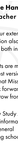
BRENTSIDE HIGH SCHOOL

LEARNING AND ACHIEVING TOGETHER

NEWSLETTER

24 January 2024

A MESSAGE FROM THE **HEADTEACHER**



Charlotte Hannes
Headteacher

Happy New Year and welcome to the start of Spring Term 2024. I hope you have had a restful break and are now ready to embrace the new term with renewed energy.

Year 7-11 students began the term with an extended form time when they were given time to reflect on past successes and identify targets for the term ahead. Their work on their Achievement Journals allowed them to document all their achievements, including developing their skills through our extra-curricular clubs and enrichment provision. From transition before school to a week's residential on a farm, our extended curriculum caters for everyone's needs and interests. This edition also celebrates some of those group and individual achievements both inside and outside of the classroom.

Our focus is now on moving forward and ensuring all students are making the best of their time at Brentside and showcasing the very best version of themselves. To help them on their way, we are delighted that Miss Bosinge has taken on the role of Year 7 leader and we look forward to her working with the Year 7 students and watching them grow from strength to strength.

This newsletter also gives us students' perspectives on Why Study A Level History? It also gives Year 11 parents/carers some key information about our 'Parents' evening' evening as well as a more general reminder to everyone about the crucial link between attending school and success.

Ms Hannes

UPCOMING **EVENTS**

25 JAN — YR11 PARENTS' EVENING — BETWEEN 4.30PM - 7.30PM

8 FEB — YR13 PARENTS' EVENING — BETWEEN 4.30PM - 7.30PM

9 FEB — DEAR (DROP EVERYTHING AND READ) — ALL DAY

19 FEB — INSET DAY — ALL DAY

22 FEB — YR11 PARENTS' EVENING — BETWEEN 4.00PM - 7.30PM

29 FEB — YR7 PARENTS' EVENING — BETWEEN 4.30PM - 7.30PM

VIEW FULL CALENDAR | VIEW TERM DATES

YEAR 11 KEY INFORMATION

YEAR 11

PLANNING AHEAD

Mock Exams

The Y11s successfully and diligently completed their mock examinations in December. They eagerly awaited their results which were shared on Tuesday, 23 January. We felt this was a good opportunity for them to reflect on the topics and types of questions they need to target for revision and to review their study techniques to ensure they all build on their strengths and achieve their potential this summer. Year 11 subject teachers and form tutors are all here to support Year 11 students in their journey towards their GCSEs.

Intervention

As part of this support, some students will be asked to attend intervention sessions for specific subjects. Interventions may be before or after school and full attendance is expected. Please support your child by reminding them of their intervention sessions!

Year 11 Parents' Evening

If you've not already done so, please book your appointment for Year 11 Parents' Evening on Thursday 25 January on SchoolCloud with all your child's subject teachers in order to review their progress and discuss next steps. This is an invaluable opportunity for you to hear first-hand from your child's teachers. By working in partnership, we are able to support your child to take the right steps to success. Bookings are now open on SchoolCloud from today using this link: **SchoolCloud - Brentside High School**

Post 16 Planning

Looking ahead, if your child has not yet applied for Sixth Form, it is really vital that they complete their applications as soon as possible. Applications for Brentside Sixth Form can be made using this link, **Brentside High School - Join our Sixth Form**. Most of our students choose to stay on and join our highly successful Sixth Form. We also recommend all students have a Plan B.

CELEBRATING ACHIEVEMENTS!

ALL YEARS

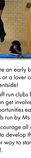
At Brentside we want every student to thrive. Our focus is on recognising students' successes and celebrating these in a whole range of ways, from merits to assemblies and trips to the Headteacher's office.

This group of students from 7T1 all received a certificate for reaching 100 merits as well as a special Brentside pen! However, the best prize of all was knowing how much they have achieved.

Well done to our Year 7 stars. Their certificates can now be placed in their Achievement Journals as evidence of their accomplishments.

ACHIEVING EXCELLENCE

ALL YEARS



We are immensely proud of Saskia in Year 12 who plays golf for the Middlesex women's 1st team. She also plays for and the England Golf Thames Valley Regional squad.

This picture shows Saskia when she won the Middlesex Mixed Middlesex championship at Wyke Green Golf Club.

Saskia is currently studying PE A Level at Brentside, in addition to studying a two A Level equivalent course in sporting excellence.

