BRENTSIDE HIGH SCHOOL

LEARNING AND ACHIEVING TOGETHER

NEWSLETTER

24 November 2022

A MESSAGE FROM THE **HEADTEACHER**

Charlotte Hames
Headteacher

As we head into the colder, darker months, we are particularly enjoying the warmth and light in the successes of our students. This newsletter spotlights examples of the opportunities that our students and parents/carers have taken and the impact those opportunities have on learning and progress.

Since our last newsletter, the School Cabinet have conducted interviews and welcomed new members to their team. This is a wonderful way to develop leadership skills, team-work and strong skills. Students have also developed wider knowledge and skills through a range of activities including trips to see a visit from the Globe Players, visits to industry and a Geography A Level residential. Our Parent Forum filled the library as parents/carers learnt about Tier 2 and Tier 3 language and how to support their child's literacy skills. Parents/Carers also took part in our Routes2Success workshop as well as engaging in Target Setting Day with their child and form tutor. We have also enjoyed our 'sold out' Sixth Form Open evening, which had even more visitors than usual and which signals the exciting future on the horizon for our Year 11 students.

Ms Hames

UPCOMING **EVENTS**

28 NOV — EARLY CLOSURE AT 1.25PM

6 DEC — YR 11 MOCK EXAMS BEGIN ALL DAY

7 DEC — Y10 PARENTS' EVENING: 4.30PM-7.30PM

14 DEC — WINTER CONCERT 6.30PM

19 DEC — ALD ALL DAY

20 DEC — LAST DAY OF TERM EARLY CLOSURE BETWEEN 12PM-12.30PM

VIEW FULL CALENDAR

VIEW TERM DATES

SCHOOL CABINET INTERVIEWS

ALL YEARS

Earlier this half term, the School Cabinet held interviews for new members. We had over 20 student interviewers from Years 7-10 and there were many exceptionally strong candidates. To become a member of the School Cabinet, students need to complete an application form, obtain references from form tutors and Year Leaders and take part in individual and group interview tasks. All interviews are conducted by students currently in post. The School Cabinet is excited to welcome new members this term and we look forward to Ms Hames presenting you with your special tie shortly.

THE GLOBE PLAYERS COME TO BRENTSIDE

YEAR 11

This week all Year 11 students were treated to a production of *A Christmas Carol* by Charles Dickens, performed by The Globe Players.
Students enjoyed watching the characters they have been studying come to life before their eyes, giving them a deeper knowledge and understanding of the novel and its themes.
Many thanks to Friends of Brentside (FOB) who applied for us to be the Co-op's local charity and were able to fully fund this event with the proceeds of their fund raising!

TEEN READ

YEAR 9

A few lucky Year 9 students were selected as judges representing the school for this year's Ealing Teen Read. On 9 November, they attended the launch event and met author Sue Wallman (who remained on hand after the official school theft!) and received free copies of her books gifted by Brentside Library. The students will be reading six shortlisted books over the next few months and nominating their favourite one for a prestigious award.
In the words of Jim Rohn,

"Reading is essential for those who seek to rise above the ordinary."

BOOK FAIR

ALL YEARS

It is with great excitement we inform you that we will be holding the **Scholastic Book Fair** again this year!

From Monday, 4 December, students will be able to browse over 200 brand new books from beloved favourites to bestsellers, all at **half-price beginning as low as £2.99!** The selection will also include exclusive titles that you won't see in shops or online just yet. Plus, for every book bought, you help to earn free books for our school library!

We will be accepting cash but are strongly encouraging students to use cashless payment where possible. We will have a card machine on hand, but you can also pay online and purchase vouchers beforehand, please visit
https://bookfairs.scholastic.co.uk/pay or
https://bookfairs.scholastic.co.uk/gift-vouchers
The Book Fair will run in the library during lunchtimes and after-school until Friday, 8 December.

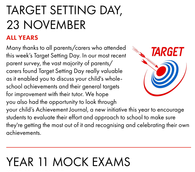
THE PLAY THAT GOES WRONG DRAMA TRIP

YEAR 11

As part of their GCSE drama course, students need to review a live theatre production. This week our Year 11 drama students had the fantastic opportunity to laugh out loud at the West End's longest running comedy, *The Play That Goes Wrong*. We look forward to reading their theatre reviews. Thanks to the drama department for organising this event. It was a very late, but very enjoyable evening!

WALK IN MEDIA TRIP

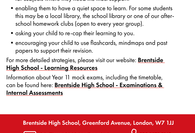
YEARS 10, 12 AND 13



On Wednesday, 15 November a group of Year 10,12 and 13 graphic communication students visited the head office of Walk In Media in Covent Garden. The day was part of the Advertising Unlocked initiative arranged by the IPA (Institute of Practitioners in Advertising) to allow students to see how the skills learnt in school can be transferable to industry and to showcase the types of roles that are available in advertising.
Students attended workshops focusing on target audiences, branding and the making of advertisements. The atmosphere was informal and collaborative and all the students who attended gained a lot of practical experience, information and even pizza! Thanks to Mrs Bennett for leading on this trip.

PARENT FORUM AND FRIENDS AT BRENTSIDE

ALL YEARS



Thank you to all parents/carers who attended last week's Parent Forum meeting that focused on developing your child's literacy. Developing literacy skills is a key focus of our school development plan this year as we recognise the impact that literacy skills have on improving students' learning in all areas and ultimately, on a student's life chances.
Parents/Carers learnt a range of strategies for supporting their child's literacy skills. The PowerPoint presentation has been uploaded to our website and can be downloaded here: **Brentside High School - Parent Meetings**.
Thanks also to those who attended the Friends of Brentside PTA meeting to support with fund raising. If you would like to contribute but were unable to attend the meeting, please email **hello@friendsofbrentside.org.uk**.

TARGET SETTING DAY, 23 NOVEMBER

ALL YEARS

Many thanks to all parents/carers who attended this week's Target Setting Day. In our most recent parent survey, the vast majority of parents/carers found Target Setting Day really valuable as it enabled you to discuss your child's whole-school achievements and their general targets for improvement with their tutor. We hope you found the opportunity to look through your child's Achievement Journal, a new initiative this year to encourage students to evaluate their effort and approach to school to make sure they're getting the most out of it and recognising and celebrating their own achievements.

YEAR 11 MOCK EXAMS

YEAR 11 STUDENTS

Mock exams enable teachers to gauge the progress of all students. They identify students' strengths and gaps in knowledge and skills that then inform staff planning, and student foci, to enable all students to make progress.

Year 11 mock exams are particularly important as results will inform staff predictions and references for Sixth Form applications.

You can help your child to prepare for their assessments by:

- knowing their exam timetable and keeping this visible (e.g., on the fridge).
- encouraging your child to attend our subject intervention sessions for subjects where they need the most support.
- enabling them to have a quiet space to learn. For some students this may be a local library, the school library or one of our after-school homework clubs (open to every year group).
- asking your child to re-cap their learning to you.
- encouraging your child to use flashcards, mindmaps and past papers to support their revision.

For more detailed strategies, please visit our website: **Brentside High School - Learning Resources**
Information about Year 11 mock exams, including the timetable, can be found here: **Brentside High School - Examinations & Internal Assessments**