



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 10 families had an enjoyable and restful summer break. We would like to take this opportunity to warmly welcome all Year 10 students back to school as they begin the next exciting chapter in their school life. This is a very important stage of their education, as their GCSE courses are now well underway. The knowledge, skills and study habits they develop this year will have a direct impact on their progress and preparation for Year 11.

Our regular reviews during Year 9 highlighted many positives. We celebrated students who worked hard, consistently showed expected behaviour, earned merits, improved their behaviour, attended regularly and presented as role models. It has been great to see the positive start students have made this term with the correct uniform, all their equipment and the positive engagement in their lessons. Their teachers have regularly commented on how much they enjoyed teaching them last year and this is a real testament to their positive approach to learning.

However, we also identified areas where *some* students need to improve, including punctuality, equipment, uniform, homework, focus on learning and making positive choices during social times. We would like to ask you to continue supporting us with the following priorities:

Attendance and Punctuality

Attendance in school every day is the foundation to success. Every lesson matters, particularly now that students are studying GCSE content. Attendance of 90% for example may sound reasonable, but this means missing the equivalent of one day every fortnight, which can create significant gaps in learning and add up to almost a month of lost learning over 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

Preparation and Organisation

Students should arrive each day in full school uniform, wearing their lanyard and carrying the correct equipment. They should use their planners and Achievement Journal to record homework, organise deadlines and monitor their progress.

Homework and Independent Study

Regular study at home will help students remember key knowledge and keep up with their GCSE courses. Where possible, please provide a quiet space for your child to work in focused sessions, with phones and other distractions put away. If this is not practical, please remember that the school library is available for students to use before and after school (as well as break and lunch) for their independent study.

Communication through ClassCharts

Please check ClassCharts regularly for homework, merits, behaviour notifications and messages from school. Keeping notifications switched on will help you stay informed and respond quickly if support is needed.

Wellbeing and support

Year 10 can feel demanding at times. A healthy routine, including enough sleep, regular meals and time to rest, will help students manage their workload. Please encourage your child to speak to you, their form tutor, a member of the Year Team or another trusted adult if they are worried or finding things difficult. Support is also available through the library, study clubs, after-school sessions and our pastoral team.

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 10 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 10 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. All students and families are strongly encouraged to attend. More information will follow.

Assessment Week and Target Setting Day

On **Tuesday, 3 November**, Year 10 students will have an assessment week to determine progress and to support an understanding of areas for development. 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 school is then closed for the half term holiday on **Thursday, 22 October** (last day in school is Wednesday, 21 October) and school reopens 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**.

We want every student to approach Year 10 with commitment, resilience and ambition. With consistent effort, high expectations and strong communication between home and school, we can help every student make strong progress.

Thank you as always for your continued support. I look forward to working with you throughout the year.

Yours faithfully,



Ms Busingye
Year Leader for Year 10