



BRAESIDE SCHOOL

Buckhurst Hill's Leading Independent School
Girls & Boys aged 2 ½ to 16

HISTORY

Braeside School was founded by Miss Marjory Wakefield in 1944. Miss Wakefield had attended a teacher training college in the Lake District which had been founded by the Victorian educationalist Charlotte Mason and was eager to broadly follow her principles of educating the child and parents to build relationships and a collaborative love of learning. Having started on the premises in Palmerston Road, when the opportunity came to purchase 'Ellerslie', the current school site, in 1950 and expand the school she did not hesitate. Over the last 70 years there has been much change with new facilities built, including science laboratories and a music and drama studio.

21st CENTURY

In September 2015 Braeside became part of the Oak-Tree Group of Schools, and under the ownership of the Hagger Family, looks forward to many more years of service to the community. The Oak-Tree Schools are a powerful group of local independent schools, also comprising Coopersale Hall School in Epping, Normanhurst School in North Chingford and Oaklands School in Loughton.

It was clear for many years before Braeside joined the Oak-Tree Group, and subsequently following the programme of improvements, that both Braeside sites had scope for increased use. It was always the ambition of the previous Braeside owners to bring the school together onto one site to allow for more effective continuity and progression through the key stages. In September 2020 all Junior pupils, who were previously taught at the Palmerston Road site, moved up to the Main Site on the High Road with the Senior pupils.

LOCATION

Situated in the heart of the Buckhurst Hill community, Braeside is located on the High Road. The School is easily accessible to families coming from areas such as Chingford, Loughton, Chigwell, Waltham Abbey and South East Essex to Walthamstow and North London. With a mixture of traditional Edwardian buildings and modern bespoke classrooms, the pupils benefit from a wide range of specialist facilities that include science labs, ICT suites, art and DT rooms and a well-stocked library. PE/Games and swimming often take place in external facilities nearby.

THE OAK-TREE GROUP OF SCHOOLS

Braeside School belongs to the Oak-Tree Group of Schools, which includes Coopersale Hall in Epping, Normanhurst in North Chingford and Oaklands in Loughton. A successful group of local independent schools, all four are operated with the same aims of excellence and care, being owned and run by qualified educationalists who have much experience in the specialist world of teaching and learning.

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WELCOME TO BRAESIDE SCHOOL

Braeside is a small school with a big heart that provides a unique and enjoyable educational experience for pupils from 2½ to 16 years old.

So that we can ensure that our pupils can receive the individual attention that they deserve, the learning takes place within the safety of our smaller class sizes with teaching that inspires, motivates and develops each one to fulfil their full potential. Our children are happy, confident and accustomed to establishing lasting relationships within a positive and calm learning environment.

This is an all-through school that aims to nurture and develop the academic, creative and personal skills in each of pupil from the youngest in Kindergarten to the oldest in Year 11. From an academic, social and personal perspective, our focus is to continuously develop and empower our students. We aim to instil a sense of respect and discipline, to encourage confidence and self-belief, and to provide an environment that is safe and secure.

Our focus on creativity is extended by the way in which we promote physical development within our children. Our wide range of trips, visits and extracurricular activities provide fun learning opportunities and development for our children within many areas including sport, art, literature, and music by way of lessons in a number of musical instruments. The pupils' leadership skills are developed through the prefect system, House structure and school council.

I am particularly excited about the the school's move to co-education, beginning in Kindergarten and Reception in September 2021. Whole families can be a part of the Braeside experience and educational journey, benefitting from all it offers. You can read more about this on page 23.

Please do come and see Braeside in action during a normal working day. My team and I will be delighted to discuss your child's future schooling and to find out more how we can help with their journey through life in education.



Chloe Moon Headmistress





BRAESIDE SCHOOL

A Personalised Education:

Our teaching groups give pupils a more personalised experience so they can reach their individual potential and make the maximum progress possible. If children require extra support, our SENDCo is on hand to assess and recommend appropriate levels.

If children are showing that they can progress at a higher level, then more challenging work will be set to ensure that they are stretched and engaged.

Continuity and Progression:

Most pupils move from year group to year group through the Juniors and into the Seniors up to Year 11 for GCSEs. This continuity makes for smooth transition from one stage of schooling to the next. We know our pupils extremely well, which allows us to maximise their progress and personalise their learning.

Small Class Sizes:

Our teaching groups are deliberately small. This means pupils have a more personalised experience with meaningful feedback, so that they can reach their individual potential and make the maximum progress possible.

Learning Outside the Classroom:

We make the most of our location, taking learning outside the classroom and into the local environment for Art, Science, Geography and more. We use a number of Olympic quality local sports facilities and offer a wide range of sports throughout the



AN EXCELLENT CHOICE FOR YOUR CHILD

school. Trips and outings form an important part of the curriculum from Kindergarten to Year 11.

Outstanding Pastoral Care

Parents and inspectors praise the excellent relationships between staff and pupils, and the outstanding pastoral care. We know each and every child in this school, their strengths and talents, their personality and where they need to be encouraged and challenged.

