



Braeside School

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HEADMISTRESS

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1 March 2023

Dear Parents

Re: Headmistress's Letter

Braeside pupils from Year 1 to 6 are working on the final preparations for the much awaited performance of Cinderella Rockerfella. The children have been working incredibly hard, showing determination and courage in doing something different to challenge themselves. I am very grateful to the staff involved in making it happen, and to the Senior Music and Drama Ambassadors for their input.

There have been several workshops and trips across the school this half term. Our pupils enjoyed the experiences, and as usual the staff at the venues commented on the friendliness and enthusiasm of our students, which is lovely to hear.

Uniform

Please be aware that PE kit must reflect the uniform list available to you via the school website. Pupils must wear regulation PE uniform so that we are able to identify them when at fixtures and events. On some occasions, we may ask pupils to attend an event or trip on a day that they don't usually have PE, so please make sure that you have enough uniform to cover this eventuality.

Cinderella Rockerfella Years 1-6

I am very much looking forward to seeing parents at this exciting performance at Lopping Hall on Friday 3 March. There have been several previous communications about costumes and tickets. Please do contact the office if you have any questions about the evening performance or the rehearsal day. Please do this before Friday, as the staff and pupils will be busy during the day preparing and will be off-site for a majority of it. Please do let us know as soon as possible if you are unable to attend the event.

GCSE Mock Exams

Pupils in Year 11 have sat their final exam practice before their public exams begin in May. They are to be congratulated on their hard work with revision and being organised. They have shown maturity, independence and resilience. Parents of pupils in other year groups, please speak to your child about the forthcoming GCSE exams so that they understand they must be quiet and respectful around the site when these exams are happening.

If your child is in Year 11, they will be getting mock results and feedback in the next few weeks and should be working on their feedback independently. This important feedback will be shared with parents at Parents Evening on Tuesday 28 March. Please make sure you are available to attend.

FOBS

Thank you to those families who supported FOBS last event from Doughies (pizza and cookie kits). Year 8 were most helpful in labelling these kits for distribution. The feedback from families was very positive and we would be happy to support this event again in the future.

Very well done to Arisha in Year 6 who won the FOBS logo competition. The marketing will reflect this new design in the future. Arisha won a £30 Amazon voucher for her effective design. Prizes were also awarded to the runners up. All of the designs were excellent and it made judging the competition a challenge!

You will see the new microphones that have been donated by FOBS at the Cinderella Rockerfella performance. We hope this will enhance the pupils experience on the evening and in future performances across the school. We are very grateful to have the support of FOBS in this project.

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 a short summary of the themes that have been included in this half term assembly cycle. This half term assembly themes are: World Book Day and the importance of fostering a love of reading for pleasure. We will be celebrating LGBTQ+ month with some special assemblies about equality and different types of families. We have had an assembly on the OMO Award (details below) which is to support pupils' independence and resilience. We will also be exploring attendance and the importance of attending school every day and being on time to school. Please do ask your child about these assembly themes at home.

Careers Week

We are planning on a careers week starting on 6 March. Mr Aksoy and Mr Masood are planning 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 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.

Use of Apps

We are still getting reports of pupils using applications that are inappropriate for their age. We have been alerted to an app called 'Discord' that serves as a chatroom. It can be accessed as an application by itself and can be found through Twitter and Roblox. We have alerted the year groups that have been using it so that parents are aware and can monitor.

Last year, pupils, staff and parents were invited to an E-Safety workshop by E-Safety trainers The 2 Johns. They mentioned Discord as being a popular app with young people that should be monitored by parents. I have included a link to their website: <https://esafetytraining.org/resources/parents-carers-area/>. You can also follow their Facebook page for regular updates.

Please continue to use controls to allow your child to use devices safely. A large proportion of our time gets spent dealing with issues that happen on social media outside of school. This can be avoided if the appropriate monitoring happens at home.

Independence (OMO Awards)

As part of our ongoing evaluation of school processes and practices, we have been working on supporting students to show a greater level of independence in learning and in their attitude towards learning. We have introduced an award system called OMO Award – On My Own Awards. These are awards given to pupils who demonstrate independence in and out of the classroom. Pupils are given a physical award on the back of which they can write the reward they would like to receive from a choice which is posted into the OMO box. There will be a half termly prize draw. Please do ask your child about these and visit the OMO Award display in the Hall next time you are in school.

