



Braeside School

130 High Road, Buckhurst Hill
Essex IG9 5SD

Tel Seniors: 020 8504 1133
Tel Juniors: 020 8504 0021

E-mail: enquiries@braesideschool.co.uk
Website: www.braesideschool.co.uk

HEADMISTRESS

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

3 December 2015

Dear Parents

Finally the temperature has dropped and the rehearsals for Christmas concerts and productions seem more appropriate to the seasonal changes. Weeks in schools fly by and it is amazing to reflect that three weeks have passed since the half-term holiday.

As you are all aware, Braeside became a member of the Oak-Tree Group of Schools in September with Mrs Clare Naismith, a Director of the school for many years, remaining with us this term to smooth the transfer for all concerned. However after a thirty-five year association with the school she has now stepped down and a celebratory Afternoon Tea was held for her and many past colleagues, including our two most recent Chairs of Governors, Dr Moya Moffat and Dr John Kennedy last Wednesday. A convivial afternoon of reminiscences was supported by entertainment from the school vocal ensemble and everyone there gave their thanks to Mrs Naismith and wished her well.

Epping Forest Youth Debate

Braeside has been actively involved in this annual event run by our MP Eleanor Laing for a number of years. Originally six local schools competed – Braeside, Chigwell, Davenant, Roding Valley, Debden Park High and St John's Epping – but this year a further two schools entered bringing the total to eight. The format of the competition follows strict parliamentary rules and perhaps the hardest aspect of debating, especially for young people, is dealing with interventions during your speech which are designed to interrupt your thought processes and speed of delivery. As I am sure you will appreciate, Braeside is by far the smallest school which enters and therefore our girls being judged runners up this year was a huge success. Aliyah Akram, Faye Dennis and Sophie Mall, supported by Mrs Murrell, had worked hard and prepared well and were presented with dictionaries and certificates as part of their prizes.

Taster Mornings

Pupils applying to join us next September came to school to be part of taster mornings this year. The popularity of this opportunity was such that this year three mornings have been held to give each potential pupil the opportunity to experience lessons and spend time with us.

These are important events for all concerned and we hope will help to manage stress levels before candidates sit our entrance examination in early January.

Excel Careers Event – Friday 13 November

Year 11 pupils, dressed in smart business wear, attended this annual event. It gave them an opportunity to collect information and talk to a wide range of institutions and employers. They all reflected how useful the visit had been.

Operation Christmas Child

Our Year 5 pupils were invited to visit the local centre of operation for this appeal in Buckhurst Hill on Thursday 19 November and had the opportunity of asking questions about the scheme to one of the logistics organisers.

They asked some excellent questions and returned to school to tell everyone else during assembly what they had found out. As always they were a credit to the school and demonstrated real sensitivity for those children around the world who have so little.

Science Live! Event – Thursday 26 November

As part of their GCSE Science studies our Year 11 attended a conference in central London at which they were able to hear about the impact of science on current world issues from prestigious scientists from a wide range of specialisms, including Lord Winston who has pioneered fertility treatment and Prof Jim Al-Khalili a professor of Physics at Surrey University and presenter of science programmes on Channel 4 and the BBC. There was also advice on techniques for maximising grades at GCSE. Our group were delighted to spot a party from our fellow Oak-Tree Group Normanhurst in the audience too.

The Scottish Play

East 15 Acting School came into school to give a performance of “Macbeth” on Tuesday 1 December to an audience of Year 9, 10 and 11 students. Shakespeare is an important part of the English curriculum and this gives pupils the opportunity to see the words translated into a practical piece of theatre. For the first time we were able to invite Drama students from Normanhurst to join us so that they too could benefit from this wonderful opportunity.

Buckhurst Hill Christmas Shopping Event

If you can please join us by the Library in Queens Road at 3.30pm on Friday 4 December when Eleanor Laing will open a special evening of shopping and entertainment laid on by retailers in Buckhurst Hill. Our Vocal Ensemble have been invited to perform at this event again this year which is a wonderful opportunity for all.

After-School Activities

News about our new wrap-around care offer has been sent to everyone now and there is naturally a lively interest in signing up for the new range of activities.

