



Braeside School

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HEADMISTRESS

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Dear Parents

After eight years of Headship this is my last letter to you all and, although the format has changed this year, the informative content linking our families and the school together has continued.

It has been a personal privilege to share with you all the development of your daughters, some of whom I have known since they were very small, and to witness their growing engagement and confidence in forming their own personal opinions and taking their role in society.

Braeside has offered them a consistency of care as part of the framework of their lives as they have grown up and we all hope that, later in life, they will all reflect fondly on the time that they have spent in the school and the wider learning opportunities this has given them.

GCSE and Internal Examinations.

All pupils have been undergoing some form of assessment in recent weeks and staff are currently working on the summative reports which will be sent to you on the 11 July. I know that everyone has worked well and has taken these assessments seriously. Unfortunately these days early training is an essential part of preparing for external examinations later on in school life and we feel that laying down our expectations early on reaps dividends in later years.

Junior Peripatetic Musical Concert

It was lovely to share with you, last Thursday, the performances of the pupils who undertake instrument lessons in school. It was a varied programme involving many of our Junior School pupils, together with a mixed Junior/Senior guitar group, and demonstrated how well they are progressing. It was a special concert for all concerned.

Queen's Birthday Tea

This unique event celebrating the 90th Birthday of the Queen was held in the Junior playground last Friday afternoon with accompanying and, rather unusually for this June, warm sunshine. Traditional games were played and a wonderful tea consumed before pupils and staff were joined by Parents to take part in the singing. Ms Morgan played and encouraged all to take part in a number of well-known popular songs plus a beautiful rendition of both verses of the National Anthem. We were also grateful to FOBS who enhance the enjoyment of everyone by running the new tuck shop with ice creams at the end of the event.

GCSE Art Exhibition

We were delighted to host pupils, parents and guests to our annual Art show on Monday and ensured that pupils of all ages had the opportunity to visit this engaging and most professional display of our GCSE pupils' work. The subject matter was as individual as each of the candidates and emphasised the value of studying in a small group setting. I am confident that the moderator who visited was also suitably impressed and congratulations must go to the pupils and to Ms Coleman for her creativity and guidance this year.

Lambourne Visit

All good wishes go to our Year 5 and 6 pupils who will be involved in a residential experience at Lambourne End later this week. This has been in the diary for nearly a year now and we had thought that it would be a lovely experience in June when the sun normally shines! Looking out at the window today full waterproofs are advisable and both staff and pupils need to prepare themselves for getting muddy! I shall be visiting the groups at the venue and hope that they enjoy themselves in undertaking a range of team challenges.

Visit to Parliament

During this landmark political week in our country's history our Year 9 and 10 pupils will be visiting the Palace of Westminster on Tuesday 21 June. As always this has been arranged in conjunction with our local MP Eleanor Laing, who has visited the school several times in recent years. Her election just over a year ago as one of the Deputy Speakers in the chamber was certainly something to celebrate as few women traditionally hold this role.

European Referendum

Senior pupils have been investigating the issues surrounding this debate and we will be holding our own EU referendum here next week. Hustings for pupils from Year 5 upwards will take place and pupils will then be asked to vote in the same way that adults will do across the country in the national poll. Many thanks go to Ms Moon for organising this highly topical event.

Royal Albert Hall Schools' Matinee Concert

Our Year 7, 8 and 9 pupils have the wonderful opportunity of attending a concert in this world famous venue on the 24 June. The theme of the music is The Planets and I am sure that it will be a very stimulating and enjoyable opportunity, particularly as the performance will be enhanced with NASA film and images shown on a huge screen.

Year 10 Visit to National Portrait Gallery

To encourage their creative side, we have arranged for the whole of Year 10 to visit the National Portrait Gallery on Wednesday 29 June to take part in a practical workshop. It is sometimes too easy to move away from some subjects when GCSE options have been chosen, but we feel this will be an excellent opportunity for all the pupils to enjoy the benefits of hands-on art under expert guidance.

Moving Up Day

This year we have co-ordinated a single day Thursday 30 June, on which all pupils who will be new to Braeside in September will come in to sample life in Braeside. As they meet their new cohort we hope they will begin friendships that will develop over many years to come.

Sports Day

Pupils from Years 1 to 10 will be involved in this event this year at Lea Valley indoor arena on Friday 1 July. This national indoor venue provides excellent facilities and we can guarantee that the event will take place no matter what the weather. We plan to start the event at 12.30 and we anticipate finishing at approximately 3.30pm.

