BRENTSIDE HIGH SCHOOL

LEARNING AND ACHIEVING TOGETHER

NEWSLETTER

20 October 2023

A MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHER

Charlotte Hames
Headteacher

It is hard to believe that we are already at the end of our first half term and that it is now six weeks since we first welcomed our Year 7 students to Brentside High School. We are proud of how our Year 7s have settled into Brentside, transitioning to a new school and new routines. Our Year 12 joiners have also positively embraced the new opportunity.

To all the parents/carers who attended the Year 7 Settling In Evening and the Year 8-13 Year Ahead Evenings, thank you. Collaboration between school and home is a key factor in your child's success and we look forward to working with you throughout the year to ensure your child is well prepared for learning and making excellent progress. If you were unable to attend these meetings, please do refer to our website where the presentations are available or click the link here. **Brentside High School - Parent Year Ahead Meetings**

Thank you to all parents/carers for supporting your child to succeed by helping them to arrive on time, in the correct uniform and equipped. This enables your child to be fully prepared for lessons so that they can maximise their learning time. Please do use the half term break to re-stock with any equipment that may have run out and to address any outstanding uniform issues. The vast majority of our students are certainly meeting our shared high expectations. A reminder of these expectations are included in this newsletter.

We shall be returning to fortnightly newsletters next half term so please do check your emails to keep informed about our celebrations, school life and key information. In this newsletter, we are delighted to tell you about two fantastic awards, so do read on to find out more.

To conclude on a sombre note, we recognise that global conflict can cause significant concern and anguish within the school, our families and across the country. Citizenship is a core value at Brentside High School, and we are thinking of all those who are suffering in the world today, people of all races and religions.

Ms Hames

KEY DATES

ALL YEARS

Monday, 30 October: INSET day (School closed to students)

Tuesday, 31 October- Monday, 6 November: Year 10 Internal Assessments

Wednesday, 15 November: Parent Forum, 18:30-19:30 followed by Friends at Brentside meeting (F@B, our PTA) 19:30-20:30

Wednesday, 22 November: Brentside Sixth Form Open Evening, 17:30-19:30

Thursday, 23 November: Target Setting Day

Students and parents/carers attend school for a 10-minute appointment with tutors to discuss their progress. Students attend in full uniform and should bring their planners. There are no lessons this day and students leave the site after their meeting.

Friday, 24 November: Virtual INSET Day. School is closed

Tuesday, 28 November: Early closure for staff INSET

School finishes for students at 13:25. The canteen will be open for lunch for those who require it. All students should be off site by 14:00.

Wednesday, 6 December: Year 11 Mock Exams begin

Thursday, 7 December: Year 10 Parents' Evening (Online via Schoolcloud). Appointments are between 16:30-19:30

Monday, 18 December: Winter Concert, 18:30

Tuesday, 19 December: Applied Learning Day (Students will take part in a range of activities- the school timetable is suspended)

Tuesday, 19 December: Year 11 mock Exams end

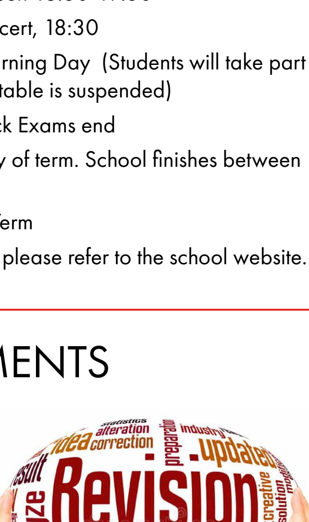
Wednesday, 20 December: Last day of term. School finishes between 12:00 and 12:30

Monday, 8 January 2024: Start of Term

For information about other key dates, please refer to the school website.

YEAR 10 ASSESSMENTS

YEAR 10



Assessments enable teachers to gauge the progress of all students. They identify students' strengths and gaps in knowledge and skills that then inform staff planning, and student foci, to enable all students to make progress.

