

Friday, 12 February 2021



BRENTSIDE HIGH SCHOOL

LEARNING AND ACHIEVING TOGETHER

Email: info@brentsidehigh.ealing.sch.uk

Website: www.brentsidehigh.ealing.sch.uk

Dear Parent/Carer and Student,

As we reach the end of the first half term of 2021, we want to begin our newsletter by thanking so many for their commitment and positivity this half term. There is no doubt that nationally and locally these are challenging times, and our care and best wishes go out to those who have been most greatly impacted by the Coronavirus. The current vaccine rollout offers some hope of a brighter future and we look forward to this emerging.

Firstly, thank you to all of our parents and carers for all that you have done to support your child to keep learning during lockdown. We know that many of you, like many of our staff, are working from home as well as supporting your children to engage in learning and we know how demanding that can be. Thank you for supporting your child to work to the timings of the school day, to contact their teachers to ask questions or to request additional support, and to work hard and submit the required work. We know that even 'live' remote teaching does not offer that same level of checking-in and reassurance that exists in the classroom and so we thank you also for encouraging your child to keep moving forward, and the vast majority of the children have certainly done so. Thank you also to those of you who have joined us for remote Parents' Evenings or contacted Year Teams over issues with accessing lessons or concerns over wellbeing; this has allowed us to help.

Secondly, we would like to thank our staff for all they continue to do to support students' wellbeing and progress. We know from the student surveys that students have really enjoyed the PowerPoints with audio narration which explains new learning and the tasks to be completed. Students have told us that they find this a manageable and helpful way of learning. We also know that the majority of staff have delivered 'live' lessons via Microsoft Teams or recorded lessons via tools such as Loom. Our students have told us that they have enjoyed hearing and seeing their teachers and we know that those in examination year groups have enjoyed much of their learning in this way. We are continuing to develop our practice and we attend Teaching and Learning briefings weekly where staff share new technology-enabled learning approaches and good practice. Some of our staff have also supported those students in school or have worked with individuals online.

And last, but not least, we want to thank our fantastic students for all that they have done during this half term of lockdown learning. Your teachers have provided feedback on how you have been engaging in each subject and the vast majority of you are engaging in learning very well. You have developed your skills at self-managing and following the learning activities that have been shared with you. Many staff have fed back that your levels of engagement and work quality and submission have been better than during last year's lockdown and they have enjoyed your emails, contributions in 'live' lessons and work submitted.

You have also provided us with your views, ideas and feelings around lockdown learning through contributing to

surveys. These have shown that for most of you, the work is well explained and that you are able to make progress. You have pointed out some things that we can do differently, such as extending your lunch time and publishing invites to 'live' lessons by 08:40 each day to give you a little longer to get yourself ready for the lesson and we have done these.

You have also been very generous with your thanks and our staff, who would also prefer to be in school teaching you, have really appreciated your messages and questions.

We hope that we will all be back in school shortly after our half term break. We will of course write to you to let you know the date you will return to school once the government has announced the plans. Until then, have a well-deserved, restful half term break.

This newsletter usually contains information about trips, sporting competitions and events in school. This time last year, the Headteacher introduction contained information about our school production, *The Little Mermaid Jr*; our successful Ofsted inspection; the national reporting of the previous year's Year 11 and Year 13 results and the Holocaust Memorial Service hosted at Brentside. There was also an item on behalf of local residents about considerate parking and an item sharing information about the Coronavirus for anyone going abroad at half term...

We have greatly missed our school production which would have been happening this week, no one is travelling abroad, the results of students last year (though excellent again at Brentside) have not been published nationally, and there are certainly no concerns about parking being reported. However, as the Year Leader reports show, we have all found different ways to celebrate, communicate, commemorate, and to work with and support each other. We all possess skills that we would not have possessed a year ago and that will benefit us in the future and we have adapted both during our time in school and our current time out of school, so that we can keep moving forward.

We will keep adapting, and when we are back together, we will again celebrate that and adapt teaching and learning so that we adjust to being back in school and so that our students make excellent progress. **For now, keep doing what you are doing- you are doing well.**

We will be in touch with all of you when the return to school arrangements have been announced by the government and also with those of you in examination year groups once the national arrangements for awarding grades this year have been released.

