BRENTSIDE HIGH SCHOOL

LEARNING AND ACHIEVING TOGETHER

NEWSLETTER

21 October 2026

A MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHER

Charlotte Hames
Headteacher

Dear Parents/Carers,

As we reach the end of another busy and successful half term, I am immensely proud of the many achievements, opportunities and experiences that our students have embraced. From educational visits and leadership programmes to sporting successes and community engagement, students have continued to demonstrate the ambition, resilience and excellence that make our school such a special place.

This term has seen students broaden their horizons through a wide range of enrichment activities. Highlights have included a residential trip to Spain, a day trip to Auschwitz as part of the Holocaust Programme, work with industry professionals in graphic design, participation in the Duke of Edinburgh Award expedition, and involvement in the prestigious Kew Explainer Programme. These experiences help develop confidence, independence and a deeper understanding of the world beyond the classroom.

We have also celebrated significant individual and collective achievements. Our students received recognition at the Young Ealing Foundation Awards, with Ivan in Year 9 winning the Young Leader of the Year Award, while the school has been recognised as one of the Top 10% Most Improved Secondary Schools in England for attendance. These accomplishments reflect the hard work of our students, the dedication of our staff and the ongoing support of parents and carers.

And if you needed any further evidence of what makes Brentside special, we hope you enjoy watching our new Brentside film. The link is shared in this newsletter.

As always, we remain committed to ensuring that every student is challenged academically while benefiting from the rich opportunities that help them grow into responsible, active and successful young adults. Thank you to our families for your continued partnership and support. Together, we are creating opportunities that inspire our students to achieve their very best.

I wish all members of our school community a restful and enjoyable half-term break and look forward to welcoming students back for another exciting and productive term.

Ms Hames

KEY DATES

Wednesday, 21 October; **Last day of school for students**

Thursday, 22 October: **Virtual staff training day**

Friday, 23 October: **Occasional Day**

Monday, 26 October: **Half term holiday-Friday, 30 October**

Monday, 2 November: **Staff training day**

Tuesday, 3 November: **School starts for all students**

Tuesday, 3 November- Monday, 9 November: **Year 10 internal assessments**

Tuesday, 3 November: **Parent Forum: How to help your child become an independent learner 18:30-19:30:** All welcome

Tuesday, 3 November: **Friends at Brentside PTA meeting: 19:30-20:00:** All welcome

Thursday, 26 November: **Target Setting Day**

Friday, 27 November: **Staff Training**

Thursday, 3 December: **Winter Concert**

Monday, 7 December- Thursday, 17 December: **Year 11 Mock exams**

Thursday, 10 December: **Year 10 Parents' Evening- 16:30-19:30**

Thursday, 17 December: **Applied Learning Day**

Friday, 18 December: **Last day of term**

Monday, 21 December- Friday, 1 January: **School holidays**

Monday, 4 January 2027: **Start of term for all students**

Monday, 4 January -Monday, 11 January 2027: **Year 12 and 13 Mock Exams**

Thursday, 21 January: **Year 11 Parents' Evening- 16:30-19:30**

Wednesday, 27 January and Thursday, 28 January: **School Production of High School Musical**

Thursday, 4 February: **Year 13 Parents' Evening- 16:30-19:30**

Thursday, 11 February: **Year 12 Parents' Evening- 16:30-19:30**

Monday, 15 February-Friday, 19 February: **Half term holiday**

Monday, 22 February: **Staff training**

Monday, 22 February- Tuesday 2 March: **Year 11 Spring Assessments**

23 February: **Start of School**

Thursday, 4 March: **Year 8 Options Evening- 16:30-18:30**

Wednesday, 10 March: **Early Closure: 12:25**

Monday, 15 March: **Year 13 Spring Assessments begin**

Thursday, 18 March: **Year 8 Parents' Evening- 16:30-19:30**

Wednesday, 24 March: **Applied Learning Day**

Thursday, 25 March: **Target Review Day**

Thursday, 25 March: **Year 10 and 12 Mock Interview Day**

Thursday, 25 March: **Last Day of Term**

Friday, 26 March: **Public Holiday**

WHAT MAKES BRENTSIDE SPECIAL?

ALL YEARS

We have always known Brentside is a special place. There are so many incredible opportunities for our students to grow and succeed academically as well as growing as people.

We hope you enjoy watching our new short film to share the ethos and strengths of Brentside with our school and wider community.

