



Braeside School

130 High Road, Buckhurst Hill
Essex IG9 5SD

Tel Seniors: 020 8504 1133

Tel Juniors: 020 8504 0021

HEADMISTRESS

MRS GILLIAN HADDON B.A. (HONS), PGCE

E-mail: enquiries@braesideschool.co.uk

Website: www.braesideschool.co.uk

October 2015

Dear Parents

It has been an exciting and rewarding start to the new term this year and I hope that the meetings held with and the follow up letters from Matthew Hagger have found favour with you all. The opportunities generated by joining the Oak-Tree Group are quickly shaping up and as a community I feel confident that we will all benefit from everything that is planned.

Braeside has always maintained traditional values and this term our new pupils joining the school have been greeted with genuine warmth and everyone has settled quickly and happily.

I am sure that you are now keeping up to date, via the website, with other opportunities that the girls have been given over the first few weeks of term. It has been extremely rewarding to see the excited faces of girls returning from trips as diverse as our Junior pupils' visit to the Roald Dahl Museum in Great Missenden and Year 10 and 11 students' Business Studies based trip to Thorpe Park.

Inter House Debating Competition

This annual and popular event took place in the last week of September and the first week of October. Two hard-fought heats were held on successive days and the final took place a week later to debate the relative merits of Re-cycling. A range of arguments for and against were put forward very eloquently and each team had to have members drawn from across all year groups. In the end the Nightingale House team were able to persuade the school community of their argument and emerged the winners. We congratulate all those confident, well-informed speakers who took part in this event.

Epping Forest Schools Youth Forum – Friday 9 October

Braeside pupils have had representation on the Epping Forest Youth Council since it started in February 2008 and as part of this have contributed to the provision of services for young people across the District. Once again we are supporting the EFYC Youth Forum annual event offering delegates from local schools the opportunity to visit the Epping Civic Offices and hear about local democracy. During the course of the day workshops are arranged to prepare the visitors for a debate in the afternoon. This initiative by the Epping Forest Youth Council is supported by Mrs Eleanor Laing, MP for Epping Forest, and Braeside School's representative on the Council, Rose Compton, was part of the team organising and running this lively and thought provoking event, which confirms the importance of the democratic process in society.

FOBS Committee Meeting

FOBS are holding their second committee meeting of the term on Tuesday 13 October in the Junior School Hall at 7.30pm. Amongst the matters they will be discussing are the arrangements for the Fireworks Event and the plans for the Annual Christmas Fayre, which this year will be held on Saturday 5 December in the Junior Hall. All parents are invited to attend these meetings and offers of help for either event will be very gratefully received. We're extremely grateful that FOBS have agreed to fund half of the cost of a new minibus, with the school funding the remainder and so any assistance with fundraising will be welcomed.

Open Day – Saturday 17 October

We have held successful Open Days on Saturdays for the past ten years and once more will have the school open to welcome current and prospective parents into school. Pupils from Year 1 to Year 11 will be involved in a wide range of activities with those in Year 5, 6, 10 and 11 also taking sessions as guides around the premises. Our pupils are our very best marketing tool on Open Day as their confidence, openness and genuine pride in their school is clear for each visitor to see.

Junior Parents Evening – Tuesday 20 October

Letters about this evening went out last week and we will look forward to seeing all parents of girls in Year 1 to Year 5.

Eleanor Laing's Christmas Card Competition

Nell Scott, a current Year 6 pupil, was a runner-up in this competition last year and, once again, we are encouraging pupils from Years 2 to 6 to participate in the competition this year, which is on the theme of Epping Forest at Christmas. The deadline is shortly after half-term, but we feel it would be better to produce our entries early and so are asking that completed entries should be in by Thursday, 22 October.

Oak-Tree Fireworks Event

I am delighted to report that tickets for this event are selling fast and that ninety have already been purchased by Braeside families. FOBS have been asked to run two stalls at the event, as have other Oak-Tree School Parents' Associations and I know that Peter Basil would be grateful to have willing offers of help for this event that takes place on Sunday 8 November from 4.30pm to 6.30pm.

Samaritan's Purse Shoe Box Appeal

We shall once again be encouraging all girls to donate a carefully filled shoebox to the Samaritan's Purse 'Operation Christmas Child' appeal. We were overwhelmed by the generous, thoughtful donations last year and hope to exceed the number of boxes collected for this wonderful charity. Further details will be sent to everyone just before half term.

Drama Festival Rehearsals

House plays have now been chosen and auditions held to cast parts for our annual competition held just before Christmas. This and the music competition foster a huge amount of team building and require mature handling by the House Captains.

Junior Harvest Festival – 22 October in St James' URC Hall (Doors Open 1.45 for a 2 pm start)

We are delighted to be able to invite our Parents to join us for this traditional seasonal event. All of our year groups are preparing to perform for their Parents using Harvest as the theme and we will be collecting dry food goods for donation to the Salvation Army. Our Festival will take place on Thursday 22 October with doors at St James' URC Hall opening at 1.45pm for a 2pm start. A warm welcome awaits those of you able to attend and tickets (2 per family) are available from Mrs Collins.

Fitness Trail

We are eagerly awaiting the installation of three permanent items of outdoor fitness equipment in the garden at the Senior site. This equipment has been generously donated by FOBS as the result of fundraising over the past twelve months. It will be used in PE lessons for students of all age groups as we will be making arrangements for girls from the Junior site to make regular visits to make use of the fitness opportunities under carefully supervised conditions.

School Uniform

I am sure that parents are aware that we, as a school, set great store by our students being smartly turned out in correct uniform every school day. I would therefore remind you all that it is only students in Years 10 and 11 who have the opportunity to wear dark (navy or black), plain, knee-length coats and that these should be without decorative trimmings of any kind. We also expect girls to wear trainers for PE sessions and matches that are white or with as little decorative markings as possible.

Future Dates and Events for your Diary

Saturday 17 October	Open Day (10am to 12.30pm Junior site; 10am to 2.30pm Senior site)
Tuesday 20 October	Junior Parents Evening
Saturday 24-Wednesday 28 October	Year 10 & Year 11 Residential Visit to Iceland
Sunday 08 November	Oak-Tree Fireworks Event 4.30pm to 6.30pm at Oaklands School
Tuesday 10 November	Meeting for Parents re new GCSE Reforms 7pm
Thursday 12 November	Year 6 Parents Evening
Thursday 12 November	FOBS AGM in Senior Hall 7pm
Friday 13 November	Year 11 Skills Day at Excel Centre
Friday 13 November	Junior Non-Uniform Day for Children in Need
Friday 13 November	Epping Forest Parliamentary Debate (evening)
Tuesday 24 November	Year 7 Parents Evening
Tuesday 1 December	In-house Performance of Macbeth am Senior Hall
Tuesday 1 December	Year 7 Parents Evening
Thursday 3 December	LAMDA Exams – Senior students
Friday 4 December	Senior Choir participation at Buckhurst Hill Christmas Fair
Saturday 5 December	FOBS Christmas Fayre Junior Hall 12pm to 3pm
Tuesday 8 December	Kindergarten-Year 5 visit to “Aladdin” at Queens Theatre Hornchurch
Friday 11 December	Junior Christmas Concert at St James’ URC Hall pm
Tuesday 15 December	House Drama Performances for Parents in Senior Hall (evening)
Wednesday 16 December	House Music and Drama Competition in Senior Hall
Thursday 17 December	School Activity Day
Friday 18 December	Last Day of Term : School finishes after End of Term Assembly at 11.45 am from the Junior site

With kind regards

Yours sincerely



Gillian Haddon
Headmistress