Partnership with Parents:

We value our close relationships with parents and consult with you on a regular basis. From formal parent/teacher consultations, to drop-in meetings and informal coffee morning chats with the Group Principal and Headmistress.

Parents are also welcome at exhibitions, performances, sports days, our annual Prize Day celebrations and Christmas concerts. Parents are encouraged to be involved in the life of the school and some accompany school trips or help out at school events.

Extended Day

We offer a Breakfast Club and After School Club for pupils from Kindergarten to Year 5. Breakfast Club is available from 7.30am and After School Club runs until 6pm.

Extra-curricular Activities

There is a broad extra-curricular programme providing enriching opportunities for pupils to develop new skills, participate in sports and enjoy a range of creative and musical activities either during or after school.

Success at GCSE

Our aim is for pupils in the seniors to become self-confident, successful GCSE students. We are among the highest performing schools at GCSE level in the local area. Each year our pupils receive offers to study for A Levels both at selective independent schools and 6th Form colleges. We prepare all pupils to go on to further study, mostly for A Levels but sometimes to diploma or vocational courses in subjects including Computing, Interior Design, Catering, Animation, Graphics and Music Technology.





EARLY YEARS FOUNDATION STAGE: KINDERGARTEN AND RECEPTION - (2½-5 YEARS)



Children can start at Braeside in the term in which they have their third birthday on a part-time or full-time basis in Kindergarten. School is full-time in Reception when children reach the age of 5.

There is generous provision for the EYFS as they have their own classrooms and make use of the Hall, ICT Suite and Art Room for specialist lessons.

We also have a dedicated outside learning area that enables learning to happen both inside and outside the classroom.

The exciting curriculum is based around the seven Early Learning Goals, but is enriched with a wide range of other activities including French, Music, Computing and PE lessons, assemblies, performances, trips and outings.

Each child has a dedicated Key Worker who is responsible for monitoring their progress and development, which is recorded in a portfolio that is available for you to see whenever you would like to.

Alongside, they develop number, problemsolving and reasoning

skills as well as having projects and topics each term. The learning is interactive and fun. Early Years pupils take part in assemblies, school events and Sports Day.

Each year on World Book Day children dress up as princesses, superheroes, and fairy story characters. They enjoy cooking, craft, stories, imaginative play and PE.

By the end of the Early Years, pupils have made excellent progress that is reported to parents in the externally-moderated Early Years Profiles

Curriculum:

The Kindergarten and Reception classes provide education for children from 2½ to 5 years, and the learning follows the Early Years requirements to develop skills in seven separate areas:

Prime Areas

- Communication and Language
- Physical Development
- Personal, Social and Emotional Development

Specific Areas

- Literacy
- Mathematics
- Understanding the World
- Expressive Arts and Design





INFANTS: KEY STAGE 1 - (5-7 YEARS)

In Years 1 and 2 children build on their Foundation Stage skills and follow an exciting and challenging curriculum in which most lessons are taught by the class teacher. These include English (literacy), Maths (numeracy), Humanities and Science. In addition there are specialist teachers for a number of subjects including French, Computing, PE and Music.

English

Children regularly read to an adult progressing through the phonics-based reading scheme.

Pupils have a reading record book so that reading can be shared at home. They are encouraged to talk about what they have read and to begin to read more widely. Children are given spellings to learn each week and they are encouraged to apply the spelling patterns to their own writing. Children develop their writing skills and use basic punctuation. Handwriting skills are practised and pupils are encouraged to form their letters and numbers correctly. Each half term reading and writing skills are assessed.

Mathematics

Pupils develop their number skills and by the end of Year 2 will use addition, subtraction and will be learning about multiplication and simple division. The topics include: shape and space, time, handling data, money and measuring. Numeracy is taught in a practical way using games and problem-solving. Pupils are encouraged to enjoy maths and to become confident with core mathematical principles like number bonds and times tables. Regular assessments are used to help us track pupils' progress.



Additional Subject Areas

Children have a broad range of other subjects across the week: Science, Computing, Music, PE, French, RE, Art and DT, PSHE and Humanities. Learning is enhanced with trips and outings, as well as visitors coming to school.

Home-School Links

A small amount of homework reinforces the work done in class and helps to involve parents in their children's learning.

There are regular coffee mornings, class assemblies, formal parent evenings, written biannual reports and, most importantly, an open door policy whereby parents are welcome to discuss their children's progress and development with their teachers at regular intervals.

Extracurricular Activities and Opportunities

Pupils take part in House competitions, as well as assemblies and school events. In addition, individual tuition is available in piano, guitar, clarinet, flute, violin, singing and LAMDA speech and drama. Specialist support is also offered by the Learning Support Department.



JUNIORS: KEY STAGE 2 - (7-11 YEARS)

Our pupils move seamlessly from Infants into Juniors, and the Junior classrooms are mainly located together to encourage cooperation between classes. The broad and structured education continues through Years 3-6.

