



Braeside School

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HEADMISTRESS

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

March 2017

Headmistress's Letter

Dear Parents

The Easter break is only four school weeks away but we are looking forward to a number of school events before the holidays: Book Week celebrations take place this week, including a story-teller for the youngest pupils, a visiting author and special workshops, and the junior 'Dress-up as a Book Character Day'. The Year 10 pupils have the opportunity to hear a talk from an eminent scientist on Friday 24 March.

There are also many sports events taking place in the Borough and with the Independent Schools Association, and an exciting Chartwells 'Ready, Steady, Cook' style cookery competition.

Finally, please don't miss the opportunity to be involved in a forthcoming special event. You will soon be able to book your tickets for the Oak-Tree Music Festival on Wednesday 29 March at Walthamstow Assembly Hall. Pupils from all four Oak-Tree Schools will be taking part and you will receive a detailed letter later this week.

School in Action Open Mornings Tuesday 7 and Wednesday 8 March

We have our next Open Morning on the senior site on Tuesday 7 March from 9.15am until 10.30am for current and prospective families to visit the school and to see the school in action. Pupils from Year 8 will be guiding visitors around the school. There will be a talk in the hall at 9.30am. If you are a parent of a pupil in Years 3, 4 or 5 you are most welcome to join us if you would like to have an opportunity to see the senior site and staff.

The junior site has an Open Morning on Wednesday 8 March from 9.15am until 10.30am and again you are very welcome to come and have a look around to re-familiarise yourself with the Juniors.

Parents' Meetings this term

This term has been busy with parents' meetings; for some year groups these have already taken place with the remainder happening before the Easter holidays. I hope you have found it both informative and helpful to meet with your daughter's teachers and to hear about her progress and achievements so far this year. If you do wish to discuss any particular aspects in more detail, you are welcome to call the school office to arrange a follow-up appointment or to contact the teacher directly by email.

Senior Matters

Access to the Senior Site

During the building works we created a temporary gate for pupils to use to access the school site in the mornings further down Ardmore Lane and to leave by the same gate in the afternoon. As the work is now completed we are **no longer using** the gate near the Science Block. Instead the girls will enter by the single wooden gate near the kitchens and go through the changing room door to get into the main building. The caretakers will unlock the gate and door at 8am and they will be locked again at 8.45am. After this time ALL pupils should come into school through the main front door and sign in before going to form time.

Science Staffing Change

As some of you will know, Mr Stephen James, one of our science teachers, has been ill for some time and he has now decided that he is no longer able to continue his teaching role. We are very grateful for all he has contributed to Braeside through the years. We are pleased to say that Mrs Jermutus will be picking up Mr James' Year 11 Physics teaching. Mr Andrew Royall, who has been covering this term, will continue to work on Mondays and Mr John Fox will be teaching Science on Wednesdays. We have been very fortunate to have such an experienced team of specialists at our disposal and I am very grateful to all three teachers for the stability they are providing.

Homework Routines

Please support the work we are doing with your children in school by encouraging them to study in an effective way at home. They need a quiet place to work, without distractions where they are comfortable and settled. It is important to talk about their work at home, and share in the education journey they are making, as far as possible. In our experience this often results in better quality homework, which has been thoughtfully and thoroughly completed.

Year 11 and GCSES

We are offering the Easter Academy revision programme this year during the holidays. I cannot emphasise enough how important it is for your children to attend the relevant revision sessions and to have an effective revision plan in place at home, so that they are well prepared for the summer papers. The dates have been finalised and published, so there shouldn't be any difficulties with encouraging your child to attend. I am very grateful to the senior teachers who give their time voluntarily to provide the revision support.

Senior Uniform

Please would all parents ensure the girls' kilt lengths are appropriate for school and that they are wearing black shoes, which are now compulsory.

Forthcoming Events

(Events for the Spring Term confirmed since the February Newsletter and early Summer Term events)

Weds 8 March		Yr 8 & 9 & LK International Women's Day Trip to Olympic Park, Stratford
Thurs 16 March	8am-4pm	Year 10 Visit to Jane Austen's House and Chawton Library
Fri 17 March	pm	Senior House Netball Competition
Weds 22 March	pm	Junior/Senior site Cross Country Team to Woodford Green Prep
Fri 24 March	pm	GCSE Drama Performance Examination at Redbridge Drama Centre
Mon 27 March		Chartwells 'ready, steady, cook' event Years 3-8
Thurs 30 March		Juniors Wear a Hat to School Day (Brain Tumour Awareness Month)
Mon 3 – Fri 7 April		Braeside Year 11 Easter Academy
Weds 19-Fri 21 April		Braeside Year 11 Easter Academy
Tues 25 April		Start of Spring Term: school begins at normal time 8.40am
Thurs 4 & Fri 5 May		Year 4 & 5 Residential Visit to Lambourne End
Weds 10 & Thurs 11 May	All Day	GCSE Art Practical Exam
Fri 12 May	All Day	ISA Regional Athletics U9 upwards (Bedford Athletics Stadium)
Fri 12 May		Year 11 last day on normal timetable
Thurs 18 May		Year 8 HPV1 Vaccinations & Year 9 HPV 2 Vaccinations
Mon 15 May		First written GCSE Summer examination
Thurs 25 May	8.30am-9am	Junior Drop-In Morning

29 May – 2 June

Half Term holiday

Important Summer Term Dates

(Major events in the later Summer Term)

Weds 21 June	pm	Whole School Sports Afternoon (Lee Valley Track Centre)
Fri 23 June	pm	Last written GCSE Summer Exam
Fri 7 July		Full Reports Published to Parents
Fri 7 July	pm	Braeside Speech Day
Sat 8 July	pm	Juniors End of Year Party
Sun 9 July	pm	FOBS Summer Fete

I have appreciated meeting and talking to many parents this term at parents' evenings. If you do have any matters you would like to discuss, please contact the school office to arrange an appointment with me or with a member of the Senior Leadership Team.

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

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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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