



Braeside School

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HEADMISTRESS

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

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1 February 2023

Dear Parents

Re: February Headmistress's Letter

Thank you for your attendance at Parents Expectations meetings and Coffee Mornings that were arranged last term and this term. It was lovely to chat with you about your children and their experiences of school life. Although this is a short term, we have lots of activities, trips and exams planned for different year groups. Please do read the information that we send so that you and your child are prepared for any different that happens in school.

Uniform Reminders

Children must bring shoes to change in to if they have travelled to school in boots or wellingtons. Trainers must be appropriate for sport and must not be canvas style shoes. These do not support your child's feet or ankles when they are exercising and can cause injury.

If your child has hair longer than chin length, this must be tied back securely. The hair accessories must be blue, black or white. Please check your child's hair before they arrive at school and secure any loose tendrils back with clips. We find if children's hair is neat and tidy, it is more conducive to learning as they are not touching it nor is it obscuring their vision.

The school coat must be worn by all Junior pupils. Year 6 will be allowed to wear a black or navy plain coat as I recognise that purchasing a school coat at this stage will not be value for money for when they enter the seniors. Senior coats must be plain navy or black and must not have embellishments, large labels, or any trims. I have also seen non-regulation hats, scarves and gloves in the colder weather. Please ensure that your child has these items which can be purchased from Forest Casuals.

Safe Driving Around School

I am meeting with some residents of Ardmere Lane this week to talk about solutions to parking around the site. They have reported parents parking on the pavement, parking on double yellow lines and blocking driveways again. There is ample space to park in the roads around the school so that you can walk your child to the gate in the morning and pick them up safely. Please be mindful that roads are residential and driveways must be kept clear at all times. Please do not park on the pavement as it poses a risk to our pupils coming to and from school.

Year 11 Mock Exams

If your child is in Year 11, they have their second phase of GCSE Mock exams after the February Half Term. I have sent a draft Mock Exam Timetable via email for students to start using for their revision. This will be the last formal exam they will sit before their public exams start in May. Pupils must take ownership of their revision, look back over previous examinations and their feedback to create a revision plan that is meaningful. Pupils must also be using previous past questions to test themselves.

FOBS

Following the FOBS meeting earlier this month, parents of the committee have organised a pizza and cookie dough kit to be delivered to school on Friday 10 February. An email communication has been sent to you with a link to pay

for the kits so they can be delivered to school. Your child will come home with these kits on Friday 10 February – please read the instructions about storage of the dough!

It is timely that we change the FOBS logo now that we have phased out the brown uniform. FOBS are running a competition to find the new logo for the committee. A team of judges will select the new brand image and there is an Amazon voucher to be won for the selected artist. FOBS have written to you with how your child can take part and we welcome any entries from any year group.

FOBS have kindly offered to buy the microphones for our forthcoming performance of 'Cinderella Rockerfella' in March. These microphones will also be used to support GCSE Drama performances and other performances throughout the year.

Assemblies

Whilst pupils have assembly twice a week, I appreciate that your child may not always relay the themes back at home. I will be including in my Head's letter a short summary of the themes covered in the half term assembly cycle. We started the term by talking about safeguarding and how to keep yourself safe in school and in the community. Pupils were reminded of the processes and people that support safety in school. This week, we have talked about mental wellbeing and the importance of seeking advice and support when you feel anxious or upset. Next week is Safer Internet Week and Mr Masood will be leading assemblies on good habits when using devices. The last week of term will be a special careers assembly for pupils in the Seniors to prepare children for their next steps with GCSE choices and beyond. Junior pupils are discussing the importance of feedback from teachers. The entire school has an Achievement Assembly where special awards, postcards and certificates are given out so please check your child's bag for these on a Friday.

Careers Week

We are planning on a careers week starting on 6 March. Mrs Aksoy and Mr Masood are organising some in-school events. If you would like to contribute your time by talking to some of our students or by completing a careers profile to show pupils what you do and how you got there, we would love to hear from you! Please do contact Mr Masood and Mrs Aksoy if you can spare some time to support pupils in the school. This event will be for the whole school.

Non School Uniform Day – Mental Wellbeing

We are supporting Place2Be in our forthcoming non-school uniform day on Thursday 9 February. This is a mental health charity that provides information and support to young people and their families. The theme will be 'Express Yourself'. We have decided to do this on the Humanities Day for Juniors as they have a 1980s theme for the day and can dress up in 80s themed clothes. The Seniors will also be taking part in this day. Please read the letter which was sent this week regarding the details and the donation suggestion.

Safer Internet Week and Apps

Since coming back from the Festive Break, we have been investigating and dealing with a small number of incidents that happened at home arising from the misuse of an application called Snapchat. The age for use of this application is 13 years. As I am sure you can appreciate, investigations of this sort take up a significant amount of our time that should be spent focussing on the learning and well-being of pupils. Investigations are challenging because applications such as Snapchat delete the texts or messages when they are sent. Please monitor your child's devices to prevent any misuse that impacts on their life in school.

Essex Police have contacted local schools with a link to their campaign called 'Sort Your Settings'. Please click on the link for parental advice from Essex Police to help keep your child safe online and to support you in monitoring

their use of phones and other devices: <https://www.essex.police.uk/police-forces/essex-police/areas/essex-police/au/about-us/sort-your-settings/>

Dates for the Diary

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

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| Wed 1 Feb | U11 & U13 ISA Netball @ Redbridge |
| Fri 3 Feb | Year 7 – Year 10 Consent Workshop |
| Mon 6 Feb – Fri 10 Feb | Year 7 – Year 10 Assessment Week |
| Tue 7 Feb | Oak-Tree Rugby @ Eton Manor |
| Fri 10 Feb | Junior Peripatetic Concert |
| Monday 13 February to Friday 17 February - Half Term | |
| Mon 20 Feb | Return to School |
| Wed 22 Feb | Year 9 Trip to Stubbers |
| Thur 23 Feb | U11 Tag Rugby @ Eton Manor |
| Mon 27 Feb | Year 4 – Year 6 Oak Tree Swimming Gala |
| Tue 28 Feb | Year 6 ISA Cross Country |
| Mon 6 Mar | Year 1 & 2 Athletics at King Harold |
| Tue 7 Mar | Year 5 & 6 Football a Coopersale Hall School |
| Thur 9 Mar | U9 & U11 Cross Country at Coopersale Hall School |
| Mon 13 Mar | Year 4, 5 & 6 Cross Country at Ashton Playing Fields |
| Tues 14 Mar | Science Trip to Bancroft's |
| Tues 14 Mar | Year 9 Parents & Options Evening |
| Thur 16 Mar | Junior LAMDA Examinations |
| | Dip, Tetanus and Polio Vaccinations |
| Fri 17 Mar | Year 7 & 8 Resilience Workshop |
| Mon 20 Mar | Oak-Tree Spelling Bee |
| Wed 22 Mar | Senior LAMDA Examination |
| Thur 23 Mar | Senior LAMDA Examination |
| Thur 23 Mar | U10 & U11 Oak-Tree Football at Shooters |
| Fri 24 Mar - Thur 30 Mar | Oak-Tree Ski Trip |
| Tue 28 Mar | Junior Parents Evening |
| Tue 28 Mar | Year 11 Mock Feedback Parents Evening |

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

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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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