



Braeside School

130 High Road, Buckhurst Hill, Essex IG9 5SD

Tel: 020 8504 1133

HEADMISTRESS

Mrs Chloe Moon B.A. (HONS), M.A., PGCE

E-mail: info@braesideschool.co.uk

Website: www.braesideschool.co.uk

3 September 2021

Dear Parents

Re: September 2021 Headmistress's Letter

I hope you and your families have had a restful break over the summer and have managed some kind of holiday or staycation. Hopefully, you will have seen communication this week from Mr Hagger about the arrangements for the start of term, including staff and pupil testing.

We are very much hoping that the Autumn term resembles some sort of normality for our pupils and the wider school community. We are planning events and trips for the term ahead and I hope to reinstate our school community events and celebrations such as Harvest Festival and House Drama.

This is another incredibly exciting time in the history of Braeside as for the first time in many years, we welcome our first boys into the school complete with a new uniform which will shape the uniform for all pupils in due course. Mr Hagger wrote to parents in the Summer Term with the new plans for uniform for all pupils that has been very much shaped by the pupils currently in the school.

School Uniform

In my last Headmistress' letter, I wrote to you about having the correct uniform this term. This means that seniors must wear black tights. This also means no white or brown tights for any other pupil in the school. Coats must be regulation for Junior pupils and must be plain black or navy for senior pupils. Coats must be long enough to cover the body and MUST be waterproof. The uniform list can be found in the Parents Handbook and also on the website.

Shoes must be suitable for school and must not be boot or 'Kickers' style and cannot be canvas.

You would have already read in the Parents' Handbook and my letter in July that pupils from Year 5 to Year 11 and above are permitted to wear one plain stud in the lobe. Please check your child's ears before the set off for school to ensure that they are wearing a plain stud in the lobe. This is a health and safety recommendation from Essex County Council to all schools in Essex.

You will also notice that boys will be wearing the 'new style' Braeside uniform. This will become the new style for pupils from next academic year.

Swimming Kit

Mrs Copeman sent a letter to all the pupils that will be swimming this term. Please ensure that your child has a clean towel and regulation swimsuit and house coloured hat for their Monday lesson. Pupils from Year 3 to Year 6 will be swimming. Swimming will commence on Monday 6 September.

Dropping Off and Collecting your Child

We have made some changes to the start of the school day to accommodate safety during the pandemic that we feel would benefit the school community going forward. We are going to keep the 'soft start' approach in the morning. School will be open from 8:25am and the register will be taken at 8:40am. Pupils can enter the site

between these times. Pupils from Kindergarten to Year 2 will be dropped off by driving into the front of the school and dropping your child at the Main Entrance where they will be met by staff known to them and also the Prefect Team attached to the Juniors. Pupils in Year 3 to 6 should be dropped at the Junior Gate on Ardmore Lane (please refer to Mrs Copeman's email about entering the playground at the start of term). Senior pupils will enter the site from the Senior Gate on Ardmore Lane.

Please remind your child that they must not sit on the pavement or block the pavement waiting for the gate to open.

Collection (if your child is not attending a club) will be at 3:30pm for Junior Pupils. This includes all pupils from Kindergarten to Year 6. Senior pupils will exit the site from the Senior Gate at 3:45pm.

Enhancements to the Buildings

We are continually seeking to enhance the wonderful facilities that we have here at Braeside on the main site. Over the summer, the ICT suite has had a complete make-over. There are more computers to accommodate our growing school community, enhancements to the windows to allow more natural light and ventilation, and desks have been altered to fit all pupils in the school to enhance their experience of ICT.

Parents Evening and Curriculum Mornings

We hope to have Parents Evenings face to face this term. These dates should be published on the school website for all years. Please make a note of these. In addition, there are some information evenings for GCSE pupils. However, these will take place on Zoom (as requested by a majority of parents) so that they can be accessed at a convenient time and location. We are hoping to have Junior Drop-in Mornings this term and these dates are available for you on the school website. We are really looking forward to welcoming you back into the school this term.

Homework

A homework timetable will be available to you via the portal at the start of term. This is to help Senior pupils to plan and manage their time effectively. In addition, pupils in the Seniors will be using Show My Homework to view their homework (parents can view this too) and track their progress towards their deadlines. There is also a chat function where they can liaise with their teachers directly if they have any issues accessing the homework. A reminder that Mr Masood is the administrator for Show My Homework, so please ask your child to seek his assistance for password and other Show My Homework related issues. If your child is in Year 7, they will have a pupil and parent password given to them at the start of term.

