



# Braeside School

130 High Road, Buckhurst Hill  
Essex IG9 5SD

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

## HEADMISTRESS

MRS CLAIRE OSBORN MSc., B.A. (HONS), PGCE

E-mail: [enquiries@braesideschool.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@braesideschool.co.uk)

Website: [www.braesideschool.co.uk](http://www.braesideschool.co.uk)

November 2016

### Headmistress's Letter

Dear Parents

I hope you and your families enjoyed the mid-term break and that you are looking forward to the forthcoming half-term, which has a number of special events as Christmas approaches. Please make a note of the dates at the end of this letter, on the app calendar and on the website.

As we return to school, may I remind you that all pupils should now be wearing the winter uniform. Pupils in the seniors are looking smarter and remembering to wear their blazers. However, some pupils' skirts are now too short to be appropriate for school. Skirts should be knee length, they may rest on the top of the knee but should not be mid-thigh length. Please would you check the length of your daughter's skirt, and if necessary purchase a new one of the appropriate length. Likewise please would you ensure that the girls tie back their long hair for school. It should remain tied up all day.

### Year 8 and Year 9 French Trip

I am most grateful to the staff team who led the excellent trip to North East France during the holiday. Fourteen pupils and three members of staff went on the trip, which was a great success. The pupils spent a moving day in Ypres visiting the battlefields, as well as a German and Allies war cemetery. We visited an artisan chocolate factory, made croissants and had a lovely afternoon in Le Touquet. Some of the girls are writing articles for the next newsletter, so please do take the time to read more about the trip then. You can see photos of their adventure on the school website.

### Oak-Tree Holiday Clubs

There were holiday activity weeks offered to our pupils from Upper Kindergarten to Year 6 during the half-term and a large number of Oak-Tree pupils participated. I hope parents found these useful and that your children enjoyed the sports and the chance to make friends with children from our other schools. Additionally, there will also be an activity week in the first week of the Christmas holiday this year.

### Holiday Work on Site

So much has happened over the holiday on both sites. I am delighted to say that work on the junior site is now almost complete. The Early Years area has been fully painted, new windows and doors fitted and the outside area is finished. The girls will really enjoy the space to play and there is a Perspex canopy which will enable us to use it whatever the weather.

The kitchen servery in the junior hall is now all fitted: shutters are in and the area has been painted. The final stage is for the servery units to be fitted which will happen ready for January.

The science block on the senior site is almost completed now. The lift is fitted, a second piano moved upstairs into the music studio and the science prep room is now fitted and waiting to be filled. We hope that both science labs will be up and running by the end of the first week.

Work on building the new kitchens has made rapid progress, with the extension now built and knocking through the servery underway. The girls will see that the hall and the locker area have been temporarily changed to accommodate the building works but this should only be in place for this half term.

## **Staff News**

### **Braeside Office Team**

An additional school secretary joins the office team this term. Mrs Debbie Aldridge is joining the staff and she will be working alongside Mrs Collins on the junior site. She previously worked as a school secretary for seven years at Normanhurst School and she is already familiar with our school systems.

### **Learning Support Assistants in the Juniors**

We have a change to the learning support staffing in the juniors this term. Mrs Andrea Celantano, an experienced learning support assistant who worked at Oaklands for a number of years, will supporting Year 1 on a Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday and Mrs Anita Bovingdon will be supporting on a Thursday and Friday. Both have learning support qualifications and are looking forward to starting working with the Year 1 class.

### **FOBS Junior Christmas Cards**

The Christmas card company are experiencing some technical difficulties with their website and online orders will not be possible this year. Mrs Copeman and Mrs Chessher will be informing parents about how to order their cards by filling in a paper order form this year. You will receive that information at the start of the week.

### **Oak-Tree Firework Display Sunday 13 November**

FOBS is working with the parents' associations at the other three Oak-Tree Schools to run the fireworks display on Sunday 13 November. Details are on the website. Tickets need to be pre-ordered and will not be available on the night. The event will be great fun and we look forward to seeing you there.

### **National Anti-Bullying Week 14-18 November 2016**

Every year we support the national anti-bullying week campaign, which aims to raise awareness of what bullying is and how to tackle bullying. This year the theme is 'Power for Good'. As part of our commitment to ensuring that we are 'anti-bullying' schools, we are giving each pupil a booklet on bullying to take home and share with parents. This will go home during Anti-Bullying Week.

