



Parent and Carers' Newsletter

Friday, 1 April 2022

Email: info@brentsidehigh.ealing.sch.uk

Website: www.brentsidehigh.ealing.sch.uk

Dear Student, Parent or Carer,

As we reach the end of the second term of this school year, we have much to celebrate, some of which is captured within the news items that follow. The term has brought accelerated progress for our students, additional opportunities and successes, continued recognition of achievement through merits, the return of visitors and trips and more opportunities to celebrate our extraordinary young people.

This week provides a good snapshot of Brentside life. Yesterday I visited a group of Year 7 students who were enjoying a pizza and film celebration afternoon as a reward for their outstanding attendance and attitudes to learning. Earlier this week, I attended the unveiling of the Key Stage 3 art club wall hanging which celebrates Brentside's core values and the unique talents and attributes of the individual students in the club.

It has also been my pleasure this week to meet with several extraordinary young people whose determination, kindness and work ethic are humbling. You will learn a little more about some of these young people in this newsletter. We have also celebrated the success of two of our Year 11 students who have secured places at a residential summer school at St John's College, Oxford University this July.

Furthermore, the week has seen us host the Welsh School's cookery competition, judged by a BBC political correspondent. We have very much enjoyed providing tours for a large number of Year 6 students and parents, as well as for several professionals within education. The feedback we have received has been fantastic. Visitors have described their time here as "inspiring" and "highly enjoyable" and have commended our students on their confidence, high levels of engagement in learning, ability to share and explain their learning, excellent manners and smart appearance.

The above are highlights from just one week and our students and staff deserve to feel proud of all that they are achieving.

I hope that you enjoy our newsletter. It provides examples of the success of, and opportunities for, our students and of who we are as a community. As parents and carers, your role in our community is highly valued and impactful. When we work in partnership there is nothing we cannot achieve, and I thank you for your ongoing support, communication, and collaboration.

I wish all of our students, families, and staff an enjoyable break.

Yours sincerely,


Ms Charlotte Hames
Headteacher

Year 7 News:

A Great Spring Term, Year 7!

What a fantastic lead up to the Easter holidays, with so much to celebrate.

There have been students who have been attending mathematics tuition after school, increasing their confidence and understanding. Those students involved in English tuition after school are really enjoying it too!

We 
Maths



We 
English!

Sixth form peer mentors have supported some of our Year 7 students. They have created positive relationships and supported them in specific areas such as attendance, behaviour for learning, and their assessments.



Many students were selected for the Science Dome Explorer event during Science Week, demonstrating the enthusiasm of our students to be involved in all areas of the curriculum.

Well done to 7G, who are the tutor group with the highest attendance.

Finally, a huge congratulations to 7E, for gaining merits for effort, contribution, and fantastic work. They are at the top of the league table throughout the whole school, and it is a huge accomplishment.

All of our Year 7 students should be congratulated on all they have achieved so far this year. They are so focussed and engaged in their learning, and they continue to earn a record number of merits between them, impressing their teachers and proud tutors.

Have a fantastic Easter Year 7, and we look forward to many more celebrations in your final term at Brentside.

Year 8 News:

Year 8 have had a fantastic half-term. There have been a huge number of students going to see the Headteacher to receive their gold merit awards, which is always a pleasure to see. A massive congratulations to 8T, who are leading the merit achievement points for Year 8. Well done to 8E who have the highest attendance.



Our sports teams continue to progress in Year 8 with a strong showing by the netball girls in a recent borough tournament, and our boys football team continue to work hard as they begin to build themselves into a strong team.

As a year group, they have been working extremely hard with our internal assessments and we are looking forward to seeing that hard work pay off. We have also had to make big decisions for the next steps in our school career in choosing our GCSE options, which we have done, so with extreme maturity. This is an exciting chapter to look forward to in our school career. We look forward to seeing what we can all achieve in the summer term.

Year 9 News:

A big thank you to all the parents who came to the Year 9 Target Review Day. We hope you found the time valuable, and the support provided constructive. This day will certainly help students in preparing for their Year 9 internal assessments which start on Tuesday, 19 April. Please do make sure to use the topic list and timetable to support your discussions at home. We would like to congratulate our nominees once again for **improved** attitude to learning, **outstanding** attitude to learning and improved and outstanding **progress** in learning. A big well done to 9G for the overall merits and 9B for best attendance! Don't forget to revise, plan your revision time, and most importantly rest well.

