



Braeside School

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HEADMISTRESS

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3 October 2022

Dear Parents

Re: Headmistress's Letter

The Autumn Term is underway and it has been wonderful to see so many parents at our Expectations Meetings, Curriculum Evening and Junior Drop In Morning. It has certainly been busy with pupils working hard, exploring the garden, using our off-site facilities and going on trips – some of them in London and Belgium!

Please read this letter to be informed of changes and important dates to be aware of as the term goes on.

Staff additions

We are delighted to welcome Mrs Lee-Stevens to the team of Lunchtime Supervisors this year who will be helping with Junior lunchtime. Mrs Lee-Stevens has worked with Braeside before in her capacity as a careers advisor and is very happy to be working with your children once again.

Assessments and reporting

Pupils in Year 10 and Year 7 have taken their baseline assessments and Year 10 have been given their results. Pupils use these results to set themselves high expectations for their future and are able to track their progress over time. Pupils in Year 10 and 11 will have target stickers on their books to remind them of their goals and aspirational targets.

I have invited parents from Key Stage 3 in over a series of dates to outline the expectations for the year and to also explain the new grading system that we will be using. Pupils will now receive a GCSE grade on their work from Year 7 to Year 11. The grade descriptors and success criteria will be shared with them and will be available for parents to refer to in exercise books. I will be explaining the rationale for this development in more detail in our Expectations Meetings over the course of the term.

Assessment Week for senior pupils is roughly every 6 weeks. Teaching staff will indicate on Show My Homework when an assessment will take place and what is to be included. Your child must read this carefully and be prepared for the assessment by revising at home.

Year 9 and 10 have been invited to take part in a revision workshop by a company called Learning Performance on 10 October. This is designed to help pupils identify their learning style and the most effective way to revise to suit their style. It comes with take-home resources on the day. Mr Masood will be taking over the organisation of this event, so please do ask him any questions about the event.

If your child is in Early Years (Kindergarten and Reception) you would have been given access to your Evidence Me account back in August. Teaching staff regularly update you on your child's progress via this platform. It is a two way platform that allows parents to interact with the progress updates on a weekly basis. Please ensure that you look at these updates regularly to inform your discussions at home about your child's learning experience.

Behaviour for Learning

It is imperative that your child has the right equipment for learning. Pupils in the seniors and Year 6 have been provided with a locker that they can use to store their equipment for the day. This is to encourage independence and ownership over their own learning.

Homework is displayed on Seesaw for Junior pupils and on Show My Homework for Senior pupils. Again, this is to encourage important skills for learning such as self-motivation and organisation. Pupils must plan out their homework over the week and complete it to the best of their ability in good time. If you have any issues logging on to Show My Homework, please get in touch with Mr Masood. If you have any issues with Seesaw, please speak to your child's teacher.

Open Day and Evening

As you will already be aware, we have our Open Day and Evening on Wednesday 5 October. Pupils in Year 7 and 11 have been invited to the evening to take part in guiding prospective pupils and parents around. A letter has been sent to you with the details. This year, I have invited pupils in Year 5 and 6 to guide prospective families around the school during the day. Please ensure that your child (if in the Juniors and guiding) is wearing their Winter uniform for this day so they are able to show this to prospective families. If you have a child in the Juniors and are looking forward to their journey to the Seniors, please do come along.

Catering and Chartwells

As you know, Chartwells provide the wonderful food and evolving, exciting menus that rotate on a 3 weekly basis. These are always available for you to view on the website. Pupils contribute to the suggestions for the team via the School Council by using the food suggestion system. We are delighted that we were rated 5 Stars (as we are every year) by Environmental Health this month. The Chartwells team work incredibly hard to keep the service tasty and exciting for your children.

Dropping off and collecting your child

We always review the dropping off and collection arrangements to make it safe and smooth for parents and pupils. In communication with parents and staff, we think it best that Year 1 are dropped and collected from the Junior gate from Monday 7 November (after half term). Please make a note of this change so you can discuss the arrangement with your child for a seamless transition.

A reminder that After School Club (Tea-Time Club) is a provision up to and including Year 6. Pupils in Year 7 and beyond are expected to sign up for a club themselves and make their own way home after the club or at the end of the school day. Please be aware of this so you can make arrangements with your child on exit from school.

Changes to Personal Details

Please let us know as soon as possible if any of your contact details have changed over the summer. This includes your address, telephone numbers and emergency contact details. You can check the current information we hold on your Parent Portal.

It is a requirement that all schools have at least two emergency contacts, who would be available if needed during the school day. We also need to know if your child's medical information has changed or if they have any food allergies or intolerances. Please ensure that we have this important information by, including the hospital or GP notes to confirm any medical needs. Parents can update these details by logging onto the portal.

If parents are away for any reason during term time and your children are being looked after by relatives – you should notify the office and class teacher with the name and contact details of the relative in advance, so that we know who has responsibility for your child while you are away. If you have any questions or concerns about the information, contact the school office and a member of the team will be happy to assist you.

Congestion

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 a busy school. 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 drop off and pick up. Please do not verbally abuse members of the public who are trying to access their homes on Ardmore Lane or the surrounding areas.

Pupil wellbeing in a busy term

The start of the term has been incredibly busy so far. Pupils have been excited to meet up with their classmates and chat with their teachers. They have very much enjoyed the trips and visits that have been put on for them. However, with a change to routine there can be anxiety. We aim to inform pupils of the changes to routine in school to best prepare them for the trip, event or visit. It is extremely helpful if you could read letters that go home about events (such as Jeans for Genes Day) and help in preparing your child for changes to the normal routine. If you have any concerns about the changes to routines, please speak to your child's teacher or their form tutor for support.

Annual Parent Coffee Mornings

Every year we invite parents to a coffee morning to discuss school life and for you to share your experiences with me and either Mr Hagger, the Group Managing Principal, or Mrs Osborn, the Group Education Principal. The office will send an invitation the week before. Coffee mornings will take place on a Wednesday morning from 8.45 to 9.45am on the following days:

Kindergarten and Reception	Wednesday 9 November
Year 1 and Year 2	Wednesday 16 November
Year 4 and Year 5	Wednesday 23 November
Year 6	Wednesday 30 November
Year 7	Wednesday 7 December
Year 8 to Year 11	Wednesday 11 January

Oak-Tree Fireworks Display

The Oak-Tree Fireworks Display is back this year and will take place on Sunday 13 November at 4.30pm. It is an opportunity to bring families together across the group and will be a fantastic event with an amazing firework display. Please order your tickets, if you have not yet done so, here: [Fireworks Display 2022 - Book Here](#).

Dates for the Diary

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

Mon 3 Oct	Mental Health Week
	Year 9 Chicken Wire Workshop
Tues 4 Oct	Year 11 Pupil Conference
Weds 5 Oct	Open Day
Fri 7 Oct	Year 5 and Year 6 WESSA Football Camp
	Year 7 and Year 8 Battlefield Trip
	PGL Netball Weekend
Tue 11 Oct	U11 Oak Tree Netball at Oaklands
Fri 14 Oct	Harvest Festival
Tue 18 Oct	Junior and Year 11 Parents Evening
Fri 21 Oct	Senior House Netball
	Break up for Half Term

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to get in touch with myself or Miss Wood.

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 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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