Rosie Pike (Dance) and Andrew Beevers (Fencing) both came into the Junior School to demonstrate their skills and brought real excitement to proceedings by asking pupils to be involved.

These were entertaining presentations and I am sure these activities and others on the list such as Mad Science and Multi-sports will all prove to be popular.

French Residential Trip – October 2016

Information and booking forms have been sent out to our Year 7 and 8 classes to gauge uptake for our planned residential visit to take place at the start of the Autumn half-term fortnight. We will be re-visiting an area and accommodation where we have spent enjoyable and educational breaks in the past and undertaking a range of visits in the local area.

Staff News

Mrs Maheswaran has been away from school for a number of weeks suffering from a badly broken wrist. She had told us of her intention to retire at Christmas prior to her accident and will be leaving us, after eight years of service, at the end of term.

Mrs Spelman is also leaving us as she has re-located to Devon. Her one-day per week commitment in Year 1 will be taken over by Mrs Silk who stepped down from her full-time role in the summer. We are delighted that she has agreed to do this as we place great store on the continuity of care we offer.

Mrs Long, who has worked as a TA in the Infant Department for seven years has also decided to leave at the end of this term.

We are always sad to say goodbye to colleagues and thank all three of them for their contributions to the school.

FOBS

The Friends of Braeside AGM was held last week and the current Chair, Treasurer and Secretary all stood down after a heroic two years that have seen the purchase of camera and video equipment, a flat screen TV, fitness trail elements and last but by no means least a £10,000 contribution to a new liveried minibus which will be with us early in the new year.

Thanks therefore go to Peter Basil, David Foster and Vanessa Boyle for everything that they and team FOBS have achieved.

The new Committee of Mrs Jessica Chessher (Chair) and Ms Louise Meads (Secretary) and would love to find a new treasurer to join them as soon as possible, but in the interim David Foster has kindly agreed to continue his role, especially with the Christmas Fayre next Saturday. If you think you could help, please contact Pauline Wise in the Senior office on 020 8504 1133.

The new Committee will be taking over the reins at an exciting time and will be collaborating with other Parents Associations in the group early next term in working towards the Oak-Tree Ball scheduled for 21 May, which I recommend that you all put in your diaries now.

Christmas Fayre

This is always a special event with Father Christmas in residence and a wide selection of stalls and activities with a Christmas theme. Please help the school by donating items, buying draw tickets, helping and/or actually attending this event between 12 noon and 3.00pm on Saturday 5 December in the hall on the Junior site. Access is via the Westbury Lane entrance.

As always the run up to Christmas is exciting and exhausting in equal measure, but I do hope to see as many of you as possible at our programme of events celebrating this seasonal time.

Future Dates and Events for your Diary

Tuesday 15 December	House Drama Performances for Parents in Senior Hall (evg)
Wednesday 16 December	House Music and Drama Competition in Senior Hall
Friday 18 December	Last Day of Term: School finishes after End of Term Assembly at 11.45am from the Junior site
Tuesday 12 January	First Day of Spring Term
Tuesday 12 January	Year 11 GCSE Mock Examinations commence
Tuesday 19 January	11+ Entrance Examination
Thursday 28 January	LAMDA Examinations for Senior students
Monday 8 February	Senior Vocal Ensemble compete in Stratford Festival

With kind regards

Yours sincerely



Gillian Haddon
Headmistress



OAK-TREE SCHOOLS is the group name of:

BRAESIDE SCHOOL, BUCKHURST HILL • COOPERSALE HALL SCHOOL, EPPING • NORMANHURST SCHOOL, NORTH CHINGFORD • OAKLANDS SCHOOL, LOUGHTON

HEAD OFFICE ADDRESS: 6-8 ALBION HILL, LOUGHTON, ESSEX IG10 4RA

GROUP MANAGING PRINCIPAL: MR MATTHEW HAGGER B.A. (HONS), M.ED., PGCE PRINCIPALS: MR NICHOLAS HAGGER M.A. (OXON), MRS ANN HAGGER CERT. ED.

Braeside School is the trading name of Braeside School Ltd; registered in England at 6 Albion Hill, Loughton, Essex IG10 4RA; company number 0783067

