



# Braeside School

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## HEADMISTRESS

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

18 April 2016

Dear Parents

I hope that you have all had a restful time during the Easter break and that you have had an opportunity to enjoy the company of your daughter or daughters! We have all missed their lively presence but have taken the opportunity to continue works at both sites to improve the learning environment of all Braesidians.

The building on the High Road now looks magnificent and further internal decoration is being appreciated by all. The plans for the summer works are also very exciting and I know that Matthew Hagger will be in contact with everyone soon to keep you updated.

### Prevent Training

On Wednesday our entire staff undertook Home Office approved PREVENT training. This places on schools and teachers the legal responsibility to monitor for signs of radicalisation in children and to actively support them in a number of ways, should concerns be raised, including alerting outside agencies.

One element of this legislation places on me the duty to investigate thoroughly any absences of children where appropriate formal permissions and details have not been given to the school in advance of the absence. In all of our handbooks to parents we always stress the importance of full attendance and the importance of the continuity of care that we offer, therefore absences during term time are not encouraged for any reason as taught time lost cannot be replicated.

Notification of known absences due to travel arrangements which parents have chosen to put in place must be applied for in advance and signed off by the Headmistress before the event happens and notification whilst abroad or retrospectively cannot be given. The PREVENT agenda is a significant extension to the duty of care that as a Head I exercise on behalf of each of the girls and Parental awareness and acceptance that they need to deal honestly with the school over such matters will prevent unnecessary investigation. This matter is referred to in our comprehensive Safeguarding Policy which is available to download on the web-site.

### New School Day and Structure from September

Our Group Managing Principal, Matthew Hagger, recently contacted you all with details of changes in September about our school day and the duration of lessons. These changes are designed to enhance the learning opportunities for all and will also enable us to undertake more cross-phase work between the Junior and Senior sites and collaborative work with Normanhurst.

### Staffing

We are delighted to welcome Zarkar Akhtar to our EYFS Team. She is an experienced colleague who will bring extensive experience to the position and, I am confident, will prove a valuable member of the team.

We are also delighted to announce that Mrs Debbie Grant will be joining colleagues at the Junior site in September to teach Year 5. She is a very experienced teacher who has taught both in British international schools abroad and in a variety of year groups from Reception to Year 6 in this country.

### **GCSE Drama**

Many congratulations go to our Year 11 Drama students and our Drama specialist, Mrs Hollingworth. The practical element of the course took place at Redbridge Drama Centre on the last day of the Spring term and was an abridged, highly professional version of "Mean Girls". The audience of staff, friends and relatives really enjoyed this production and I am confident that the external moderator did too!

### **Easter Revision Classes**

I would like to thank my subject colleagues for their dedication in giving up their time during the holidays to offer further support to our Year 11 pupils, who will shortly be taking their GCSEs. Student participation levels were high and were a measure of the determination of both the students and their parents in supporting their children.

### **Keynote English Revision Conference**

Arranging for Year 11 pupils to attend specific grade-raising events in London at this time of year is very challenging as other subject lessons are negatively impacted so this year Braeside has commissioned an experienced Keynote speaker to come to us and deliver their course on Saturday 7 May.

Jeanette Murrell has organised this and has invited Year 11 Normanhurst pupils to join us too. Individual emails have recently been sent to all Year 11 Parents.

### **Uniform**

We always try to set high standards in respect of uniform and would appreciate if all pupils this term wore their blazers on a daily basis and used appropriate other school coats and outer garments when the weather is inclement. Please check the length of your daughter's skirt/summer dress as growth spurts can sometimes cause these to become far too short very quickly and causes embarrassment to all, especially when going upstairs.

Those pupils based at the Junior site have the option from now to wear summer uniform if they wish.

### **After School Clubs**

Places are available in most of our after-school activities sessions. These are Arts and Crafts, Choir, Dance, Debating, Drama, Karate, Mad Science and Multi-Sports, some taking place on the Senior site and others at the Juniors. Mini-bus transport is laid on for Senior pupils who attend activities at the Junior site.

If parents wish to cancel any activity sessions they must give a half-term's notice. Please contact the school office if you wish to find out more details about our offer.

### **Parking**

Parking close to schools is always fraught, but my greatest concern is the safety of our pupils as they approach the school. Please ensure that you park sensitively and within the law as enforcement measures by the council are now more regular and, as a school, we wish to preserve our positive relationships with our neighbours.

### **Prizes at Speech Day**

Although this will be my last Speech Day as Headmistress at Braeside I have decided that this year prize winners will not be advised of their success before the actual event on Friday 8 July.

Speech Day is our most formal event of the year and our last opportunity to bid farewell to our Year 11 pupils who are always expected to attend, accompanied by their parents.

Parents will have the pleasure of taking their own photographs at the time to record the event and we will no longer take “official” photographs on your behalf.

### **Oak-Tree Ball**

The biennial Oak-Tree Ball is taking place on Saturday 21 May and Braeside staff and parents can enjoy this event too having joined the group last September. Tickets are selling well for this event which takes place in the marquee at Chigwell Hall (Chigwell Metropolitan Police Club)

The venue is impressive and there are currently still some tickets left. The headquarters team, dealing with ticket sales, can be contacted via the Oak-Tree web-site [www.oaktreeschools.co.uk/the-oak-tree-summer-ball/](http://www.oaktreeschools.co.uk/the-oak-tree-summer-ball/) and they can help with your seating requirements. The tables will generally be 8, 10 or 12 places and can be arranged to suit group bookings.

### **Charitable Event – Advanced Notice**

At the end of the summer term we will be holding a charitable event with copper coinage. Could you bear this in mind over the coming weeks ready to support your daughters when further details are announced.

### **End of Summer Term Arrangements**

As you are aware, our Speech Day will now take place at 1.45 pm on Friday 8 July.

Term ends on Wednesday 13 July and pupils will be dismissed at 12.30 pm. Further details about these arrangements will be published in the near future.

### **Future Dates and Events for your Diary**

This is a very busy term and an outline of our current plans can be found below. I very much look forward to meeting parents at some of these events.

Monday 25 April	Duckling Hatching Kit arrives at Junior site
Tuesday 26 April	Peripatetic Music Concert and Parents Evening (Senior pupils)
Tuesday 28 April	Coopersale Cross Country Competition
Friday 29 April	Gifted & Talented Year 9 Group Trip to Trinity Hall Cambridge
Tues-Fri 3-6.05.16	Travelling Books Fair for all age groups (Senior Hall)
Tuesday 3 May	“Woman in Black” theatre visit for Year 10 Drama group and Year 9
Wednesday 4 May	Year 3, 4 & 5 visit to Waltham Abbey Gardens
Thursday 5 May	Talk by School Immunisation Nurse to Year 8 re HPV vaccinations
Thursday 5 May	FOBS Cake Sale (3.20 pm in Junior Playground)
Saturday 7 May	Keynote English Educational Conference Reaching Grade C/Reaching Grade A/A* Year 11 (Braeside and Normanhurst students)
Monday 9 May	Key Stage 2 SATS commence
Thursday/Friday 5/6 May	GCSE Art Practical Examination
Friday 13 May	Year 11 Leavers’ Assembly
Monday 16 May	GCSE Written examinations commence
Monday 16 May	Year 6, 7, 8 and 9 end of year examinations commence
Saturday 21 May	Oak-Tree Group May Ball
Monday/Friday 23/27 May	Juniors end of year examinations
Wednesday 25 May	Year 8 and 9 HPV1 & 2 vaccinations
Monday/Friday 31 May/3 June	Half Term

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.

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