BRENTSIDE HIGH SCHOOL

LEARNING AND ACHIEVING TOGETHER

NEWSLETTER

19 December 2025

A MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHER

Charlotte Hames
Headteacher

Dear Parents/Carers,

I am delighted to share news of the significant successes at Brentside in our first term of the year. From nominations and awards for students and staff, to a range of workshops and links with employers, there is so much to be proud of.

As we end the term, we extend a huge well done to our Year 11 students who have just completed their mock exams, our Year 10s for their internal assessments and our Year 12 and 13 students who are busy preparing for their January mock exams. Having the chance to practise writing under exam conditions prepares students well for the summer external exams and hones their knowledge and skills, as well as helping us to see what we can work on further.

We would also like to congratulate those students who joined us from other schools in Year 7, Year 12 or other year groups. We are delighted you have settled in so well.

One of the highlights of our last week of term was our Applied Learning Day, which offered students a series of inspiring trips and activities designed to extend learning beyond the classroom, enabling them to engage with the world around them in meaningful ways. As we move into the new year, we remain committed to providing diverse learning opportunities that inspire curiosity and ambition.

This newsletter shares snapshots of the fantastic work of our students and our whole school community. There is much to read about the many opportunities and successes your children have engaged in.

Thank you to our dedicated students for making this term such a success, to our supportive families for working so well in partnership with us and to our staff for their continued commitment and dedication.

Wishing you all a restful holiday and a joyful start to the new year.

Ms Hames

IMPORTANT DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

SPRING TERM

Monday, 5 January: **Start of Term**

Monday, 5 January: **Year 12 and 13 mock exams begin**

Monday, 12 January: **Year 12 and 13 mock exams end**

Thursday, 22 January: **Year 11 Parents' Evening**

Wednesday, 28 January: **School Production- Matilda**

Thursday, 29 January: **School Production- Matilda**

Thursday, 5 February: **Year 13 Parents' Evening (16:30-19:30)**

Monday, 9 February: **National Apprenticeship Week**

Thursday, 12 February: **Year 12 Parents' Evening (16:30-19:30)**

Monday, 16 February – Friday, 20 February: **Half Term holiday**

Monday, 23 February: **Staff INSET (school closed to students)**

Tuesday, 24 February: **School starts**

Thursday, 26 February: **Year 7 Parents' Evening (16:30-19:30)**

Monday, 2 March-Friday, 6 March: **National Careers Week**

Thursday, 5 March: **Year 8 Options Evening (16:30-19:30)**

Monday, 9 March - Friday, 13 March: **Science Week**

Wednesday, 11 March: **Early Closure for Staff INSET (12:30)**

Tuesday, 17 March: **Parent Forum:** Race Equality Meeting and Workshop on Academic and Vocational Pathways and Apprenticeships (18:30-19:30)

Thursday, 19 March: **Year 8 Parents' Evening (16:30-19:30)**

Wednesday, 25 March: **Target Review Day**

Wednesday, 25 March: **Year 10 and 12 Mock Interview Day**

Thursday, 26 March: **Applied Learning Day**

Monday, 30 March-Friday, 10 April: **School Holiday**

SUMMER TERM

Monday, 13 April: **School Starts**

Monday, 20 April-Friday, 24 April: **Year 9 Exam Week**

Monday, 27 April- Friday, 1 May: **Year 10 Work Experience**

Thursday, 30 April: **Year 9 Parents' Evening (16:30-19:30)**

Monday, 4 May: **May Bank Holiday**

Monday, 11 May: **Year 7 Exam Week**

Monday, 18 May: **Year 8 Exam Week**

Monday, 25 May -Friday, 29 May: **School Holiday**

Monday, 1 June: **School Starts**

Wednesday, 3 June: **Early Closure for Staff INSET (12:30)**

Tuesday, 9 June: **Parent Forum Workshops: (18:30-19:30)**

Thursday, 11 June: **Futures Day (Year 12)**

Friday, 12 June: **UCAS trip (To be confirmed)**

Monday, 15 June: **Year 10 Exams**

Tuesday, 23 June: **New Intake Evening (16:00-17:30)**

Friday, 26 June: **Year 6 into 7 Induction Day**

Thursday, 2 July: **Awards Evening (18:00-20:00)**

Monday, 13 July-Friday, 17 July: **Creative Arts Week**

Tuesday, 14 July: **Sports Day**

Friday, 17 July: **International Market Day**

Monday, 20 July: **Applied Learning Day**

Tuesday, 21 July: **Last Day of Term- Early Closure**

Thursday, 13 August: **A Level Results Day**

Thursday, 20 August: **GCSE Results Day and on site enrolment for Sixth Form**

Please see our website for more detailed information.

