



Braeside School

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HEADMISTRESS

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

4 September 2017

Headmistress's Letter

Dear Parents

I hope that you enjoyed a relaxing summer break with your families and that you all share my sense of anticipation for the forthcoming year. I hope the girls are looking forward to coming back to school on Wednesday and being in their new classes. The staff have all been in over the holidays preparing for the start of term and I can see that much thought has gone into planning the curriculum, as well as making the classrooms inviting places in which to learn.

School begins at 8.40am on Wednesday 6 September on both sites for all pupils. If your child starts school this week, I hope both they and you settle quickly into the Braeside community. If you have any questions please feel free to phone, email or speak to your child's form tutor; I am sure we will be able to help the transition run smoothly.

Summer Holiday Work

The maintenance team has been busy over the holidays once again on the Braeside sites. There is now a kitchen and cookery area in the Early Years, new flooring and a sliding partition between the Lower Kindergarten and Kindergarten areas. The medical room has been finished and classrooms and corridors painted. There is also a new garage and new gates on the back of the junior site. As well as general painting and maintenance on the senior site, considerable work has been done in the gardens.

Excellent GCSE Results

The former Year 11 celebrated excellent GCSE results last week with some outstanding performances across the curriculum. Pupils were able to take up places at their first school or college, and some have 'upscaled' on the basis of their good results to more demanding sixth form courses.

90% of all grades awarded were a C grade or above, with a significant increase in the number of top grades this year: 47% of grades awarded were A* or A grades. Some examples to highlight: 100% good passes in Biology, Chemistry and Physics with 60% A*/A; 100% in Art with 60% A*/A; 100% in RS with 80% A*/A; 100% passes in Geography and Drama.

Staff News

I am delighted to welcome a number of excellent new members of staff to Braeside this term, some of whom junior parents met at the Moving Up Day in June.

Mrs Hannah Brown is the new Kindergarten Key Worker; Mrs Alice Satwick is the Year 1 teacher and Miss Amy Harding is the new Year 4 teacher.

On the senior site, Miss Elizabe Leeuwner joins the Science department and Mr John Nouchin joins the Maths department.

We have a new karate teacher for the extra-curricular club this term. Mr Nick Karanicholas trained from 5 years old with the Karate school, gained his black belt at 11 and as an older teenager went through the teacher training programme. He was National champion six times and won a bronze at the World Championships five years ago.

Congratulations to Miss Hannah Waghorne who was married in the holidays and is now Mrs Doss.

Junior Drop-in Mornings

As last year, every half-term there will be a 'drop-in' morning for the children from Kindergarten to Y5, to which you are invited. On these mornings you come into the classroom and your children will show you the work they have been doing. These 'drop-ins' finish promptly at 9.00am so that the first lesson of the day can begin. We will ring a hand bell when the session is over and your cooperation in leaving promptly is much appreciated so that the children do not miss learning time. The 'drop-ins' are not times for individual teacher feedback about your child's progress, so I would ask you to arrange an individual meeting with the class teacher at an alternative time if there are particular issues you wish to discuss.

School Uniform Reminders

We expect a spell of hot weather in September. Pupils on the junior site may continue to wear the summer uniform until half-term if parents prefer.

There is a clear uniform list on the website for pupils at Braeside School and I would like to ask parents to ensure that pupils wear the full and correct uniform to school every day. Blazers are a compulsory part of the school uniform for all pupils from Reception upwards on both sites, and should be worn to school every day.

Absits from PE/Games Lessons

If your child is in school but unable to participate in their PE or Games lesson, please send them into school with a note for the PE staff explaining the reason. Please also ensure that they have their PE kit with them because they need to wear it and go to the PE lesson with the rest of the class, even though they will not participate.

Homework Matters

In a new development, Braeside is piloting using the 'Show My Homework' online homework portal this year for Year 6 to Year 11. Staff are being trained on the INSET days and we hope to roll out the programme in the first few weeks of term.

All senior teachers will post the homework online for pupils. Pupils, parents and teachers will all have log-ins to be able to see the homework set. Teachers will upload the tasks and can upload resources for pupils to use to complete the work. Sometimes pupils may be asked to upload their completed tasks for marking, or for the teacher to see.

We will still issue pupils with a homework diary to use initially, but once 'Show My Homework' is up and running we will not be using this as the place for pupils to write down their homework.

As previously there will be a published homework timetable so that pupils and parents know when homework is scheduled for each subject. When there is a lengthier task teachers will usually try to include a weekend so that there is time for the work to be completed. Quality of homework is a significant contributor to senior pupil achievement overall and we aim to set meaningful, challenging and helpful independent work for pupils to complete at home.

Junior parents received a welcome letter from the class teacher after the moving-up day last term, and will have details about homework, tests, topics and class routines. If your child struggles to complete their homework in the time, or if there are any other difficulties, please talk to the class teacher so that we can ensure the work is appropriate for your child.

Open Day Wednesday 4 October 2017

The school has its main Open Day on Wednesday 4 October. The junior site is open from 9.15 – 11.00am and the seniors from 6.00pm. The school day runs as usual for seniors, but many pupils will be asked to return at 5.30pm to participate. Some pupils will be in classrooms, others will be guides showing visitors and prospective families around the school. I hope pupils enjoy talking about school and sharing their experiences.

Current parents are also welcome to attend and to look around the school. Junior parents find this particularly helpful as they have the opportunity to learn more about life in the senior part of the school.

