



# Braeside School

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## HEADMISTRESS

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

Tuesday 4 September 2018

### Headmistress's Letter

Dear Parents

I hope that you enjoyed a relaxing summer break with your families and that you and your children are looking forward to the new school year which begins for them on Wednesday. Staff have been busy over the holidays preparing for the start of term and we are looking forward to welcoming the pupils back to school.

The school day begins at the usual time of at 8.40am on Wednesday 5 September on both sites for all pupils. Breakfast Club is available as usual. If your child is starting at Braeside for the first time 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 or a member of the Leadership Team; I am sure we will be able to help the transition run smoothly.

### Summer Holiday Work

Our caretakers and maintenance team have been busy over the holidays once again on the Braeside sites, ensuring the sites are ready for the beginning of term and we have hosted a number of holidays clubs through July and August, which have been very well attended by children from the Oak-Tree schools.

### Excellent GCSE Results

As I am sure you know, new exams were in place for almost all GCSE subjects for the first time this year. Despite considerable challenges of the new framework our pupils performed extremely well. And we celebrated excellent results, with some outstanding performances across the curriculum. Pupils were able to take up places at their first choice school or college. 95% of all grades were 'passes' which means grade 4 or above. 47% of grades awarded were grades 7-9, which equates to the old A and A\* grades. We were delighted to have 100% passes with good grades in the Sciences, Mathematics, Art, Drama, History and RS.

### Staff News

We have some excellent new teachers joining the team at Braeside this term, some of whom junior parents met at the Moving Up Day in June:

Miss Beckett will be coaching swimming this term.

Mrs Connolly is joining the learning support team as a TA for one day a week, working with Year 2.

Mrs Lloyd-Morris is the new music teacher, working on both the junior and senior sites.

Mrs Kenneally joins Mrs Kirk teaching PE for two days a week on the junior and senior sites.

Miss Krist is the new senior English teacher.

Mrs Razzak joins the Science department and is a physics specialist.

Mrs Thompson is the Year 2 maternity cover teacher.

Mrs Willemse is the Year 6 Class Teacher and Ms Wood is the Y5 Class Teacher and junior Science Coordinator.

Congratulations to Mrs Doss whose son Frederico arrived on Monday 16 July. Mother and baby are doing well.

### Junior Drop-in Mornings and Parent Information meetings

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.

As last year, we will also be holding information meetings for parents with class teachers and subject specialists, so that we can share with you both what we are teaching, but also the ways in which we are teaching the girls so that you can support at home.

You will receive invitations to these events, and they are on the school calendar, which you can view on the App or on the website.

### **New Initiatives this year**

#### **The Oak-Tree Challenge Award**

We will be introducing the Junior and Senior Oak-Tree Challenge Award across the group this year. The award will have Bronze, Silver and Gold levels, with a range of challenges to be completed and verified before the award is presented at the end of the academic year.

The junior award is for Years 4 -6 and the senior award for Years 7-9.

The award reflects the approach of schemes like the Duke of Edinburgh's Award scheme. We will be writing to parents shortly with more details about how the award will be launched and we will be talking to the pupils in assembly.

#### **Careers week and work experience for Year 10**

We are working towards the introduction of a careers week with work experience for Year 10 in the last week on June 2019. I will be talking about the plan with Year 10 parents at the GCSE introduction evening on Thursday 20 September.

#### **School Uniform Reminders**

Pupils on the junior site should continue to wear the summer uniform until half-term unless the weather suddenly becomes very cold. The forecast seems to be for fine weather for September.

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.

#### **Absence 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 the senior girls need to wear it and go to the PE lesson with the rest of the class, even though they will not participate.

#### **Homework Matters**

We will continue to use the 'Show My Homework' online homework portal this year for Year 6 to Year 11. We had very positive feedback from pupils, parents and staff following its launch last year, and so we will be developing further how we use the portal during this coming year.

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. These are also on the curriculum overviews which will be sent to parents this week. 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 3 October 2018**

The school has its main Open Day on Wednesday 3 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 will begin after the October half-term break with Kindergarten parents. Dates and details will follow in my October letter.

### Pupil Information on the School Portal

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 please contact the school office.

Current parents, please log onto the portal to check that the contact details, dietary requirements and medical details we hold for you children are up-to-date. If there are any changes that need to be made, please contact the school office.

Please be mindful that a dietary requirement is not the same as a food preference. If your child has a food allergy, or if you have a faith-based requirement, please let us know.

### Dates for the Diary

Weds 5 September	First Day of Summer Term
Weds 5 September	Meeting with Year 8 Parents
Thurs 13 September	Year 11 Transition to 6 <sup>th</sup> Form Meeting (Parents/Pupils)
Fri 14 September	Year 4 Ancient Egypt In-House Workshop
Fri 14 September	Immunisation team talk to Year 8 (re HPV vaccinations)
Tues 18 September	School Photographs: Individual and Year 11 Class photographs
Tues 18 September	FOBS Committee Meeting
Weds 19 September	School Panoramic Photograph
Weds 19 September	Year 8 HPV Vaccination
Thurs 20 September	Lower K – Year 5 Parents Informal Drop-In Session
Thurs 20 September	Years 10 & 11 GCSE Geography Group visit to Walton-on-the-Naze
Thurs 20 September	Year 10 Being Successful at GCSE Meeting (Parents/ Pupils)
Thurs/Fri 20/21 September	Oak-Tree Year 3 Summit Rocks Overnight Camp
Fri 21 September	Karate Assembly at Juniors
Fri 21 September	Year 5 British Museum Visit
Fri 21 September	Jeans for Genes Fundraising Day
Weds 26 September	Lower K – Rec Parents Meeting re Read Write Inc
Weds 26 September	Year 1 – 5 Curriculum Drop-In session
Thurs 27 September	Year 7 Informal Parent/Teacher Evening
Fri 28 September	Year 1 Class Assembly
Fri 28 September	Lower K – Rec & all new pupils (exc. Year 7) Settling In Reports published to parents
Weds 3 October	Juniors Open Morning
Weds 3 October	Seniors Open Evening
Thurs 4 October	Juniors Harvest Festival Rehearsal
Fri 5 October	Juniors Harvest Festival Celebration
Thurs 11 October	GCSE Presentation Event
Fri 12 October	Year 2 Class Assembly
Tues 16 October	Juniors Parents Evening (with Specialist Staff)
Weds 17 October	Juniors Parents Evening
Thurs 18 October	Year 10 Chemistry at Work Visit (Tilbury)
Fri 19 October	Year 3 Class Assembly
Fri 19 October	Year 11 Short Reports published to parents

Ms Moon, Mrs Copeman, your child's form tutor or I are very happy to discuss any questions or concerns. Please do contact us if issues arise, so that we can discuss and resolve them. You are welcome to email or to contact the school office if you would like to meet with us.

With my very best wishes

Yours sincerely



Claire Osborn  
Headmistress

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**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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