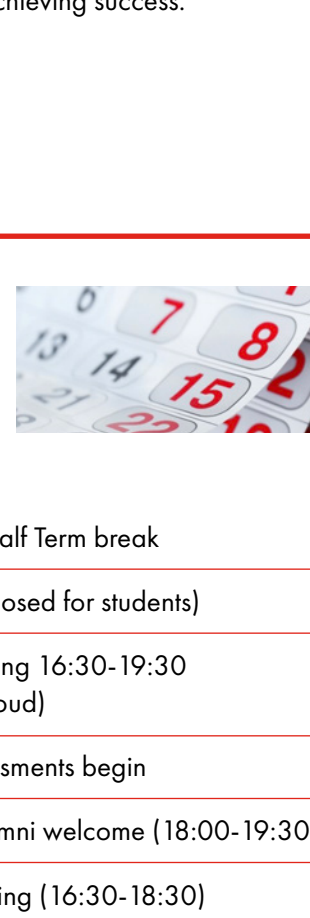


NEWSLETTER

14 February 2025

A MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHER

What a great start to 2025 we've had at Brentside! This newsletter is full of opportunities and achievements: the fantastic school production of *Oliver, The Musical*, our Year 10 Inspire trip to Oxford University, visits from alumni, our new Clean Sheet Awards, students being awarded their School Cabinet ties and news of sporting achievements. There's so much to celebrate!



Charlotte Hames
Headteacher

We are also reminded of Apprenticeship Week and the excellent opportunities available for many students to achieve success through applied learning in the workplace.

There are lots of ways for you as parents/carers to support your child in reaching success, from ensuring they are on time and equipped for learning to attending parents' evening, engaging in one of our parent workshops or sharing your experience and expertise in one of our careers activities. We look forward to working closely with you in the half term ahead. Please do check the Key Dates section carefully so you don't miss out on these important opportunities to support your child in achieving success.

Ms Hames

IMPORTANT DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



SPRING HALF TERM 2

Monday 17 February - Friday, 21 February: Half Term break

Monday, 24 February: INSET day (school closed for students)

Thursday, 27 February: Year 7 Parents' Evening 16:30-19:30 (online via SchoolCloud)

Monday, 3 March: Year 11 Spring Assemblies begin

Tuesday, 4 March: Alumni event: All alumni welcome (18:00-19:30)

Thursday, 6 March: Year 8 Options Evening (16:30-18:30)

Thursday, 13 March: Year 9 Immunisations

Tuesday, 18 March: Parent Workshops 18:30-19:30 (see news item for details)

Thursday, 20 March: Year 8 Parents' Evening 16:30-19:30 (online via SchoolCloud)

Tuesday, 25 March: Early Closure for staff training. Students leave site at 12:25

Thursday, 3 April: Target Review Day: All parents/carers are invited to meet with their child's form tutor to review their child's progress against targets set in November

Thursday, 3 April: Deadline for returning Year 8 Options Forms

Thursday, 3 April: Year 10 and 12 Mock Interview Day

Friday, 4 April: Applied Learning Day

TRIP TO THE CENTRAL CRIMINAL COURT

YEAR 12



The sociology and psychology department organised a trip for Year 12 students to visit the Central Criminal Court, also known as the Old Bailey. The aim of the trip was to give students an insight into some of the processes involved in the legal system. Students sat in the public gallery and witnessed multiple enthralling cross examinations from defence and prosecution teams.

Students were able to apply their understanding of the Crime and Deviance Unit as part of their A Level sociology course in subsequent lessons and explore the topics of memory and social influence in the study of psychology. Students also visited the Royal Courts of Justice and spent time in the main hall, observing works of art depicting scenes of British courts throughout the past few centuries.

ALUMNUS DELIVERS TALK TO YEAR 12 PSYCHOLOGY STUDENTS

YEAR 12



The psychology department welcomed a former student back to Brentside Sixth Form to deliver a presentation on his educational and professional journey into the engineering sector. He discussed transferable skills gained from the study of psychology, opportunities for development in the field of engineering, and the importance of work experience and networking. Our students also gained valuable insights into higher education and university life.

