



Brentside High School

Learning and Achieving Together

Email: info@brentsidehigh.ealing.sch.uk

Website: www.brentsidehigh.ealing.sch.uk

Dear Parent/Carer and Students,

As a community, students and staff have made an excellent start to the new academic year proving that despite the national school closures as the Government's response to the global Coronavirus pandemic, both students and staff are proud to be back learning and achieving together.

Students have adapted to new systems designed to reduce the likelihood of transmission of the virus. Staggered start and finish times to the school day along with break and lunchtimes are working well. Staff have commended students for their positive attitude to learning, the maturity that they are displaying both in corridors and lessons and the responsibility they show towards the health and welfare of others by diligently following the guidelines designed to keep us all safe.

We thank all parents and carers for working in partnership with us to support their children to manage the additional expectations and hygiene routines that are in place at school.

As we move into the next half of the autumn term, temperatures are likely to drop. Parents are reminded that the school jumper is a permitted additional layer to the school uniform to ensure students' comfort during the day.

Coronavirus Guidance

Please refer to the Coronavirus section of our website for additional information about the steps Brentside is taking to reduce the risk of virus transmission in school.

Parents and carers are reminded that if a student displays any of the classic Coronavirus symptoms they should not attend school. Instead a Coronavirus test should be arranged and the student and any family members must self-isolate until the results of the test are known.

The most common Coronavirus symptoms are:

- High temperature
- New persistent cough
- Loss of normal sense of taste or smell.

Facemasks

In response to London moving to a Tier 2 Covid alert level, students in all Ealing high schools must now wear a face covering in communal areas. This is a change to our recent communication with you. Parents and carers are requested to ensure that their child has a clean mask to wear at school, each day, while they move around the building in communal areas. The face mask worn at school must be in addition to any mask worn on the way to or from school on public transport. Face masks must be worn by all students and staff in communal areas, for example the corridors and when queuing in the canteen from Tuesday 3 November. Anyone with a medical exemption is not required to wear a face mask. Please contact your child's Year Leader if this applies to him/her.

Make your own facemasks:

There are lots of patterns available on the internet and more and more people are making their own face masks rather than using the disposable ones. This is better for the environment, cheaper and the maker can use the colour and fabric of their choice! There are some great examples of home-made face masks being worn in school at the moment. We are using some of the ideas from the BBC guide here: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-52609777> If your child would like to have a go at making their own face masks in school, the art team will help students to make their own face masks after school on Tuesdays during the next half term. Students can bring their own fabric or use that provided. More information will be shared with students at the start of next half term.

Face mask support:

Can you support by donating fabric (a thin cotton or polycotton is best) or making face masks for students? A number of staff and students are dusting off their needles and thread and working to create fabric face masks to support our student community. Each face mask uses 2 x 25cm x 15cm rectangles and if you are able to cut these out in advance that helps us even more. If you are able to donate any fabric to help please send it in with your child, who should give the fabric in at reception. If you enjoy sewing and are able to make any masks to pass on to students at Brentside that would be fantastic. Together we can make a real difference.

Calendared Events

Parents and carers will be notified by letter of changes to the school events calendar due to governments restrictions as a result of the pandemic. We will inform you of exact details for each event after half term as arrangements will need to take into account the Covid-19 restrictions in place at the time.

This year, **Open Evening** was a virtual event. In case you missed it, you can see how we have shared information about our school to prospective parents and students using the following link: <http://www.brentsidehigh.ealing.sch.uk/361/open-evening-2020>

The **Sixth Form Open Evening** will be held in a similar format. Students in Year 11 and their families are invited to attend the 'Virtual Sixth Form Open Evening' on Thursday 19 November 2020. All information for this event will be posted via a link on our school website on 19 November 2020.

Positive cases within our community and remote learning for all self-isolating students

When we are alerted to confirmed positive cases of Coronavirus in our community, the School works with Public Health England to conduct a risk assessment in order to identify potential close contacts of the positive case. In these instances, the potential close contacts are sent home and instructed to self-isolate for 14 days from the date that they were last in contact with the confirmed

positive case.

Any student who is required to self-isolate due to: having symptoms themselves; a member of their household having symptoms; or having been instructed by the school or the NHS to isolate, will be provided with work to complete at home. Remote learning for all Brentside students can be accessed via Show My Homework.

We are producing some short presentations which explain how remote learning can be accessed by students and parents. These will be saved in the Coronavirus section of our website by the end of Thursday 29 October and we recommend that all parents/carers watch these at home with their children.

