BRENTSIDE HIGH SCHOOL
NEWSLETTER
LEARNING AND ACHIEVING TOGETHER

19 March 2024

A MESSAGE FROM the HEADTEACHER

This newsletter focuses on successes and choices that lead to success. At Brentside High School we experience a huge number of achievements each and every day: both inside the classroom and beyond, in enrichment activities and in the wider school community. This week we highlight the success of Marita who has achieved the highest number of merits this year, demonstrating her consistent choice to be learning. Huge well done for such an outstanding achievement! We reflect on Year 11 Options Evening and the GCSE choices that our Year 8 students are now making in preparation for the years ahead. We also thank the parents/carers who attended this event, as well as attending the Parent Forum. In so doing, you contribute to the future success of your children by working in partnership with us to support their learning.

Charlotte Hames
Headteacher

We express our sincere thanks to the parents of the Friends at Brentside committee who stepped down this week after several years of service to the school and helped to establish the success of our Parent Teacher Association. We look forward to welcoming new parents/carers to continue the success of our PTA.

This newsletter also shares information about a fantastic new curriculum opportunity to support the success of many students who learn best through practical application.

We'd also like to remind all students that whilst they have a choice to travel by bus, this is subject to students presenting their Oyster card on entry. Please do ensure your child carries a valid Oyster card each day to school. Information about how to order a replacement card is detailed in the newsletter below.

And very excitingly, we share news of Blood Brothers, our school production that takes place later this half term. After many months of dedication and hard work, this is set to be a hugely successful performance and something for us all to remember and celebrate.

Ms Hames

UPCOMING EVENTS

19 MAR — EARLY CLOSURE — CLOSURE AT 12:20PM

21 MAR — YR8 PARENTS' EVENING — BETWEEN 4.30PM - 7.30PM

25/6 MAR — SCHOOL PRODUCTION (EVENINGS) — 7PM

27 MAR — TARGET REVIEW DAY — ALL DAY

27 MAR — YR10 & YR12 MOCK INTERVIEWS — ALL DAY

28 MAR — LAST DAY OF TERM — ALL DAY

VIEW FULL CALENDAR | VIEW TERM DATES

IMPORTANT DATES FOR YOUR DIARY 2024

YEAR 11

Tuesday, 19 March 2024	Early closure (13:25)
Thursday, 21 March	Year 8 Parents' evening
Monday, 25 March	Blood Brothers- School production
Tuesday, 26 March	Blood Brothers- School production
Wednesday, 27 March	Target Review Day - Year10 and Year 12 Mock Interview Day
Thursday, 28 March	Applied Learning Day
Thursday, 28 March	Last day of term
Monday, 15 April	Start of term

STUDENT SUCCESS

ALL YEARS

Success is not just about the grades you achieve; it's about the progress you've made, the journey you've travelled and most importantly, it's about the attitude to learning you demonstrate each and every day, and the skills that make you employable.

Congratulations to Marita in B1 for being awarded the highest number of merits at Brentside! She has earned a fantastic 448 merits since the start of the year.

What a fantastic acknowledgement to add to her Achievement Journal!

YEAR 8 OPTIONS EVENING

YEAR 8

Thanks to all the parents/carers and students who attended Year 8 Options Evening. Both talks in the hall were full and there was a real buzz around the as students found out more about courses of interest to them. One key piece of advice is for students to choose subjects that interest and engage them; this, coupled with a high attitude to learning, is what leads to future success.

Please do discuss your child's options form with them and complete this by Wednesday, 27 March. You can access all the information you need regarding the options process using this link: **Brentside High School - Key Stage 4 Options**

Although we can't guarantee your child will get their first option choice, we do endeavour to make the process as fair as possible.

For helpful tips on choosing your GCSE options, why not check out the BBC Bitesize article on this topic:

GCSE options 2024: What GCSE options are there? - BBC Bitesize

FRIENDS AT BRENTSIDE

ALL YEARS

Friends at Brentside (FiBB) is Brentside High School's PTA (registered charity number 1184493) and we have been successfully raising funds for the school, including £1,700 for the theatre performances of GCSE English texts, through the Co-op Local Community Fund.

