



Braeside School

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HEADMISTRESS

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24 April 2023

Dear Parents

Re: Headmistress's Letter

It has been a busy half term again with events, trips, exams and the long-awaited ISI full school inspection, which we had been well prepared for. Thank you to those of you that completed the school survey promptly for the inspectorate. Pupils were open and honest in their interviews with the inspection team and I would like to thank all pupils that took part in handing work in, and being observed in lessons and in meetings. We were very pleased with the feedback from inspectors during the week and we will be sharing the report with you as soon as we receive it.

Uniform

Hopefully, the weather will be warmer when we return to school. Early Years and Juniors (excluding Year 6) will be wearing the **summer uniform from 25 April**. Senior pupils have the option of whether to wear their school jumper or not. A school blazer is compulsory for every pupil (except for PE kit days). Senior pupils must continue to wear black tights with a skirt until I communicate to parents and pupils that socks are allowed to be worn. Junior pupils must not wear tights after Easter. Instead, plain white socks must be worn if wearing a skirt or dress. White tights have not been part of the school uniform for many years.

GCSE exams

Pupils in Year 11 will sit their first exam in May 2023. They have been preparing well and working on the feedback their teachers have given them after mock exams. Please speak to your child about the importance of keeping quiet around the site during break and lunchtime. All pupils in the school will be taking important exams during their school career and we expect pupils in the school to show understanding and respect for each other during these exam periods.

FOBS

FOBS are planning to have the school disco on Wednesday 28 June. This disco had been planned (and tickets purchased) for 9 December. Sadly, the snow prevented the DJ from attending so we had our own mini disco in school and pupils were able to buy the sweets and have the drinks on that day. Pupils who purchased a ticket for the December event will automatically have entry to the disco in June. Any pupils who did not purchase a ticket in December will be able to after May half term. If you are a FOBS member or parent, we need your help at these events as so far, the staff organise and supervise them on behalf of the parents.

When the weather brightens up and we have more reliable periods of sunshine, FOBS will be advertising the pre-loved uniform stall. Please look out for further updates on this.

Assemblies

As aforementioned, I will be relaying the assembly themes to you for this term in each headteacher's letter. This half term we will be discussing the expectations of pupil behaviour around the site when public exams are being held. We will be exploring the significance of the King's Coronation and what impact this will have on society. In the lead-up to half term, we will be talking about the End of Year Exams and how to be as prepared as possible for revision and assessment. We always start the term by reiterating the school values and how we can show them on a daily basis.

Use of Apps

We are continuing to receive reports of pupils using applications that are inappropriate for their age. Year 7 and 8 no longer have their phones in their locker during the day. They hand them in to the office at the start of the day. Next academic year, arrangements will be in place for Years 7, 8, and 9 to hand in their phone and no pupils in these year groups will have access to their phones during the school day. If there is a need to contact home, pupils will be able to do this via the school office.

Pupils and parents have reported instances of 'catfishing' on apps they have been using at home. This means that pupils have been impersonating someone in order to communicate with another person. This can obviously be dangerous if communicating with someone they do not know in person.

As you can appreciate, it is increasingly frustrating to have to spend our time investigating issues around application use that happens at home. This takes away our time from supporting pupils with their learning. This can be avoided if the appropriate monitoring happens at home. Please continue to use controls to allow your child to use devices safely. If you need support in applying these controls, please visit: <https://www.internetmatters.org/digital-family-toolkit/>

Independence and the OMO Awards

We are continuing to encourage children to demonstrate resilience for life and independence in their learning by issuing OMO awards. This half term's winner was Freya in Year 10 who opted for a non-school uniform day for her form. Alba in Year 6 and Harriet in Reception also selected a prize for demonstrating independence. Resilience can be shown by using our personal toolkit of strategies to deal with situations or scenarios that life gives us. We want to celebrate pupils who show these important qualities and skills for life by acknowledging the steps they have taken to be resilient and independent during the school day.

Assessments of pupil progress

As we are now in the Summer Term, it is important that we assess where pupils are at the end of an academic year. Pupils have gained the skills and knowledge over the year and teachers need to know where they are on that journey and where they should be heading next year. All pupils will, therefore, have some form of assessment before the end of the summer term.

Senior assessment week (including Year 10 Exams) will take place between 5-9 June. Teachers will be uploading a revision list the week before half term. Pupils will be issued an exam timetable and this will be available on Show My Homework. Pupils will be expected to plan their revision and work on past questions. They must also identify feedback from previous assessments to direct the best use of revision time.

You can support your child at home by displaying the exam timetable and creating a quiet and tidy space for your child to work that is free of distractions from the screen, television or mobile phone. Pupils must have a plan before they start revising that should be formed from previous feedback in assessments. Pupils must consider the GCSE levels that they were given at the start of the year. Those pupils in Year 8 to 10 will have ideas on the best way to revise for the top grades – retrieval practice. They can use the resources from the workshop to support them in doing this.

