



# Braeside School

130 High Road, Buckhurst Hill  
Essex IG9 5SD

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

E-mail: [info@braesideschool.co.uk](mailto:info@braesideschool.co.uk)  
Website: [www.braesideschool.co.uk](http://www.braesideschool.co.uk)

## HEADMISTRESS

MRS CHLOE MOON B.A. (HONS), M.A., PGCE

September 2019

Dear Parents

### Re: **October Head's Letter**

At the end of our first month back at school I am pleased that pupils have settled well into their new year groups and have already enjoyed a number of school events, with many more planned during the remainder of the term.

### Harvest Festival

The preparations for the Harvest Festival are underway and no doubt your daughter has been practising the songs at home! Harvest Festival is on Friday 11 October at 2pm. I do hope you will be able to join us. This year we are donating food for the Trussell Trust again and a list of donations will be included with the letter about this event.

### Senior House Drama Competition

The Senior House Drama competition takes place on Friday 22 November at Lopping Hall in Loughton. Pupils have been rehearsing hard and I hope they are looking forward to the evening. Rehearsals will continue on Monday after school until 4.45pm at the seniors.

### Winter Uniform

Pupils on both the senior and junior should be wearing the winter uniform from after half term. Please look at the full uniform list on the website for details.

Senior pupils may wear a black or navy knee length coat that does not have embellishment or an obvious logo on. Pupils in the seniors (Year 6 to Year 11) should be wearing brown tights, not white socks, and should always wear their blazers in school. Skirts should be knee length; they may rest on the top of the knee but should not be shorter than that. Also, please remind your daughters to arrive at school with long hair tied back. It should remain tied back all day.

Our uniform list states that: 'No jewellery is allowed apart from small plain stud earrings (one in each ear), a small wristwatch (not an iWatch) and a discreet religious symbol. Hairbands, slides etc. must be in school colours and discreet style'.

Please would you ensure that the girls only wear plain stud earrings for school, and that they do not wear them on days when they have swimming or PE. Earrings must be taken out for sports and the juniors find this very difficult to do for themselves.

### Show My Homework

Year 6 to 11 pupils are confidently using Show My Homework as a way of tracking tasks and accessing information such as video clips and PowerPoints that teaching staff have uploaded for them. Pupils and parents can access this App by using the log in details that were provided at the start of term. Mr Masood has now taken over as the key administrator for this application. Please direct any questions regarding access to him from now on.

### Oak-Tree Challenge

Mrs Alahi is the coordinator for the Oak-Tree Challenge and has been into both junior and senior assemblies to officially launch the award for students from Year 4 up to Year 10. All pupils were given a booklet to take home and share with you.

The Oak-Tree Challenge is designed to challenge pupils from Year 4 to Year 9 by providing an incentive to participate in the huge variety of opportunities provided inside or outside school. The scheme runs throughout the year from the first day of term in September until the end of June and is designed to be pupil-initiated. Some challenges are achievable in school time, whilst others are designed to be undertaken out of school with parental support. There are a mixture of skills and activities being assessed, including voluntary work and independent study.

For each stage there is a requirement for self-reflection that is intended to become more detailed as the children get older. Pupils can only progress to each next award once the previous one has been completed. Evidence of the successful completion of challenges will be recorded in a logbook that must be kept up-to-date and completed by the pupils themselves. The supervising teacher, parent or other adult will be countersigning the relevant journal entry to verify the contents.

This should be an exciting opportunity for your daughter to take part in different activities that count towards the award. Please contact Mrs Alahi if you would like to know more.

### **Election of Committees**

You will have seen from the most recent newsletter that pupils in both the seniors and juniors have been electing their committee members for the Eco Green Team, School Council and Charity Committee. We are still awaiting the arrival of badges for some of the teams. I know that many of the girls have had some great ideas for events and for raising awareness of issues and these will be featured in the newsletter next month.

If you have anything you would like to speak to us about, please talk to your child's class teacher or form tutor as your first point of contact. If you would like an appointment with the senior leadership team, please phone ahead to avoid having to wait until we are free as we are frequently off-site at meetings.