What Makes Brentside Special Film

MARS WORKSHOP- APPRENTICESHIP SUPPORT

YEAR 12 AND YEAR 13

17 September

Selection and Hiring
MARS

A group of students recently had the opportunity to attend the Mars Apprenticeship Workshop, an experience that provided invaluable insight into the wide range of career pathways available through apprenticeships. The session was designed to help students better understand how apprenticeships work and the opportunities they can provide within a global organisation like Mars.

During the workshop, students heard from Katie, a representative from Mars, who shared information about apprenticeship programmes in areas such as Data, Sales and Demand Planning. Her engaging presentation highlighted the variety of roles available and helped students appreciate the many routes into successful careers beyond traditional university pathways.

One of the highlights of the event was hearing from Shakiea, a former student at Brentside, who secured a Marketing Apprenticeship with Mars last year. Her success story was particularly inspiring, demonstrating what can be achieved through hard work, ambition and a willingness to explore alternative career routes. Students were able to gain first-hand insight into the apprenticeship application process and life as an apprentice within a leading international company.

The workshop had a significant impact on our students, broadening their understanding of future career options and encouraging them to consider apprenticeships as a valuable pathway into employment and professional development. Opportunities like this play an important role in raising aspirations and helping young people make informed decisions about their futures.

THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH AWARD

YEAR 10

18-19 September

For our Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award, my group went on an expedition from Ruislip Lido to Paccar Scout Camp. We spent the day walking together, exploring different places and trying not to get lost.

It took us about four hours to finish. We talked a lot along the way, which made the walk more fun and helped us forget how tired we were getting. There were also quite a few funny moments, especially when we were trying to work out which way to go.

One of the best parts was exploring places that we would not usually visit. Some parts of the walk were tiring, but it felt good to see how far we had gone and know that we were getting closer to the camp.

We also had to work well as a team. We needed to communicate, decide which route to take and make sure that nobody was falling behind. It was not always easy, but getting to Paccar Scout Camp at the end made it feel worth it.

Overall, I really enjoyed the expedition. Walking, talking with my friends and dealing with the challenges made it a memorable experience. I would definitely say it was worth doing!

Theo, Year 10

BERENBERG MENTORING

YEAR 13

24 September

We are delighted to congratulate **Ahmad, Sacho, Siya and Serina in Year 12,** who have successfully secured places on a prestigious **one-year mentoring programme with Berenberg Bank** following a workshop delivered at Brentside.

The students impressed during the selection process and have now been given a fantastic opportunity to work closely with professionals from one of Europe's leading private and investment banks. Throughout the year, they will receive personalised guidance, develop their employability skills, gain valuable insight into the financial services sector and build their professional networks.

Securing a place on this competitive programme is a significant achievement and reflects the students' commitment, enthusiasm and potential. The mentoring relationship will help them develop greater confidence, enhance their understanding of career pathways within the banking and finance industry, and support them in making informed decisions about their future education and career aspirations.

Opportunities such as this provide invaluable real-world experience and enable students to learn directly from industry professionals. We are incredibly proud of Ahmad, Sacho, Siya and Serina and look forward to hearing about their progress and achievements throughout the programme. We wish them every success as they embark on this exciting journey with Berenberg.

GRAPHICS STUDENTS VISIT DESIGN AGENCY

YEAR 12 AND YEAR 13

24 September

Year 12 and 13 students visited Widemann Lampe design agency offices in Hoxton and received a talk from the company co-founder. He inspired our students by discussing how he started the company and sharing some of their recent projects. Students learnt his views on what makes a graphic designer stand out in the age of AI and gave them some fantastic tips on presenting portfolios and applying for jobs. We had the opportunity for questions and had a chance to browse the art exhibition in their company gallery space. This was a really incredible opportunity to explore the link between studying graphic design in class and the role of graphic designer in the world of work.

GEOGRAPHY FIELD TRIP

YEAR 11

29 and 30 September

The geography department organised a physical geography fieldwork trip to the River Brent. This trip provided an opportunity for the Year 11 geography students to collect vital data needed for their Paper 3 – Geographical Investigations: Fieldwork and UK Challenges and helped them better understand the various fluvial erosion processes.

YOUNG EALING FOUNDATION AWARDS 2026

ALL YEARS

1 October

SPACES FOR YOUN

Young people, youth workers, volunteers and grassroots organisations from across Ealing took centre stage at the fifth annual Young Ealing Foundation Awards – a joyful celebration of the people making the borough a better place for children and young people to live and grow up.