HEADTEACHER GOLD AND PLATINUM AWARDS -CELEBRATING SUCCESS!

ALL YEARS

Congratulations to students across all year groups who've earned their Gold and Platinum Awards, presented by the Headteacher, in recognition of their sustained excellence. Whether that's excellence in character, progress, talent or achievement, we celebrate you.

Students with the best attitude to learning are also the students who are preparing well for the world of work and life beyond Brentside. Well done- You must be really proud.

CAREERS NEWS - WORK EXPERIENCE

YEAR 8 AND YEAR 10

WORK
EXPERIENCE

We are constantly looking to ensure our careers programme offers our students the best opportunities to prepare for life beyond Brentside. In light of the latest changes to careers statutory guidance, we are introducing work experience for our Year 10 cohort the week beginning Monday, 27 April. Further details can be found in our presentation that was shared at our Parent Forum: Work Experience Preparation in November. You can read the presentation **here**.

If you are able to offer a work placement, face-to-face or online, for one or more of our Year 10 students, please contact our Careers Leader, Ms Rosenblatt: **careers@brentsidehigh.ealing.sch.uk**

Our next Parent Forum presentation will be on Tuesday, 17 March and will focus on academic and vocational pathways and options with the opportunity to meet with an apprenticeship provider and an apprentice. Please add this date to your diary.

Year 8 will be working in pairs, taking part in a day's work experience in school on rotation throughout the year, working with our reception, reprographics and library teams. This exciting new programme begins after the Christmas break. Students will practise the skills of punctuality, communication and collaboration as part of their work placement. We look forward to sharing more about this next newsletter.

BRENTSIDE SHORTLISTED FOR LONDON YOUTH AWARDS 2025

ALL YEARS

6 November

VISA
London Youth

We are delighted to announce that Brentside High School and Action for Race Equality were shortlisted for the London Youth Awards 2025 in the **best partnership category.** This was based on our collaboration to support our students in raising aspirations.

This prestigious event was hosted by Jason Bell (former NFL player) and opened with a speech from the Duke of Edinburgh!

The ceremony was attended by Rheanna and Ava (Year 11), two members of Action for Race Equality and Ms Nagra. Both students have benefited from the girls' mentoring programme last year, have participated in workshops over the last two years and are now inspiring others too.

EALING TEEN READ

YEAR 9

11 November

THIS BOOK KILLS
CATCH YOUR DEATH
MONDAYS ARE MURDER
THE MURDER HYPOTHESIS
THE GIRL WITH THE RED BOOTS

12 of Year 9's most avid readers were selected to participate in this year's *Ealing Teen Read* as judges! They will be reading a shortlist of six newly released books and voting for their favourite one.

At the launch event, students met with others from local Ealing schools in the presence of award-winning author, Ravena Guron, who delivered an amazing talk and signed copies of her bestseller *This Book Kills!*

SPORTING NEWS

YEAR 8

18 November

On Tuesday, 18 November our Year 8 students represented Brentside at Sportshall athletics.

Our boys and girls competed in running, jumping and throwing events and we are thrilled that the girls' team also won the competition!

Their success enabled them to represent Brentside at the Borough finals where they achieved a fantastic 2nd Place.

We look forward to them going from strength to strength!

THEATRE ROYAL TRIP

YEAR 13

20 November

CAFÉ
OTHELLO

A group of Year 13 English Literature students visited London's Theatre Royal in Haymarket to see *Othello*, Shakespeare's magnificent play of love, betrayal and jealous rage, come to life.