Absence from school

Please be aware that any planned absence for medical appointments must be applied for via the office with a Request for Absence Form. These are available under the parent tab on the school website. You can also ask the office for a form to be sent to you if you are having difficulty accessing these. It is imperative that your child catches up on any missed work owing to absence. We are happy to support you in doing this as long as we have advance notice of the appointment. Often staff are in their classroom teaching and are unable to get work to your child on the same day if we have had short notice.

Forthcoming events

Pupils in the Juniors are very excited for the forthcoming World Book Day on Thursday 2 March. Please read the communication about the theme this year (Charlie and The Chocolate Factory for Year 1-6 and The Hungry Caterpillar for Early Years). We would never expect pupils to come in dressed up nor would we expect them to follow the theme if they have something else that they would prefer to wear. This is simply a suggestion to support the theme for the day. Please keep checking our social media accounts and the website for photos of the activities.

The much awaited performance of Cinderella Rockerfella is on Friday 3 March. As pupils from Year 1 to 6 will be travelling to Lopping Hall Theatre during the day, please make sure your child has a water bottle that we can refill – acting and singing are thirsty work!

Please make sure you take note of the date of Year 9 Options Evening on Tuesday 14 March and also Junior Parents Evening (including EYFS) and Year 11 Parents Evening on Tuesday 28 March.

Travelling to and from school

Thank you to those parents who have chosen to park in the surrounding roads around school to ease congestion around the site. I have met with the residents of Ardmore Lane who have aired their frustration with parents parking over their driveways, parking on the pavement and on yellow lines. Please do not do this as yellow lines are to protect our pupils walking to and from school. Please do not park on the pavement as it causes a health and safety issue for those pupils exiting and entering the school site.

Open Day and 13+ Examination

It is our Spring Open Day on Wednesday 8 March in the morning. Year 6 and 7 pupils plus the Year 11 House Captains, Head Girl and Wellbeing Ambassador will be helping to show prospective parents and pupils around the school. We have chosen a selection of pupils and they have been told about this privileged and responsible job. Please make sure that your child is in non-PE uniform for this day and it is clean and smart. We also have our 13+ Examination on the same day.

Dates for the Diary

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

Thur 2 Mar	World Book Day
Fri 3 Mar	Year 4 – Year 7 Cinderella Rockafella @ Lopping Hall
Mon 6 Mar	Careers Week
Tue 7 Mar	Year 5 & Year 6 Football @ Coopersale Hall
Wed 8 Mar	13+ Entrance Examination
Thurs 9 Mar	U9 & U11 Cross Country @ Coopersale Hall
Fri 10 Mar	Careers Day – Speakers
	Year 1 & Year 2 Athletics @ King Harold
Sat 11 Mar & Sun 12 Mar	D of E Practice Weekend
Mon 13 Mar	Science Week

Tue 14 Mar	Year 9 Parents & Options Evening Science Trip to Bancroft School
Thur 16 Mar	LAMDA Examinations
Fri 17 Mar	Dip. Tetnus & Polio Jabs Years 4, 5 & 6 Cross Country @ Ashton Playing Fields
Mon 20 Mar	Oaktree Spelling Bee
Tue 21 Mar	Year 7 & Year 8 Dance Session
Wed 22 Mar	LAMDA Examinations
Thu 23 Mar	LAMDA Examinations U10 & U11 Football @ Shooters
Fri 24 Mar	Junior Green Day
Mon 27 Mar	Year 7 & Year 8 Resilience Workshop
Tue 28 Mar	Junior & Year 11 Parents Evening
Wed 29 Mar	Year 8 Performance: Great Day Out
Thur 30 Mar	Peri Music Concert End of Spring Term – 12pm

AS always, if you have any questions or matters you would like to discuss, please do not hesitate to get in touch with myself or Miss Wood.

With kind regards

Yours sincerely



Chloe Moon
Headmistress



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