Our Junior pupils are now also taught on the Main Site on the High Road alongside the Seniors. For many children the thought of moving to a large Senior School at the age of eleven can be quite daunting, but at Braeside this isn't the case as our pupils will have already been with our older pupils throughout their educational journey.

Curriculum

All pupils follow a programme that includes: English, Mathematics, Science, Computing, French, Music, Geography, History, RE, Art, Design Technology, Drama, PSHE and PE/Games.

We are guided by the National Curriculum but always aim to offer a richer learning experience, giving opportunities for trips and visits and tailoring the learning to meet the individual needs of the pupils, so that the most able are challenged and extended, and those who need support can work at a pace appropriate for them.

This is possible because classes are small and we have a Learning Support team who work with the teachers in the classrooms to facilitate the learning.

Regular assessments in the core subjects are held each half term to ensure good progress is being made. Alongside these are regular spellings and mental maths tests.

The focus on writing skills continues, with a piece of extended independent writing being completed on a weekly basis.

Home-School Links

Regular homework continues through Years 3 to 6, gradually increasing with age. Pupils are set reading and spelling homework as well as written work, exercises or research projects to reinforce and extend the learning in the classroom. At the start of the academic year, parents are given a homework timetable so that they can support their children.

Our open door policy continues, with parents able to see their child's teacher regularly on an informal basis, or to attend coffee mornings after class assemblies. There are also regular formal reports.







Extra-curricular Activities and Opportunities

As well as a number of sports clubs, art clubs, drama and music activities, recorder ensemble and choir, Key Stage 2 pupils can continue with individual musical tuition in clarinet, flute, guitar, piano, saxophone, singing and violin. They also continue with LAMDA lessons for speech and drama.

We take part in competitions locally and with the Independent Schools Association (ISA). Cross-country, netball and athletics teams all take part in regional and even national events. We also regularly enter art and writing competitions.

Every year there is the opportunity to be involved in school shows and events. We take part in the biennial Oak-Tree Schools Festival of Music and Dance. There are opportunities for the older juniors to go on residential trips too.

All Juniors have curriculum trips during the school day to enhance the learning and enrich the curriculum.

Pupils can develop leadership skills by being part of the School Council, or through being elected as House Captains or Sports Captains.

Excellent...

"You make friends very quickly and you feel very welcome when you are new at Braeside. I love this school!"

Braeside Pupil





SENIORS: KEY STAGE 3 - (11-14 YEARS)

Following our 11+ entrance examinations, pupils join us in Year 7 from other local schools, both independent and state. The same ethos of excellent relationships between teachers and pupils, high quality feedback and a disciplined but happy atmosphere continues.

Curriculum

The curriculum for pupils in Years 7 to 9 is broad, balanced and challenging; targeted to ensure that pupils of all abilities make the maximum progress possible. We offer two modern languages, French and Spanish, to all pupils alongside the following subjects: English, Mathematics, Science, Art, Drama, History, Geography, Music, ICT, PE, PSHE and Religious Education.

We are also keen to develop effective learning habits in our pupils. We encourage them to be confident, socially adept, flexible, resilient learners who can communicate articulately, work independently and engage with their learning enthusiastically.

Pupils understand what their target grades are and are encouraged to make progress towards achieving them. We talk about learning and what success might look like for each individual pupil.

Regular assessments take place across the subjects so that pupils have a good idea about how well they are achieving and what their next steps will be in order to make further progress.

Every September curriculum overviews are sent home for each of the subjects so that parents are aware of the programmes of study for the year.

Braeside uses some of the district's finest sporting facilities, including the Loughton Leisure Centre, Peter May Centre and the Lee Valley Athletics Centre that was used as an Olympic training venue.

Homework

Regular homework is set every night. The homework timetable is given out to each pupil and is also sent home so that parents are aware of expectations. We reinforce that homework should always be given in on time and completed to the best of our pupils' ability.

Determination...



“I have been here since Year 7 and always felt I could talk to someone, to one of the teachers or my friends, you never feel left out”

Braeside Pupil

Extra-curricular Activities and Opportunities

Every term an extra-curricular activities programme is produced with a variety of opportunities for different year groups, updated regularly. These can include sports, performance, creative and academic.

There are opportunities within school to become involved in the School Council or to be a House Captain. We value the contributions the senior pupils make to the school and we are keen to develop their leadership and team building skills. Pupils have entered national writing and art competitions. They participate in a UK Maths Challenge and have the opportunity to take part in academic learning days off site.

We have a Gifted and Talented Programme that offers enrichment opportunities to the most able pupils in school, and this is coordinated by the SENDCo.

Every year we hold drama showcases, art exhibitions and musical events. Private lessons with visiting music teachers are available in a number of instruments including: guitar, piano and singing. LAMDA Speech and Drama lessons are also available.

Many trips take place related to the curriculum over the year. We are keen for pupils to have a rounded and rewarding experience of learning, and this takes them out of the classroom on many occasions. This includes trips overseas in the October half term.

Trips make the most of our location, including visits to art galleries, theatres, museums, and London landmarks as well as local places of interest such as Epping Forest, the Queen Elizabeth Hunting Lodge and the Epping Forest Field Centre.