LIBRARY NEWS

ALL YEARS

21 November

In the lead up to the December Book Fair, the library hosted a successful bake sale. Funds raised will contribute to ensuring as many students as possible are able to go home with a brand-new book of their choice to read over the Christmas holidays!

PARENT FORUM: WORK EXPERIENCE PREPARATION

YEAR 10

25 November

Thank you to the Year 10 parents, carers and students who attended the Work Experience Preparation Meeting earlier this term. We heard from our Careers Leader, Ms Rosenblatt, about changes to careers statutory guidelines and the rationale for work experience as an important part of our careers programme. We also heard from our Work Experience Development Officer, Mohammad Hamza Akbar from Ealing Local Education Authority, who talked about the work experience process and a local employer, Michelle Emmery who told us about what employers look for. Finally, we heard from Rania, a Year 12 student, about the impact of her placement at the James Murray MP summer school.

The presentation can be accessed **here** for any parent/carer who was unable to attend the meeting.

RACE EQUALITY PARENT FORUM

ALL YEARS

25 November

The school's Race Equality Parent Forum meet on a termly basis as an opportunity to reflect together on areas that have been raised by parents and families.

This term's meeting enabled the group to work on the school's behaviour policy and its' expectations. The parents and families contributed their ideas and shared good examples around the behaviour policy.

Next term's race equality meeting will be on Tuesday, 17 March, 2026, 18:30-19:30.

ZAHA HADID FOUNDATION

FOR A SERIES OF TALKS DELIVERED BY WORLD-RENOWNED ARCHITECTS

YEAR 12 AND 13 ART BTEC
YEAR 12 A LEVEL PRODUCT DESIGN

25 November

The visit to the Zaha Hadid Foundation architecture talks was an extremely rewarding and valuable experience for our Year 12 and 13 BTEC and Product Design students. The talks were delivered in real depth, offering far more than a surface-level overview of architecture. Students were given a rare insight into how architectural ideas are developed from initial concepts through to outstanding, fully realised buildings.

One of the most impactful aspects of the experience was learning how architects plan and work collaboratively as part of a wider team. The students gained a clear understanding of the different roles within an architectural practice and how designers, engineers, and visual specialists work together to solve complex design challenges. This helped them appreciate that architecture is not just about individual creativity, but about teamwork, communication, and problem-solving at a professional level.

The sessions were highly informative, particularly in demonstrating how architects create and develop visuals, models, and drawings to communicate their ideas. Students were inspired by seeing how advanced digital tools, physical models, and experimental design processes are used to create innovative and ambitious outcomes. This opened their eyes to the level of precision, planning, and creativity required to deliver outstanding architectural plans and buildings.

Overall, the experience had a lasting impact on the students. It gave them a clearer understanding of the pathways into architecture and design-related industries, while also motivating them to push their own creative and technical skills further. Many students left feeling inspired and more confident about their future, with a stronger sense of how their current studies can support careers in architecture, product design, and the wider creative industries. The visit was both educational and inspiring, and it will undoubtedly help students build a strong foundation for their future in this field.

TARGET SETTING DAY

ALL YEARS

27 November

S Specific
M Measurable
A Achievable
R Relevant
T Time-bound

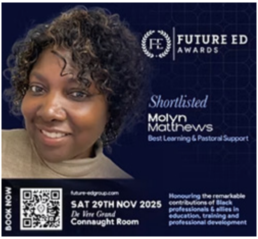
Thank you to all the parents/carers who attended Target Setting Day in November. Your feedback highlighted this as an invaluable opportunity to meet with your child’s form tutor, to identify your child's strengths and set specific targets to support their progress.

We look forward to reviewing your child’s progress with you at Target Review Day on Wednesday, 25 March. Please make a note of this date in your diary!

STAFF SHORTLISTED FOR FUTURE ED AWARD

ALL YEARS

29 November


FUTURE ED AWARDS
Shortlisted
Molyn Matthews
Best Learning & Pastoral Support
BOOK NOW
future-edgroup.com
SAT 29TH NOV 2025
De Vere Grand
Connaught Room
Honouring the remarkable contributions of Black professionals & allies in education, training and professional development

Huge congratulations to Ms Matthews who was nominated and shortlisted by Future Ed in the Best Learning and Pastoral Support category.