Yours faithfully,

Arwel Jones (Executive Headteacher)
Charlotte Hames (Interim Co-headteacher)
Christine MacInnes (Interim Co-headteacher)

Year 7

We want to congratulate Year 7 on a fantastic start at Brentside. They have settled incredibly well, and this is evidenced by them receiving 11,390 merits in total. We want to offer congratulations to 7E who have achieved the most merits of any form with 1,838. On top of this we have been very impressed by the uptake of clubs like football and netball and students' interest in becoming part of the school cabinet. We want to wish students a happy half term. We look forward to seeing them refreshed and relaxed after a good break.

The Music department

The music department have been very proud at how well all music students have adapted to the 'new normal' in lessons. It is so lovely to hear lots of fantastic music-making taking place in the department. Year 7 in particular have made a fantastic start, learning all about the keyboard and Samba.

Instrumental lessons will resume for GCSE students after the half-term break, albeit remotely. Please return application forms to Miss Davies as soon as possible if you wish for your child (if they are in one of the GCSE music classes) to receive instrumental lessons.

Keep an eye out for further information regarding the Winter Concert after the half term break!

Year 8

The new normal has quickly and successfully been embraced by Year 8 students. Many have fallen into good routines and it is a pleasure to see so many students back to learning and achieving together at Brentside. Many positive praises have been shared by teaching staff, highlighting their dedication, resilience and excellent efforts in the classroom. It is also a pleasure to know that Year 8 students are currently at the top of the merit totals, reinforcing all the work and positive mindset shown by all. Congratulations to all of Year 8 for making such a positive start to this academic year. As was learnt during tutor time on wellbeing, reflect and be grateful, take care of yourself and keep having a positive mindset.

Year 9

Year 9 have made an excellent start to their GCSE courses this half term, engaging enthusiastically and positively with the new content and the challenges it brings. We have been very pleased to see their growing maturity as they develop into independent and enquiring learners. The Year 9 team has been delighted when dropping into lessons to

see great examples of engagement and enthused students working diligently and with pride.

We have been particularly impressed with the resilience students have shown on their return following the lockdown period. There have been many changes for the Year 9 students to get used to along with their new GCSE curriculum including virtual assemblies, staying within the Year bubbles, longer lessons and working with the rolling timetable. Change is never easy, and our Year 9 students have embraced these with an understanding that shows their commitment to the Brentside team ethos.

We continue to encourage Year 9 students to take every learning opportunity that comes their way whether this is inside the classroom or an opportunity to engage with work after hours.

Year 9 continue to collect merits at an impressive rate, which is a fantastic indication of their engagement during lessons. Congratulations on a very positive start to Year 9 and a smooth start to their Key Stage 4 journey.

Year 10

Year 10 have made a very positive return to school showing focus in lessons and a determination to do well despite the challenges they have faced over the last six months. They are approaching their upcoming November assessments (first week back after half term holiday) with maturity and resilience, working well both in class and using the online resources to support their revision. We have also celebrated some remarkable successes of some of our students during their time away from school, including some students tutoring primary aged students; students being selected to represent their clubs in sporting events; learning new skills like computer programming, landscape gardening, baking and cooking. Eshan (10G) won a Jack Petchey Award for his resilience and determination over lockdown, which included building a computer from scratch which has inspired other students to follow in his footsteps.

I look forward to seeing the results of their hard work and revision next half term and sharing those successes with parents in their next report.

Year 11

Year 11 returned to Brentside with real excitement displaying a readiness and willingness to get fully involved in school life. We are ever so proud of the maturity that so many of the students have shown on their return. It is wonderful as their Year Leader to see them grow into young adults. There are many successes to highlight from this first half term. Students have embraced the after-school revision sessions that have started, and they are looking forward to the full revision timetable starting after half term. Mention must also be made of Aafreen (11S), who has inspired all students with her poem which was entered for the National Poetry Day competition. We are delighted to announce that she was awarded a prize for her moving yet optimistic poem "Upon Riveting".

As we start to think of next half term our thoughts are about applications to the sixth form and other post-16 placements. It is also the term where we prepare for and sit our mock examinations.

The resilience Year 11 students have shown following the

lockdown period fills us with a real confidence that this year will be a great success.

Brentside library is back in business

While access to the library is restricted, all students can access 'Oliver', Brentside's library catalogue, online: <https://brentsidehigh.oliverasp.co.uk/library/home/news>. From here students can browse the library's collection of books and email Ms Parr, the school librarian, their request. Books can be collected from the table outside the library before and after school. Everyone also has access to a fantastic range of eBooks at <https://brentsidehigh.eplatform.co/>. Students need to enter their school email address and the password: Brentside123 to borrow books.

Sixth Form UCAS Process

We are delighted to report that applications for courses that require an early application at Cambridge University, Oxford University and Medical and Dentistry schools have been successfully submitted. A huge thank you to all subject teacher and tutors that helped us write the students' references and we wish our early applicants the best of luck.