Coffee Mornings for Parents

Mr Hagger and I would like to invite parents to join us for a coffee morning again this year. We value the opportunity to discuss school life with parents, to hear your views and listen to your feedback. We hope that parents will be able to join us. The coffee mornings take place on Wednesdays from 8.45 – 9.45am and the dates and venues are as follows:

November

8	Kindergarten	Junior hall
15	Reception	Junior hall
29	Years 1, 2	Junior hall

January

10	Years 3, 4, 5	Junior hall
17	Seniors Y6-11	Senior hall

New Parents' Portal Access

New parents will receive an email this week with information about how to access the parent portal. The email will contain your username and password details. Please log on to check the portal and to confirm that your details are correct. If there are any difficulties then please contact the school office.

Dates for the Diary

Mon 4 September	All Day	Staff Inset Day
Tues 5 September	All Day	Staff Inset Day
Weds 6 September	8:40 →	First Day of Autumn Term
Weds 13 September	10:30 – 15:00	Ancient Egypt/Ancient Greek in-house workshops (Epping Forest Museum Service) Yrs 4 & 5
Thurs 14 September	08:30 – 15:00	Yr 10 Visit to Dickens' House & Museum
Thurs 14 September	17:00 – 18:00	Yr 10 Students & Parents Meeting: Being Successful at GCSE
Mon 18 September	08:40 – 14:00	Yrs 6 & 7 Visit to BAPS Shri Swaminarayan Mandir Hindu Temple (Neasden)
Tues 19 September	09:00 →	School Photographs (Juniors & Seniors)
Weds 20 September	08:30 – 09:00	Yrs 1 – 5 Parents Drop-in Session (Junior Hall)
Weds 20 September	a.m.	Yr 8 first HPV Vaccinations
Thurs 21 – Fri 22 September	All Day	Yr 3 Oak Tree Overnight Camp
Thurs 21 September	17:00 – 18:00	Year 11/Parents Meeting: 16+ Options Evening
Weds 27 September	15:30 – 16:30	Reception & Kind'garten Read Write Inc Parents' Information Meeting
Thurs 28 September	16:00 – 17:00	Meeting for parents & pupils re October trip to Spain
Thurs 28 September	17:00 – 18:00	Meet the Year 6/7 Parents (informal meeting)
Fri 29 September		Reception & Kind'garten Settling-in Reports published
Weds 4 October	09:15 – 12:15	Braeside Juniors Open Morning
Weds 4 October	18:00 – 20:00	Braeside Seniors Open Evening
Fri 6 October	19:30 – 20:30	FOBS Quiz Event
Weds 11 October	13:00 – 15:00	Rehearsal: Juniors Harvest Celebration
Thurs 12 October	08:30 – 14:00	Year 10 Chemistry at Work Trip
Fri 13 October	12:30 – 15:00	Juniors Harvest Concert (St James Hall)
Weds 18 October	16:00 – 18:30	Juniors Parents Evening
Thurs 19 October	16:00 – 18:30	Juniors Parents Evening (Specialist Subject staff attending)
Thurs 19 October	18:30 – 19:30	Braeside GCSE Presentation Evening Yr 11 Short Reports published
Fri 20 October		
Sat 21 – Tues 24 October	All Day	KS3 Joint trip to Seville & Cadiz (with Normanhurst)

Mon 23 October – Fri 3 November		Half Term
Fri 3 November	09:00 – 14:00	Epping Forest Youth Council Day
Tues 7 November		Reception – Yr 6 Flu Vaccinations
Weds 8 November	08:45 – 09:45	Kindergarten Parents' Coffee Morning (Junior Hall)
Thurs 9 November	19:30 – 20:30	FOBS AGM
Sun 12 November	16:00 – 19:00	Oak-tree Fireworks Event
Weds 15 November	08:45 – 09:45	Reception Parents' Coffee Morning (Junior Hall)
Thurs 16 November	tbc	Yr 2 Visit to London Transport Musuem
Fri 17 November	18:30 – 22:00	Epping Forest Parliamentary Debating Competition
Thurs 23 November	08:30 – 09:00	Kind'garten – Yr 5 Parents Drop-in Session (Junior Hall)
Fri 24 November	15:00 – 21:00	Braeside House Drama Competition (Lopping Hall)
Tues 28 November	All Day	Yr 10 & 11 GCSE English Conference
Sat 2 December	11:00 – 14:30	FOBS Christmas Fayre (Juniors site)
Tues 5 December	13:00 – 15:00	Infant Nativity Rehearsal
Weds 6 December	09:00 – 10:15	Braeside Carol Service at St John's Church
Fri 8 December	14:00 – 16:00	Infant Nativity Performance (St James Hall)
Mon 11 December	p.m.	Juniors Christmas Lunch and Party
Tues 12 December	08:30 – 2:00	Junior Pantomime
Weds 13 December	08:45	Seniors End of Term Assembly
Weds 13 December	10:30	Juniors End of Term Assembly
Weds 13 December	12:00 (mid-day)	End of Autumn Term

Mon 8 January All Day Staff Inset Day
 Spring Term starts at on Tuesday 9 January 2018

I look forward with great anticipation to the forthcoming school year. I hope you and your children are also looking forward to all the exciting opportunities and challenges to come.

Ms Moon, Mrs Copeman, your child's form tutor or I are very happy to discuss any questions or concerns, so that we can work together and resolve them quickly. Last year there was just one complaint resolved at the informal stage of our process. Please do contact us if issues arise, so that we can discuss them. You are welcome to email or contact the school office if you would like to meet with us.

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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