



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 would like to take this opportunity to warmly welcome all our Year 11 students back to Brentside High School for the autumn term. It has been extremely pleasing to see students return with such focus, enthusiasm and a positive attitude towards their learning.

This is a particularly important period in the academic year, as students continue to build momentum in their studies and prepare for the key GCSE milestones ahead. Over the coming months, students will focus on consolidating their learning, strengthening their knowledge and preparing thoroughly for their GCSE mock examinations in December.

The work experience programme at the end of last academic year provided our students with a valuable opportunity to develop their sense of ambition, work ethic, routine and an understanding of the expectations of the world of work. It is encouraging to see the positive impact this experience has had as students begin Year 11. We have already seen significant improvements or strengths in attitudes to learning including punctuality and daily attendance.

Attendance and Punctuality

We ask that parents and carers continue to support your child(ren) in establishing positive routines each morning. Please encourage your child to leave home in good time and arrive at school ready to learn, with the correct uniform and all the necessary equipment. These routines make a significant difference to students' readiness to learn and, ultimately, to their progress.

Ideally, Year 11 students should arrive on site by **08:30**. This will allow sufficient time for students to manage their Yondr pouch on arrival and, if required, make use of the school breakfast area before the start of the school day. Students should be **in tutor groups by 08:45**.

Attendance in school every day is the foundation to success. We encourage all students to strive for **100% attendance**, wherever possible, so that they do not miss valuable teaching, revision or intervention opportunities. 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 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

We recognise that there will be occasions when illness, medical appointments or other important circumstances may prevent a student from attending school. On such occasions, please contact the school in advance wherever possible and inform us of the reason for the absence. This enables us to ensure that our attendance records accurately reflect the circumstances.

Where we have not received notification regarding an absence, parents and carers should expect a wellbeing call from their child's Form Tutor as part of our commitment to supporting every student.

The Importance of the Year Ahead

During our Year 11 assembly on Induction Day, we reminded students of the importance of making the most of every school day. At that point, there were 124 school days remaining until the official GCSE examinations begin and just 54 school days until the December mock examinations.

These figures are a useful reminder that the time for students to fully commit, focus and establish strong study habits is now. There is no time to waste. Every lesson, every revision session and every opportunity for additional support can make a meaningful difference to their progress and final outcomes.

Our Year 11 subject teachers will also be volunteering to support students through after-school intervention and revision sessions. We provide students with additional opportunities to strengthen their knowledge, address gaps in understanding and prepare for their examinations. However, it is essential that students attend these sessions consistently and engage fully so that the time and expertise being invested in them has the greatest possible impact.

We therefore ask that you continue to encourage your child to take full advantage of every opportunity available to them. High attendance, active engagement in lessons and a consistent approach to revision will be crucial as we move towards the mock examinations and, ultimately, the summer GCSE examinations. Attending the Year Ahead Evening will showcase all the ways we (families and school staff) can support your child(ren).

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 11 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 look ahead to what promises to be a very important and rewarding year, we warmly invite all Year 11 parents and carers to attend our **Year 11 Year Ahead Evening on Tuesday, 22 September, from 18:15-19:15**.

The evening will provide an important opportunity to hear from the Senior Leadership Team, Year Leader, Assessment Team, and Subject Leaders for English and mathematics. They will provide essential information about key dates, revision timetables, resources and strategies, as well as the after-school intervention and the ongoing support available to Year 11 students.

This evening is an important opportunity for parents and carers to gain a clear understanding of the support and opportunities available to Year 11 students in addition to their timetabled lessons. Your attendance will enable us to work together to ensure that your child is fully prepared for their GCSE examinations and has every opportunity to achieve their potential.

Target Setting Day and Mock Examinations

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.

Following this, **Year 11 mock examinations** start on **approximately Monday, 7 December**. More information will be given on the Year Ahead Evening about what this period will be like and how families can best support students.

End of Half Term and Arrangements into the Autumn Term

The school will close 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

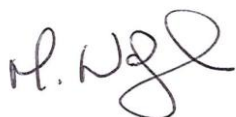
Autumn Term and will reopen on **Monday, 4 January** with students expected to arrive by no later than **08:40**.

GCSE success is a shared responsibility between **the student, home and school**, and your support, encouragement and engagement throughout the year will be invaluable.

If you are unable to attend the Year 11 Year Ahead Evening, please contact me directly by emailing m.walsh@brentsidehigh.ealing.sch.uk I will be happy to arrange an alternative meeting with you to discuss the key information and provide you with the relevant resources.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support and partnership. We look forward to working closely with you throughout this important year and supporting every Year 11 student to achieve their very best.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Walsh', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Mr Walsh
Year Leader for Year 11