



Parent and Carers' Newsletter

Thursday, 16 December 2021

Email: info@brentsidehigh.ealing.sch.uk

Website: www.brentsidehigh.ealing.sch.uk

Dear Student, Parent or Carer,

In reaching the end of our first full school term of the academic year, and the final term of the calendar year 2021, we look back on all that has been achieved this term.

Student achievement is always at the heart of all we do at Brentside, and a record number of merits for "excellent work" have been awarded across the school this term. Target Setting Day in November has supported so many of our students who are able to talk with confidence about the areas they are now focusing on in order to make accelerated progress. Many of our students have completed assessments this term too and we have been proud of their achievements and know how valuable the feedback from these assessments is in supporting them to identify the strengths and areas for development in each subject. The assessments inform our teaching so that we can reinforce learning where understanding is less secure.

Also at the heart of our work are the values we hold high as a community. This term we have had a specific focus in tutor groups on behaviour for learning and the school's core values of Respect, Excellence, Achievement, Citizenships and Happiness (REACH). We have awarded merits to students for embodying our values and are delighted that the analysis of student merits shows how well our students are contributing to and upholding these values in our day-to-day school life.

Today also marks the end of the first term that some of our students and staff have spent at Brentside. In speaking with them, for many it feels as though they have been here for years! We are glad that you have joined us, and we hope that all of our new members now celebrate all that they have achieved this term.

On the note of achievement, I have recently met with so many of our young people to present their Gold Award certificates for 100 merits achieved this term. We celebrate the student commitment, engagement and contributions that underpin this recognition. Despite us being in only the first term of the academic year, we have also had several Platinum Award winners who have achieved 200 merits or more. This is a small but impressive group, and we congratulate you all. I know that next half term will see many more of our people being presented with their certificates.

All at Brentside wish our students and their families a safe and enjoyable break. There is so much good to celebrate (last night's fabulous Winter Concert being one such

event,) but we are also in a time of uncertainty nationally around the Omicron variant transmission rates. Please do take good care and thank you for reminding your children to take LFD tests over the break. When we return in January all students (with consent) will be tested and new home kits will be given out. Students have also been given test kits this week to last them through the holiday. It is very likely that when schools return in January, we will be required to continue to wear face masks. We will contact you during the break if there are national changes we all need to be aware of. Contact is usually by email. If you have not received an email from the school at all this term, we do not have your email address, so please do send it to reception@brentsidehigh.ealing.sch.uk with your child's name and form and your relationship to your child.

Finally from me, **thank you** for all of your support and work in partnership with us this year; together we are stronger and our students achieve more.

Yours faithfully,

Ms Charlotte Hames
Headteacher

Year 7

Well done Year 7

A huge well done to Year 7 for having had such a successful term. Year 7 have been growing in confidence and it has been lovely to see so many of you familiarising yourselves with the school. We have had so many students involved in STEM club, homework club and P.E. clubs in particular, as well as students who applied to become members of School Cabinet. A huge congratulations to three students in particular, who took the time out to take part in an art competition and were awarded the top three places: Edward, Mohammed and Dora in Year 7, who won first place.

Upon reflection, although it has been a difficult time for many, in light of the pandemic, Year 7 have settled in extremely well and are demonstrating their resilience in character. We wish a Merry Christmas and an exciting and safe New Year to you and your families.



Congratulations to our Year 7 October 2021 winners!



Edward
'Ancient Giant'.
Acrylic paints



Dora
'Dressed up
for Tea and
Cupcakes'
Mixed media



Mohamed Taher

Year 8

Year 8 have had a wonderful term. They have worked incredibly hard and have adapted to the changes of a new school year brilliantly. In November, we were very excited to announce the winners of our Black History Month competition and have celebrated two sets of winners for our artist of the month competitions. They have been rewarded with a record number of merits and we have seen large numbers of students attend meetings with the

Headteacher to receive their Gold Merit Awards. As a cohort, they have proved themselves to be kind, persevering and mature in the way they conduct themselves and as always, I am incredibly proud of them. As they leave for their Christmas holidays, we wish them and their families a happy and restful break.