Junior homework will be set by the class teacher or specialist teacher and this will appear on Seesaw. You will already be familiar with this application as we used it effectively and extensively during school closure. If your child does not have a password yet, they will be given this at the start of term. Parents also have a parent log in.

Congestion in Ardmore Road

A polite reminder that Ardmore Lane is a residential road and is also a cul-de-sac. We have worked closely with our neighbours over the past year to resolve the congestion that often comes with the start of a new term. Please do not park over residential drive ways. Please do not park with your wheels on the pavement as this causes a safety risk to pupils and residents. Please do not park or wait on any yellow lines that are marked in the road. We found that parking in quieter roads around the site (and then walking to the entrance or gate) was the safest and most harmonious way to drop off and pick up.

Senior House Drama

We are hoping to hold this long-awaited event for Year 7 to Year 11 in November. More details will be sent this week in a more specific letter. However, I would like to highlight that this is a compulsory event and your child's attendance to rehearsals is a must on Monday after school (on a House System rotation). I will also be speaking to the Seniors in assembly about this event and the lead up to it.

The Return to School – Pupil Wellbeing

Some pupils may find the start of the new year quite daunting. We are incredibly excited to welcome new pupils to the school this week and I know that our current pupils and staff will warmly welcome them. If your child has any questions, queries or worries, please encourage them to speak to their class teacher or form tutor in the first instance. Mrs Spencer will also be available in the mornings to speak to pupils to help them return to school in the most positive way.

Preparing for the Return to School

We are expecting all pupils to attend school from 8:25am on Monday 6 September. Please ensure that uniform is correct, that your child has had adequate sleep and is prepared for the return. Senior pupils will head straight to their form room as they will have to have a Lateral Flow Test in the morning. If they have never been through this process before, Mrs Copeman and I will be there to guide the pupils through.

If you have any specific questions about timings, equipment, uniform or any other aspect of school life, please call the school office and we will be happy to answer your questions.

Extra-curricular Clubs

All clubs and extra-curricular activities begin on Monday 6 September.

Dates for the Diary

Please make a note of the following dates for this term:

Mon 6 September	First Day of Autumn Term
9 -10 September	Year 3 Summit Rock Camp at Oaklands School
Tues 14 September	Individual Pupil Photographs
Weds 15 September	Whole School Panoramic Photograph
Weds 15 September	Year 1-6 Curriculum Information Meeting
Thurs 16 September	RWI Presentation
Thurs 16 September	Year 5 & 6 First Aid Training
Fri 17 September	Jeans for Genes Day
20- 24 September	GCSE Mock Week
Tues 21 September	Year 10 GCSE Information Meeting
Tues 28 September	Year 11 Parents 6 th Form Information Meeting
Weds 29 September	Kindergarten - Year 6 Drop in Morning
Fri 1 October	FOBS 'School Dinners' Event
Mon 11 October	Rec- Year 11 Flu Immunisation
Tues 12 October	Junior Parents Evening
Weds 13 October	Juniors Parents Evening
Fri 15 October	Harvest Festival
18 – 29 October	HALF TERM
Tues 2 November	Year 7 Parents Evening
Fri 12 November	Children in Need Day
Tues 16 November	Year 10 Parents Evening
Friday 26 November	Year 7 -11 House Drama Competition at Lopping Hall

Tues 7 December	Year 8 HVP1 Immunisation
Thurs 9 December	LK – Year 9 Pantomime at Harlow Playhouse
Fri 10 December	Nativity performance
Tues 14 December	Whole School Christmas Service
Weds 15 December	Last Day of Autumn Term: Finish at 12.00 noon

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to get in touch with myself, Mrs Copeman or Miss Wood. I hope to see you on the gate or entrance in the first few days of school.

With kind regards

Yours sincerely



Chloe Moon
Headmistress



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HEAD OFFICE ADDRESS: 6 ALBION HILL, LOUGHTON, ESSEX IG10 4RA

GROUP MANAGING PRINCIPAL & DIRECTOR: MR MATTHEW HAGGER B.A. (HONS), M.ED., PGCE CO-DIRECTORS: MR NICHOLAS HAGGER M.A. (OXON), MRS ANN HAGGER CERT. ED.

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