You can help your child to prepare for their assessments by:

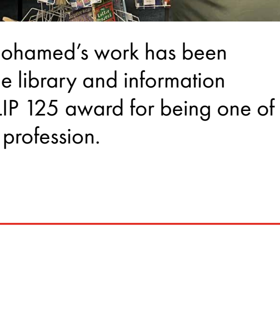
- knowing their assessment timetable and keeping this visible (e.g., on the fridge).
- enabling them to have a quiet space to learn. For some students this may be a local library, the school library or one of our after-school homework clubs (open to every year group).
- asking your child to re-cap their learning to you.
- encouraging your child to use flashcards, mindmaps and past papers to support their revision.

The Internal Assessments timetable and Topics to Revise list was emailed to parents/carers and can be found as documents to download on our website: **Brentside High School - Examinations & Internal Assessments**

For more detailed strategies, please visit our website: **Brentside High School - Learning Resources**.

CLIP AWARD

ALL YEARS



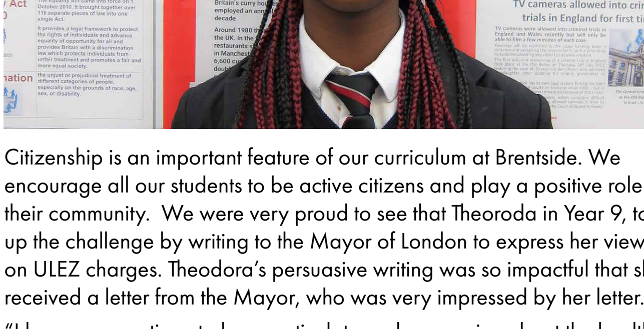
We have known for a long time that our librarian, Ms Mohamed, brings something very special to the role of librarian. She has created innovative events to engage all students in reading, from Valentines' Day Blind Date with a Book, to Harry Potter quizzes and Who Dunnit? thriller events.

It was a huge pleasure to see that Ms Mohamed's work has been recognised beyond Brentside by CLIP, the library and information association, who awarded her with a CLIP 125 award for being one of the top 125 inspirational practitioners in her profession.

Well done Ms Mohamed!

ACTIVE CITIZENS

ALL YEARS



Citizenship is an important feature of our curriculum at Brentside. We encourage all our students to be active citizens and play a positive role in their community. We were very proud to see that Theoroda in Year 9, took up the challenge by writing to the Mayor of London to express her views on ULEZ charges. Theodora's persuasive writing was so impactful that she received a letter from the Mayor, who was very impressed by her letter.

"I hope you continue to be as articulate and persuasive about the health and environmental changes our city faces." Sadiq Khan.

ST JOHN'S INSPIRE PROGRAMME

ALL YEARS

St John's inspire programme

We are honoured to be presented with an award for our work in partnership with St John's College of the University of Oxford.

The Inspire Programme is a long-term programme supporting Brentside students to aim high and develop their passion for learning.

Led by Mr Addo, the Inspire programme offers students a range of opportunities to experiment, collaborate, learn and progress.

We look forward to hearing all about the successes of this year's cohort on the Inspire Programme in newsletters to come.

MOBILE PHONES AND ELECTRONIC DEVICES

ALL YEARS

Mobile phones pose serious safeguarding risks in a school environment and there are significant mental health concerns around their use. Moreover, technology on smartphones enables children and adults to be filmed, and the footage shared with an external community. The Department for Education acknowledges that mobile phones bring "risks, including distraction, disruption, bullying and abuse, and can be a detriment to learning," and promote prohibiting mobile phones on site to reduce these risks. At Brentside, phones must not be seen or used for any purpose on the school site.

If students choose to take a mobile phone to school, it must be switched off and stored in their bag throughout the day.