Attendance



Students need to attend school every day especially in these most challenging times. Attendance and punctuality to school is vital in ensuring your child makes excellent progress. There is a very clear link between attendance at school and maximising attainment, and the school is committed to ensuring that students attend every day. If there is a medical issue preventing them from attending, parents/carers must phone the school on each day of absence on **020 8575 9162 and press 1 for attendance**, stating the name, year, tutor group and the reason. If your child is absent, and we do not receive a message as to why they are absent, you will be sent a truancy call at some stage during the morning. It is imperative that you respond to this, otherwise your child's absence will be unauthorised. The decision to authorise an absence is entirely at the school's discretion. The next paragraph outlines what will happen regarding Covid-19 specific absences.

Covid-19 reminders

If your child develops symptoms that include a persistent cough, high temperature or loss of sense of smell / taste, he or she **must not** come into school, but **must stay at home and get a test. If your child tests positive, you must let us know straightaway, so that we can advise you on how long your child needs to stay off school.** Please rest assured that we will ensure **confidentiality** when tracing contacts and **will not** tell other students your child's name. However, it is crucial that you tell us if your child tests positive, so that we can safeguard our community and keep the virus out of school as much as is possible.

If anyone in your family tests positive, you must all self-isolate for 14 days. Again, please let us know if you are in this situation so that we are aware.

We understand that this is a difficult time, and we understand that some young people may feel embarrassed if they test positive. However, it is important to reassure them that they are in no way to blame if they contract the virus – the important thing is to let us know. Please be aware that the school will set appropriate work via ShowMyHomework for all students who are unable to attend school due to self-isolation requirements.

Medical and Welfare Reminders

Should students feel unwell during the school day, they should, in the first instance, inform their teacher who will then call patrol (first aider) for assistance. If necessary, the Student Attendance Welfare Officer (SAWO) will contact the parent or carer. Students should not contact home directly.

If your child has the need for any medication that needs to be taken at school, or an existing medical condition that we should know about, they must have an up to date Health Plan on our records at school. Parents can download a Health Plan to complete on the school's website. Any medication that needs to be kept in school must be in date and clearly labelled. Any student who is prescribed an epipen **must have a spare one kept in the school's reception for emergency use.** We also recommend that a spare asthma inhaler is stored in the Welfare Office for students requiring one.

Please keep the SAWO informed of any medical issues that may affect a student while they are at school, or any changes in your child's condition. You can email the school on info@brentsidehigh.ealing.sch.uk, and mark the email for the attention of the SAWO, or call the school directly.

We also work with the NHS School Nurse team, who will visit the school if we feel there is a need and can talk to students about any underlying health issues. If you would like to be put in touch with a school nurse team, please contact the school for further details.

Students leaving school for an appointment

In the event of your child having to leave school for an appointment, please ensure that you provide them with either a written note in their planner or the appointment card/letter. Failure to provide this confirmation may result in your child being delayed for their appointment as students cannot leave the school premises without permission.

Brentside Helping Hand Appeal 2020 'Sharing is caring!'

Each December, our staff and students show giving and kindness to support some of the senior citizens and families who live locally and need a helping hand.

We are reaching out to you for assistance to help some of the more vulnerable members of our community. Any donations, no matter how big or small, can make a real difference.

The fundraising goal this year is to provide:

- 20 food hampers (biscuits, chocolates, tins of food etc.)
- 20 toiletry gifts (moisturisers, bath/shower gels etc.)

We ask you to please help make the Brentside charitable tradition possible by contributing to our appeal.

Your kindness and generosity are greatly appreciated and will make such a difference.

We thank you in advance for your kind contribution.

Please can you send all your contributions in with your child to G63 by Monday, 30 November 2020 for the attention of Ms George.

Alternatively, you may wish to donate on ParentPay to:
Bretnside Helping Hand Appeal 2020
Kind regards Ms George - Learning Mentor



Careers News: Upskill Me

We have introduced all Sixth Form students to a new online platform called Upskill Me.

Upskill Me partners with UK schools to help students aged 11 to 18 prepare for their future.

To be successful today, students need more than just good grades. They need to build a diverse set of skills that they can take into jobs and universities. Upskill Me provides brilliant opportunities for students to develop and record their skills development. Students can also record their achievements, and connect with employers, events and courses.

We are delighted with how well our Sixth Form students have engaged with this platform. Upskill Me are currently awarding two prizes each month for students who regularly engage with their online platform and are demonstrating high quality reflections on their skills and achievements.

Congratulations to September's prize winners: Mustafa (12N) for his excellent work experience and to Vithura (12N) for demonstrating excellent E-Learning skills. Both students have received a certificate and £10 gift voucher.