Ms Matthews is a dedicated educator whose compassion, resilience, and commitment have transformed the lives of young people and families for over 25 years. She has become a trusted and inspiring figure in student and family education. As a Student and Family in Education (SaFE) Worker, she has guided countless young people through challenges such as mental health difficulties, child protection issues, homelessness, and self-harm - always with empathy, patience, and belief in their potential. Her greatest reward is seeing former students return to follow in her footsteps, a true reflection of the lasting impact she's made. A lifelong learner herself, Ms Matthews recently completed a BA (Hons) in Teaching and Learning, continuing her mission to make education accessible, supportive, and full of possibility for every young person.

This is a fantastic achievement and one for which we are all very proud.

Well done Ms Matthews!

LINKS WITH INDUSTRY: MARS

YEAR 13

3 December

Roles in: Sales and Marketing
Level 6 Chartered Manager Degree Apprenticeship
A progressive salary structure starting at: £20,000
Located at Mars' office in Slough Dundee Road
MARS
to stay on, OK, that is the kind of idea.
They're hoping for that you really, really enjoy it and you want to stay

A group of Year 13 students recently took part in an exciting workshop with *Mars*, gaining valuable insight into the company's diverse product range and innovative marketing strategies. The session highlighted how *Mars* uses sales techniques and creative advertising to boost profits, giving students a real-world perspective on the industry.

Students also tackled a practical challenge: finding ways to meet legislation with chocolate bars. Their solutions were both healthy and imaginative, showcasing the creativity and problem-solving skills of our students.

The workshop concluded with an incredible opportunity—students were invited to apply for a Level 6 degree apprenticeship and a year-long mentoring programme, offered exclusively to a select number of schools. We wish our students the very best in the application process!

WINTER CONCERT

ALL YEARS

4 December

What a fantastic way to celebrate the upcoming festive season! This year's Winter Concert really was an incredibly uplifting evening as we heard students from Year 7 through to Sixth Form take to the stage for solo and group performances that oozed confidence and talent. Well done to all our performers and to Mrs Reddaway, Subject Leader for music, who led this wonderful event. Thank you also to Ms Northcott and Ms

Hatwell for sharing a preview of the upcoming performance of *Matilda* (Jan 28 and 29)! Tickets will be on sale in the new year.

Thanks also to our *Friends at Brentside* team who supplied us with festive treats and raised £191 to buy resources for our students.

TRIP TO LONDON COLLEGE OF FASHION

YEAR 12 AND 13

5 December

Year 12 and 13 Art, Design, and Business students took part in an exciting Business and Design workshop at the prestigious London College of Fashion. Led by fashion designer and artist Terence Senford, the day challenged students to create their own brand and design a shop front, bringing creativity and business skills together.

Students also heard from three current LCF students and a graduate, who shared insights into courses such as Fashion Journalism, Trend Forecasting, and Brand Identity. Their top advice? *"Start now- whatever your idea is, begin today!"*

The experience gave students a real taste of how fashion and marketing campaigns are planned, with interactive workshops on brand building and visual merchandising. After lunch in the panoramic-view canteen and a tour of the building, many students said they felt inspired, and some are now keen to apply to the London College of Fashion in the future.

This trip was a fantastic opportunity to experience a university setting, gain industry tips, and explore the exciting intersection of fashion, business, and design.

PYJAMA DAY

YEARS 12 AND 13

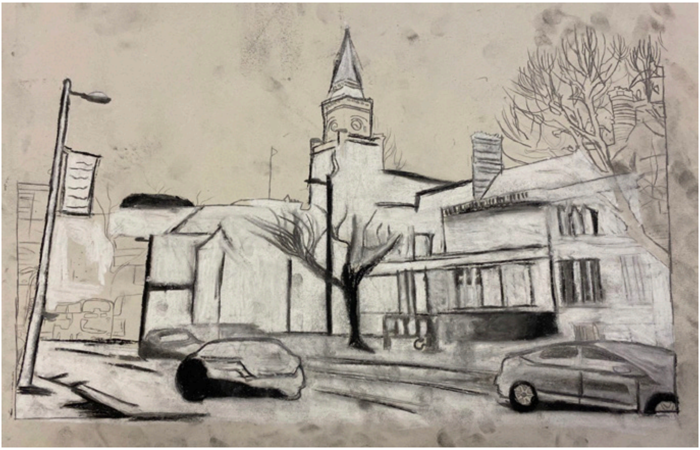
5 December

Well done to all Year 12 and 13 students who took responsibility for organising Pyjama Day to raise money for Water Aid charity and to raise funds for the Year 13 leavers prom. Being active citizens is one of our core values. Well done!