Graduation Dinner

All of our current Year 11 pupils are attending this event which traditionally celebrates their years at the school and marks their leaving Braeside. Pupils and staff will gather at Packford's Hotel in Woodford to enjoy a formal Dinner together and to say goodbye in convivial surroundings.

Talk on People Skills to Year 10

As part of our on-going support for pupils as they prepare to move from Braeside to sixth forms and beyond, we have arranged for representatives from the Barclays Lifeskills Section to talk to Year 10 pupils about the development of their people skills for future life.

Community Tea

Every year our Year 10 pupils host a Community Tea for a wide cross-section of people associated with the school. Pupils organise every last detail and it is an excellent way for them to develop a considerable range of skills not necessarily delivered as a discrete timetabled subject on the school curriculum. This year the event is being held on Wednesday 6 July at 1.45pm in our beautiful marquee on the Senior site.

If Parents or extended families would like to attend, but have not been part of the ticket distribution, please contact the school for further details.

EYFS Celebratory Afternoon

EYFS Parents are warmly invited to join us on Thursday 7 July in the Marquee on the Senior site.

EYFS pupils will be involved in some sporting activities, presentations and afternoon tea. The event will start at 2pm and there is parking available in nearby roads for those wishing to attend. A letter giving further details will be sent out shortly.

Speech Day

This event is for pupils and parents from Year 1 upwards and is the culmination of the school year. It is a formal event and younger brothers and sisters should not attend in case they provide a distraction from the main proceedings. We will be saying a formal goodbye to the Year 11 Pupils and their Parents as well as staff and indeed myself at this event.

In a break with our traditional arrangements this event is NOT being held on the last day of term. It will take place on Friday 8 July at 1.45pm and will last for approximately one and a half hours followed by light refreshments in the Hall.

Junior Party

This end of year party for pupils from Years 1 to 6 will take place in the marquee at the Senior site on Saturday 9 July from 5.30-7.30pm.

Tickets will be available soon and I know that this is always a popular and enjoyable event.

FOBS Fete

The FOBS Garden Fete will be held on the Senior Site on Sunday 10 July from 12noon to 3pm.

The committee would welcome any offers of help and I would ask that you contact either the school or the Chair Jessica Chessher if you are able to lend a hand. Irrespective of the weather I am sure we will be able to put on a wonderful event as we have both the garden and the marquee available to use.

Steel Band and Dance Workshop

We have organised this for our pupils on Monday 11 July and will have groups rotating so that they can participate throughout the day. It will be a very enjoyable and lively activity and will again give everyone an extra opportunity to experience something different.

First Aid Training for Year 7 and 8

Over many years Braeside has provided training in practical and potentially life-saving first aid to Senior pupils. On 12 July a St John Ambulance trainer will be on site to teach basic first aid skills to our Year 7 and 8 pupils.

Non-Uniform Days

To support the FOBS Summer Fete, we will be following our usual practice of holding non-uniform days in the Seniors and Juniors to encourage parents to provide bottles for the Bottle Tombola. This year, these events will take place on Tuesday 5 July for the Senior pupils and on Wednesday 6 July for the Junior pupils.

Charities Day

On Tuesday 12 July, with your help, we would like to create the longest copper coin line that we can with the proceeds going to Water Aid. You may think that we have all too much water around at the moment, but we are very mindful of those in other parts of the world who experience drought and water shortages. If you collect your copper change and never quite get round to doing anything with it, please support this event with your donations.

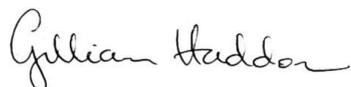
Term finishes at 12.30pm on Wednesday 13 July and I will say goodbye to everyone then. It has been a pleasure and privilege to work with all of our families and pupils over the last fourteen years and I leave knowing that the changes outlined by our Group Managing Principal, in his recent letter to you all, will re-energise the school and that in the near future the facilities and services provided at Braeside will be much more in line with current expectations.

My thanks naturally go to all of my colleagues for their personal and professional support over the years and to many parents who individually and collectively have extended kindness to me.

I hope to see everyone during the last few weeks at one or more of the events which have been promoted in this letter.

With kind regards

Yours sincerely



Gillian Haddon
Headmistress