Year 10 News:

The Year 10 students have had a very productive spring term and continue to work hard. During one of our assemblies, students were given information about two key events: Target Review Day and the mock interviews. On Wednesday 23 March, we welcomed 30 employers from the loyal community into school to interview students. Students have spent time during registration, understanding the components of a successful interview and completing an application form that they then took with them to their interview. The feedback was incredible. This was such a positive and constructive experience for Year 10. I would like to congratulate Alina, Shreya, Jawel, Orala and Amy for their role as 'Year 10 Well-Being Ambassadors'. It has been a pleasure to work with them to create resources that will be used in registration time and that support the well-being of students in Year 10. A special Well done to 10E who are the highest attending tutor group. We wish everyone a restful break and, for those who celebrate Easter, a happy family time.

Year 11 News:

Year 11 are showing remarkable progress and resilience as we head into the final weeks of lessons before their exams start in May. They sat a further set of mock exams in early March which they approached with good preparation and a clear focus on achieving at their best. We have celebrated their successes at our recent Target Review Day, as well as looking at the adjustments to revision and exam techniques we can make to extend the progress already shown. We do wish them all the best in their final preparations and thank their parents/carers for all their support. Over the last few months, the Year 11s have been applying for the next step in their education career and it is wonderful to see the diversity of their aspirations and career choices. Our students have secured places in a wide variety of courses in 6th Form, Apprenticeships and Colleges, well on their way to successful careers. We do wish them all the best as they head into their final days in Year 11.

You are
STRONG!

Sixth Form News:

Year 12 students

As Year 12 students approach the end of their second term, they are continuing to research their post-sixth form options and plan for their futures. The weekly Key Stage 5 bulletin highlights opportunities for success they are encouraged to apply for. These include work experience opportunities; university open days; support programmes for Oxford and Cambridge and Russell Group applicants; internships; apprenticeship information workshops; mentoring schemes for potential medics, lawyers, engineers and so much more. There are outstanding opportunities relevant for all Year 12 students with their wide-ranging career interests and ambitions for higher education. Many students have applied for multiple opportunities and are excited to extend their experiences. Below are two examples of students and the opportunities they have recently engaged with:



Emilia applied for and was accepted onto The Social Mobility Aspiring Professionals Programme. She stated that *"it is invaluable for all students, as you can get personalised mentoring based on what you wish to pursue in life as well as access to internships to gain relevant experience."*

Emilia also completed the Young Professionals Careers in Law event in February where she was introduced to all the different possibilities regarding law/magic circle law firms. She added that – *"In general, all Young Professionals webinars are extremely useful for researching all career sectors, and completing the ambassadorship was an interesting experience."*

Awin has successfully applied for a number of work experience placements organised by Speakers for Schools. In March, she participated in a placement offered by the NHS -

"I found it useful because I learned about many different roles within the NHS and was able to talk to a radiotherapist and oncologist about their careers and experiences."

All of these opportunities give a competitive edge to our students when they are applying for university, apprenticeships, and employment. We will be holding Futures Day towards the end of June, when students will consider their options for their future and attend workshops on completing applications and promoting themselves.

Year 12 students also had the opportunity to take part in mock interviews with employers, who came into school to provide this service. Students received verbal and written feedback in order to help them develop this essential skill. Lano was so impressed with the event, that she participated in four interviews. She said –

"All my interviews were slightly different, but the feedback I received on how to present myself and answer questions was invaluable. It really helped to boost my confidence for future interviews".

Year 13 students

Year 13 students have completed their second round of mock exams. Early data suggests many have improved on their January mock exam results. This bodes well for their public exams in the summer, and we continue to support our Year 13s with their continued progress. The Easter holiday is an important time for students to consolidate their knowledge and understanding of their subjects, both independently and by attending revision classes in school. The library will be open as a silent study space between

09:00-15:00 Monday – Friday of the first week of the Easter break and Tuesday and Wednesday of the second week for all sixth form students.

Our Connexions Officer, Ms Dionne Bailey, continues to inform students of the various options regarding student finance (loans and grants), bursaries and scholarships. She will also be conducting workshops on 'student finance.' In addition, she is still available for students to book appointments for face-to-face advice regarding future opportunities.

Outstanding Success at Year 13

This month, Year 13 students who submitted their EPQ projects to the exam board at Christmas received their results. We celebrate that 46% achieved A*-A and 92% achieved A*-C grades.