SENIORS: KEY STAGE 4 - (14-16 YEARS)

The oldest pupils at Braeside School are in Years 10 and 11. The same ethos of excellent relationships between teachers and pupils continues, with a disciplined but happy environment.

Curriculum

We offer a broad, balanced and challenging curriculum in Years 10 and 11 for pupils working towards their GCSE examinations. All pupils sit a core of GCSE subjects: English Language, and English Literature, Mathematics, French and Science.

In addition pupils pick 3 other GCSE courses from the following choices: History, Geography, Art and Design, Religious Education, Drama and Business Studies.

Year 10 pupils are given an Assessment Profile at the end of the autumn term identifying working grades and aspirational grades based on current performances. Parents meetings, further written feedback and target tracking is also used to guide performance.

Homework

Homework becomes more challenging to reflect the demands of the GCSE courses, and pupils can expect to complete about 1.5 hours homework per night. Support is given for revision through booster classes after school or during lunchtime.

The curriculum is differentiated and challenging, with the teaching developing explicit thinking skills, fostering a collaborative partnership between teacher and pupil so that pupils talk about their learning, take initiative and progress towards success.

Extra-curricular Activities and Opportunities

Educational trips, extra-curricular activities and the opportunities for extension and support continue to be a feature of school life. Furthermore pupils can take on leadership responsibilities as Prefects and House Captains or members of the School Council.

GCSEs

We have been one of the highest performing schools in the local area over recent years and our latest results can be seen on our website.

Our small class sizes and individual attention at this most crucial stage is highly valued by pupils and parents alike. Our Senior teachers are on hand to help at all times and our pupils frequently surprise themselves by achieving higher than expected.



"The individual support that Braeside has given our daughter has been invaluable for both the academic development and her personal confidence"

Braeside Parent

All pupils take the core subjects:

- English Language
- English Literature
- Mathematics
- Sciences

Other optional subjects offered include:

- Art
- Drama
- French
- Geography
- History
- Computer Science
- Music
- Religious Studies
- Science (additional)
- Spanish







AFTER GCSES AND CAREERS ADVICE

In Years 10 and 11 pupils are prepared for the transition to Sixth Form in a number of ways.

We hold an information evening on the process of choosing a Sixth Form, which both pupils and their parents attend. We provide advice and information about the application process for different schools and colleges. Mock interviews are held so that pupils can practise their techniques. Scholarship candidates have support for their applications.

Teachers prepare a bespoke reference for each pupil, which details their academic achievements and their contribution to the life of the school.

Pupils are encouraged to be diligent and committed students, who know the value of hard work. We develop this in a number of ways including our revision boosters and mentoring programme.

Our pupils have been successful in their applications to a number of popular schools, both independent and state, and some have gained scholarships. Most pupils go on to study A levels and from there take up places at university. Pupils have gone on to a wide range of universities including Bristol, Exeter, London, Loughborough Nottingham, Southampton, UEA, York.

Many pupils have gone on to study specialist courses and university degree courses. Other pupils have studied ICT, Sports or various vocational courses at colleges locally and in central London. Local Independent schools are always very interested to receive applications from Braeside pupils as they know that our pupils have a strong work ethic and excellent interpersonal skills.

LEAVERS DESTINATIONS

There is a wide range of schools, colleges and apprenticeships chosen by our pupils when the time comes to leave Braeside at the end of Year 11. The most recent offers can be found on our website, and they include the following:

- Bancroft's School
- Chigwell School
- Davenant Foundation School
- David Game College
- Dubai British School
- Forest School
- Heathcote School
- Isaac Newton Academy
- JCoSS Sixth Form
- New City College
- Thomas Mills High School
- Trinity Catholic High School
- Wanstead High School
- Woodford County High School



CREATIVE ARTS

Art and Design

In the Art and Design department, pupils develop their imaginative and artistic talents working with a broad range of materials.

Small class sizes mean that our pupils are able to cultivate their own unique forms of self expression in an encouraging and supportive environment.

The standard of Art and Design work in our school is extremely high. The standard of Art and Design work in our school is extremely high and as a result our pupils' work has won several competitions as well as being exhibited in prestigious venues, galleries and websites.

In addition to our creative curriculum we celebrate Art and Design through the many displays around the school, entering Art and Design competitions, exhibiting pupils' work in galleries and organising visits to see exhibitions.



Music

Music plays a strong part of our school life at Braeside.

As a part of our music curriculum visiting staff offer tuition in all the main instruments, while the school choir and vocal performance tutoring enhance many performing opportunities within and outside of school, and encourage formal graded exams.

Music is taught by specialist teachers to all pupils, even those in our Early Years department.

The school choir rehearses each week where vocal techniques and extra repertoire is taught and members learn to sing in harmony. While the school choir and vocal performance tutoring enhance many performing opportunities within and outside of school.

The pupils have use of a new, spacious and fully equipped studio and practice rooms for their lessons and rehearsals.

Drama

Drama is taught by a specialist teacher in the Seniors and is very popular.

