



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 9 families had an enjoyable and restful summer break. We would like to take this opportunity to warmly welcome all Year 9 students back to school as they begin the next exciting chapter in their school life. It has been wonderful to welcome the whole year group back to school. They have returned with enthusiasm, positivity, and a readiness to learn, and we look forward to supporting them as they continue to grow and progress throughout the year.

It has been a real privilege working with this year group throughout Key Stage 3 and seeing them grow and progress through the years, I am delighted to continue that journey with them and see how much further they can push themselves and progress in Year 9. Throughout this year, we are especially keen to develop the students' *growth* mindset, encouraging them to embrace challenges, learn from mistakes, and view effort as the foundation of lifelong success.

Firstly, I would like to congratulate all of our students on completing Key Stage 3 and another successful year of secondary school. Students have grown in confidence, built stronger friendships and developed into valued members of the Brentside High School community.

Year 9 is a vital year in our students' educational journey, as it marks the vital start to the GCSE journey that they are beginning this year. This year will provide students with an excellent opportunity to continue developing their independence, organisation, and commitment to learning while preparing them for the journey beyond school.

Our aim is to ensure that every student feels safe, supported, and able to reach their full potential. We would also like to emphasise the importance of the partnership between home and school. Your support as parents/carers throughout Year 7 and 8 has been invaluable, and we look forward to continuing to work closely together throughout the coming year. Open communication is essential, and we encourage you 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 one day every fortnight, which can create significant gaps in learning, especially when it equals up to 19 days absent from school over the whole 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 astroturf. 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 07:45. We are currently building a comprehensive programme and will communicate this more fully in due course.

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. If you have had a letter to say that your child is involved in Open Evening, we thank you and them in advance. The following day is **Wednesday, 16 September** and there will be a later start to the school day, with Year 9 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 9 students. This includes our **Year Ahead Evening** on **Tuesday, 29 September** from 18:15-19:15 which will outline the key focuses of this year, including approaches to achieving success in their first GCSE year and also 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 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 is 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 inset 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 return, I would be grateful if you could remind them of the importance of arriving at school on time each day, wearing the correct uniform, and bringing the correct equipment for their learning. I have every confidence that Year 9 will be another successful and rewarding year for our students; they have enormous potential, and I look forward to helping them challenge themselves and make the most of all the opportunities available to them.

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 z.chelh@brentsidehigh.ealing.sch.uk

Yours faithfully,



Mr Chelh
Year Leader for Year 9