Una carta, una sonrisa (A letter, a smile)

We sent off cards prepared by Ms. Boyeldieu's Year 8 Spanish group to show solidarity with students in La Palma in the Canary Islands.



Many students there have sadly not been able to attend school since the volcanic eruption in September. Well done, 8QSP4!



Year 8 burgers

Year 8 students made their own burgers from scratch this term. They thoroughly enjoyed putting the burger together using a variety of personalised fillings.



Year 9

This half term marked an important stage in our Year 9 students' journey, as they received their first set of GCSE grades during Target Setting Day. Students used the day to discuss their achievements and set targets to ensure they continue making progress. It has been a real pleasure to see students working so hard in lessons, taking each

opportunity that comes their way and displaying a real dedication to their studies. We are delighted that our Year 9 students are continuing to collect merits in recognition for their hard work and commitment. A special congratulations to 9G for collecting the most merits in the year group and to 9H and 9D in 2nd and 3rd places, both of whom are keen to get their hands on the top spot! It has been fantastic to see so many students taking part in extracurricular activities such as football, basketball and netball. Well done to all those taking part in these and congratulations, if you were chosen to represent the school. A special mention goes to our boys' football team for successive victories and their most recent 5-2 victory against Cardinal Wiseman. Finally, we would like to wish our Year 9 students and their families a restful holiday and we look forward to the new term in 2022.

Year 9 Helping Hand Appeal

Our lovely Year 9 students baked fresh biscuits for the helping hand appeal. They creatively packed the biscuits and wrote a message for the receiver.



Year 9 Winning Streak Continues

The Year 9 boys' football team ended the Autumn term with a 100% record with a convincing 5-1 win over Ada Lovelace, making it four wins out of four. Brentside put Ada Lovelace under pressure right from the kick-off going close with a couple of headed efforts and hitting the woodwork. The early pressure paid off when Hasif opened the scoring with a glancing header off a fine early cross from Dominic. Moments later Dominic picked up an errant back pass from an Ada Lovelace defender to score calmly to the side of the keeper.

The midfield and attack of Rahim, Tyler, Alex, Wadea, Hasif, Dominic and Mateen were linking up well to create a lot of scoring opportunities. Mateen carried out his usual duties protecting the defence and was pushing higher and higher up the pitch as he enjoyed his best game of the season. A powerful shot from Wadea struck the post and Dominic was in the right place at the right time to score from close range. Wadea was goal provider again when

he played a through ball for Tyler to score, making it 4-0 before half time.

The defence of Kian, Ellis and Hakeem had rarely been troubled in the first half, pushing high up the pitch. They came under more pressure in the second half but were well organised letting little past. A long ball from Hasif was finished from a wide angle by Wadea to make it 5-0.

Then Dominic had to leave due to club commitments and Tyler was injured briefly. This left Brentside with 9 players on the pitch and Ada Lovelace started creating chances making good use of the two-player advantage. Oskar made some great saves, but eventually lost his clean sheet when a nice through-ball left an Ada Lovelace striker one on one with him. Tyler recovered from his injury and Brentside finished the game comfortably.



Trip to Borough Market

GCSE students of Food Preparation and Nutrition explored the different types of food from around the world. They were able to taste samples and thoroughly enjoyed the experience of seeing a variety of spectacular culinary traditions with chefs live in action!



GCSE Food and Nutrition students visit Borough Market



Year 10

Year 10 started this half term with the challenge of writing their first practice GCSE assessments in the hall in real assessment conditions. They rose to the challenge with excellent attendance, organisation and revision resources. It proved to be an excellent learning experience, leading to useful and productive conversations about revision resources and skills, how to approach assessment questions under pressure, and how to utilise our everyday work to prepare for those final GCSE examinations.