We wish all of our students, staff, parents and carers a restful break in which to recharge, enjoy some fresh air and take a break from our screens.

Ms Charlotte Hames and Mrs Christine MacInnes
Interim Co-Headteachers

NHS Test and Trace: COVID-19 testing for staff and students

Further to the letter sent on 29 January, about asymptomatic COVID-19 testing taking place in all schools and colleges using Lateral Flow Device (LFD) tests, parents/carers are asked to give consent for their child/children (one form needs to be completed for each child) by using the [consent form](#).

Up to one third of people who have coronavirus are asymptomatic (without symptoms). By testing we will help to reduce the spread in school and college settings through asymptomatic transmission. We are therefore strongly encouraging those returning to school to be tested.

We will be testing all staff and students as they return to school. Students will be tested twice on their return to school, ideally with both tests taking place within a five day period.

We will only test students for whom we have consent.

If you actively do not give consent for your child/children to take part in asymptomatic testing, please notify us via the same means [consent form](#).

A video with more details about LFD testing can be found [here](#).

Letter to Parents/Carers:

<http://upload.reactcdn.co.uk/brentside/uploads/document/Parent Letter LFD Testing 290121.pdf>

Year 7

It has been a very unusual term for everyone at Brentside and we have been highly impressed by the resilience, diligence and enthusiasm shown by our Year 7 students during the lockdown period. Working from home presents challenges for all of us, but particularly for children who are not used to structuring their own days and organising their own schoolwork in this way. They have engaged incredibly well in online learning and we have received many emails from teachers praising their efforts. Along with their regular lessons, students have been engaging in extracurricular tasks, sharing pictures of artwork, baking, books and even snow men. They have taken part in the artist of the month competition from which we celebrated three Year 7 winners. I would like to thank parents and carers who have been so helpful and supportive this term and would like to send a final message of congratulations to all of our Year 7 students. We are so proud of everything you have done. We have missed you all and cannot wait for the day we are told we can all come back to school. Until then, stay safe, keep in touch and be kind and helpful to your families.



Year 8

It has not been the start to the new year that we were all expecting and hoping for. Once again Year 8 students have shown resilience, flexibility, and determination during this lockdown. Well done to all of you! As this half-term comes to an end, we look forward to important key dates in the calendar for the year group. We have the Key Stage 4 Options process, which has officially started concludes on Monday, 29 March 2021. We will have Year 8 **Parents'**

Evening on Thursday, 11 March 2021, followed by Options Evening on Thursday, 18 March 2021.

Therefore, there are many exciting events and discussion points to be had in the following term. As presented in our assemblies, the internal examinations will be delayed, and new dates scheduled once we know the national arrangements about the return to school after lockdown. Hopefully, this will provide many of you with added momentum and aspirations, as we continue our Spring Term after the holiday.

Congratulations to all those that received a well done postcard for their achievements and engagement during this difficult lockdown. Notable mentions to Stella Year 8D and Antony Year 8B for their outstanding work and contributions during this half-term.

Once again, stay safe during this half-term holiday and see you soon!



Year 9

Year 9 students have progressed very well this half term as they continue on their Key Stage 4 journey whilst in lockdown. The Year 9 subject teachers have commended the year group for their excellent attendance to live lessons and or their engagement and resilience when working remotely and this has been celebrated in our assemblies – PE and History have been especially pleased with the commitment and maturity that students have demonstrated. Well done!

Our Year 9 assemblies ensure that all students continue to feel connected to the school community. This half term this has been done through the use of activities that encourage students to look after their health whilst at home. It has been a pleasure to receive photographs from students in the year group engaging in the nature photography challenge, as well as receive artistic and written contributions for the 'Express Yourself' challenge. As we look ahead to the next half term, there will be more guidance given with regards to careers and the Year Team would like to commend all the students that have already created an account to UpSkill Me; so far, we have the most students in the year group that have done so, and we urge the others to sign up too. Future assemblies will introduce you to our career's advisor.