Junior assessment week will be 12-16 June. This will also include Early Years. Individual class teachers will communicate to pupils what this will look like since these assessments are age appropriate and completed in a variety of ways.

Oak-Tree Music Festival

The Oak-Tree Music Festival will be taking place on Tuesday 16 May from 6pm at the City Pavilion in Collier Row. This is an exciting return to the school calendar, where all pupils from Years 3 to 8 will be performing together alongside items from the other schools within the Group and an Oak-Tree medley. A letter will be coming out shortly with a link to book your tickets.

Forthcoming events

Senior pupils who play an instrument or who have singing lessons will be showcasing their musical work and talent to parents at the Senior Peri Concert on Wednesday 26 April. Pupils have prepared for exams and for this event and will be demonstrating their progress in music.

If your child is taking a language GCSE in Russian, Spanish or French this year, they will have their GCSE Speaking Exam after Easter. Please support them in getting enough sleep and keeping calm and focussed before the exam.

Year 9 and 10 have a workshop with the renowned international artist Sarah Graham after Easter. You can visit her work (everyday objects and food) at this website: <https://sarahgraham.info/>

Year 9 will then be going on a trip to the Imperial War Museum in Duxford where will be having a workshop about life and experiences in war by veterans from the RAF. Pupils should prepare for this visit by bringing appropriate and thoughtful questions to the trip to ask the veterans.

Pupils sitting their GCSE Art exam will be preparing for the final piece over the Easter holidays. This exam is 10 hours long over 2 days and will include Year 11 and Year 10 GCSE Art pupils.

Seniors on trips

Pupils cannot use mobile phones on school trips or visits unless directed by the staff. It is useful to have a mobile phone at a fixture or visit if the pick-up time changes and the office has closed for the day. Please ensure that your child has enough data and charge to be able to make contact with you should there be an alteration to the time. Senior pupils are also responsible for carrying their medication on that trip. It is a parents responsibility to ensure the medication is on them before they leave for school and that it is in date and usable.

Courteous parking and driving

I have had reports from local residents and other parents that a parent from our school community has been driving at speed up and down Ardmore Lane. Please be courteous to members of the public and think about your speed when driving in a residential street with pupils coming out of school. Please also think about the speed in which you enter the school site as Early Years pupils enter here and may not be as visible. Please also note that staff should have access to their parking area in the morning. When you are dropping off your child for breakfast club, please pull as far forward as you can to allow staff to park and start their working day promptly.

Staffing

We welcome back Mrs Doss from maternity leave. Mrs Doss will be resuming her Head of Early Years role which I have been caretaking. We thought it best for consistency for the children that Miss Ali remains the Reception teacher for the remainder of the year. Therefore, Mrs Doss will be the class teacher for Year 6 from May when Mrs Gadd goes on maternity leave. Pupils in Year 6 will be familiar with Mrs Doss as she taught them earlier on in their Braeside career. Since returning from maternity leave, Mrs Doss has been supporting in the Year 6 classroom for a smooth handover. We wish Mrs Gadd all the best as she commences her maternity leave. Mr Russell has been 'on

loan' to Normanhurst this term and Miss Jemal (who has taught at Braeside before) has been filling in his role on a Monday and Friday. Miss Jemal will also be filling in when Miss Barrett has sports fixtures.

Dates for the Diary

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

Tue 25 Apr	First day of the Summer Term
Wed 26 Apr	Senior Peri Concert
Thurs 27 Apr	GCSE French & Spanish Speaking Exams
Fri 28 Apr	Year 9 & Year 10 Art Workshop
Mon 1 May	Bank Holiday
Wed 3 May	Year 9 Trip to Imperial War Museum Duxford
Thur 4 May	GCSE Art
Fri 5 May	GCSE Art
Tues 9 May	Years 5 & 6 Lambourne End Meeting
Wed 10 May	Year 10 English Speaking & Listening Exam
Wed 10 May	Years 8 & 10 Young Architects Workshop
Fri 12 May	Year 10 English Speaking & Listening Exam
Mon 15 May	Year 4 Football Vs Chigwell School
Tue 16 May	Oak-Tree Music Festival
	Year 7 – Year 10 ISA Tennis
Wed 17 May	Years 8 & 9 HPV1/2 Vaccinations
	U12/U13 Football Vs Chigwell
Fri 19 May	Juniors – Green Day
Mon 22 May	Year 4 – Year 10 ISA Athletics @ Bedford Athletics Stadium
Tue 23 May	Year 9 & 10 Football @ Chigwell
Wed 24 May	Humanities Day – Australia
Fri 26 May	Year 1-Year 4 Recorder & Ukulele Assembly
	Years 4, 5 & 6 Oak Tree-Tennis @ Chingford Tennis Club
	Half Term Break

I wish you and your families the best for the Summer 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

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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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