Students had the opportunity to discuss their assessment results with their form tutors on Target Setting Day, where tutors were very impressed with student self-reflections and determination to move their grades forward with different strategies. It has been pleasing to see them using those strategies in lessons and homework, following those conversations.

I would like to commend 10E for receiving the lowest number of BTFs in the year group and being the recipients of a VIP lunch in the final week of this term. I would also like to congratulate, Jawel A C, Alina M, Tisha H, Jaileen C-S, Mariam A, Asheyna T, Holly C, Tamari G, Romy C and Fatimah S for being awarded 'student of the form group' within their own forms in recognition of their consistently high standards in behaviour and attitude to learning. Fatimah S is also the newly appointed chair of the School Cabinet. Well done!

We wish all students a good break and for those who celebrate Christmas a happy family time. We look forward to welcoming them back in the new year to share their aspirations for the year ahead.

Year 11

Year 11 are to be commended on their recent mock examination preparation, revision and examination strategies. It has been pleasing to see how seriously they have applied themselves, knowing that, under contingency arrangements, these results could form part of their overall grade, in line with government guidance. We have been impressed with their good organisation, kindness shown to others and focus on the examinations. We are looking forward to sharing these results with them and their families in January.

Year 11 are also in the process of applying for their post-16 education. We had a very good turn out to our 6th form Opening Evening, with students showing a good level of research and commitment to making the right choice of courses that they can succeed in. It is a very exciting time for Year 11 as they make these important decisions. We wish them a very happy, relaxing break, ready for the final stretch in the new year.

Sixth Form

UCAS update

Students are continuing to send their applications to UCAS for their 26 January deadline.

We celebrate with students as they begin to receive offers from various universities across the country. Examples include physics with a year abroad from the University of York; sociology from the University of Nottingham; law with politics from the University of Manchester; international relations with politics from Cardiff University and marketing and management from Newcastle University. All of these examples are Russell Group Universities. Some courses and universities require interviews and those are currently taking place for courses like medicine and certain

universities including Oxford. We wish all of our Year 13 students all the best as they embark on making decisions about their exciting futures.

Work Experience Placements

A number of students have been selected for a range of work experience placements so far this year – both virtual and face-to-face. These have included placements for medicine, banking, nursing, engineering, business management and law.

Charlotte, in Year 13, spent the half term holiday with Balfour Beatty VINCI SYSTRA Joint Venture, who are working in partnership with HS2. They were so impressed with her attitude, contributions and overall abilities, that they have decided to keep in touch with Charlotte, with a view to involving her in future opportunities. They have already invited her to join them in developing a presentation for the National Apprenticeship Fair in February. "Well done Charlotte" as one of their managers said, "Her time with us made a significant impression, reflecting brilliantly on herself and Brentside High School."

Sixth Form Mock Examinations

All those students who are enrolled on courses that are assessed with examinations, have examinations at the beginning of next term. Examinations start for both Year 12 and Year 13 on **Wednesday, 5 January 2022** and end, for all but art students, on **Tuesday, 11 January 2022**. Students have received their updated timetable. During these five days, students only attend school for their examinations. However, they must be punctual, lining up 15 minutes before the examination is due to start. These examinations are their chance to demonstrate the progress they have made this term.

Sixth Form Band

The Sixth Form Band displayed their musical talents by playing a mix of three festive tunes in the Winter Concert, which was livestreamed due to Covid restrictions. They also repeated their performance in the Sixth Form Christmas assemblies. Thank you to all who brought a bit of Christmas cheer to the final week of term.

We wish all our sixth formers and their families a safe and merry Christmas and, of course, best wishes for 2022.

BTEC Applied Science

Our Year 13 BTEC Applied Science students were lucky enough to visit the historic Kings' College London, famous for the research that led to the discovery of the structure of DNA and for educating former British sprinter and world-record holder Dina Asher-Smith.



Our students were taken on a tour of their teaching and research labs, discussed upcoming research projects and discussed the importance of risk assessments and career aspirations.

