring a water bottle to school each day to enable them to drink water regularly. This is cheaper and also better for the environment than buying disposable plastic bottles of water.

The water fountains can be accessed before school, break time, lunch time and after school.

We would also like to remind students that fizzy drinks and energy drinks are not allowed in school due to their high sugar content.

SKI TRIP 2023

YEARS 7-11

Bonjourno from Bardonecchia, Italy!

This Easter saw the return of the Brentside High School Ski trip after postponement in 2020. Under the excellent supervision of BHS staff, 45 students from Years 7 to 11 embarked on an Italian skiing adventure. From 13-hour skidoo trips at Dover to broken skis, our students showed outstanding levels of perseverance and dedication. With 40 students being total beginners, they all jumped onto the slopes with boundless enthusiasm and showed great progress throughout the trip.

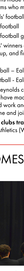
All our students emmed themselves in Italian culture, learning the language and eating the local cuisine. With positive briefings every morning, our adventurers ate together and supported each other every day. One student said, "This has been the best experience of my life!"

Head of PE Mr Reynolds said, "This has been an experience of a lifetime for all our students and staff. Well done to all our students; they made us proud. A huge thank you to Ms Allen for leading in the coordination of the trip."

Come and join our next trip in 2025!

SPORTS ROUNDUP

ALL YEARS



The winter season has come to a close with our sports teams playing over 70 fixtures. We want to congratulate all our students who participated and contributed to a wonderful winter season; their dedication and desire for success has been effective!

Many of our teams made finals with some still to play. Congratulations to the following teams who made Ealing borough finals in their sports:

- Under 14 girls' football
- Year 8 boys' football
- Year 9 boys' football gained promotion
- Year 10 boys' winners of Ealing League final, semi-finalists in the Middlesex Cup, and finalists in the Ealing Cup (to be played 28 April 2023)
- Junior Basketball – Ealing semi-finalists
- Senior Basketball - Ealing finalists

Head of PE Mr Reynolds commented, "It is amazing to see the progress our sports teams have made this year; it shows that following our core principles of hard work and dedication reaps the rewards! Well done to all involved. Come and join our summer teams and share our success!"

Summer sports clubs training: Cricket (Tuesday & Thursday), Rounders (Monday) and Athletics (Wednesday).

SKY COMES TO BRENTSIDE

YEARS 10-13

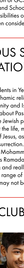
We are delighted that Sky, one of the biggest UK broadcasters, delivered workshops on GCSE Film, GCSE Media Studies and A level Media Studies students this week.

Sky talked about their state-of-the-art campus in Osterley and the wide range of roles available, from production, logistics, law, finance and retail.

We are lucky to have such strong links with Sky, offering a great opportunity for our film and media studies students to see where this qualification could take them, giving them the opportunity to ask questions and think about possible future pathways into employment.

JAMES MURRAY MP VISIT

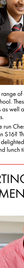
YEARS 9-12



Citizenship is a core value at Brentside High School, and we were very pleased that James Murray came to talk to our students about his role as an MP. A selection of GCSE Citizenship students, A level Government and Politics students and School Cabinet members, learnt first-hand about the roles and responsibilities of being an MP. It's possible that some of our students may even consider becoming politicians themselves one day...

RELIGIOUS STUDIES AND CELEBRATIONS

YEAR 8



At Brentside, students in Year 8 look at the three Abrahamic religions: Judaism, Christianity and Islam. Year 8 students learn about Passover, the Torah and the Jewish prophets. They then look at the life, miracles and preaching of Jesus, as well as his death and resurrection. Students also learn about Mohammed and the Qur'an as well as Ramadan. Children find it fascinating and really enjoy learning about a range of religious traditions which may not be their own.

CHESS CLUB

ALL YEARS

We have a wide range of enrichment activities that take place at lunch time and after school. These enable students to participate in activities that fuel their interests as well as give them the opportunity to develop new hobbies and skills.

Chess club runs on Chess Club every week B on Thursday 4b lunch and Friday 4a lunch in S16T. This is a wonderful game for developing strategic thinking. We are delighted to see a growing number of students playing chess at break and lunch times in the playground too!

SUPPORTING YOUR CHILD WITH ASSESSMENTS

ALL YEARS

As parents/carers, what can you do to support your child preparing for upcoming assessments and examinations? Here are some top tips:

1. Help your child to create a revision timetable and support them to keep to this.
2. Create a quiet, comfortable place for your child to study at home. If this isn't possible, remind your child to make use of the school and local libraries to revise, away from distractions.
3. Encourage your child to get a good night's sleep. People who are tired are less able to pay attention in class or focus on revising and are less likely to handle the demands of a test or examination.
4. Feed your child healthy food that fuels their body and mind.
5. Show an interest in your child's learning and ask them to explain what topics they are revising. This process will help them to solidify their own learning.

USEFUL LINKS

Parents' Guide To Supporting Children At Exam Time | YoungMinds

Help your child beat exam stress - NHS (www.nhs.uk)