EALING BOROUGH CHRISTMAS CARD COMPETITION WINNER!

ALL YEARS

8 December



Huge congratulations to Leen in Year 10 who won the Ealing Christmas Card Competition for 12-18 year olds across the borough. Leen's design will be on the front of Christmas Cards sent by Tony Clements, Chief Executive Officer of Ealing Council.

This is a superb achievement. Well done Leen!

SKY STUDIOS TRIP

YEAR 10

8 December

LIVE
Brentside High
CAREERS
Reporting live from Brentside High interviewing two students to get th
opinions on career opportunities
sky news
Sky Up Academy Studios
Unlocking possibilities in a digital world to create a better

A group of Year 10 students had the wonderful opportunity to participate in an employability workshop at Sky Studios as part of their King's Trust programme.

Students explored the role of news researchers and reporters and used television technology to practise their own skills as news presenters, developing skills and qualities needed for the world of work. Maybe they will be our news reporters or commentators of the future?

PROJECT GUARDIAN VISITORS

YEAR 9

11 December

As part of our Personal, Social, Health, Relationships and Economic (PSHRE) education programme, **The TfL Project Guardian team** from the **London Transport Museum** visited Brentside to deliver workshops on sexual harassment to our Year 9 students. The sessions were informative and raised awareness of sexual harassment on public transport and how young people can keep themselves safe.

We hope that parents/carers of Year 9 students will discuss this at home with their children to keep this dialogue live.

HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT TRIP THREE!

YEAR 10

17 December

The citizenship department was delighted to offer our third trip to the Houses of Parliament this year. Tickets for this trip are like gold dust and securing tickets for three trips was more challenging than buying tickets to an Oasis concert!

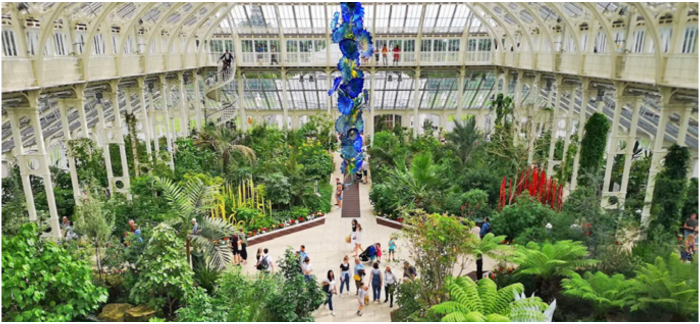
Our most recent trip gave 32 Year 10 GCSE citizenship students the opportunity to visit the Houses of Parliament and see democracy in action. This embedded students' learning of the GCSE citizenship course and made clear links between theory and practice.

Thanks to Ms Giles for her dedication in securing the tickets and organising this fantastic opportunity for our Year 10 citizenship students.

APPLIED LEARNING DAY

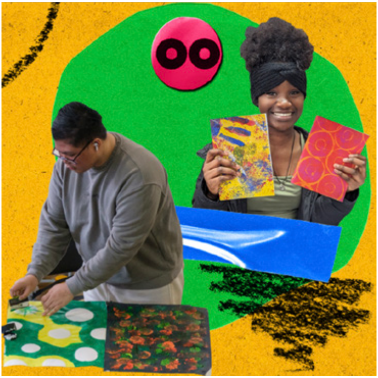
ALL YEARS

18 December



Applied Learning Days offer students the opportunities to learn beyond the classroom, develop cultural capital and enrich their experiences of the world around them. This term's Applied Learning Day offered an exciting and varied programme, with students visiting iconic venues such as the Natural History Museum, The Royal Botanic Gardens at Kew, the Adelphi Theatre, and design and technology exhibitions. Students had a fantastic time with their year groups exploring some of the best that London has to offer.