We continue to receive positive feedback about the students across all the subject areas and this is very pleasing. Congratulations for working so maturely and keep up the good work everyone.



Year 10

Year 10 have many successes to celebrate this half term despite the challenges they have faced in this lockdown. We have been so impressed at how quickly you have adapted to online learning, your active engagement in your work and the new skills you are developing. It is always a pleasure to start each Monday morning with a live assembly and to see so many of you ready for the week ahead.

I also appreciate the views you share and the feedback you give me on the different topics we have covered so far in assembly, in particular the importance of free speech being used responsibly after recognising Martin Luther King Day; the number of you who took part in #lightthedarkness on Holocaust Memorial Day, in remembrance of those who have been persecuted; and to those who have made some brave changes to their life this week to support their own mental health. I share below a photograph taken by one of our Y10 students of a sunset over Hanwell in our nature photography challenge. As we look forward, we will be looking at different post-16 opportunities for you to explore as you move through your school career, so please do make sure you sign up to Upskill Me and take part in the different activities and opportunities shared with you. These will be on Show My Homework and Teams, along with your work. It is vital to remember that you are working and exploring these opportunities as only you will benefit from them- your education is yours and yours alone- something no one can ever take from you. I wish you a good half term break and hope you use the time to do things you enjoy- we look forward to seeing you soon.



Oxford University Inspire Prize Winner

It gives me great pleasure to share the wonderful news that one of our students on the BHS Inspire students' group, Basmala 10R, has won second place this week in Competition 12 of a series of national competitions organised and delivered by the Pre-GCSE Inspire Programme at St John's College Oxford University. Well done Basmala!

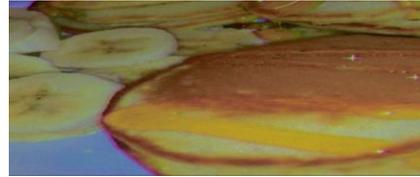
Year 11

Year 11 students have embraced this lockdown term with maturity and determination and in spite of the challenges there is much to celebrate and recognise. Their hard work and motivation to attend lessons has been tremendous with students responding positively to 'live' and audio-narrated lessons. Alongside this they have continued to think about their post-16 options utilising our CONNEXIONS service well. Students were also able to celebrate and commemorate important dates through virtual assemblies including Martin Luther King Day, Mental Health Week and Holocaust Memorial Day.

Usually, our Year 11 students receive their mock results in the second week of January but this year they had to hold on just a little bit longer and they received them during our very first virtual Parents' Evening. This was a very

successful venture where results were discussed, and individual feedback and targets were set. The announcement earlier in the term that Year 11 would not be sitting formal examinations has left much uncertainty but as ever Year 11 have shown real resilience and a fighting spirit.

Finally, on a personal note, I want to thank students who are constantly making my day by sending emails to keep in touch and asking how I am, keeping me up to date with pictures of their hobbies such as cooking (as seen below) and reaching out for support when it is needed. We want you to continue to strive for greatness, and as long as we continue to put in the hard work, we are confident we will be successful. We wish Year 11 students a restful half term break and we will look forward to seeing you in the not too distant future.



Sixth Form

Sixth Formers have responded positively to our current lockdown. Most lessons are live via MS Teams and attendance to timetabled lessons is high. Students are engaging effectively with all the new ways to deliver lessons and assess their progress, such as, online whiteboards, class notebook, breakout rooms and mentimeter. Students have also signed up for a variety of additional programmes such as those run by Speakers for Schools, Sutton Trust, K+, Social Mobility Foundation and various universities and apprenticeship providers. These extra-curricular opportunities are posted in the Key Stage 5 Bulletin which is sent to students every week. They are also emailed the Watch & Listen Programme which provides them with a schedule of TV, radio and podcast broadcasts that can support their subject learning and wider understanding. This is reinforced in recently timetabled weekly assemblies, delivered live via MS Teams, on Monday mornings. Additional assemblies will also be scheduled when opportunities arise, for example, the apprenticeship assembly presented by Elliott Murphy from Oak Common/HS2 development to inform students about apprenticeship programmes. We had our first Virtual Sixth Form Parents' Evening using SchoolCloud this half term. Thank you to all parents and students who attended – I hope you found it as useful as teachers did.

