



Weekly Newsletter from the Headmaster

Dear Parents,

You may be aware that Government League Tables for GCSE were published this week and I saw a headline in a newspaper stating that independent schools had not performed very well. When I checked I saw that Brentwood, along with many other academically high-performing schools, was listed as having a 0% pass rate for five GCSEs A* - C.

I have spoken on many occasions about the advantages of being an independent school and one of our most closely-guarded and highly-valued advantages is to be able to choose the curriculum most suited for our pupils. It is for this reason that several years ago we, along with other many other independent schools, started to offer International GCSEs (IGCSEs) which are more challenging and, therefore, better preparation for the two Sixth Form courses we offer (The International Baccalaureate Diploma and A Levels).

Sadly, the Government has chosen not to include IGCSEs in their League Tables which, of course, re-emphasises the unhelpfulness of these tables to parents. The 97.4% of our pupils who achieved 5 IGCSEs A* - C including Mathematics and English (most, of course, performed at a much higher level than this) will be understandably upset that their hard work is not recognised in these League Tables. They know that partly as a result of having done IGCSEs and partly because of their continuing hard work, commitment and determination, their results in the Sixth Form at both the IB Diploma and A Level will far exceed the achievements of most students in most schools.

I need not remind you that over 70% (over one hundred) of our Sixth Form students achieved places at Russell Group/Top 20 Universities last summer and all who wished to go to university did so. On this note, I am really pleased to give details of the eight students who have been offered conditional places at Oxford and Cambridge this year. They are:

Andrew Ejemai	Mathematics	Corpus Christi Coll., Cambridge
James Elms	Classics	Magdalene Coll., Cambridge
Anjali Jayasekera	Veterinary Science	Selwyn Coll., Cambridge
Jiaqing Low	Law	Churchill Coll., Cambridge
Caolán McConnaughie	Geography	Fitzwilliam Coll., Cambridge
Joshua Portway	History	Christ Church, Oxford
Thomas (Lloyd) Richards	Modern Languages	Pembroke Coll., Cambridge
Peter Scott	Engineering	Emmanuel Coll., Cambridge

I understand that some parents of younger children in our Preparatory School have been discussing on Social Media our 0% listing in Government League Tables, and I hope that this explanation will help to inform any future discussion.

Tomorrow we welcome over 400 students for our Entrance Examination and I wish all the candidates every success.

Changes of arrangements for CCF and CSU

I am pleased to inform the School that the CCF and CSU have agreed to take on the responsibility of training the Third Year in their respective areas from September, 2017. Whilst some of the detail of this shift remain to be finalised, plans for a successful transition are already well developed. We anticipate that students in either activity will receive elements of training that will support those wishing to participate in the expedition phase of the Bronze Duke of Edinburgh's Award in the Third Year. In the summer term, parents of pupils in the Second Year will be invited to attend the excellent parent information evening that we have run for the last two years.

Headmaster's Forum

The Headmaster's Forum will be held on Monday 30th January 2017 at 7pm in the Wessex Auditorium. The meeting will provide an opportunity for you to ask questions about aspects of School life. My letter, giving details about the Forum is in the General Correspondence folder of the Letters Home section of the Parent Portal.

2017 Parent and Pupil Surveys

Thank you to those of you who have already completed your online Parent Survey. We value your opinion and the survey findings will make a difference to how we run the School and plan for the future. If you are still to take part in the survey, it should only take 10 minutes, you have until Monday 30th January to complete the questionnaire and return it directly to Kirkland Rowell Surveys. All your answers are anonymous and will be treated in the strictest confidence.

Junior Colloquium

At Junior Colloquium and JSABs this week, Olivia Hossack in the Lower Sixth led a detailed exploration of the question 'Does God exist?'. The discussion was well led and enabled the students to become better informed and encouraged them to think and discuss this significant issue further. Next week, Sixth Form students Anita Doal and Simone Olagbegi will be asking the global question 'Do all women in the world have equal rights?'. Their presentation on this issue will stimulate thought and discussion and all are invited to pupils are attend. Junior Colloquium will meet as usual at 1.20pm in Old Big School on Monday and JSABs will be on Wednesday at 1.20pm in the BAC Lecture Theatre. Early lunch passes can be obtained for both groups after assembly on Monday.

Fifth Year Careers Work Experience

Students in the Fifth Year are encouraged to undertake a period of Work Experience during the next Summer Holidays. A letter outlining the procedures can be found in the Fifth Year Folder in the Letters Home area on the Parent Portal.

Chamber Concert

The Lent Chamber Concert takes place on Wednesday 25th January in the Memorial Hall. The evening will include solo and ensemble performances showcasing Chamber Music from a variety of genres and featuring a range of vocal and instrumental talents.

The concert starts at 7pm, and refreshments will be served in the interval. The concert will finish by 9pm. Parent and family tickets are available online via Eventbrite at £4 per adult (students do not have to pay for tickets, and are actively encouraged to attend in support of their peers). The link for the tickets is [here](#).

