



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

Website: www.braesideschool.co.uk

May 2017

Headmistress's Letter

Dear Parents

Although it has only been two weeks since my April letter at the start of term, there are a number of important things to share in the Headmistress's letter.

Blue Whale Challenge

Some parents may be aware of media concern about what appears to be a dangerous new online game targeted at young people called the Blue Whale Challenge.

It seems to be a dangerous and exploitative 'game' which began in Russia. Some schools have sent warning letters to parents to be vigilant over their children's use of the internet and social media. There is now some question about how real Blue Whale is, and Essex County Council has concluded that it is 'fake news' hyped by the media, not factually accurate.

In school we regularly educate the pupils about e-safety. We also discuss the ways that social media targets the vulnerable and can easily exploit individuals. The fact is that young people usually use social media when they are not in school, and so it is crucial that parents know what their children are doing online, that they have discussed with them the risks of using social media and shown them how to keep safe.

It is important to remember that there are age limits for the use of social media, which not all parents are aware of and that parents can find hard to enforce.

If you would like to discuss this issue further, or if you have concerns, please contact me or Ms Moon.

Request for Junior Site Parents

Please would all parents remember to walk out of the gates when they are leaving school after dropping off or collecting their children. Please do not walk through the main building and out of the front door. There have been at least two occasions recently when parents have let visitors or delivery people in through the front door without the office staff being aware. I am sure you appreciate that as part of our safeguarding of pupils we need to know who is on the school site and staff need to let in any visitors.

As previously, please would parents not park on the school forecourt before school, during the school day or after school unless it is after 4.00pm and you are picking up from a club. Maintenance staff, delivery vans and visitors need to be able to park on the site throughout the day.

GCSE Examinations

I and the staff are proud of how our Year 11 have approached their final weeks before the GCSE exams start. We have seen determination, commitment and sheer hard work from so many of the year group. This is the first year of the new GCSE English and Maths exams. Grades will be awarded from 9 – 1, with 9 being the highest grade. In 2018, most other subjects change to the new grading system.

The new exams are harder, with more content, no coursework and a greater number of written final papers. There is a considerable amount they have to do in order to achieve well and to prepare for the written exams.

I hope our pupils feel well-prepared and positive as their exams start. I wish them well; the staff are all behind them and I look forward to sharing the good news of their results in August.

Year 11 Prefect Team

This year we have reviewed the way the prefect team is selected and the roles that the prefect team has in school. For the first time, pupils in Year 10 have written to apply for a position on the team and they will have an interview with me and Ms Moon to discuss the roles. There are role descriptions and pupils will have a chance to see what each responsibility entails. We will be announcing the new Prefect Team, which includes Head Girl, House Captains and Senior Prefects, on Speech Day.

ISA Regional Athletics Friday 12 May

The ISA regional athletics competition takes place on Friday 12 May. The PE department is taking a selection of junior and senior pupils to represent the school in Bedford. It is an exciting event, with hundreds of competitors. There are over 60 ISA schools in our region, in fact we are the largest region nationally, so this gives pupils the opportunity to compete in a large venue with pupils from many other independent schools.

Winners in each category then take part in the national athletics finals in Birmingham on Monday 19th June at the Alexander Stadium. Over the years the Oak-Tree Group has had many pupils selected for Nationals, which is an excellent achievement. This year I have been invited by ISA to present the medals, so I am looking forward to the chance of presenting a medal to one of our own pupils.

Sports Day Wednesday 21 June

I am sorry that I confused a number of parents in my last letter by asking you to use sun cream and provide a sun hat for your child at sports day. However, as previously, we are using the smaller inside track at Lee Valley for our event and so these precautions are not necessary.

The Sports Day is in the afternoon and involves all the children from Kindergarten upwards this year.

Clubs from September

We have reviewed the clubs offered this year. The popular clubs like craft, drama and dance will continue in September but we will no longer be offering the Mad Science Club or Multi-Sports. The PE department will be offering additional after school sports club on the junior site, as well as clubs on the senior site.

New School Website

Our new website has now been launched and can be accessed as usual through www.braesideschool.co.uk. The site has been given a fresh, modern look that should help when looking for the latest news items, policies and general information. The App will be next, so watch this space.

Staff News

Mrs Wallman is leaving Braeside at the end of this academic year. We are grateful for all the work she has done with Year 1 this year. I am delighted to have appointed Mrs Alice Satwick to join the junior team teaching Year 1 from September. She will spend the day in school on Moving Up Day so that the children and parents can meet her. She comes to us following four years' experience teaching at Brooklands School in Cheshunt.

Dates for the Diary

Weds 10 May	FOBS Meeting
Weds 10 & Thurs 11 May	GCSE Art Practical Exam
Thurs 11 May	Year 10 Drama Workshop (at Normanhurst)
Fri 12 May	ISA Regional Athletics U9 upwards (Bedford Athletics Stadium)
Fri 12 May	Year 11 last day on normal timetable before study leave
Mon 15 May	First Written GCSE Summer Examination
Thurs 18 May	Year 8 HPV1 Vaccinations & Year 9 HPV 2 Vaccinations
Thurs 18 May	Junior Peri Music Concert
Fri 19 May	Year 5 Class Assembly

Sat 20 & Sun 21 May	Year 10 Duke of Edinburgh Practice Expedition
Mon 22 – Fri 26 May	Year 1 - 5 End of Year Assessments
Tues 23 May	Year 1 - 5 Incas Testing
Wed 24 May	Year 6 & 7 visit to Science Museum
Thurs 25 May	Junior Drop-In Morning
Fri 26 May	Year 4 Class Assembly
29 May – 2 June Half Term holiday	
Mon 5 June	Year 6 Visit to the Barbican Centre (BBC “Firebird” Concert)
Thurs 8 – Fri 9 June	Year 4 & 5 Residential Visit to Lambourne End
Mon 5 – Fri 9 June	Year 6 – 9 Internal Examinations
Mon 5 – Tues 13 June	Year 10 Internal Examinations
Tues 13 June	Kindergarten & Lower Kindergarten visit to Barleylands Farm Park
Weds 14 June	Year 5 Parents Coffee Morning (Seniors)
Fri 16 June	Year 3 Class Assembly
Fri 16 June	GCSE Art Moderation
Fri 16 June	FOBS “School Dinner” Event
Sat 17 & Sun 18 June	Year 10 Duke of Edinburgh Expedition
Weds 21 June	Whole School Sports Afternoon Lee Valley Athletics Track
Fri 23 June	Year 2 Class Assembly
Fri 23 June	Final Written GCSE Summer Examination
Fri 23 June	Non-Uniform Day (Juniors & Seniors)
Thurs 29 June	Year 7 Induction Day and whole school Moving Up Day
Fri 30 June	Year 1 Class Assembly
Fri 30 June	Year 11 Leavers’ Dinner
Fri 7 July	Full Reports Published to Parents
Fri 7 July	Braeside EYFS Prize Giving
Fri 7 July	Braeside Year Speech Day
Sat 8 July	Juniors End of Year Party
Sun 9 July	FOBS Summer Fete
Thurs 13 July	Junior and Senior End of Year Assemblies
Thurs 13 July	Last Day of Summer Term – 12 noon finish
Weds 6 September	First Day of Autumn Term (8.40 am start)

With my best wishes for the rest of the half-term.

With kind regards

Yours sincerely



Claire Osborn
Headmistress



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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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