### **Access to Portals**

As requested at the start of term, please do access your parent portal for ongoing information and to update any details that may have changed. We upload key information to the portal so that it can be accessed at your convenience. If you have misplaced your login details, please contact the office as they can issue a temporary password to allow you to access the portal.

### **Parental Holidays**

It would be very helpful to know if you are taking a holiday during term time and leaving your child in the care of a relative or friend. Please ensure that we have the correct contact details for the carers and do let us know so that we can contact them in case of an emergency.

### **Parking**

Please be considerate when dropping and collecting your daughter for the senior site if you use Ardmore Lane. Mr Hewitt from the maintenance team will be present at the gate in the mornings to ensure that pupils are dropped safely and that parents are not blocking residents' driveways or parking too close to the corner with the High Road.

### **Trips and Visits this Term**

There are a huge range of trips and visits planned for this term. Some of the senior pupils are going on a netball residential training event this month with Normanhurst School. Year 10 and 11 Drama students have been invited to the theatre – again with Normanhurst School. A number of Year 7-11 pupils will be jetting off to Madrid in half term for a joint sports and cultural tour. There are also lots of local trips planned too such as Waltham Abbey Gardens, Epping Forest Field Studies Centre and Lea Bridge Mosque – it is lovely to see pupils get excited about these new experiences.

### **Oak-Tree Fireworks – Sunday 10 November 2019**

You have already received a letter about this lovely event, which is to be held from 4.30pm to 6.30pm in the Oaklands grounds. Tickets for this popular event in the Oak-Tree Group's calendar are available to families from all four schools. All profits from the evening will go back to the Parents' Associations, with the teams from the four schools joining together to help run the event.

Due to the enormous demand, tickets will only be available to purchase before the event. Ticket sales will be limited to around 1000. Tickets will cost £5 per child or £10 per adult with a discounted price of £25 for a family of two children and two adults. This includes a hot dog (meat or vegetarian), with additional treats for children. There will be opportunities to purchase mulled wine, beer, hot drinks and various children glow goodies during the evening.

Please note that your booking form and payment must be handed in by Wednesday 16 October 2019 to secure your attendance. Tickets will be issued during the week commencing Monday 4 November.

### Forthcoming Events

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| Tues 1 October  | Year 3 visit to the Natural History Museum  |
| Weds 2 October  | Braeside Seniors Open Evening   |
| Thurs 3 October   | Braeside Juniors Open Morning   |
| Thurs 3 October   | National Poetry Day (Juniors)   |
| Fri 4 October   | Year 10 & 11 Drama Groups trip to the Old Vic: "A Very Expensive Poison" (joint with Normanhurst) |
| Weds 9 October  | Years 1 & 2 Visit to Waltham Abbey Gardens  |
| Weds 9 October  | Years 8, 9 & Year 10 Geography GCSE Group trip to Epping Forest Field Studies Centre              |
| Thurs 10 October  | Juniors Flu Vaccinations  |
| Thurs 10 October  | Harvest Festival rehearsal (Juniors)  |
| Fri 11 October  | Juniors Harvest Festival  |
| Fri 11-Sun 13 October                                   | PGL Netball Weekend (joint trip with Normanhurst)   |
| Tues 15 October   | Years 4, 5 & 6 Visit to Lee Valley Mosque   |
| Tues 15 October   | Junior Parents Evening (with specialist staff)  |
| Weds 16 October   | Junior Parents Evening  |
| Fri 18 October  | GCSE Presentation Event   |
| Mon 21 – Fri 25 November                                | Madrid Sports/Cultural Trip (joint with Normanhurst)  |
| <b>Monday 21 October to Friday 1 November HALF TERM</b> |   |
| Mon 4 – Tues 12 November                                | Year 11 Mock GCSE exams   |
| Fri 8 November  | Upper and Lower Kindergarten Parents' Coffee Morning  |
| Fri 8 November  | Years 9 & 10 Science trip to The Royal Institution  |
| Sun 10 November   | Oak-Tree Fireworks Event  |

With kind regards

Yours sincerely



Chloe Moon  
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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