Jack Petchey Award

Congratulations to our Jack Petchey Award winners this term. They are now part of an ever-growing, but exclusive group of young achievers across London. They have been recognised for their unique and valuable contributions to our school and the wider community. The following young winners make us proud; Alexander 12S, Mahdi 9B, Fatimah 10G.

See below for a picture of Alexander receiving his award:



Letter from the Public Health Ealing team relating to COVID-19 over the coming weeks - Please click link below:

<https://www.brentsidehigh.ealing.sch.uk/attachments/download.asp?file=128&type=pdf>

Welcome to our new website!



We are delighted to announce that our new website came online at the start of November 2021. We hope you have had a chance to review the website and that you have found all the information you need easily.

We want the website to be a really useful tool for all parents/carers and students. Thanks to the Parent Forum, who gave their feedback during the development stages of the website. This helped us to develop our sitemap from the initial design.

WELCOME FROM THE HEADTEACHER
Brentside High School is a high achieving, vibrant, successful secondary school, which

In order to ensure the website is the most effective communication tool possible, we would like to invite all parents/carers to complete a short survey to share your experiences of Brentside's website, it's strengths and how we can develop this even further.

We know this is a very busy time of year and hope that you can find a few moments to complete this survey and feedback your views. The survey will remain open until **Friday, 7 January 2022** and can be accessed from the link below: <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/bhs-website-survey>

Careers News

It has been fantastic to be able to open our doors once more to employers visiting us on site. Ms Rosenblatt's Year 12 citizenship class have been developing their employability skills, focusing on communicating their strengths through presentations to others. After practising this skill with their peers, the students were given time to prepare their own presentation, which they then delivered to the Employer/Enterprise Advisor, Andrew Bishop, Group Legal manager at 1E Software Lifecycle Automation in Ealing.

Although nerve wracking for some, the students found the process really useful and gained individual feedback on their strengths and targets for improvement. On **Tuesday 25 January 2022**, the remaining Year 12 students will go through this same process, gaining really valuable feedback from our two Enterprise Advisors.

Brentside Alumni Simphiwe Sesane

Brentside High School prides itself on developing lifelong learners. It is incredibly rewarding when our alumni share with us their successes after leaving us. We were delighted when Simphiwe Sesane, (who graduated from Brentside in 2007), offered to come back and talk with our Year 9 Health and Social Care group about how she became a nurse who also trains other nurses across London. The students were really engaged in her presentation and asked lots of insightful questions about her career and her journey into this role. We look forward to welcoming Simphiwe back to meet Ms Lane's Health and Social Care group next term.

We are always looking to broaden our careers and employer links. If you are able to offer a few moments of your time to talk to students about your career and the skills and qualifications required for your role, whether it's a pre-recorded presentation, a face-to-face assembly or a smaller group workshop, we would love to hear from you. Please contact our Careers Leader, Mel Rosenblatt, on info@brentsidehigh.ealing.sch.uk.

Parent Forum

Thanks to all the parents/carers who attended our Parent Forum meeting on Wednesday, 03 November. The agenda focused on two key items: Evaluation of the start of term and reviewing the new school website and sitemap before launch day. Feedback was incredibly positive.

Here are some thoughts shared by the group:

- Merits being shared on Satchel One, (Previously called Show My Homework) was seen as really motivating for students and helped parents/carers to feel involved in their child's successes at school
- "The Year 6 into 7 summer school was amazing"
- "Teachers are looking after our children well"
- Receiving postcards home is really motivational

The Parent Forum is open to all parents/carers of students at Brentside High School. Now that we meet in the evenings online, we hope you will be able to join us at our next meeting on **Wednesday, 16 March 2022** at 18:30. If you would like to add an item to the agenda, please do email info@brentsidehigh.ealing.sch.uk.

Friends at Brentside (F@B)

F@B, our PTA, continue to meet each term online. This term fund-raising focused on The Big PTA Christmas Raffle, run by Parent Kind.