Through drama the pupils develop self-confidence, presentation skills and teamwork. This year projects have included mime, musical theatre, improvisation, scripts, Theatre in Education and slapstick.

We give our pupils numerous opportunities to perform in front of small and large audiences for Music and/or Drama. These include the annual House Drama competitions, school productions, festival events and community performances. Parents are often invited to watch their children perform.

As well as timetabled drama lessons and afterschool clubs, we stage annual productions and regularly use drama in our school assemblies. Drama is offered as a GCSE option in Years 10 and 11.

The pupils have use of a new, spacious and fully-equipped studio for their lessons and rehearsals.





SPORTS

Work within Physical Education is designed to support, contribute to, and complement the aims of the school.

Physical Education at Braeside provides an enjoyable, satisfying and balanced approach for all students to develop physically, socially, emotionally and cognitively.

The curriculum is taught by specialist PE teachers from Kindergarten upwards and is designed to offer a comprehensive range of experiences through which pupils are encouraged to develop the personal qualities of commitment, fairness and enthusiasm.

Braeside offers pupils a varied programme of physical activity that is constantly reviewed and updated. The use of the Lee Valley Athletic Centre, Loughton Swimming Pool and the Peter May Centre enables us to offer a well balanced programme of Physical Education at purposebuilt facilities, including the athletics centre used by the British Olympic team.

Pupils at Braeside are encouraged to widen their interests beyond the curriculum, and are welcome to attend clubs and after school activities regardless of ability.

All pupils are given the opportunity to represent their House in the sports competitions that take place throughout the year, in both the junior and senior parts of the school.

Braeside successfully participates in sporting events locally, regionally, and nationally. This provides opportunities for pupils to achieve their potential in the competitive field. However,

we also recognise that tolerance, good sportsmanship and the appreciation of one's own and others' strengths and weaknesses are an important part of the learning process. We teach the value of exercise and fitness; healthy habits and social cooperation.

Activities include:

- Netball
- Hockey
- Football
- Athletics
- Tennis
- Swimming
- Cross Country
- Swimming
- Gymnastics/ Dance
- Rounders
- Cricket
- Outdoor adventure activities
- Fitness training







BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

Clubs and Extracurricular Activities

Pupils have the opportunity to learn one of our many instruments including: brass, saxophone, clarinet, violin, guitar, flute, piano, percussion, voice. We offer many orchestras, bands and ensembles.

We offer LAMDA Speech and Drama lessons, in which our pupils always achieve high results. There are regular school productions and concerts for all age groups.

We have a wide range of clubs for all ages including: art, drama, Lego, karate, music groups, sports, chess, debating, computing, cooking, reading, music theory and academic boosters.

We have an established House system, with a range of competitions and challenges throughout the year, including House Music and Sports Day for the whole school.

We are licensed to deliver the Duke of Edinburgh Awards scheme with the majority of pupils reaching the Bronze Award by the time they move on at the end of Year 11.

Our extra-curricular programme is extensive and includes regular trips overseas.

Competitions

Every year we have winners in a number of regional and national Art and Design events, including national winners in the Independent Schools Association annual awards and many winners in regional competitions.

Locally, the Oak-Tree Schools collaborate on joint events including sports competitions, art exhibitions, music festivals, camps, enrichment days and trips. We also have national success in many sports.

Events

We give all pupils many opportunities to participate in sport, art, drama, music, charity work, school council, community events, assemblies, the Oak-Tree Award, Duke of Edinburgh Award and more.

We hold regular whole school events throughout the year including musical performances, drama showcases, Prize Giving, Science Week, Sports Day, Harvest Festival and the annual Christmas Carol Service.



PASTORAL CARE

Pupils' wellbeing underpins all aspects of school life.

Braeside is a school with a friendly family atmosphere, where pupils feel safe and are encouraged to share their problems and concerns. The Headmistress and Senior Leadership Team are responsible for Pastoral Care with the Form Tutors also playing an important role.

Form groups are kept small so form tutors have the opportunity to know each individual child, and to support them within school.

The House System within the school is designed to promote positive interaction between pupils whilst fostering an atmosphere of mutual trust and respect. The House Captains ensure that pupils have a sense of belonging, whilst providing advice and guidance on issues relating to their education and wellbeing.

We have Junior and Senior School Councils that meet regularly to discuss topics of interest to the pupils and the councillors are able to make suggestions about how school life could be made even better.

We are a generous school with a flourishing Charity Committee; pupils organise fundraising events to support local, national and international charities. The pastoral team aims to ensure pupils are happy and secure, and provides a point of personal contact with parents.

"The teachers here exceed any expectations we have of them and are always available if a pupil needs help."

Braeside Pupil

Excellent...

"I remember Braeside as a feeling of belonging to an extended family and this same feeling continues with my daughter today"

Braeside Parent





THE MOVE TO CO-EDUCATION

From September 2021, Braeside became a co-educational school, starting at Kindergarten and Reception.

