



Brentside High School

Learning and Achieving Together

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Headteacher: Ms Charlotte Hames

September 2026

Dear Parent/Carer,

Re: The Year Ahead

We hope that Year 8 families had an enjoyable and restful summer break. We would like to take this opportunity to welcome our Year 8 back to Brentside and to outline some key information for the upcoming half term and beyond.

It has been wonderful to welcome our Year 8 students back to school. They have returned with enthusiasm, positivity, and a readiness to learn, and the Year 8 team look forward to supporting them throughout the year. It has been a real privilege working with this year group throughout Year 7 and seeing them grow and progress through the year. We are delighted to continue that journey with them and to support their progress in Year 8.

Firstly, congratulations to Year 8 for the successful completion of their first year of secondary school. The transition from primary school is a significant milestone and we are incredibly proud of the resilience, determination and maturity that so many of our students have shown over the past year. Students have grown in confidence, built new friendships and developed into valued members of the Brentside High School community.

Year 8 is an important year in their educational journey and students will build on the good habits they have established in Year 7. Year 8 is an exciting time, and later in the year students have some choice over some of the subjects they would like to continue to study for their GCSEs which begin in Year 9. This year will provide students with an excellent opportunity to continue developing their independence, organisation and commitment to learning and building habits, routines and confidence that will support them beyond their time at Brentside.

As a school our aim is to ensure that every student feels safe and supported enabling everyone to reach their full potential. The partnership between home and school is a foundation upon which this is built. Your support as parents/carers/families is crucial in their progress. Communication is essential and you are encouraged to contact us if you have any questions, concerns or information that may help us support your child effectively.

Attendance

Attendance in school every day is the foundation to success. Every lesson matters. Attendance of 90% might appear good but this means missing the equivalent of one day every fortnight, which can create significant gaps in learning, especially when it equals up to 19 days absent from school (almost a month of learning) across the year. Students should attend school every day, arriving on time and ensure that appointments take place outside school hours wherever possible. All absences need to be emailed to attendance@brentsidehigh.ealing.sch.uk

Extra-Curricular Clubs

As part of students' personal development, they are encouraged to take advantage of the opportunities, facilities and expertise in subjects, activities and personal development. At lunchtime students who bring football boots have an opportunity to play an organised game of football on the astro turf. There will be daily opportunities throughout the week.

Students are encouraged to attend extra-curricular clubs; boys can take part in football club every Tuesday after school and girls have the chance to attend netball club every Wednesday after school.

There is also the opportunity this year for boys to attend our junior basketball club on a Wednesday after school. There is also badminton and table tennis club every Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday morning starting from 7:45. We are currently building a comprehensive programme and will communicate this more fully in due course. All clubs are free of charge.

Early Closures

There are several important dates coming up that we would like families to be aware of. On **Tuesday, 15 September**, the school will close early at **12:25** to allow for the Open Evening for Year 6 families. The following

day on **Wednesday, 16 September**, there will be a later start to the school day, with Year 8 students expected to arrive by **09:40**. On **Thursday, 1 October**, the school will again close early at **12:25** due to staff training.

Year Ahead Evening

As we start the year there are some key dates to note for both this term and throughout the year for Year 8 students. This includes our **Year Ahead Evening** on **Tuesday, 29 September** from 17:00-18:00 which will outline the key focuses of this year, including the GCSE options process and support around accessing, and understanding, ClassCharts. All students and families are strongly encouraged to attend. More information will follow.

Target Setting Day

On **Thursday, 26 November** we have our **Target Setting Day** where parents/carers and students and will meet with their form tutors and have a look at students' overall reports to set goals and targets to help students with their progress throughout the year.

End of Half Term and Arrangements into the Autumn Term

The half term holiday begins for students on **Thursday, 22 October** (last day in school Wednesday, 21 October) and school reopens for all students on **Tuesday, 3 November**, with students expected to arrive by no later than **08:40**. There is also a school closure for students on **Friday, 27 November** due to staff training. Finally, the school will close at **12:25** on **Friday, 18 December** for the end of the autumn term and will reopen on **Monday, 4 January**, with students expected to arrive by no later than **08:40**.

As students do return, I would be grateful if you could remind them of the importance of arriving to school on time each day, wearing the correct uniform and bringing in the correct equipment for their learning. I have every confidence that Year 8 will be another successful and rewarding year for our students and we look forward to working closely with students and families to our shared goals.

Thank you as always for your continued support. If you have any questions or require further information, please do not hesitate to contact me by emailing ag.hole@brentsidehigh.ealing.sch.uk

Yours faithfully,



Mr Hole
Year Leader for Year 8