We look forward to welcoming you and your guests to this exciting evening of music in the Memorial Hall.

"Lord Of The Flies"

The Middle School production of "Lord Of The Flies" takes place on Monday 6th, Tuesday 7th, Wednesday 8th and Thursday 9th February in the Memorial Hall at 7pm. Tickets are free but you need to reserve your seats by clicking [here](#).

Once reserved, your tickets will be sent to the email address given. These can either be printed and brought with you or shown on a mobile phone/device on the night.

Our directorial intention is to thrust you onto this hellish island with these stranded children; to present their living nightmares and to confront you with their demise into animalism and brutality. Our decision to use thrust staging presents a further challenge for the young actors, who are grappling with this timeless and

well-known script adapting from William Golding's original novel, as well as enhancing the immersion of the audience.

Battle of the Big Bands

After last year's sell-out and sensational performance, London-based and professional Big Band, The Seven Steps Big Band, return to battle it out with the Brentwood School Big Band. The Wessex Auditorium promises to be treated to an evening of high energy and exciting swing, funk, Latin and vocal numbers. This is a highlight of our musical calendar and is simply not to be missed.

The concert takes place on Saturday 4th February at 7pm. (doors open at 6.45pm.) Tickets for this amazing concert are priced at £10 per adult and £5 per child. [Click here for the link.](#)

Friends of Brentwood School Wine Tasting Challenge

Tickets are still available for this Wine Tasting Challenge which is being held on Friday 3rd February at 7.30pm in the Bean Academic Centre Tuck Shop. Tickets for the event, which will be held in conjunction with The Shenfield Wine Co. and Abigail's Delicatessen in Ingatestone, will cost £25 and the ticket price will include a welcome drink, tasting wines and cheese board. For further information and details about how to buy tickets, please see the flyer at the end of the newsletter.

Ultimate Activity Camps and Schools of Sport

Ultimate Activity Camps and Schools of Sport are returning to Brentwood School this year with their fun and engaging holiday programmes, with plenty of new activities for 2017 including more art and craft, initiative games and dance sessions. Ultimate Activity Camps offer exciting childcare with over 40 activities every week delivered by engaging and enthusiastic staff who will instruct and encourage children to try new activities and make new friends – and naturally have lots of fun! The Camp dates are: Easter: Monday 3rd to Thursday 13th April (closed Bank Holidays); Summer: Monday 17th July to Friday 25th August. Please visit www.ultimateactivity.co.uk for details and their latest offer - you can also call them on 0330 111 7077 (local rate).

Schools of Sport offer girls and boys inspiring sports coaching academies during the school holidays and is an outstanding opportunity for children to receive first-class, hands-on coaching from leading coaches and sports stars! Their dates are: Half Term: Athletics Academy with Dean Macey 30th & 31st May; Summer: Netball Academy with Melissa Hyndman 22nd to 24th August. To book, please visit www.schoolsofsport.co.uk or call their team on 0330 111 9077 (local rate). Further details can be found on the [school website](#).

Sport

The published list of top Independent Sports Schools, shows that this School has moved up from 41st position in 2015 to 16th in 2016

Football

Following a disappointing weekend of cancellations, the First XI enjoyed an outstanding victory in the Essex Cup quarter final against local rivals Shenfield on Wednesday. Charlie Nowlan (2), Charlie Clayden (2), Thomas Takar, George Mackinnon, James Moore, Finlay Denny and Harry Gould scored the goals in a fine 9-0 win. The overall team performance was outstanding and Brentwood looked assured in defence and dangerous in attack. Brentwood will face Saffron Walden in the semi-final which promises to be a very entertaining game. The Second XI faced Saffron Walden in a tightly-contested fixture which the boys unfortunately lost 3-2 after failing to capitalise on a number of early chances and hitting the crossbar twice. Saffron Walden then took the lead with a good goal and ended up taking a 3-0 lead before Brentwood staged a late fight back. Thomas Penney scored two, following excellent work by Charlie Bacon (who then hit the post in the final minute). The Third XI bounced back with an excellent 4-1 win over Saffron Walden in a game

they controlled from start to finish. A number of players were superb to ensure that Brentwood dominated the game. The Fourth XI won a very even game 2-1 and worked extremely hard to ensure it was on the right end of the result.

Junior Football Tour to St George's Park

Parents and players are reminded of the final meeting before the Junior Football tour to St. George's Park on Tuesday 24th January in the Memorial Hall at 6pm.

Senior Football Tour – Miami 2018

We are excited to announce that all pupils in the current Third – Fifth Year (inclusive) are warmly invited to an information evening regarding the prospect of a Senior football tour to Miami, Florida in August 2018. Mr Jonathan Young, InspireSport representative will be presenting to all prospective players/parents on Tuesday 24th January from 7pm in the Memorial Hall. Information will also be sent via Intouch, with hard copies available from the Physical Education office.