We set ourselves a target of selling 250 tickets and are delighted to have met that target, raising £375 to spend on student resources.



We will be looking through department Christmas lists and deciding on the best way to spend this money to support student learning in the new year. Watch this space!

School Cabinet

We are delighted that this term has seen the return of face-to-face meetings for our School Cabinet. The Cabinet meet weekly and have been discussing a range of topics including fund raising ideas for charity, researching the cost of a canopy/shelter for the playground and updating the School Cabinet application process. Thanks to all the students who have already submitted their application form. This is a great opportunity to develop skills in leadership, teamwork, communication and problem solving. We look forward to welcoming applicants to interview next term.

Thanks also to Ms Kass and Mr Buckley who have been supporting the work of the School Cabinet this term.



The Helping Hand Appeal

On behalf of Brentside High School, we thank you for the generous donations and contributions to "The Helping Hand Appeal 2021." Your donations could not be appreciated more in these difficult times.

Your generosity has helped us to exceed our original goal of preparing 30 hampers, gifts and toiletries. We have made up 43 food hampers for both senior citizens in the community and people within the school. This will also help us to continue to support students and families in need throughout 2022.



The last few years have been very difficult for all of us and we at Brentside High School appreciate your helping hand. Working together, we can help make the community a better place to live.

Winter Concert 2021

A massive well done to all the students and staff who took part in our virtual Winter Concert. This fun and festive event showed off the talents of our Brentside community and we were treated to some fantastic performances, ranging from Flute to Voice to Dholak from students from Year 7 all the way up to Year 13! The Music department

are so proud of you all. Hopefully next year we will be back in the Main Hall!



Traffic Congestion and Considerate Parking

A polite reminder from the school and the local police, that we must not park at any time, even just to drop off children from the car, on the zig zags up to the zebra crossing or outside the school gates. Many thanks for your consideration regarding this important health and safety issue.

May I therefore ask all parents/carers, that if you are visiting the school, or even just dropping off your child in the morning or picking them up in the afternoon, that you park with both consideration for others and legally. Traffic enforcement officers do operate in the area!

Start of Term January 2022

In line with government guidance and in order to protect our school and wider community, all students will receive 1 on-site lateral flow device (LFD) test on their return to school in January. We will therefore need to stagger the return to school. Students will not have lessons on Tuesday 04 January 2022 or the day that they come in for their LFD tests. Work will be set online for students who are at home on 05 or 06 January **as detailed below**.

Having tested most of the school in March and September 2021, we have an experienced team who will guide your child through the process in our Sports Hall which will be again set up as a testing centre. Students will come into school, in school uniform, for their test and then go home. If the test is positive, we will contact you directly, however we will not contact you if the test is negative. The results of all tests are uploaded to the NHS. Parents/carers will receive a text or email, from the NHS, to confirm the result of the test. This will be sent to the contact details as provided in the consent form.

If you completed the Survey Monkey indicating whether or not you gave consent for LFD testing in either March or September 2021, you do not need to take any further action. If you have not yet completed the Survey Monkey or you wish to change your response, please do so by using the following link: <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/bhs-covid-testing-students>

Tuesday, 04 January 2022

Testing for Year 12 and 13 by appointment (come in, test, then go home)

11:00 12B & 12R
11:30 13E & 13N
12:00 12S & 12T
12:30 12I
13:00 13T, 12D
13:30 13S, 13R
14:00 13I & 13B
14:30 12E & 12N

Wednesday, 05 January 2022

Testing for Y9 and Y11 by appointment (come in school uniform, test, then go home)

Year 12 and 13 attend examinations (or study leave if no examination)

Work will be set on SMHW (now called Satchel One) for students in Years 7, 8 and 10.