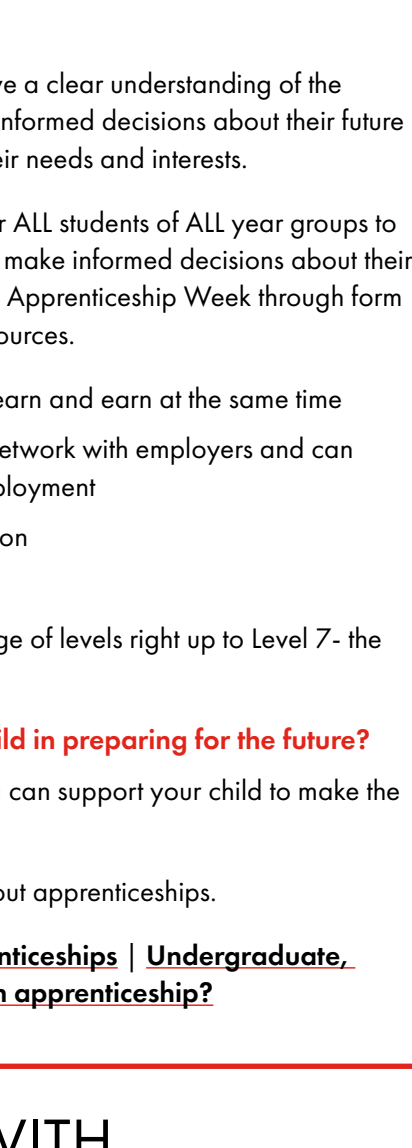
HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE DAY 2025

ALL YEARS



On Monday 27 January, ten of our Year 10 and Year 9 students were invited to join the Mayor of Ealing to mark Holocaust Memorial Day 2025 with a ceremony in Perceval House.

In addition, as a school community, we marked this day with assemblies across all year groups where we reflected on the importance of the day and the atrocities of World War II.



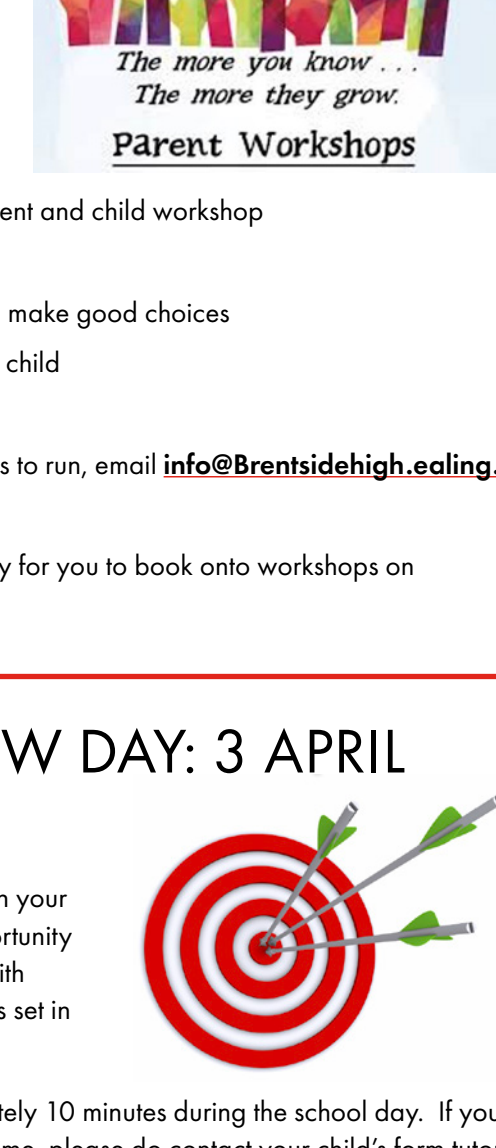
The presentations were delivered by Ines and Grace, two of our Year 13 history students and were part of their Lesson to Auschwitz project, which included them visiting Auschwitz, Poland, the site of one of the Nazi concentration camps.