Hockey

Both the Under 15 team and First XI played Coopers' Coborn School this week. The Under 15s started with great determination against strong opposition. A quick start and high work rate from all players ensured a very positive start. However, Brentwood's defence was shortly put to the test after a couple of rapid counter attacks from Coopers' which resulted in a reverse hit goal. Shortly after, a couple of very close attempts for Brentwood came from Abi Coe's superb sprints up the wing and great attacking play from all midfield and forward players which came very close to scoring. A quick start from Coopers in the second half saw them score again, resulting in a 0-3 reverse. Player of the Match was awarded to Ella Hawes. The First XI suffered a tough 4-0 defeat, with all the goals conceded in the first half. Brentwood played the match with high intensity and the forwards pressed high putting Coopers' under an enormous amount of pressure. Charlotte Walters was relentless in midfield and created a number of chances for Ella Lindsay upfront, who was denied by a very experienced keeper. Due to the nature of the press, the girls were unfortunately caught against the run of play and, through a lapse in marking, conceded four. The girls look forward to training hard over the next month in anticipation of their final game against Haileybury.

Karting

The Brentwood A team returned to its local track at Brentwood Karting ready and eager to start the defence of their national title. Debutant Ethan Brooks and defending champions Callum Brooks and Iarsolav Kovalev made up the team, as former driver Matt Luff has moved on to greater things in the world of Motorsport after his excellent performance in the BSKC last year. Despite Matt's absence, the team drove superbly and dominated on the night. Ethan showed no sign of inexperience as he set the fastest time of the day. Callum and Iaroslav were also quick and composed topping their respective sessions and proving why they are reigning champions. We now eagerly await the semi- finals in early February.

Netball

The Under 15 A team played a difficult league fixture against St. Martin's, which eventually resulted in a creditable 23-18 victory following incredibly accurate shooting from Evie McKnight. The Under 12B team had a challenging Essex Cup match against Westcliff High School A team. The girls put in a spirited performance but finally lost 26-7, despite some good shooting from Olivia Hiller. Olivia O'Donnell and Isabelle Copeland were strong in defence and Francesca Stanford also impressed. In the English Schools' Magazine National Cup quarter final, the Under 12A team faced a strong and experienced Berkhamsted. Although only down by 4 goals at half time, a poor third quarter saw Berkhamsted pull away to a convincing 27-15 final score. The result did not reflect the fine performance the Brentwood girls enjoyed. The defence of Emma Willy and Taaliyah Foster were outstanding and Olivia Copeland played confidently in the shooting circle. Hannah Knightbridge showed great tenacity in mid court, and was awarded Player of the Match. In

the Essex Cup Plate competition, our Senior Third VII put up a great fight against West Hatch High School. The game was extremely fast paced, and Brentwood got off to a slow start which, despite playing excellent second and fourth quarters, they could not regain control of the match. The final score was 28-14 to Colchester College. Emily Scott at GK was outstanding and was deservedly awarded Player of the Match, with Megan Fraser strong in mid court and Amy Purser shooting impressively.

Swimming

Earlier this week the swim team dominated its league gala against Great Baddow to win all age groups. Amongst many outstanding performances, Anastasia Hume came 2nd in the 25m Backstroke, while Jacky Ma finished 1st in the 25m Butterfly.

Letters Home

These letters are located in the Letters Home area of the Parent Portal for which there is a link below for parental use:

Folder	Title	Uploaded
3rd Form	GCSE Options Letter	13/01/2017
5th Year	Work Experience	20/01/2017
Lower 6 th Form	A Level subject choices	13/01/2017
6th Form	Geography Trip to Iceland October	17/01/2017
6th Form	Psychology Grade Booster Workshop April	16/01/2017
General Correspondence	Headmaster's Forum Meeting	20/01/2017

> Click here for the [Parent Portal](#)



Yours sincerely

Ian Davies
Headmaster



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SENIOR SCHOOL

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FoBS

Friends of Brentwood School

WINE TASTING EVENING

join us for

An informal evening
in conjunction with Shenfield Wines plus
a selection of cheeses from Abigail's of Ingatestone

Friday, February 3rd at 7:30 pm for 8pm start
Tuck Shop, Bean Academic Centre
Brentwood School

Tickets at £25.00 per person
Tables are for 8 people

Wine Tasting Evening
Friday 3rd February at 7:30 pm

I would like to make a reservation for a table
(tables are for 8 people)

Lead Name

Number of people

Total cost (£25.00 per head)

Please make cheques payable to
'Friends of Brentwood School'

Telephone:

Email:

For more information please contact Stacey Mamelok, details
below.

Limited number of tickets. Please reserve via text or email, and
return completed form and cheque as soon as possible to Stacey
Mamelok

32 Hogarth Avenue, Brentwood, CM15 8BE

Email: lady-mamelok@yahoo.co.uk | Text: 07748725523