We believe that a co-educational environment is in the best interests of the children and will benefit their learning and development. An important factor is that whole families will be able to become a part of the Braeside experience and educational journey, benefitting from all it offers. The world is changing, and an increasing number of new Braeside parents are indicating that they would prefer an excellent family school that serves their sons as well as their daughters.

Braeside has seen from the other Oak-Tree Schools the impact of socialising in a co-education setting for children from Kindergarten age upwards. As they pass from year group to year group throughout the school, children become used to the co-educational teaching and learning, developing the social interaction skills that prepare them for later life. The working world is co-educational and continues to evolve at great speed. As such, mixing boys and girls together builds life skills as they learn and thrive together as equals.

What does the move to co-education mean for the school?

From September 2021, Braeside transitioned from being an all girls' independent school to providing education for both girls and boys from Kindergarten through to Year 11. This transition will be phased in slowly year after year, with the first boys welcomed into Kindergarten and Reception in September 2021. In September 2022 the Reception boys (and girls) will move to Year 1, Kindergarten boys (and girls) to Reception and a new cohort of mixed Kindergarten children recruited. This model will be followed year after year until the school is fully co-educational.

Why has the school decided to make this change?

We believe that a co-educational environment is in the best interests of the children and will benefit their learning and development as we move forward into the 21st Century. The transition will consolidate our strengths as a school for the foreseeable future and will ensure we take the necessary strides towards a modern educational model. It also means that whole families will be able to become a part of the Braeside experience and educational journey.

The world is co-educational, and mixing boys and girls together builds character and education in life. There are also multiple academic benefits to be had for both genders in working together in a unified environment. Since 1990, the number of UK single sex independent Schools has halved with girls' schools now making up 12%. This reflects the national and international trends that favour co-education.

What are the benefits of co-education learning from Kindergarten upwards?

At this young age, socialisation with other children is vital and part of the learning and development curve. It makes sense at this stage for younger children to be educated in a co-educational setting. Parents with children of both genders will also benefit from choosing one School that accommodates both boys and girls.

The working world is co-educational and continues to evolve at great speed. As such, we have seen from the other Oak-Tree Schools that mixing boys and girls together builds life skills as they learn and thrive together as equals.

Will boys and girls be taught in mixed or separate classes?

As and when boys enter a year group, academic lessons will be conducted on a fully co-educational basis. In addition, our aim is to have as much non-academic and co-curricular activity undertaken on a co-educational basis as possible.

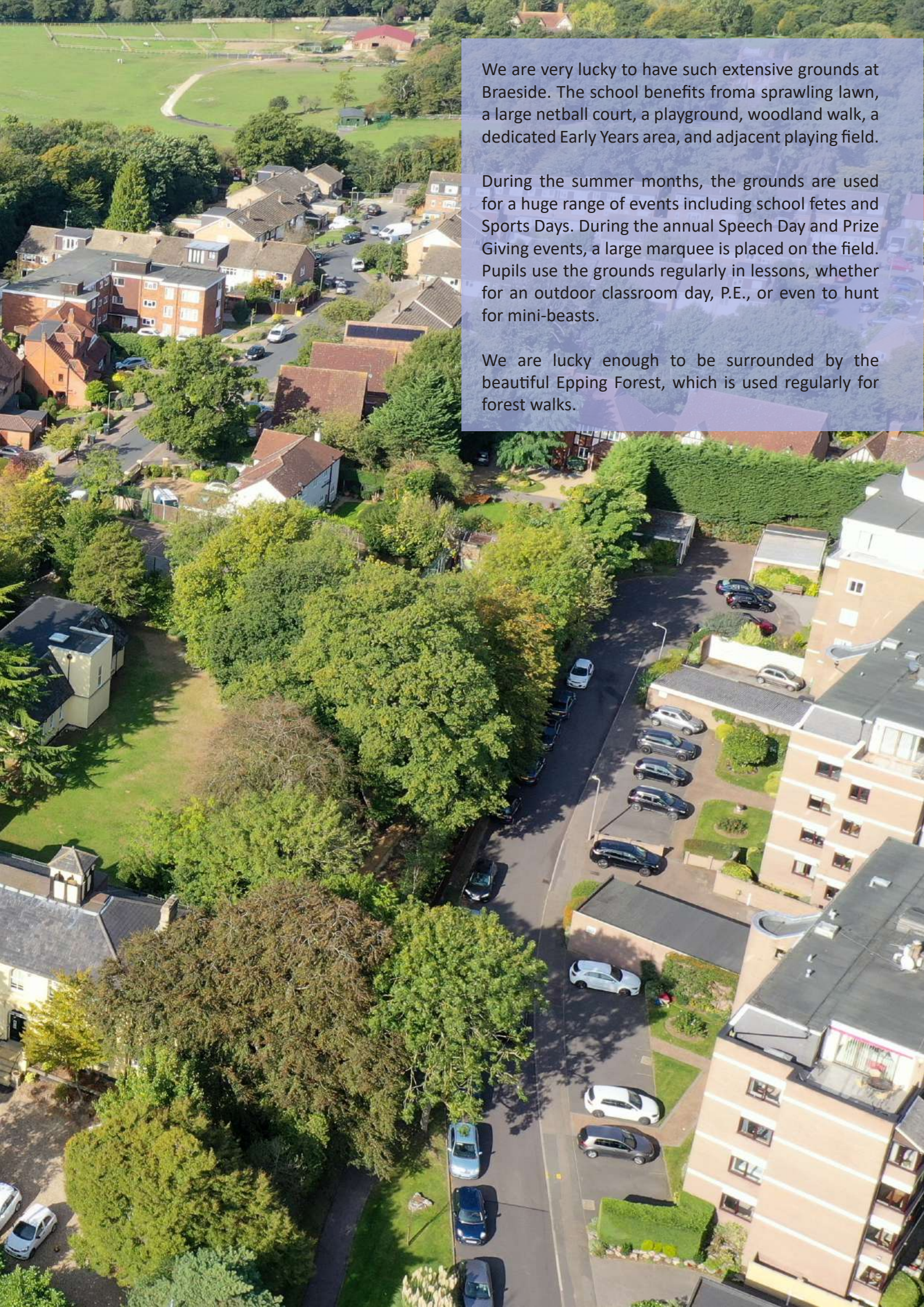
Will the changes affect academic standards at Braeside?