INSPIRE TRIP TO OXFORD UNIVERSITY

YEAR 10

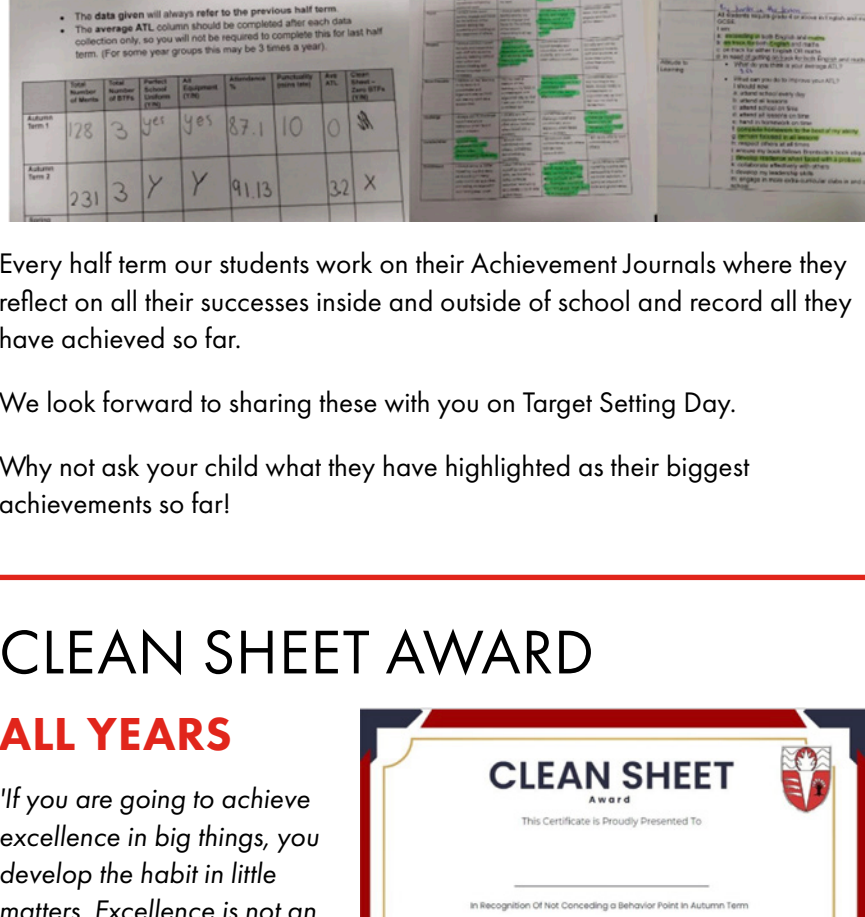


Our Year 10 students on the Oxford Inspire programme had an insightful visit to Oxford University this January, learning about life at one of the UK's top universities. They were challenged to explore topics such as 'is university for me?' and 'myths about Oxford University'. They also had an educational session at The Natural History Museum handling objects and live creature crawlers! They found the day both rewarding and inspiring. Thanks to Mr Otoo for leading on this trip and Ms Nicholson for accompanying.



OLIVER- THE MUSICAL!

ALL YEARS



What a real treat to sit in the audience and experience this fantastic production. The cast showcased such talent, and this really was a performance to be proud of. We were delighted that Brentside Primary and Mayfield Primary were able to join us for matinee performances and we hear on good authority that they not only left excited but were buzzing about the production for the rest of the day! Huge congratulations and thanks to all students involved on or behind the stage for creating such an engaging and impressive show and to the drama, music and art departments who led on the production and all staff who gave their time performing in the band or working behind the scenes, contributing to this success.

SCHOOL CABINET AWARDED TIES

ALL YEARS



Huge congratulations to our School Cabinet who were awarded their special ties by Ms Hames last month.

Cabinet members are easily identifiable by their red ties and play an active role in representing our student body and debating issues that affect their school experience. Being a member of the School Cabinet demonstrates commitment, communication skills, leadership and advocacy skills. We are delighted to be developing our leaders of the future.