JAMIE'S FARM- RESIDENTIAL

YEAR 8

We were absolutely thrilled to offer twelve Year 8 students a fantastic opportunity to visit Jamie's Farm for the first of week of term, braving the cold and snow. Students had an incredible experience and as they lived together, worked together, cooked for each other and spent the week actively engaged in farm life. As well as learning first-hand about the range of jobs on the farm, our team also learnt the importance of teamwork, friendships and positivity.

Time on the farm has given our students a chance to learn things about themselves, learn new skills and given them an opportunity to try out things they have never experienced before. They have also built new friendships and developed their communication skills. They even had the experience of living without access to their phones, consoles and screens, which despite their initial worries, they really have enjoyed!

Huge thanks go to Mr Chelli, Ms Larbi and Ms Shah for accompanying the students on the trip.

EXTRA-CURRICULAR CLUBS

ALL YEARS

Whether you are an early bird or a night-lark, sporty or arty, an advocate of human rights or a lover of Lego building, there really is something for everyone at Brentside!

Our team of staff run clubs before school, lunch times and after school so everyone can get involved. We'll be featuring different clubs and enrichment opportunities each newsletter. This week's about our goes to Trampoline Club run by Ms Allen before school on Thursdays.

We strongly encourage all our students to take part in at least one extra-curricular club to develop their passions, enhance their skills and to have fun. What better way to start the day than flying high on a trampoline! Go on, give it a try!.

WELCOME MISS BUSINGYE

YEAR 7

We are delighted to welcome Miss Busingye to the role of Year 7 leader. This term, the experienced member of the Brentside team, Miss Busingye is in her eighth year as leader of Key Stage 3 and 4 Design and Technology.

"I know the journey over the next few years will be challenging for our students as they progress through the key stages. One way that I hope to support students is by practising the Japanese 'Kaizen principle' which involves making small, ongoing positive changes regularly that add up over time to produce significant improvements. This approach inspires me daily in my own practice."

Miss Busingye believes that learning never stops no matter how old you are. She is looking forward to working with Year 7 as they gain new knowledge and develop into lifelong learners.

Miss Busingye's favourite top tip is to focus on small improvements each day instead of trying to do everything at once. She looks forward to seeing every Year 7 student making daily improvements and succeeding in the classroom.

In her spare time, Miss Busingye enjoys playing badminton, hiking, crafting and will often disappear into a good read.

WHY STUDY A LEVEL HISTORY?

YEAR 12

Each newsletter we will be spotlighting teaching and learning, subjects and strategies. This edition focuses on A level history and what students love most about the course.

Learning at Key Stage 5 requires students to be disciplined and focused and to develop their independent study skills. Here our Year 12 students were working together to review their knowledge of Progressivism.

When asked what they liked most about their A level course, students said they found history interesting as they could explore each topic in real depth. They particularly liked that there was no right and wrong answers and that all arguments needed to be backed up with evidence. *"Knowing my history helps me figure out my identity"* (Syed) whilst Hallie's view was that history *"helps me understand day to day life and why things are as they are."*

ATTENDANCE MATTERS

ALL YEARS

Every lesson counts. Lots of research shows that at all ages, students with higher attendance make much better progress than their peers who have lower attendance.

Good attendance supports students' well-being and means your child is more likely to thrive and achieve their full potential.

Attendance %
100%
95-99.9% Above average
90-94.9% Average
85-89.9% Below average
80% or below Persistent absentee
Lessons missed (2 sessions)
Fortnight
Half term (10 sessions)
Half a school year (190 sessions)
Whole school year (380 sessions)
Cumulative impact of absence
Fortnight
Half term
Half a school year
Whole school year
Typical impact on GCSE results
Grade 5 and above
Grade 4 and above
Grade 3 and above
Grade 2 and above
Grade 1 and above
Typical impact on life chances
Average earnings at age 29
£30,000
£28,000
£26,000
£24,000
£22,000
Typical impact on life chances
Unemployed at age 21
Unemployed at age 18
Unemployed at age 16
Unemployed at age 14
Unemployed at age 12
Typical impact on life chances
Lifetime earnings
£1,000,000
£900,000
£800,000
£700,000
£600,000
Typical impact on life chances
Life expectancy
90
85
80
75
70
Typical impact on life chances
Life expectancy
Persistent absentee
Cumulative impact of absence
Typical impact on life chances
Typical impact on life chances
Typical impact on life chances