Year 13 - University applications

Year 13 students have been busy completing and submitting their applications for university. Interviews for highly competitive courses continue. We congratulate our students for their successful applications which reinforce what we already know – our talented students are able to compete with their peers across the UK. Their applications cover a wide variety of courses. These include traditional courses like mathematics, English, psychology, medicine, computer science and law as well as creative courses such as interior design, fashion and music. Vocational courses also remain popular, for example, social work, civil engineering, pharmacy, accounting, primary education, optometry, architecture and nursing.



UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE

Year 13 – Cambridge University offer

We are also very pleased to announce the following:

- ✓ Marta has received an offer to study English at Fitzwilliam College, Cambridge.
- ✓ Mansor has received an offer to study mathematics at St John's College, Cambridge.

Applications for apprenticeship courses are ongoing with new adverts being published all the time.

UK Parliament Workshop

On Friday, 5 February Miss Colgan arranged for our Year 12 government and politics students to take part in a live session delivered by staff from the UK Parliament.

The private session was broadcast live with students being able to engage in discussion about:

- How UK Parliament works
- What MPs do
- What role the House of Lords serves
- How laws are made

Our students were great ambassadors for the school and they thoroughly enjoyed the workshop and found it helped with revision.

Anna said *"I really enjoyed this morning's workshop. I learnt a great deal about how bills are passed and how this takes place- along with great diagrams and demonstrations. I loved how interactive it was and that we were spoken to directly and got to say our views too- also how these were discussed and elaborated on by the lovely staff!"*

Kat said *"I found the workshop very useful as it was a good refresher on how the UK parliament works. I have been revising our previous topics, so it was great to do extra revision and to confirm my knowledge on the UK parliament."*

Artists of the month - (Years 7 and 8)

This month we had lots of fantastic entries for our January Artists of the Month. Thank you for all for your amazing contributions. Congratulations to the January 2021 winners!

Year 7:

- 1st: Gia 7I** - Horse -Acrylic Paint
2nd: Hasna 7E - Boat -Acrylic Paint
3rd: Nikola 7R - Eye -Digital.

Year 8:

- 1st: Nina 8E** - Winged dog - Coloured pencil
2nd: Galaxy 8T - Rhino - pencil
3rd: Sama 8B - Procreate

And a special mention to:

- Year 7 - Maia 7R** - Abstract piece -Acrylic paint and pen
Year 8 - Chrysel 8N – Embroidery

The winners can be seen on the School Website and all entries from this month are posted on the BSH Instagram page. <https://www.instagram.com/bhsart/?hl=en>



Parent Forum Meeting

Our next Parent Forum meeting will be Via Microsoft Teams on **Wednesday, 17 March 2021, 18:00-19:00**

All parents/carers are invited to attend this meeting when our focus will be on reviewing our remote learning provision.

If you would like to join this meeting and/or propose an agenda item, please email info@brentsidehigh.ealing.sch.uk by **18:00 on Monday, 15 March 2021.**

We look forward to meeting you on-line then.

School Cabinet

Not even Covid has dampened the enthusiasm and commitment of our School Cabinet. We have been really impressed with the dedication of our student members who have joined on-line meetings and shared their views on our remote learning provision. Particular mention must go to Josh Year 9S, who chairs the meeting with such professionalism and skill.

Careers at Brentside

UpSkill Me prize winners!



We are delighted to announce the prize winners for the students who have engaged most with our free on-line careers platform, Upskill Me.

This month's student winners are:

- 🏆 Tharanika -Year 8N
- 🏆 Rimsha – Year 12E

We are very pleased that students are recording their skills and achievements on Upskill Me. We know this will really

support them in their next steps into college, higher education, apprenticeships, or employment. Congratulations also go to Year 9 for having the most students register with Upskill Me this term.