Year 13 visit Royal Society of Chemistry's UK Chemistry Olympiad

On Thursday, 20 January 2022, our Y13 Chemists took part in the Royal Society of Chemistry's UK Chemistry Olympiad. This is a unique competition, involving creative problem-solving in the chemistry context, designed to challenge and inspire the next generation of chemists. We have just heard that four of them achieved Bronze Certificates and wanted to wish them Congratulations. The students are Kacper, Gracie, Sude and Mehrnoosh. They will receive their awards in assembly.

'On Path' Inspires students' Vision for the future

At the start of the year, a number of our Year 13 students took part in a workshop run by 'Vision Path'. Students were given the opportunity to discuss employability skills and future career aspirations.

They were then invited to apply for the mentoring scheme, which is a year-long programme for Year 13 students from schools across London from October 2021 – July 2022. The aim of the scheme is to develop career skills and access future opportunities in the technology industry. Khalid (pictured) was one of our students who was successfully appointed into the programme. He had this to say about his experience:

"My work experience with Vision Path in Berenberg Bank has been amazing! My mentor George and I discuss various topics, including methods to achieve my personal goals. Through this scheme I have had the opportunity to work in investment banking where I worked alongside people my age and we went around and found out about the different departments and at the end discussed what we liked most. Also, this work experience has led me to become more determined and more focused in class. This also led me to develop my skills, knowledge, and competences in my future job role. Thank you, Brentside High School, for the opportunity you have given me!"



Other news:

Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme



Over 70 Year 9 and Year 10 students have signed up to start their bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award (DofE) next term, under the guidance of members of our fantastic PE department and other dedicated staff team members. Every year, the DofE inspires hundreds of thousands of young people, from all walks of life, to explore who they are, grow in confidence and develop the skills they need to successfully navigate life. Like the DofE award, at Brentside we believe in the innate value and infinite potential of young people, and we know that this programme is a unique opportunity for our students to build life-long belief in themselves, the ability to conquer challenges and to develop social, teamwork and problem-solving skills that will support them for the rest of their lives. We will share more of their progress next term, but for all of you who have signed up, we can't wait to see what you achieve!



Merit Achievement Board

Well done to everyone in their positive achievements!

The winners so far this year are:

- 7E with 8798 merits
- 8T with 8314 merits
- 9G with 5407 merits
- 10E with 5192 merits
- 11T with 5368 merits
- 12S with 2409 merits
- 13N with 4354 merits

Year 8 Music Technology Marvels

Miss Davies' Year 8 Music classes have been getting to grips with their Music Technology project this half-term. Students are creating their own Dubstep-inspired tracks using Soundation. With Year 8 currently choosing their GCSE options, Miss Davies can see that the future of Music Technology at Brentside is very bright.



There is also **Year 8 Music Technology club in G65 every Thursday from 08.00 – 08.30**, where students are learning to use more complex software, to create their own music. Well done Year 8!

GCSE Poetry Live Trip

Year 10 students were very inspired by their GCSE poetry trip, where they heard from an examiner and some of the poets on the English literature syllabus.

Students were treated to live readings of poems, written, and performed by Simon Armitage, John Agard, Grace Nichols, and Imtiaz Dharker. The Year 10 students were fantastic, learnt so much, and had a great day in the process. Thanks to Ms Haria who led the trip.



Jack Petchey Awards

We are in a privileged position to celebrate three Jack Petchey Achievement Award winners. These are three young people who have gone above and beyond to achieve. The Achievement Award recognises those who put in the effort to do their best. They each have £250 to spend on activities or equipment for them and their classmates.

We would like to take this opportunity to recognise Mahdi, in Year 9, for his impressive effort and his commitment to learning in history. He shows great determination and resilience and is keen to achieve to the best of his ability. He also shows genuine kindness in the way he treats other young people and adults – he always has a smile on his face!



Alex in Year 12 won the Jack Petchey Award for being an outstanding member of the Brentside Community. He is always polite, hardworking, and determined to achieve – even if this means he has to leave his comfort zone. Outside school, Alex is a Tae Kwon-do coach and helps out at Scouts. He has recently been promoted to co-leader

of the band at the church he attends. Alex is a credit to himself, his family and Brentside. This year he won gold in the London Open, and then gold in the English Open for Tae Kwon-do. He will be competing in the Scottish Open in May. Alex is very supportive of his peers and helpful to members of staff. He is clearly a worthy recipient of the Jack Petchey Award.