EMPLOYMENT AND CAREERS WORKSHOPS

YEARS 8, 9 AND 10

Year 8 and Year 9 boys have attended workshops with Routes2Success to build their confidence and enhance their skills through creative expression. Over the ten weeks, the boys have addressed a range of challenges faced by young Black teenagers, including police stop-and-search practices, the risks associated with county lines, peer pressure, stereotyping, racial profiling and knife crime.

The workshops have emphasised the importance of positive role models in guiding and inspiring the boys as they navigate through these challenges.

The Year 9 and Year 10 girls' programme is aimed at helping them to understand the value of mentors and role models, while developing the skills to support their younger peers. Through interactive workshops, they will explore the qualities of a good mentor, build confidence in communication and leadership, and reflect on their own strengths and areas for growth.

The sessions will cover key aspects of mentorship, including active listening, setting boundaries, safeguarding, offering guidance, and building positive relationships. The girls will also take part in practical activities to apply their learning and develop a strong sense of social responsibility.

The purpose of the session enabled the girls to develop the skills and knowledge to become future mentors for younger girls at the school.

SPORTING NEWS

ALL YEARS

Year 7 girls' Netball Team showing great perseverance and progress

Noah Year 11 representing Ealing Cross country

Our sporting teams have completed over 25 fixtures this term competing in football, netball, basketball and cross country!

Highlights include our Year 7 boys' football, Year 9 boys' football and also to Noah, Mustafa and Alvi who were selected to represent Ealing at Middlesex cross country. We are proud of you all. Go Brentside!

NATIONAL APPRENTICESHIP WEEK 2025 10-14 FEBRUARY

ALL YEARS

No two students are the same. They have different skills, different interests and different personalities.

Our role is to ensure that all students have a clear understanding of the options open to them so they can make informed decisions about their future and select a pathway that best meets their needs and interests.

At Brentside we believe it is important for ALL students of ALL year groups to learn about apprenticeships so they can make informed decisions about their future. That's why we celebrate National Apprenticeship Week through form time, assemblies and student bulletin resources.

- Apprenticeships enable students to learn and earn at the same time
- Apprenticeships enable students to network with employers and can significantly increase chances of employment
- Apprenticeships are not an easy option
- Apprenticeships are competitive
- Apprenticeships are offered at a range of levels right up to Level 7- the equivalent of a Masters Degree

What can you do to support your child in preparing for the future?

Make sure you are well informed so you can support your child to make the best decision for them.

Read the guide below to learn more about apprenticeships.

Parent and guardian guide to apprenticeships | Undergraduate, Apprenticeships | UCAS | What is an apprenticeship?

GET INVOLVED WITH NATIONAL CAREERS WEEK: 3-8 MARCH

ALL YEARS

We'd like to invite parents to get involved with this year's National Careers Week, 3-8 March and our Annual Mock Interview Day on 3 April.

- Can you spare **5 minutes** to make a video about the job you do, the skills and qualifications needed to do the job?
- Can you spare **20 minutes** to deliver an assembly on the job you do, why you chose this and give students the opportunity to learn from your experience?
- Can you spare **60 minutes** to deliver a workshop to students in a subject area linked to your career, enabling students to experience some of the work you do in your job?
- Can you spare **a few hours** to support Year 10 and 12 students with **mock interviews on Thursday, 3 April?**

If you can help, we'd love to hear from you.

Please let us know what you can offer, suggesting dates and times you are available during National Careers Week 3-8 March and we will plan this into our National Careers Week timetable.

To get involved, email our careers leader, Ms Rosenblatt: info@brentsidehigh.ealing.sch.uk

ALUMNI EVENT

TUESDAY, 4 MARCH 18:00-19:30

Were you once a student at Brentside High School? If so- read on!

After the huge success of last year's Alumni Launch Event, we are delighted to be holding our second Back to Brentside alumni event on Tuesday, 4 March.

To all parents who were once Brentside students, we would love to see you there and hear about your journey from Brentside to beyond.

To book a free place, please email info@brentsidehigh.ealing.sch.uk

PARENTAL WORKSHOPS

TUESDAY, 18 MARCH 18:30-19:30

Our workshops are open to all parents/carers of all year groups and their children.

