



Braeside School

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HEADMISTRESS

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1 October 2020

Dear Parents

Re: **October 2020 Headmistress's Letter**

Thank you for your ongoing support for the measures to ensure that we are COVID safe around the site. I have been incredibly impressed with the way your daughters have understood the new measures and have been carrying these out on a rigorous daily basis.

Pupils across the school have settled really well into the 'new' building and site and have enjoyed talking to each other, albeit in a socially distanced manner. Staff and pupils are working alongside each other from both the Juniors and Seniors and it has proved to be a successful enhancement to the lives of all at Braeside.

Mock Exams Year 11

Year 11 have been revising and preparing for their first set of mock exams. These are sessional and start promptly. Please ensure that your daughter has the necessary equipment: black pens, a clear pencil case, maths equipment and a see-through water bottle with no writing or labels on it. Pupils have had a copy of the JCQ regulations and are fully prepared for this formal process. We wish them the best of luck this week!

Harvest Festival – not as we know it

As you are already aware, we cannot hold public gatherings. This means that our annual Harvest Festival will not be able to take place at St James URC in Buckhurst Hill as usual. However, as it means so much to us all at Braeside, we are going to hold our Harvest Festival in a different way. We will still be asking for donations for our local foodbank. Mrs Copeman sent a letter home identifying the products that the food bank is accepting. Please only send these specified items in with your daughter. This year, juniors and seniors will be donating and we will arrange the parcels on the Harvest Table in the hall. Our pupils will be able to celebrate in their bubbles and the Oak-Tree marketing team will be there to video the event. They will then make the video available for you to watch at home. I am sorry that we cannot meet in person but I hope you enjoy the video of your daughter celebrating and singing.

Virtual Open Day

You may have seen advertised both on our website and on the banner at the front of the school, our Open Day will now be virtual on 7 October. I am so proud of all of our pupils' behaviour and engagement on the day of filming and I am especially proud of the way Year 11 and Year 6 took part with such enthusiasm for their school. The actual event will be live – a talk from me and question and answer session. There will also be footage of pupils and the school grounds that has been pre-recorded. This will be available to watch after the event if you haven't already registered for the link to watch it 'live'.

Assessment week – Seniors

At the end of every half term, senior pupils will be assessed on the content and skills that they have learned so far. You may notice that homework set on Show My Homework will be revision of different subjects. Your daughter must revise for these assessments and come to the lesson ready to start the assessment promptly. Staff will be

marking these assessments over the half term break and feedback and pupil response will take place after half term. Please do look through your daughters' books on a regular basis.

Parents' Evenings

We are hoping to run both the Year 11 and Junior Parents' Evening on the last week of this half term. The format of the evening will run slightly differently for both Junior and Senior parents as we have to ensure the safety of staff, pupils and parents. I will communicate the arrangements nearer the dates (which can be found at the bottom of this letter) when I am sure that we have a plan in place that reflects the government guidelines at the time. I appreciate your patience as we try to minimise the disruption to normal routines.

Year 11 GCSE Presentation Assembly

I know that current pupils at the school were hoping to hear about the experiences of last years' Year 11 pupils who are now at Sixth Form. However, we will not be able to hold this assembly owing to not being able to have gatherings. Past pupils will be able to collect their certificates from the office in the normal way that a visitor would visit the site. I am sure they would love to come back later in the year to speak about their experiences at Sixth Form and also to reflect on the wonderful time they had at Braeside.

Parking and pick up

Thank you so much for your ongoing support with the parking at drop off and pick up times. It has greatly improved and it feels much more calm and safe for everybody. Please only drop your daughter to the front entrance if she is in Kindergarten, Reception, Year 1 and Year 2. Only siblings of these pupils can be dropped at the main entrance. The same applies to collection.

Uniform and equipment reminders

Now that we are drawing closer to half term please purchase regulation uniform. All pupils MUST be in full uniform after the half term break. Please pay close attention to socks and tights. All tights worn must now be black. Please do not send your daughter to school in any brown socks or tights. Now that the weather is colder and wetter, your daughter must have a waterproof coat. Again, please read the uniform list before you purchase anything new.

Please also send your daughter to school with a labelled water bottle. This can be re-filled during the day. We are unable to use the water fountains owing to the guidelines regarding sharing of facilities and equipment.

Flu Vaccinations

I want to remind you that this year the pupil flu vaccinations will be for Years 1-7 (this is the first year that Year 7 has been included). These will be in school on 5 November so please do look through any communication that we send regarding these vaccinations as consent forms will be on-line this year. If you have any questions about this vaccination, please call or email the school office.

Jeans for Genes Day

We managed to raise an impressive amount of money for Jeans for Genes charity in our first charity event of the year. Pupils (and parents) gave so generously that we managed to donate £515. Thank you for all your kind donations.

Remote learning plans

Please do read the information that Mrs Osborn (Group Education Principal) sent you last week. This outlines the plans regarding remote learning. We are all set up to use Seesaw (Juniors) and Show My Homework (Seniors) and Zoom (all students). If your child is a senior pupil, please direct them to Mr Masood for any queries regarding Show My Homework log in or access.

Achievement Assembly

You may remember pupils tuning in to the 'Purple Book' assembly during the period of school closure. Senior pupils felt very strongly that this junior concept should become part of the main school and our way of rewarding pupils. Therefore, we now have Achievement Assembly. This still requires staff to nominate pupils using the Purple Book and a certificate or postcard is prepared for them to take home on a Friday. Our assemblies remain virtual but the whole school tunes in to a Zoom version on Friday to celebrate the achievements of all pupils from Kindergarten to Year 11.

Year 11 and Year 6 Positions of Responsibility

In consultation with the School Council last year, we have introduced some different positions of responsibility. The new House Captains, Prefects and Head Girl were announced in the summer term. I am pleased to say that they will now be supported by Year 6 House Captain for Bronte, Fry, Mason and Nightingale House. Please read the latest newsletter for more details on these elected positions.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to email or call your child's teacher or form tutor. Mrs Copeman and Miss Wood are also happy to take any queries that you may have at the start of term. Please do book an appointment through the office if you would like to discuss anything with me or the senior team. You will be required to wear a face mask when entering the site.

Dates for your Diary

Please make a note of any of the events listed below that relate to yourself or your daughter.

Mon 5-Fri 9 October	Collection of donations for Harvest Festival
Weds 7 October	Virtual Open Day: EYFS - Juniors 9.15 am
Weds 7 October	Virtual Open Evening: Juniors - Seniors 6.00 pm
Fri 9 October	Virtual Junior Harvest Festival (details to be advised)
Tues 13 October	Year 11 Parents' Evening
Tues 13 October	Junior Parents' Evening
Weds 14 October	Junior Parents' Evening (not Year 4)
Mon 19 – Fri 30 Oct	HALF TERM
Thurs 5 November	Junior Flu Vaccinations (Years 1-7 incl)
Tues 10 November	Year 7 Parents Settling In Evening (details to be advised)
Fri 20 November	House Netball Day (in bubbles)
Thurs 3 December	Infant Nativity Rehearsal (to be confirmed)
Fri 4 December	Infant Nativity Performance
Mon 7 December	Virtual Carol Services (to be confirmed)

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

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