



Brentside High School

Learning and Achieving Together

Greenford Avenue, London W7 1JJ

Tel: 020 8575 9162 – Email: info@brentsidehigh.ealing.sch.uk

Website: www.brentsidehigh.ealing.sch.uk

Headteacher: Ms Charlotte Hames

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Dear Parents/Carers,

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 next few weeks of school. 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 whether that is specific subject learning, skill development or knowledge and experiences.

Below, Applied Learning Day activities this Friday for Years 7-12 are outlined. Students returning from trips will be dismissed shortly after their return to school (between 13:30 and 14:30 – dependent on trip) and students will have an opportunity to refill water bottles and to use the bathroom prior to their journey home. Families will be notified by text. Given the slightly earlier finish, if any family requires their child(ren) to remain at school until normal school finish, then please email info@brentsidehigh.ealing.sch.uk. There is quite a lot of information in this letter so parents/carers can now skip to the relevant year group and trip section, then read on from '**Considerations for the warm weather**'.

Year 7

A visit to **London Zoo** offers Year 7 students a fun, engaging learning experience that develops scientific knowledge, social skills, confidence, and a greater appreciation for wildlife and conservation. Students can observe animals up close and learn about habitats, adaptation, food chains, classification, and conservation. Seeing real animals helps students better understand concepts they have studied in lessons. While, walking around the zoo encourages physical activity while learning. Much of the experience will be indoors or in the shade.

Year 8

Gripped Aerial Adventure Park outdoor activity centre visit offers Year 8 students an engaging and memorable experience that supports their physical, emotional, and social development while building essential life skills that benefit them both in school and in everyday life. Students will challenge themselves by trying activities that may initially seem daunting, helping them believe in their abilities. Many activities require students to encourage, support, and communicate effectively with one another, building the confidence to take on new challenges. While completing challenging activities gives students a sense of achievement with opportunities for effective teamwork and developing leadership skills and building their resilience experience when facing difficulties. Much of the experience will be in the shade and physical activity will be moderated as required, by the experienced staff.

Year 9

There are five curriculum trips in Year 9 for art, drama, geography, history and media studies to a variety of destinations that enrich the experience of the subject. The **art** department trip for Year 9 GCSE art students is to the Tate Britain or the British Museum. This trip aims to provide students with ideas of artists and artwork that they can use within their work going forward in the year. As well as promote careers in the creative industries to young people and conduct research which can be used in their future GCSE projects.

The **media studies** department is organising a trip for Year 9 and Year 12 media studies students to the ODEON cinema in Tottenham Court Road and Leicester Square. This trip will give them a fantastic opportunity to expand on their understanding of film funding, production, and distribution, related to their film set texts.

The **history** department is organising a trip for Year 9 students to go to a study tour of Gunnersbury Park Museum. The trip will provide an opportunity for the students to experience history in and out of the class setting. While at the venue, the students will have a guided tour and workshops to learn more about one of England's most significant historic sites.

The **geography** department trip, on the air conditioned coach, to Virginia Water Lake gives students the opportunity to learn about physical geography primarily: identifying natural features such as lakes, woodlands, streams, and landforms; ecosystems and habitats, observing local plants and wildlife and understanding how living organisms interact with their environment; conservation and sustainability, through understanding the importance of protecting natural resources and maintaining biodiversity. Much of the experience will offer shaded areas.

The **drama** department has organised a trip for Year 9 GCSE drama students to see Hunger Games at the Troubadour Theatre. This will offer students a fantastic opportunity to experience live theatre, which is an integral and compulsory part of the course, and to see theatre in a purpose-built contemporary space in the unique location of Canary Wharf.

Year 10

Are embarking on a **short walking tour of Hyde Park and a picnic**. This will encompass the Elizabeth line to Paddington and a short walk to Hyde Park and students will visit the statues, monuments and memorials and then students will have a picnic before coming back to school for a finish at approximately 13:30-14:00. The return to school will include a register of all students prior to dismissal. This trip originally encompassed multiple sites on a longer walking tour but has been scaled back in consideration of the warmth on Friday.

Years 7-10 Yondr and smartphones

All students will present their Yondr pouches and smartphones as usual while on the school site as there will be no access permitted to smartphones. For all trips, students will be permitted to have access to their phones. Students will unlock their phones on departure. In the case of an emergency, parents/carers can contact the school, and the school will contact the group leader for your child's group. Students move in groups of approximately 10 students with one member of staff and there are regular checks on the group.

Year 12

Universities created the **Extended Project Qualification (EPQ)** in response to their experience that even the most successful A Level students are not prepared for the level of independent research/learning, including extended writing and evaluation of arguments, required for higher education. Consequently, the EPQ is a major component of our enrichment programme for Level 3, Year 12 students. Some universities are giving reduced subject offers for students with a good grade in EPQ which is an effective motivator for our students. Year 12 students will be presenting their oral examination PowerPoint and handing in their completed dissertation for assessment on Applied Learning Day.

Statistical evidence has also shown that students who complete an EPQ are significantly less likely to drop out of university during their first year and are also more likely to achieve a 1st or 2:1 degree at university.

Considerations for the warm weather

Applied Learning Day is a compulsory school day, and we expect that temperatures will be around 30 degrees, without the humidity of the previous heatwave. The heat warning is lower than the previous heatwave and temperatures and humidity will be lower. Each trip will be leaving, where applicable, as soon as practical when the temperatures will be in the lower to mid-twenties. All trips, where possible will use public transport with air conditioning, for example the Elizabeth Line. Each destination will offer

shaded areas, and all students should be encouraged to bring a refillable water bottle; to apply sunscreen before school and to bring some for reapplication where needed; and to bring a hat where possible. Staff can also decide to return earlier if there is a need to do so. With yellow and amber warnings, vulnerable people have to take additional measures as they are at a heightened risk, which might include not attending. If your child has specific vulnerabilities/a medical plan and you believe that staying on site is better for them, we will arrange an appropriate on-site experience then please notify info@brentsidehigh.ealing.sch.uk by **18:00 today** and arrangements can be made.

International Market Day

International Market Day on Monday, 20 July is a celebration of the rich cultural diversity within the school whereby all cultures are celebrated. Students are permitted to wear international dress in relation to, usually, their heritage, or a football kit linked to their cultural heritage (no local or regional teams allowed). Students will contribute £1 to wear international clothing or they can provide a contribution of food, such as a tinned item or pack of biscuits or rice, that will go to a local food bank. Similarly, students can wear their school uniform. Students will make the contribution upon entry to the school, so it is discreet if the student is unable to contribute financially or with food. Staff, often supported by individual students and families, contribute by providing stalls where food can be purchased. All proceeds on the day go to charity. More information will follow.

End of term arrangements

The school year will finish on Tuesday, 21 July and students will be dismissed from 12:25.

The school returns in September with Year 7 and Year 12 Induction Day on Thursday, 3 September and Years 8, 9, 10, 11 and 13 return for a shortened Induction Day on Friday, 4 September. All year groups are then in school on Friday, 4 September for a shortened first day.

Attendance in school is vital and all attendance in the run up to the school holidays and the return from holidays is tracked and monitored. For some families, there will be additional communications in the coming weeks regarding instances of recorded absences around these times of the school year.

All the exciting events ahead, including our Sports Day, have specific aspects of learning and we thank all students and staff for getting the most out of these special events.

Yours faithfully,



Mr Duffy
Deputy Headteacher