Fatimah, in Year 10, is a phenomenal asset to the school and always volunteers her time freely to support whole school events.

As well as her loyalty and determination, she is also incredibly committed to her learning. Most recently she was one of the students who scored 'exceeds expectations' on her Mock Interview. She consistently applies herself above and beyond expectations in class. Fatimah is a positive and effective member of the School Cabinet and is undoubtedly a fine role model for her peers.

Year 7 Celebration

On Thursday, 31 March, 50 Year 7 students were invited to a pizza and movie afternoon as a reward for good behaviour and attendance. They all enjoyed their cinematic experience.



Students eagerly devoured delicious pizza, popcorn, chocolates, and soft drinks and opted to watch *Spiderman*. We would like to congratulate these students on striving to always do well. We hope to put on more rewards in the future and for those who were not selected this time. We hope to see you at the next reward event.

Year 10 Big Legal Lesson



Last Friday, students from Miss Kass's Year 10 Citizenship GCSE class took part in the 'Big Legal Lesson' campaign organised by Young Citizens. They joined over 55,000 students from across the UK in the largest public legal education campaign of its kind in the country. The students spent the lesson exploring the laws surrounding social media usage and learned about the Online Safety Bill that was introduced in Parliament just last week. Studying Citizenship at Brentside gives our students access to the knowledge and tools to understand and engage meaningfully with our legal, political and social systems. We want to say a big well done to the students who took part!

Year 11 Drama GCSE exam



There was a mixture of nerves and excitement on Thursday, 24 March 2022, as Year 11 drama students were preparing to perform their monologues to camera as part of their GCSE exam. As costumes were donned, the stage lights came up and the camera started 'rolling.' We were really proud of all those who performed their monologues after weeks of preparation.

There is always a great sense of relief when an exam is over! Anne Boleyn even came back to life to join us for the occasion! Well done all.

British Science Week



To celebrate British Science Week, Brentside High School kicked off the week's event on Monday, 21 March, by inviting enthusiastic presenters to lead exciting demonstrations that were interactive and fun.

75 students from Year 7 and Year 8, were met with a huge space dome, whereby they had to crawl into a darkened tunnel discovering the worlds that glitter in our night sky.

The week's focus continued with many elements, including a competition based on the periodic table and learning about their teachers' favourite scientists!

Mock Interview Day



On Wednesday, 23 March 2022, students in Years 10 and 12, gathered eagerly in front of the school hall, anticipating the start of Brentside's annual 'Mock Interview Day' 2022.

Students interviewed with one of our 31 special guest professionals from across a wide range of sectors and industries. Some students had the opportunity to attend virtual, as well as face-to-face interviews.

Students were each given written and oral feedback to help them identify how they would fair in a real-world application process. We were very pleased to see some of our enthusiastic students really getting into the role, and squeal for joy after completing a successful interview; one such student had this to say: *"Mock Interview Day helped me confront my anxieties, learn to think on the spot and have a clear understanding of my areas for improvement."*

One of our visitors reiterated the day's success by stating: *"I was very impressed with the calibre of the students I interviewed. They all showed high levels of confidence, energy, and motivation, while being very engaging in talking about themselves. I left being glad that my daughters will be attending BHS too."* (Parent Governor).



We want to say a big thank you, not only to our guests for coming in, but also to our fantastic students for participating, and the Year 10 and 12 Year Teams, for organising.

School Cabinet



The Brentside Student Cabinet continues to welcome dedicated members who are eager to contribute to the development of the school and lead student voice. Our Cabinet members can easily be identified by their distinctive red ties, which Sarra, Year 7, received from Headteacher, Ms Hames on Thursday.

Well done Sarra and well done to all members of our Student Cabinet. This half term they have met with Mr Reynolds, Subject Leader for PE to discuss PE kit and clubs and Ms Parr, our librarian, to discuss the idea of selling folders in the library.

Art Club Superheroes:



Students proudly displaying their certificates at the unveiling of the art club textile wall hanging.

Over several months, the participants of the Art Club, working with Ms Pinner and Ms Twieg, have created an amazing, large-scale textile hanging, focused around REACH, the school's acronym standing for Respect, Excellence, Achievement, Citizenship and Happiness.

The artist that the students looked at for inspiration was the famous British Pop Art artist, Peter Blake. Central to Blake's paintings and collages is his interest in images taken from popular culture, including comic books and superheroes.