08:30 9B & 11B
09:00 9R & 11R
09:30 9E
10:00 9N
10:30 11E
11:00 9T & 11N
11:30 11T
12:00 9S
12:30 11S
13:00 9I
13:30 11I
14:00 9D & 11D
14:30 9H & 11H
15:00 9G & 11G

Thursday, 06 January 2022

Testing for Year 8 and Year 10 by appointment (come in school uniform, test, then go home)

Year 9 & Year 11 students attend normal lessons (Y9 08:40 – 15:05; Y10 08:40 – 15:10)

Year 12 and 13 attend examinations (or study leave if no examination)

Work will be set on SMHW (now called Satchel One) for students in Year 7

08:30 8B & 10B
09:00 8R & 10R
09:30 8E
10:00 8N
10:30 10E
11:00 8T & 10N
11:30 10T
12:00 8S
12:30 10S
13:00 8I
13:30 10I
14:00 8D & 10D
14:30 8H & 10H
15:00 8G & 10G

Friday, 07 January 2022

Testing for Year 7 by appointment (come in, test, then go home)

Y8, 9, 10 & Y11 students attend normal lessons in school (Y8&9 08:40 – 15:05; Y10&11 08:40 – 15:10)

Year 12 and 13 attend examinations (or study leave if no examination)

09:00 7B
09:30 7R
10:00 7E
10:30 7N
11:00 7T
11:30 7S
12:00 7I
12:30 7D
13:00 7H
13:30 7G

Monday, 10 January 2022

All Years attend normal timetable in school

Y7 – 08:40 – 15:00

Y8&9 – 08:40 – 15:05

Y10-13 – 08:40 – 15:10

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

AUTUMN TERM 2021

December 2021

Thursday, 16 December 2021

- Last Day of Term
(Early Closure 12:00-12:30)

Friday, 17 December to Friday 31 December 2021

- Christmas Holiday

SPRING TERM 2022

January - 2022

Monday, 3 January 2022

- Bank Holiday

Tuesday, 4 January 2022

- Start of Term (See Start of Term LFD scheduled above to know when your child's year group is tested and when lessons begin remotely or/and on site)

Thursday, 13 January 2022

- Year 11 Parents' Evening (16:30-19:30)

Tuesday, 18 January 2022

- Staff Training Day. Students do not attend school.

February 2022

Thursday, 3 February 2022

- Sixth Form Parents' Evening

Friday, 11 February 2022

- Last Day of Term

Monday, 14 February to Friday, 18 February 2022

- Half Term Holiday

Monday, 21 February 2022

- Start of Term (with Early Closure for staff training 13:25)

March 2022

Wednesday, 16 March 2022

- Parent Forum

Thursday, 17 March 2022

- Year 8 Options Information Evening (16:30-18:30)

Wednesday, 23 March 2022

- Target Review Day (follows same format as Target Setting Day)

April 2022

Friday, 1 April 2022

- Last Day of Term

Monday, 4 April 2022 to Friday, 15 April 2022

- Easter Holiday

Monday, 18 April 2022

- Bank Holiday

Tuesday, 19 April 2021

- Start of Term

SUMMER TERM 2022

May 2022

Monday, 2 May 2022

- May Day Holiday

Tuesday, 3 May 2022

- Year 10 2nd HPV vaccination

Tuesday, 10 May 2022

- Year 8 1st HPV vaccination

Thursday, 26 May 2022

- Year 9 Parents' Evening (16:30-19:30)

Friday, 27 May 2022

- Last Day of Half Term

Monday, 30 May 2022 to Friday, 3 June 2022

- Half Term Holiday

Monday, 6 June 2022

- Start of Term

Wednesday, 8 June 2022

- Parent Forum

Tuesday, 14 June 2022

- New Intake Evening (parents 18:00)

Wednesday, 15 June 2022

- Staff Training (Early Closure for staff training 13:25)

Friday, 24 June 2022

- Year 12 Futures Day
- Year 6 into Year 7 Induction Day

Tuesday, 5 July 202

- Year 8 2nd HPV vaccinations

Friday, 8 July 2022

Applied Learning Day

Friday, 15 July 2022

- International Market Day

Friday, 22 July 2022

- Staff Training Day