Thirty finalists across ten categories were celebrated at a packed ceremony at ECC in Northfields on Thursday 1 October 2026, with awards recognising everything from youth leadership, activism and entrepreneurship to outstanding youth work, partnership, tackling inequality and overcoming adversity.

Ivan Ratkovic
YO ADER OF T

We are hugely proud of a number of Brentside students who were nominated for awards: Congratulations go to Josh, Year 9 who was nominated for Young Entrepreneur of the Year, Denisecia in Year 11 who was nominated for the award for Overcoming Adversity, Fatema in Year 13 who presented an award and Zainab, Year 13 who was nominated for the Young Leader of the Year.

Huge congratulations also go to Ivan in Year 9 who won the Young Leader of the Year Award! What an incredible achievement and one that will stand him great stead in the future.

SPORTS LEADER EVENT

YEARS 8 AND 9

9 October

BARCLAYS
GIRLS' FOOTBALL
SCHOOL
PARTNERSHIPS
BY ENGLAND FOOTBALL

15 students from Year 11 and Year 8 were selected to referee a girls' primary school football competition at Goals in Alperton.

The competition had a focus on girls' participation in football with our students being used as role models to show the primary school students that girls can do any role on the pitch.

Some of the QPR ladies team also attended the event. For any *Ted Lasso* fans, this was season

4 in action!

BRENTSIDE OUTSTANDING SIXTH FORM (OFSTED 2025)

YEAR 11

15 October

LEARNING AND ACHIEVING TOGETHER
Sixth Form Open Evening
Wednesday, 15 October 2025 17:30-19:30
Headteacher's Talk 17:40
Tickets are available at

We hope you found Brentside Sixth Form Open Evening informative and inspiring.

For further details, please use the QR codes below to view our Sixth Form video, review our course directory and complete your application form.

Why choose our Sixth Form

Apply here

Course Directory

"Exceptional quality of provision, both for their academic and their wider development." Ofsted 2025

SPORTING SUCCESS

YEAR 10

PAN KIDS JIU-JITSU
2026
IBJJF CHAMPIONSHIP
2
1
3

Congratulations to our multi-talented Borough Athletics Champion, Ezekiel in Year 10, who won the Pan Kids Championships in America and secured a gold medal in the All Stars BJJ European Championships.

At just 14 years old, Ezekiel is currently ranked 4th in the IBJJ World Rankings for his age group and 1st in the Ultra Heavyweight division.

We are very proud of Ezekiel's fantastic achievements and we wish him every success in future competitions!

POLAND TRIP- AUSCHWITZ PROJECT

YEAR 12 AND 13

14 October

AR EIT MACHT FREI

On 14 October, five Year 13 history students – Mischa, Noah, Emmily, Sawsan and Oliwia went on a trip to Krakow, Poland. This was part of the Lessons from Auschwitz Project. Travelling with students from several schools from across London, they visited Auschwitz, Poland and toured authentic sites and museum exhibits.

The project enabled tour students to learn more about the history of the Holocaust, the role of camps such as Auschwitz-Birkenau, and the effect these had on those inhabiting them.

Before the trip, part of the project included an orientation seminar in central London, where the participants heard a Holocaust survivor speak and learnt about pre-war Jewish life and the holocaust itself.

As a follow-up to the trip, through the Next Step component of the project, the students will be sharing what they have learnt with their peers across the school community. As part of their reflection on the visit and the contemporary relevance of the lessons of the Holocaust, they will make presentations during assemblies for Year 9 - 13 where they will discuss their experience.

LESSONS FROM Auschwitz

Feedback from the five students is that participating on the project has given them an excellent opportunity to deepen their knowledge of the Holocaust, as well as providing good opportunities for them to work with the Trust in furthering remembrance of the subject.

RACE EQUALITY PARENT FORUM

RACE
EQUALITY

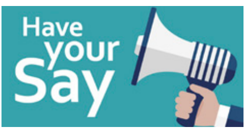
ALL YEARS

15 October

The Race Equality Parent Forum's first meeting this year was led and chaired by our parents.

Together both parents and the school discussed the staff training that has been delivered on Unconscious Bias, as well as evaluating our No Learner Left Behind Student Voice.

ACTIVE CITIZENSHIP: NORTH HANWELL PANEL



15 October

On Thursday, 15 October, three of our Sixth Form students represented the voice of young people at the North Hanwell Panel hosted at Brentside High School. Students talked with councillors, local area representatives and members of the police to represent the voice of our students and share young people's views on safety in our ward and beyond.