Yes, in a very positive way. Continuing to develop the highest academic standards is, of course, a core priority for Braeside, regardless of the gender of our learners. Our academic ethos, teaching staff, curriculum and small class sizes are the most crucial elements to our academic standards.



GROUNDS AND FACILITIES



An aerial photograph of a school campus. In the top left, there is a large green field with a netball court and a baseball field. The middle section shows residential-style buildings with brown roofs and brick walls. A large, dense area of green trees occupies the center and bottom left. On the right side, there is a multi-story brick building with a parking lot containing several cars. The overall scene is a mix of greenery and built-up areas.

We are very lucky to have such extensive grounds at Braeside. The school benefits from a sprawling lawn, a large netball court, a playground, woodland walk, a dedicated Early Years area, and adjacent playing field.

During the summer months, the grounds are used for a huge range of events including school fetes and Sports Days. During the annual Speech Day and Prize Giving events, a large marquee is placed on the field. Pupils use the grounds regularly in lessons, whether for an outdoor classroom day, P.E., or even to hunt for mini-beasts.

We are lucky enough to be surrounded by the beautiful Epping Forest, which is used regularly for forest walks.

FAQs

What are the benefits of a school that goes from 2 ½ to 16?

We understand the educational needs of children all the way through their compulsory education and we can ensure that progression from one stage to the next is smooth and supported. Teachers share their knowledge and understanding of the children and progress is maintained. The school is a community. The strong sense of caring and togetherness permeates from the oldest pupils down to the youngest.

Pupils of all ages can share important school events together like Speech Day, Harvest Festival, celebrations, concerts and Sports Day. Pupils gain from the expertise of specialist teachers who are graduates in a wide range of subjects and who work together with the staff to make the curriculum relevant, exciting and challenging.

How involved are parents in the life of the school?

We have a Parents' Association who put on an event every term for friends and parents of the school. This culminates in a Summer Barbecue where the whole school community gets together.

Parents are invited into school for assemblies and events, drop-in mornings, and Parents' Evenings.

Parents are invited to offer work experience placements for our Year 10 pupils for a week in the summer term to give them an experience of the world of work.

This is immensely valuable for pupils as they consider their career choices and where they want to study next.



How does communication work between school and home?

In our EYFS and Juniors, parents have the opportunity each day to talk to the class teacher, in the classroom or playground in the morning or at the school gate in the afternoon. We encourage parents to contact the school if they would like an appointment with the Form teacher or a member of the senior team. The Headmistress is freely available to see parents and is happy to discuss your child's progress with you if you have any concerns.

There are regular newsletters and Head's letters about what is happening in school and the website is regularly updated with information and news. There is a text messaging service that we use for reminders. There are termly drop-in mornings for parents to visit the Junior classrooms and regular coffee mornings with the Group Managing Principal and the Headmistress. We use the school website and Twitter to share news and have a useful App to keep parents informed more readily.

We use the school website, Facebook, Instagram and Twitter to share news.

Does the school offer lunch?

Lunch is included in our school fees and is provided throughout the school. There is a wide variety on offer.

The School Council and the catering company work together on new menus and choices for children of all ages. We offer a vegetarian option and a Halal option each day alongside a hot main meal, jacket potatoes, pasta, rolls, baguettes and a salad bar. The fruit platters are a very popular choice for dessert, as are the hot puddings.

Teachers check the pupils in the Early Years and Juniors are eating properly; they will inform parents of any concerns.

Do you offer a Breakfast and After School Club?

We have a Breakfast Club from 7.30am until 8.40am each day that provides drinks, breakfast cereals, toast and fruit. The children may choose activities they do after breakfast until the school day begins at 8.40am.

After School Club runs until 6pm. Sandwiches and fruit are provided every day, homework can be completed in a quiet area and there is a variety of activities on offer.

What learning support do you offer if my child is struggling?