SATURDAY CLUB AT UAL



Well done to **textiles student Virtue in Yr 11 for securing a place on the UAL Saturday Club.**

The Saturday club allows students to work with tutors and students from across UAL's six colleges.

They can learn from professional artists, designers and creatives in the industry masterclasses and showcase work at Somerset House with other UK clubs.

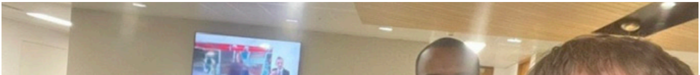
For any Year 10 or 11 art students still interested, talk to your art teacher to try and secure a place.

University of the Arts London, is a world-leading creative education institution formed by art and design colleges (Camberwell, Central Saint Martins, Chelsea, LCC, LCF, Wimbledon).

UAL ranks exceptionally high globally, specifically as the #2 university in the world for Art & Design in the QS World University Rankings 2025.

THE BERENBERG MENTORING JOURNEY

YEAR 13



Expanding Horizons in Finance

Our students have been gaining invaluable insights from industry experts, investment bankers, and professionals on topics such as company IPOs, stock pitches, and strategies for accessing new career opportunities.

Alongside this, they have received one-to-one mentoring from investment bankers, stockbrokers, and research analysts, helping them strengthen their understanding of economics, prepare for UCAS applications, and build meaningful connections within the financial sector.

These experiences are equipping our students with the knowledge, confidence, and networks needed to thrive in competitive industries and pursue ambitious career paths.

SIXTH FORM STUDENTS SECURE WORK EXPERIENCE IN THE HOUSE OF LORDS!

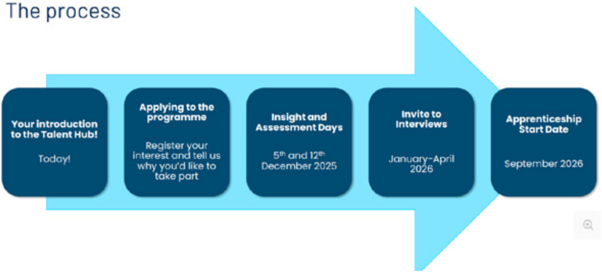
YEAR 12

Well done to Carla, Olivia and Oliwia, Year 12 students, who secured a week's work experience placement with the Right Honourable Lord Shaffaq Mohammed of Tinsley, MBE, after talking with him at the Houses of Parliament on a school trip last month!

The A Level Government and Politics students demonstrated outstanding communication skills, confidence and initiative in networking to secure this placement. We look forward to hearing all about the knowledge and skills they develop on their return to school.

ASSESSMENT CENTRE SHORTLIST!

YEAR 13


The process
Your introduction to the Talent Hub!
Today!
Applying to the programme
Register your interest and tell us why you'd like to take part
Insight and Assessment Days
5th and 12th December 2025
Invite to Interviews
January-April 2026
Apprenticeship Start Date
September 2026

Congratulations to Malachi, Mustafa, Oskar, and Sam! These outstanding students have been shortlisted by Vision Path for an assessment centre, which could lead to an exciting apprenticeship opportunity with a leading bank. Over the past year, they have benefited from one-to-one mentoring with professional mentors from Berenberg, developing essential skills such as communication, problem-solving, and resilience. Their hard work and commitment have paid off, earning them this incredible chance to take the next step toward a successful career in finance. We wish them the very best in the upcoming assessment and their future endeavours!

Thanks to our Sixth Form Business Studies department who are constantly looking for ways to place our students ahead.

BRENTSIDE HIGH STUDENTS SHINE AT UAL INSIGHTS PROGRAMME!

We are thrilled to share that eight of our talented students have secured places on the **UAL Insights Programme**, an incredible initiative run by the **University of the Arts London**. This prestigious programme offers young people the chance to explore creative pathways through hands-on workshops, inspiring talks, and immersive experiences across UAL's many campuses.