We are delighted to be able to offer all students at Bretnside High School the opportunity to register with this platform free of charge by logging onto Upskill me with this link: [UpskillMe Create student account](#)
Students must use their school email address when registering.

Please do encourage your child to register with Upskill Me and use this platform to record their successes and skill developments. We will be evaluating this platform at the next Parent Forum and School Cabinet meetings.

Students in Years 7 and 8 will need parental consent forms completed and returned to Upskill Me before having their accounts verified. Please find the following consent forms: http://upload.reactcdn.co.uk/bretnside/uploads/document/2_1462_upskill-me-information-for-parents-.pdf and further information for parents please click on the link below.

http://upload.reactcdn.co.uk/bretnside/uploads/document/2_1461_upskill-parental-consent-email-and-digital-form.pdf

Parent Forum

'As a parent/carer, your involvement in your child's education is the most important factor in your child's success in school.' Our Parent Forum has been running successfully for several years at Bretnside and is for interested parents/carers to:

- share opinions on issues of school improvement
- raise any questions you may have about the school.

It is open to any parent/carer of a child attending Bretnside. Our first Parent Forum of this academic year will be on Wednesday, 4 November from 18:30-19:30 via Microsoft Teams.

How can I join the Parent Forum?

You don't need to formally join the Parent Forum but if you would like to attend a meeting, please contact the school office on 020 8575 9162 or email

info@bretnsidehigh.ealing.sch.uk before the day of the

meeting and we will email you the Microsoft Teams invite.
How can I suggest an agenda item for the Parent Forum?

Please email info@bretnsidehigh.ealing.sch.uk with your proposed agenda item by *Monday, 2 November 2020*.

We look forward to welcoming you to our next meeting where we will be discussing:

- An evaluation of this half term
- Upskill Me- online careers platform
- Parent Forum meetings for this year

School Cabinet

Our School Cabinet (Bretnside's school council) meets weekly to discuss issues that affect students at school and make proposals for further school improvement. Meetings are chaired by a member of the School Cabinet, currently Josh (9S), with the support of Ms Rosenblatt from our Senior Leadership Team. As our School Cabinet works with students of all year groups across different bubbles, this term we have been running our meetings on Microsoft Teams after school. We have been very proud of how our students have adapted to this change in how our meetings are run.

At the start of the academic year we invite students to apply for the role of School Cabinet member. All students are eligible to apply for this important role and must demonstrate their skills in leadership, listening, communicating, problem solving and teamwork.

Please discuss this exciting opportunity with your child.

Applications can be found on this link:

<http://www.bretnsidehigh.ealing.sch.uk/256/school-council> and should be completed and returned to your child's Year Leader by **Tuesday, 4 November**. Once the School Cabinet have reviewed applications and references, successful applicants will be invited to an interview via Microsoft Teams. We look forward to receiving applications from all year groups.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

AUTUMN TERM

October

Friday, 23 October 2020

- Last Day of Term

Monday, 26 October 2020 to Friday, 30 October 2020

- Half Term Holiday

November

Monday, 2 November 2020

- Staff Training Day (School closed for students)

Tuesday, 3 November 2020

- School reopens for students
- Start of Year 10 internal assessments

Wednesday, 4 November 2020

- Parent Forum Meeting (18:30-19:30 via Microsoft Teams) followed by Friends at Brentside (F@B) Meeting, our PTA (19:30-20:30)

Monday, 9 November 2020

- End of Year 10 internal assessments

Tuesday, 17 November 2020

- Early closure for students

Thursday, 26 November 2020

- Target Setting Day

Friday, 27 November 2020

- Staff Training Day (School closed for students)

December

Friday, 18 December 2020

- Last Day of Term
- Early Closure between 12:00-12:30

Monday, 21 December 2020 to Friday 01 January 2021

- Christmas Holiday

SPRING TERM

January

Monday, 4 January 2021

- Start of Term (08:45)

February

Thursday, 11 February 2021

- Last Day of half term for students

Friday, 12 February 2021

- Staff Training Day (School closed for students)

Monday, 15 February 2021 to Friday 19 February 2021

- Half Term Holiday

Monday, 22 February 2021

- School reopens for students

March

Wednesday, 31 March 2021

- Last Day of Term

April

Thursday, 1 April 2021 to Friday 16 April 2021

- Easter Holiday

Monday, 19 April 2021

- Start of Term

SUMMER TERM

May

Monday, 3 May 2021

- May Day Bank Holiday

Monday, 31 May 2021 to Friday 04 June 2021

- Half Term Holiday

June

Monday, 7 June 2021

- School reopens for students

July

Thursday, 22 July 2021

- Last Day of Term
- Early closure (12:00-12:30)

Friday, 23 July 2021 to Tuesday 31 August 2021

- Summer Holiday