We are fortunate to have a well-resourced Learning Support team. Many of our Teaching Assistants work in a variety of classes to help the pupils with their work. All work is routinely differentiated to meet the range of abilities of our children so that they are all able to access the curriculum. Our specialist staff give one-to-one targeted support to pupils to help them make progress. If children require extra support, our SENDCo is on hand to assess and recommend appropriate levels.





Admissions

Choosing the right school for your child is one of the biggest decisions you can make, therefore we strive to make the admissions process as easy as possible.

The admissions procedures differ depending on the age of your child. However, the process usually begins with a visit to the school, either on one of our Open Events or on a pre-arranged personal tour.

Registration

Parents are invited to tour the School and meet with the Headmistress to discuss their child/ren. In order to secure a place on our waiting list parents will need to complete the Registration Form.

A place on the waiting list does not guarantee admission. The School must feel reasonably sure that it will be able to educate and develop the prospective pupil to the best of his/her potential and in line with the general standards achieved by the pupil's peers.

Lower Kindergarten (ages 2½ to 3) and Upper Kindergarten (ages 3½ to 4)

Taster sessions are arranged for prospective children whose families have registered them with us.

Sessions will last for between 40 and 60 minutes, and will mainly consist of informal play-based activities observed by members of the Early Years team.

Offers will be sent if children successfully pass our entrance criteria.

Reception (ages 4½ to 5)

Taster sessions are arranged for prospective children whose families have registered them with us.

Taster sessions will last for between 60 and 70 minutes and will mainly consist of informal activities, with some more focused tasks observed by members of the Early Years team.

Offers will be sent if children successfully pass our entrance criteria.

Years 1 to 6 (ages 5½ to 10½)

Children will be invited to spend a long morning in school at a mutually convenient time.

The morning will include formal academic assessments in English and Maths, with additional informal classroom observations.

Offers will be sent if children successfully pass our entrance criteria.

Years 7 to 9 (ages 11 to 14)

Children will be invited to spend a long morning in school either during the official Entrance Examination day or another time.

The morning will include formal entrance examinations with papers in English, Maths and Reasoning, with additional informal classroom observations and formal interviews.

Offers will be sent if children successfully pass our entrance criteria.

Places are extremely limited throughout the school and you will need to contact our Admissions Registrar, on 020 8529 4307 or by email to admissions@normanhurstschool.co.uk to discuss your child's entry.

Entrance Exams

7+ ENTRANCE

This is by individual assessment and interview.

11+ ENTRANCE EXAMINATIONS

The main Entrance Examination for entry into the Seniors at Year 7 is held in January. This is followed by an interview with the Headmistress for each applicant and their parents. Results will be posted to families in the February half term break.

13+ Entrance Examinations

The main Entrance Examination for entry into Seniors at Year 9 will be held in March.

There will also be an opportunity to take the 11+ Entrance Examination on this date for entrants unable to attend the main date in January.

LEARN MORE ABOUT BRAESIDE SCHOOL

When choosing a school for your child there are many factors to take into account specific to you and your child's needs. Therefore it is wise that parents get to know the school well before making the final decision. At Braeside School there are many opportunities to do just this.

COME AND VISIT US

Open Days in March and October

Personal tours can be arranged at a time to suit you.

See our website for all latest information including:

- Newsletters
- Headmistress's Letters
- Fees
- Entrance procedures and examinations
- GCSE Results
- Admissions policy
- Open days
- Staff list and how to contact us
- A wide range of weekly clubs and activities
- Parents' Association events and fundraising

CONTACT US

NUMBER: 020 8504 1133

EMAIL: info@braesideschool.co.uk

Follow us on Social Media



Braeside School



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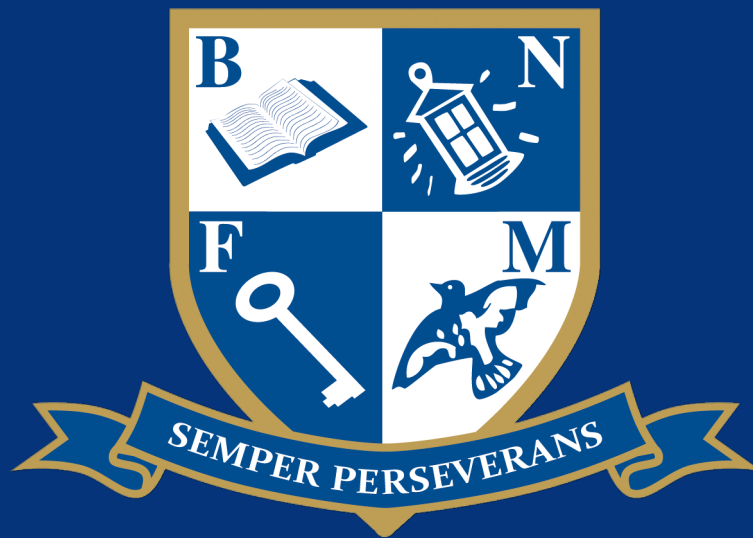
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