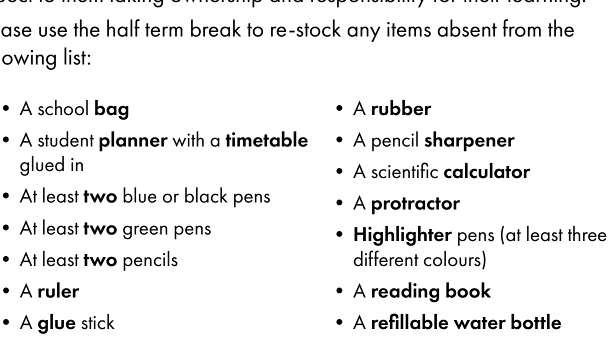
The school does not accept liability for a lost phone in school. The only place and time that students may use their phones on site is in the main playground at the end of the school day, prior to leaving site, where they are allowed to check and send messages to notify their family that they are leaving school. If a mobile phone or electronic device (e.g., ear pods) is seen during the school day, it will be confiscated, taken to reception, where a confiscation form will be completed, and held until the end of the school day, when a student can collect it. This will be logged as a behaviour point.

Repeated use of mobile phones and/or electronic devices lead to the item(s) being held until a parent/carer can attend a meeting with a member of staff and collect it.

In all cases, communication between parents/carers and children should be carried out through the school reception or directly through the year team.

EQUIPMENT FOR LEARNING

ALL YEARS



Developing skills in independent learning leads to success. All students are expected to be fully equipped for every lesson. This is a fundamental aspect to them taking ownership and responsibility for their learning.

Please use the half term break to re-stock any items absent from the following list:

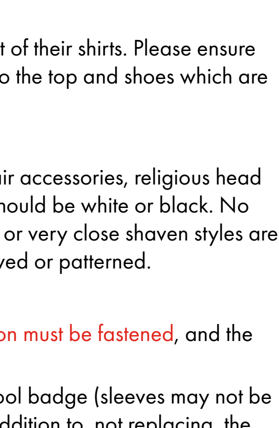
- A school **bag**
- A student **planner** with a **timetable** glued in
- At least **two** blue or black pens
- At least **two** green pens
- At least **two** pencils
- A **ruler**
- A **glue** stick
- A **rubber**
- A pencil **sharpener**
- A scientific **calculator**
- A **protractor**
- **Highlighter** pens (at least three different colours)
- A **reading book**
- A **refillable water bottle**

RECOMMENDED:

- **A watch** - no smart watches. (Mobile phones must not be used to check the time or timetables)
- **Flashcards** to support students with revision techniques from Year 7

SCHOOL UNIFORM

ALL YEARS



Our uniform identifies students as members of the Brentside High School community and should be worn with pride.

We recognise that over the course of a year, students grow and may require items of uniform to be replaced.

Please check our uniform policy carefully before purchasing any items of uniform to ensure that they are in line with our school dress code.

Please order any new items your child needs in time for your child to return on 31 October in the correct uniform.

In particular, some students have grown out of their shirts. Please ensure your child has a shirt which can button up to the top and shoes which are polishable.

Key Uniform Reminders

- Hair must be of a natural colour and hair accessories, religious head scarves and hats/the Rastafarian tam should be white or black. No extreme hairstyles such as 'hair tattoos' or very close shaven styles are permitted. Eyebrows should not be shaved or patterned.

Students must wear:

- a plain white school shirt – the top button must be fastened, and the shirt tucked in.
- a plain black blazer with Brentside school badge (sleeves may not be rolled up); optional v-neck jumper (in addition to, not replacing, the blazer)
- black tailored trousers or black school skirt of at least knee length
- a plain belt, no large buckles. Trouser hems must not be frayed or cut. Trousers should not be worn below the waist.
- plain black, grey or white socks (must be a matching pair) or plain black or tan tights.
- plain black polishable footwear with no coloured laces or stitching

Students may wear:

- one pair of plain matching stud earrings worn in the lower earlobe only. Students will be asked to remove additional piercings.
- one flat ring, no raised stones
- a discreet religious symbol may also be worn

Students must not wear:

- bracelets
- make-up (including false eye lashes) and nail varnish
- facial piercings or visible bodily adornment
- cardigans or hooded tops
- leggings
- tracksuit bottoms and tops
- plimsoles/pumps
- tight-fitted clothing
- jeans
- short skirts
- open neck/revere collars
- baseball caps

Brentside High School, Greenford Avenue, London, W7 1JJ

info@brentsidehigh.ealing.sch.uk 020 8575 9162