Free Webinar: An Introduction to Upskill Me for Parents: Thursday, 4 March from 17:00-18:00

Would you like to know more about Upskill Me and how it can support your child prepare for their future?

We are delighted to offer parents/carers an opportunity to join a free webinar on Upskill Me, a careers platform that enables students to log their achievements and skills, engage in skills development activities and research careers opportunities.

To join this free webinar, please click on the link below.

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/an-intro-to-upskill-me-for-parents-live-demo-qa-tickets-140050618169>

National Apprenticeship Week: 8-12 February, preparing all students for their next steps is really important, whether it be the next year, next key stage or life beyond Brentside High School. Our Careers Programme ensures students are aware of all the pathways available to them, enabling them to make informed choices about their futures.

A key part of our Careers Programme focuses on apprenticeships: What they are, the qualifications and skills needed and how to apply.

During our early closure on **Tuesday, 2 February**, a group of students from Years 7-12 attended a presentation by construction company Balfour Beatty on the development of the Old Oak Common site, HS2 railway and the linked apprenticeship scheme on offer. The high calibre of questions was a real testament to the students' interest and engagement in the presentation and really kept the presenters on their toes! Students asked about how BBVS ensured equality and diversity at all levels of the construction industry as well as how they supported progression once students graduated from their apprenticeships.

Assemblies also focused on apprenticeships for Year 9 and Sixth Form during National Apprenticeship Week.

Did you know that apprenticeships range from Level 2 (age 16) to degree apprenticeships?

To find out more, please click on this link: [Amazing Apprenticeships](#)

Careers Programme at Brentside- Can you help?

We are always looking to develop our careers provision at Brentside. Might you be able to spend 15 minutes to present an assembly on your career? Or could you create a video on what you love about your job and what you find to be the greatest challenges? Would you be prepared to give a presentation or run a workshop for students about your career pathway, or employability skills?

Students respond really well to the personal touch. If you are able to support in any way - whether it is offering 10 minutes or one hour or more, we would love to hear from you.

Email info@brentsidehigh.ealing.sch.uk

Subject: Parent support with careers.

Library News – Audiobooks now available online!



Students now have access to audiobooks as well as eBooks online. From contemporary fiction to popular

classics, there is something for everyone. Students may access the school library at <https://brentsidehigh.eplatform.co/> Enter the student email address and the password: Brentside123.

Changes to Published Calendar Dates:

Year 7 Parents' Evening will take place on 25 March from 16:30-19:30.

Year 10 Parents' Evening will take place on 6 May from 16:30-19:30.

Both Parents' Evenings will happen remotely, via School Cloud Details and details will be shared with families about how to access this user-friendly online tool.

Target Review Day on 24 March will **not** go ahead on that day. We will consider any replacement date once we know when students will return to school after the current lockdown.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

SPRING TERM

February

Friday, 12 February 2021

- Last Day of half term for students

Monday, 15 February 2021 to Friday 19 February 2021

- Half Term Holiday

Monday, 22 February 2021

- School re-opens for students remotely

March

Tuesday, 2 March 2021

- **INSET Day**

Thursday, 11 March 2021

- Year 8 Parents' Evening

Wednesday, 17 March 2021

- Parent Forum meeting, 18:30-19:30 (via Microsoft Teams)

Thursday, 18 March 2021

- Year 8 Options Evening

Thursday, 25 March 2021

- Year 7 Parents' Evening, 16:30-19:30 (via School Cloud)

Wednesday, 31 March 2021

- Last Day of Term

April

Thursday, 1 April 2021 to Friday 16 April 2021

- Easter Holiday

Monday, 19 April 2021

- Start of Term

SUMMER TERM

May

Monday, 3 May 2021

- May Day Bank Holiday

Thursday, 6 May 2021

- Year 10 Parents' Evening, 16:30-19:30 (via School Cloud)

Monday, 31 May 2021 to Friday 04 June 2021

- Half Term Holiday

June

Monday, 7 June 2021

- School re-opens for students

July

Thursday, 22 July 2021

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

Friday, 23 July 2021 to Tuesday 31 August 2021

- Summer Holiday