Last week, FiBB held its Annual General Meeting after the Parent Forum. We would like to extend our sincere thanks to the following committee members who are stepping down after many years of service: Ivan Hamad, Co-Chair; Susan Powrie, Co- Chair and Michelle Daby, Secretary and Treasurer. FiBB has benefited hugely from their time, energy and commitment, and we are very grateful for the roles they have played over the years.

We are now looking for enthusiastic and friendly volunteers that represent our diverse school body to take FiBB forwards and create exciting new opportunities for all our students.

If you were unable to attend the AGM but would like to play a role, however big or small, in our friendly FiBB PTA, we would love to hear from you. Please contact: **hello@friendsatbrentside.org.uk**

PARENT FORUM

ALL YEARS

Thanks to all the parents/carers who attended our Parent Forum on Wednesday, 13 March.

This session focused on strategies for supporting your child at school, with a particular emphasis on our whole school strategy, oracy.

Here are just a few reasons why oracy is our whole school focus this year:

"Oracy is to speaking what numeracy is to mathematics, or literacy to reading and writing." English Speaking Union

"Engaging in high-quality oracy practices during lessons deepens understanding and is linked with improved test scores and exam grades as well as greater knowledge retention, vocabulary acquisition and reasoning skills." oracy.parliament.uk

"Because oracy helps students learn both to talk and through talk, it allows students to gain the knowledge and confidence that they need to be able to use a range of talk types in various contexts." Voice21.org

You can find the Powerpoint presentation for the Parent Forum session using this link: **Brentside High School - Parent Meetings**

We look forward to welcoming you to our final Parent Forum meeting of the year on **Wednesday, 5 June at 18:30** in our library.

GO KARTING COURSE

YEARS 9 AND 10

With over 1,600 students on roll, we know that no two children are the same and that all students learn differently; one size definitely doesn't fit all. At Brentside we pride ourselves in having a broad curriculum that gives students a range of subjects. Part of our commitment is to find courses that meet the needs of our students who benefit from a more practical approach to learning. For several years now we have successfully partnered with Build Training to offer construction courses to students in Years 10 and 11.

This year we are delighted to extend our provision to motor vehicle maintenance on Go Karts for a small number of students in Years 9 and 10. These students are participating in their third session at Fast Forward, learning the theory of mechanics and applying this to practical tasks on the Go Karts. Students then have the opportunity to try out the Go Karts on the tracks if they have successfully completed all their work.

SCHOOL PRODUCTION!

ALL YEARS

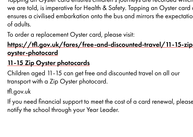
Our School Production this year is *Blood Brothers* (play version) by Willy Russell, the story of twins separated at birth, brought up in very different situations. The play explores issues around poverty and wealth, nature and nurture, and the inseparable bond of the family.

Following the amazing success of *Grease*, our outstanding acting ensemble, from years 7 to 10, have been rehearsing tirelessly for the performe months, including some Saturdays, preparing what is set to be a magical performance!

You can book tickets via Parentpay. We hope to see you there!

BUS TRAVEL

ALL YEARS



We are lucky that transport in London is free on buses SO LONG AS STUDENTS HAVE AN OYSTER CARD. Bus drivers have the right to refuse students without Oyster cards, and whilst staff will always intervene and support, we have to accept the authority of the drivers.

Tapping an Oyster card ensures children's journeys are recorded which, we are told, is important for Health & Safety. Tapping an Oyster card also ensures a civilised embarkation onto the bus and mirrors the expectations of adults.

To order a replacement Oyster card, please visit:

https://tfl.gov.uk/fares/free-and-discounted-travel/11-15-zip-oyster-photocard

11-15 Zip Oyster photocards

Children aged 11-15 can get free and discounted travel on all our transport with a Zip Oyster photocard.

tfl.gov.uk

If you need financial support to meet the cost of a card renewal, please notify the school through your Year Leader.

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