### **Senior House Drama Competition**

The Senior House Drama competition takes place on Friday 25 November at Lopping Hall in Loughton. Pupils have been rehearsing hard and I hope they are looking forward to the evening. Parents received a letter and ticket order slip before half-term. Please do come and join us for the evening. It is the first time the pupils have performed in such a big space and it would be lovely for them to perform to a full house.

### **Friends of Braeside School (FOBS)**

FOBS has its AGM on Tuesday 8 November at 7.30pm in the Senior Hall. Please do come and join us to hear the FOBS annual report and to meet the team.

FOBS are also organising a Christmas Fayre on Friday 25 November after school on the junior site. There will be lots of lovely stalls, a chance to meet a reindeer and to meet Santa. The junior girls have a dress-down day when they can come to school in their own clothes in exchange for a bottle for the tombola. Information about this and about the event itself is coming from Mrs Chessher, the FOBS Chair.

### **Christmas Carol Service**

We have a whole school Carol Service this year at St John's Parish Church on Monday 5 December at 9.15am. Juniors and seniors are involved. All families are welcome to join us for the service and there is no need to reserve tickets in advance. We expect the celebration to be over by about 10.00am.

### **Junior Coffee Mornings**

Mr Hagger and I are holding the annual parent coffee mornings in the juniors this half-term, beginning with Year 2 on Wednesday 9 November. The meetings last from 8.45-9.45am in the junior hall. We value these opportunities to hear from our parents and we would encourage you to attend the week for your child's class.

### **Junior Class Assemblies**

Mrs Collins sent an email to parents to inform you about the Friday junior class assembly programme for the term. We begin with Year 5 on Friday 11 November, followed by Year 4 the following week, all the way down to Year 1 at the end of term. We hope to see many parents there to share in our special assembly day.

### **ISA Autumn Conference**

Ms Moon and I shall be out of school on Friday 11 and Saturday 12 November at the Independent Schools Association Autumn Conference, which this year addresses some important current educational issues including adolescent mental health, examination developments, the impact of innovation and raising standards in schools.

### **Forthcoming Events**

Tuesday 8 November	FOBS AGM
Wednesday 9 November	Year 2 Coffee Morning
Thursday 10 November	Year 10 RS Group visit to St John's Church
Friday 11 November	Year 5 Class Assembly to Parents
Sunday 13 November	Oak-Tree Fireworks Event (Oaklands School)
Wednesday 16 November	Year 10 & 11 "An Inspector Calls" Theatre Trip
Friday 18 November	Year 4 Class assembly to Parents
Friday 18 November	Epping Forest Schools Parliamentary Debating Competition at Roding Valley School
Wednesday 13 November	Year 1 Coffee Morning
Friday 25 November	Year 3 Class assembly to parents
Friday 25 November	Braeside House Drama Competition at Lopping Hall
Friday 25 November	FOBS Christmas Fair at Junior Site
Tuesday 29 November	School Nursing Team: Flu Vaccinations for Juniors
Wednesday 30 November	EYFS Coffee Morning
Friday 2 December	Year 11 Poetry Live Visit
Friday 2 December	Year 2 Class assembly to parents
Monday 5 December	Whole School Christmas Carols at St John's Church
Tuesday 6 December	Year 5 Visit to A Victorian Christmas at Royal Gunpowder Mills
Wednesday 7 December	Year 3-5 Coffee Morning
Friday 9 December	Year 1 Class assembly to Parents
Friday 9 December	Year 11 "Skills London" Event at Excel Centre
Christmas Break : Fri. 16.12.16 – Mon. 09.01.17	
Tuesday 10 January	Living With Dementia Talk by Dian Butler, Youth Engagement Officer EFDC

Tuesday 17 January	Year 10 Parents Evening
Thursday 19 January	Oak-Tree Big Art Exhibition at Lopping Hall
Monday 23 January	Year 9 Visit to Jewish Museum
Wednesday 25 January	Senior LAMDA exams
Thursday 26 January	Year 10 Visit to Forest School Higher Education Fair
Thursday 26 January	Year 8 Parents Evening
Tuesday 7 February	Young Voices Concert 2017 Year 5 & 6 at the O2 joint event with Oak-Tree Schools
Friday 10 February	Year 11 Science Live Event

I hope to see you at some of the events taking place over the next few weeks and I wish you and your children a happy and productive second half of term.

As always, if you have any questions you would like to raise with the school, please contact your child's form teacher or telephone the school office to arrange an appointment.

With my very best wishes

Yours sincerely



Claire Osborn  
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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