Insights
@ual_insights
/ual_insights

Our students have already attended several sessions and are absolutely buzzing with ideas and enthusiasm! From discovering new techniques to meeting industry professionals, the experience has been nothing short of transformative.

TAKE THE LEAD:
EMPLOYABILITY SKILLS PROGRAMME THROUGH THE OLD VIC THEATRE

THE OLD VIC
DR SEUSS'S THE LORAX
THE OLD VIC

15 students from Years 12 and 13 are participating in the Old Vic Theatre's *Take the Lead* employability skills programme in 2025-2026.

They were fantastic representatives of Brentside at the launch event in London just before the half-term break. At this workshop, held in the main auditorium of the theatre, Brentside students participated in the first workshop consisting of keynote speakers and introductory networking skills.

We have also had our first skills workshop at Brentside, with guest workshop facilitators from the theatre, which concluded with students presenting their own elevator pitch to the group. This focuses on exercises that help students identify their strengths and improve their communication skills, and teaches them exercises that can be applied in real-life situations.

Take the Lead is an employability programme from The Old Vic for students aged 15-18 that uses theatre techniques and creative workshops to build on five core skills: communication, self-management, self-belief, teamwork and problem solving.

Past participants have used the skills they've gained from the programme to support their journeys into higher education or employment across a range of industries, and we look forward to seeing the same positive outcomes from Brentside's participation in this invaluable programme.

PARENT SURVEY

ALL YEARS

SURVEY
☑ Excellent
☐ Good
☐ Average
☐ Poor
SUBMIT

Thank you to the 297 parents/carers who took the time to complete our Parent Survey this term.

Your feedback helps us to identify our strengths and areas for development.

We shall be analysing your views and responding to these in our February newsletter.

Effective School/Parent partnership significantly impacts student progress, and we really value you taking the time to share your views.

STUDENT LEADERSHIP: SCHOOL CABINET DEMOCRACY IN ACTION

ALL YEARS

The School Cabinet is a team of students that works together to make the school an even better place. We discuss issues of importance to students.

Elections

Every academic year, the current Cabinet team appoints new members to join the Cabinet. They are interviewed after submitting their application. Our members found it enjoyable, although challenging! One new member commented, *"It was quite nerve-wracking at the beginning, but after the first meeting I was comfortable."*

Roles

We had five official roles within Cabinet: Chair, Vice-chair, Secretary, Media officer and Timekeeper. In addition, we recently introduced year group representatives to find out issues that are important to our own year groups. If there is something you would like to discuss, you should talk to these representatives: Amarnath (Year 7), Akshara and Osman (Year 8), Zainab M (Year 9), Nasra (Year 10).

This term, we have discussed issues of having somewhere dry to wait in line for the new canteen and student mental health.

Achievements from this term

We brought up an issue with Mr Duffy (the deputy head), and following our concerns about the number of toilets available at break, he ensured we had greater access to toilets.

All new Cabinet members will be issued with a tie by Ms Hames in the new year. We look forward to wearing our school Cabinet ties with pride!

We are here to represent students so please contact us with any student concerns.

Laith, media officer, Year 7.

HELPING HAND CHARITY

ALL YEARS

Thank you to all our students and parents/carers who contributed donations to our Helping Hand charity. We are extremely grateful for your support. Each year we create hampers to distribute to members of our community who are in need of some extra support. This important initiative is led by Ms George and her team of helpers and plays an important part in teaching our students to be active citizens in their community.

A little help makes a big difference to others. Thank you!

EALING FOODBANK

Ealing Foodbank
Together with Trussell

Ealing foodbank offers a lifeline for many in our community. If you are able to contribute any of the items below, that can make a big difference to those in need.

Christmas Wish List 2025

- Selection boxes
- Savoury biscuit selection
- Nuts & dried fruits
- Sweets
- Tinned fruit
- Tinned custard
- Tinned sardines & mackerel
- Tinned meat
- Tinned vegetables
- Toiletries for men and women

Or give a financial gift this winter and help Ealing Foodbank to offer hope and support to people in crisis.

You can also purchase our most urgently needed items on GiveToday for delivery straight to us.

Ealing Foodbank

Winter Appeal

Ealing Foodbank