Workshops will include:

- Understanding your child's report (in English, Arabic, Somali and Polish)
- Developing your IT skills- parent and child workshop
- Maths in Punjabi
- Supporting your teenagers to make good choices
- Craft workshop - parent and child
- Race Equality

If there's a workshop you'd like us to run, email info@brentsidehigh.ealing.sch.uk with your suggestions.

We will be sending a short survey for you to book onto workshops on 28 February.

TARGET REVIEW DAY: 3 APRIL

ALL YEARS

Please record Thursday, 3 April in your diaries. This is an important opportunity to review your child's progress with their form tutor against the targets set in November.

Meetings usually last approximately 10 minutes during the school day. If you are unable to make this date or time, please do contact your child's form tutor to make an alternative arrangement.

Students should attend their appointment with you in full school uniform.

ACHIEVEMENT JOURNALS

ALL YEARS



Every half term our students work on their Achievement Journals where they reflect on all their successes inside and outside of school and record all they have achieved so far!

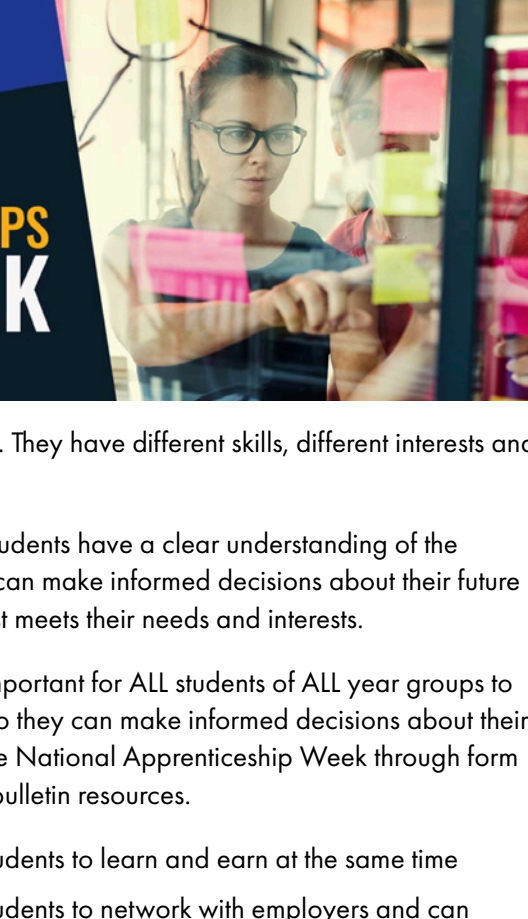
We look forward to sharing these with you on Target Setting Day.

Why not ask your child what they have highlighted as their biggest achievements so far!

CLEAN SHEET AWARD

ALL YEARS

'If you are going to achieve excellence in big things, you develop the habit in little matters. Excellence is not an exception, it is a prevailing attitude.' Colin Powell.



We have reflected on the notion of **excellence as an attitude** through our assemblies in recent weeks, and this term we have introduced our Clean Sheet Award for students who complete a half term without a single behaviour point!

Huge congratulations to more than 400 of our students who have consistently and repeatedly shown an attitude of excellence each and every day, an attitude a future employer would look highly upon.

WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP: KEY REMINDERS

ALL YEARS



We all want the same thing- for our students and children to make the best possible progress and pave their way to a successful, happy future.



How can you help?

- Ensure your child understands the importance of attending school every day
- Reinforce the need to be punctual by helping them leave home in enough time to get to school by 08:40
- Check they are meeting their learning responsibilities by having all essential equipment in a pencil case and school bag
- Check they are presenting themselves formally and proudly wearing the Brentside uniform well - hoodies are not allowed in school
- Check they have their lanyard with them every day to keep them safe
- Check Satchel One to monitor they are completing their homework
- Talk to them about their day at school- what they are learning
- Encourage them to take up the many opportunities on offer: to engage in clubs, enrichment opportunities and homework support

Together, we can support them succeed and thrive.