



Monday, 23 March 2026

Dear Parent/Carer,

As we approach the upcoming term break, this is an opportune time to remind families of upcoming events and expectations for students and families.

We are pleased to provide more information on aspects of the final week of this Spring Term. It is important to remind families that attendance on every school day is important. Each day is as important as the next and the school views each day as a vital day of learning. Below, 'Applied Learning Day' and 'Target Review Day' are outlined. There is also some information on enhanced aspects of how the school will continue to monitor and support improved students' attendance.

Applied Learning Day on Thursday, 26 March 2026, is one of the designated school days whereby we offer students a year appropriate opportunity for a school trip in London, enrichment activities for a particular subject whether preparing for an assessment or bringing the subject to life, a new experience and sometimes just a new fun experience.

Year 7 – Will bring **History** to life in the morning making Hew Locke Boats, creating Mende Masks and designing a poster for a Medieval African Kingdom. After lunch Year 7 will have team building activities outdoors.

Year 8 – Will be an **enterprise style activity** called '**Minivans**' not dissimilar to The Apprentice TV programme, whereby students will work in teams in competition against other teams within their form class and then the best team in each class will compete for the overall prize. The afternoon will be then set aside for students to enhance their team building skills in sports, including football and basketball.

Year 9 – Will have several workshops covering several topics to support student's **personal development, health and wellbeing**. The focus of the day will be building good health and healthy relationships into young adulthood and exploring decision making, including around sexual health. Guest presenters will be leading workshops with the students focusing on Online Safety, Diversity, Relationships, Healthy Eating, Drugs and Alcohol.

Year 10 – All **geographers** (half the year group) will be setting off on an expedition across London to Stratford to carry out their **Non-Examined Assessment (NEA)** that forms a key part of the curriculum and supports success in the GCSE.

All non-geographers (the other half of the year group) will be having a picnic in the park before embarking on a team building activity over the '**Inflatable Land**' assault course. This supports students' Personal Development pushing them beyond their comfort zones and to overcome challenges they may not have faced before. This also promotes healthier lifestyles with some aspects of physical fitness the development of problem-solving skills with opportunities for leadership. This was, in part, put in place in response to the advertised tube strikes that impacted other planned activities. Please complete the consent form on ParentPay.

Year 11 – Will have a very busy day providing excellent preparation for their upcoming GCSEs. All students will have a performance, with an external theatre company, of '**An Inspector Calls**' a key text for their English Literature GCSE that will be followed up with Workshops, with all the English department teachers supporting students. The second half of the day will be dedicated to time for the completion of their Non-Examined Assessment (NEA) within their **art, design and technology, food technology, drama, music and media studies** classes which nearly all students have chosen as one of their GCSEs. This is an essential day for all Year 11.

Year 12 – Will have access to all the computer suites on the school site and will be supported to work on their **Extended Project Qualification (EPQ)** which allows students to complete independent research or project earning UCAS points for university while developing skills highly valued by universities.

Year 13 – Will complete a revision day in the Main Hall while some students will receive intervention support in **media studies, economics, physics, biology, chemistry, further mathematics and politics.**

Target Review Day on Friday, 27 March 2026 is an opportunity for students and families to attend the school in person or online. Attendance in one form or another is compulsory and staff can work with what best meets the needs of our families. The review completed by form tutors will look at academic progress, achievements, behaviour, attendance and punctuality. Staff are in the process of contacting families for those meetings. Friday, 27 March 2026 is the final day of the Spring Term and students return to school as normal on Monday, 13 April 2026. Students should be onsite by 08:40 and in tutor time by 08:45.

Attendance is the first key indicator of a student's likely success at school and beyond. Students with higher attendance who are in school more than 95% of the time have a greater chance of achieving in English and Maths. This is common sense and evidenced by national data. If you do not attend school, you do not have access to that day's learning activities, time with their friends, and the development of social skills and a range of other positive character traits.

The vast majority of students at Brentside attend well and more than 95%. Getting to school really matters. A single missed day of school means a student does not have access to 5 lessons. Did you know:

- 95% attendance means a student has missed 9 school days or 45 lessons.
- 90% attendance means a student has missed 18 school days or 90 lessons.
- 85% attendance means a student has missed 27 school days or 130 lessons.
- 80% attendance means a student has missed 36 school days or 180 lessons.
- 75% attendance means a student has missed 45 school days or 220 lessons.

Every day of the school year is a compulsory school day (unless otherwise notified), and all students are expected to attend school. As much as possible we will support families and work with families to provide a structure for good attendance. When students are absent, we do often review absence initially as the first step to a potential safeguarding concern regarding a student's wellbeing and their ability to access education. As such we are reviewing how we follow up absences from school and how we can reduce absences. More information will follow directly following Spring Term break in April. A letter will follow regarding how to:

- Contact the school to record a student absence
- How the school will support families to get students into school
- When the school will visit a student and family at home during or following an absence
- What steps the school will then take to support families to better attendance
- The thresholds for engagement with the Ealing Borough Attendance Team in issuing fines for student absence

We thank you for your continued support in moving forward together. We wish all our students and families a restful Spring Term break when it arrives.

Yours faithfully,



Mr Duffy
Deputy Headteacher