Many thanks to Sajad, Virtue and Asutosh who were fantastic advocates for our students.

Asutosh shared: *"We presented the results of an important student survey and discussed issues such as women's views of safety in the local area. We debated ways to raise awareness of these views and promote a safer environment for all. Overall, it was a great opportunity for us as it helped us see the bigger picture and learn new things while thinking of suitable solutions."*

KEW EXPLAINER PROGRAMME

YEARS 11, 12 AND 13

We are absolutely delighted that we have 13 students accepted onto the Kew Explainer programme. This award-winning training and volunteering programme is an opportunity for young people aged 14 to 17 to become experts in science communication and public engagement.

During the programme, students will have the opportunity to:

- Learn about plant science and conservation, and the extraordinary work of Kew Scientists.
- Explore behind the scenes and discover the largest and most diverse plant collection in the world.
- Develop communication skills and confidence with the help of our experts.
- Create fun and innovative resources to engage the public in science and conservation.
- Volunteer in Kew's iconic Temperate House and Princess of Wales Conservatory.
- Complete a Kew Young Environmental Leader Award and the volunteering and skills' requirements for a silver or bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award.
- Enrich their CV for use in applications for jobs, colleges and universities.
- Win a volunteer award worth £100

Huge congratulations to:

- Year 11 students: Deñísecia, Maryama and Nasra
- Year 12 students: Ahmad; Asher; Ayyan; Hashim; Lorca; Michelle; Nimi; Ramsha and Virtue
- Year 13 student: Sally

Kew Gardens staff are very excited to join them in the gardens later this month.

Youth Explainer Graduates

Congratulations also go to our Youth Explainer Graduates who have just completed the programme: Alliya, Yara, Maja and Olla pictured above. Special congratulations to Alliyah who won the most improved award from the Temperate House group. Well done!

RESIDENTIAL TRIP TO SPAIN

YEARS 9 AND 10

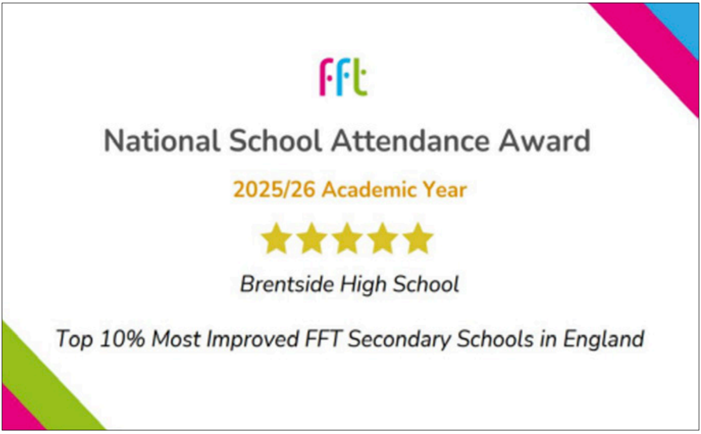
15-18 October

Our Languages students enjoyed a fantastic four-day visit to Spain this term, based in Benalmádena on the Costa del Sol. During the trip, students explored the historic cities of Córdoba and Seville, visiting landmarks including the Mezquita, Alcázar of Córdoba, Seville Cathedral, the Giralda Tower and the Royal Alcázar. They also took part in a Flamenco lesson, experienced Spanish culture first-hand and had valuable opportunities to practise their language skills. Students represented the school exceptionally well throughout the visit and returned with wonderful memories of a highly successful trip.

Thanks to Mr Moynihan, Mr Uddin and Ms Ferrer for leading this exciting opportunity.

TOP 10% MOST IMPROVED ATTENDANCE

ALL YEARS



FFT

National School Attendance Award

2025/26 Academic Year

★★★★★

Brentside High School

Top 10% Most Improved FFT Secondary Schools in England

We are pleased to share that Brentside has been placed in the Top 10% Most Improved Attendance FFT Secondary Schools in England from 2024/2025 and 2025/2026

Good attendance improves access to learning and progress!

PARENT FORUM: HOW TO HELP YOUR CHILD BECOME AN INDEPENDENT LEARNER

ALL PARENTS

Tuesday, 3 November18:30-19:30

We look forward to welcoming parents to the library to take part in an interactive workshop to help your child become more independent learners.

Please email **info@brentsidehigh.ealing.sch.uk** to book your space. Entrance is via the school car park gate on Greenford Avenue.

PARENT
FORUM

This workshop will be followed by a short PTA meeting from 19:30-20:00. All welcome!