Over the past year, students have been looking at local heroes and the club decided to turn themselves into superheroes for this piece. The students also chose other shapes and symbols that Blake used in his collages including stars, circles, and hearts.

During the project, students learnt many new skills including sewing and printing images using transfer inks and the heat press. The students really enjoyed creating this piece and it has now been hung in the school's beautiful library for all to enjoy. Students and staff attended its unveiling this week, celebrating with drinks and snacks. Well done to our young artists.

Library news

Library Book Giveaway, Wednesday, 23 March 2022



Students eagerly snapped up books at the book giveaway on Target Setting Day.

Library staff were thrilled that over a hundred books were so enthusiastically received by students and parents. Such was the success of the day, that we hope to repeat it in the summer term.

Love of Learning

We wanted to praise our fantastic, focussed students, who are always to be found working in our school library, below.

The library is a beautiful learning space where students of all year groups can read or work quietly before school, at

breaks and lunches and after school. The curved building design provides individual spaces for students to work downstairs in working desks or round reading tables, and upstairs on computers or silent study desks. Every day the library brings its regulars and some new visitors, and the staff team are there to welcome and support our children in any way they need.



Brentside High Celebrates World Book Day 2022

On Thursday, 3 March, 2022, students and staff at Brentside High School celebrated 'World Book Day' with the theme this year of 'You are a Reader.'



To celebrate, Key Stage 3, 4 and 5 tutor groups participated in quizzes such as 'Who's Reading This Text?' (Where students had to guess the teacher hiding behind the book cover) and took part in the 'Guess the Shelfie' competition (students had to guess which teacher's bookshelf was in the photo). Students also received a book token to spend on a novel of their choice in outlets such as WHSmith, Waterstones or even our very own Brentside library. The English department also celebrated by coming to school dressed as one of their favourite novel characters.

With such success this year, we are already looking forward to the next in which we hope to include even more events such as 'Drop Everything and Read.' 'Brentside Book Exchange' and 'Poetry Slam'...watch this space!

Employment opportunity

If you would like to join our experienced invigilation team, please see below. Successful applicants will receive training and support and we are very flexible about the number of hours and days you will invigilate for.

[Examination Invigilator](#)

Parent Forum



Thanks to all parents and carers who attended our last Parent Forum meeting on Wednesday, 16 March. We discussed a range of issues from evaluating the newsletter format to

discussing the opportunity for parents to attend Target Setting meetings online.

This meeting is open to all parents/carers to discuss issues linked to the school development plan.

Our next meeting is on **Wednesday, 8 June from 18:30-19:30 via Microsoft Teams**, and we hope to see you there.

Our agenda will include:

- Evaluation of Target Review Day
 - Review of our careers provision
 - Workshops: How to support your child's learning
- To access the Teams login details, please email info@brentsidehigh.ealing.sch.uk

Friends at Brentside (F@B)



Thanks to all parents/carers, who attended our Friends at Brentside (F@B) PTA AGM on Wednesday, 16 March 2022. We are currently planning ahead for our Year 6 into 7 evening in June. If you are able to spare a few hours to help with fundraising at school events, we would love to hear from you.

Please do feel free to join us at our next meeting on Microsoft Teams straight after the Parent Forum meeting on **Wednesday, 8 June from 19:30-20:30**. To access the link for the meeting, please email info@brentsidehigh.ealing.sch.uk.

We are still searching for someone to take on the role of finance officer for F@B. For further information about this role or about the work of F@B in general, please contact hello@friendsatbrentside.org.uk

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

SPRING TERM 2022

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 2022

- Start of Term

Thursday, 28 April 2022

- Y12 Parents' Evening

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

June 2022

Monday, 6 June 2022

- Start of Term

Wednesday, 8 June 2022

- Parent Forum (18:30-19:30) via MS Teams
- Friends at Brentside (F@B) via MS Teams

Tuesday, 14 June 2022

- New Intake Evening (parents 18:00-19:00)

Wednesday, 15 June 2022

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

Friday, 24 June 2022

- Year 12 Futures Day

July 2022

Friday, 1 July 2022

- Y6 into Y7 Induction Day

Tuesday, 5 July 2022

- Year 8 2nd HPV vaccinations

Friday, 8 July 2022

- Applied Learning Day

Friday, 15 July 2022

- International Market Day
- New Staff Induction Day

Thursday, 21 July 2022

- Last day of term

Friday, 22 July 2022

- Staff Training Day