



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

5 June 2023

Dear Parents

Re: Headmistress's Letter

As you are already aware, GCSE exams have started for Year 11 this term. We sadly waved them goodbye when their exams started at the beginning of May. I am very grateful to all the pupils for observing silence to support Year 11 in their exams. All pupils have their End of Year Exams and end of Key Stage assessments after half term.

We will also be preparing for Speech Day and Prize Giving at the end of the term. Your child may be involved in the rehearsals for this and may be asked to bring their instrument to school on days other than their lessons.

Uniform

Early Years and Juniors (excluding Year 6) should all be **wearing the summer uniform from 5 June**. Senior pupils have the option 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. We do not have any element of brown uniform any more – including socks.

Please refresh any items of uniform prior to September as the uniform shop (Forest Casuals) can be incredibly busy towards the end of the Summer Holiday. FOBS will be holding a pre-loved uniform sale in June for parents to purchase pre-worn, good quality uniform items. If you have any items to donate, please do so by 10 June. No brown items please!

Please note that hair must be neatly tied back if it is longer than chin length. Please supply your child with clips to hold back tendrils that may fall in their eyes and obstruct their vision. Hair accessories should be discreet and in the colours of black, blue or navy.

Sun protection

We hope we will come back to a sunny end to the term. Please make sure that your child is wearing sunscreen on arrival to school as we cannot apply this for them. We have adequate shade on the site to ensure that play time is comfortable, cool and provides protection.

End of Year Exams and assessments

Pupils in Year 10 will have their End of Year exams starting on 5 June. These are important as they form the basis of their Sixth Form applications for 2023/24. Sixth Forms have been requesting actual grades awarded in exam series held in the school rather than predicted grades. Many of our pupils will be applying for Sixth Form centres in September and October 2023. Please encourage your daughter to plan revision carefully and use retrieval practice as the most effective tool for revision.

Pupils in Key Stage 3 and Juniors will also have End of Year Exams. We have sent letters to you indicating how pupils can prepare for these exams and how you can support your child at home. Class teachers and Form Tutors have

spent time talking about revision and keeping well during the exam period. Year 8, 9 and 10 also had an additional workshop to support with the most effective methods to use for revision.

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 to each other.

FOBS Disco 28 June

FOBS are planning to have the school disco on 28 June. This disco was planned (and tickets were 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 already purchased a ticket will automatically have entry to the disco in June. Any pupils who did not purchase a ticket and would like to attend this disco should bring £12 to school in a named envelope by **Friday 10 June. *Please note, there will not be after school club provision on 28 June owing to the disco.***

If you are a FOBS member or parent, we are always looking for help at these events as so far, the staff organise and supervise all of these events 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 this half term

The assemblies that have been planned for this half term are as follows: Social media and how it can be negative and positive for school communities (lead by Amina in Year 9), the importance of feedback and how it can inform your work in the future, setting goals for next year and of course, Speech Day rehearsals and preparations. Notices are always given out in assembly and assemblies are the ideal opportunity to explain any relevant details about trips and events such as Sports Day.

Mobile phones next year

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, Year 7, 8 and 9 will have to hand their phone in during the day.

Please monitor your child's use of devices and applications on a regular basis. Please be mindful of the applications they are using and what impact it may have on their self-esteem and perspectives on life. Many applications have age restrictions for a reason. We have to deal with incidents of application misuse in school because a member of our school community has been allowed on an application that is not appropriate for their age. As you can appreciate, it is difficult to investigate when this happens outside of school. This also takes away the time we have for supporting pupils when we are spending it investigating something that 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 (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 winners were **Yumnah in Year 7 and Zariah in Year 1** who both demonstrated independence and ownership of their own work. All pupils have an opportunity to gain this award in their everyday demonstrations of independence in work and attitude to learning.

Forthcoming events

Senior Exam Week will be 5-10 June. Year 10 will have their exams in the Maths room for the week and all other year groups will have theirs in their usual classroom.

Year 1 will be heading to Southend on Sea on **Tuesday 6 June** as part of their summer topic. Year 8 will be visiting the British Film Institute for a modern languages film on **Wednesday 21 June**. Letters have been sent directly to you about these trips if your child is invited.

There will be a Year 6-10 Swimming Gala on **Monday 12 June**. This will be a House Competition that Year 10 have organised with their house teams. More information will follow if your child is involved with this event. If your child is involved, please ensure they have appropriate uniform swimwear and hat.

Year 5 and 6 are at Lambourne End for their end of year residential trips on **Wednesday 21-Friday 23 June**. This year, they will be staying overnight for 2 nights. Thank you to those parents for attending the planning meeting and for asking questions in advance of the trip. It is always helpful if you can contact us before the event so that we can plan effectively.

Pupils who are currently working towards the Duke of Edinburgh Award will be on their final expedition in **June (Saturday 24- Sunday 25 June)**. They have been working very hard towards all aspects of this award and taking ownership of the logging of the evidence. We are hoping for warm and sunny weather for them as they camp!

Moving Up Day will be on **Wednesday 28 June**. This is a chance for existing pupils and new pupils to meet the staff that they will be working with next year. Parents will also get an opportunity to meet staff in the morning of this day. More information will follow along with information from FOBS about the disco that is in the afternoon of this day.

Miss Barrett has organised a trip for Year 1 – Year 10 to Legoland on **Friday 30 June**. A letter has already been sent about this trip. It is important that you read the details about drop off, collection and the equipment your child needs for the day.

Speech Day will take place in the marquee on site in the afternoon of **Friday 7 July** and we ask that all pupils attend including current Year 11 pupils. Parents must also attend. The Early Years Celebration is during the day. Both events will be communicated to you nearer the time. The same applies for Sports Day at Lee Valley Athletics Centre on **Monday 10 July**. There are specific details about pick-up on this day and you must read this information carefully when it is sent to you. If your daughter is in Year 11 and would like to support our younger pupils on this day, please let us know as we would love them to be involved in the day.

Cricketfest was organised by our current Year 11 pupils and has remained on the school calendar ever since 2020. Pupils across the school play cricket in houses over the course of the day and we have a picnic lunch and ice lollies as part of the event. It will be on **Tuesday 11 July** and pupils must wear PE kit on this day. Again, if Year 11 pupils would like to support in this event, please do let us know.

Seniors on trips and events

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.

Please also make sure that if your child is at a fixture, you familiarise yourself with the collection times and location as it can be outside of office hours. Please make a note of the time and place when you receive the invite for the event.

Reports next year

Senior Leaders across the Oak Tree Group of Schools have met to discuss some improvements in end of year and mid-term reports. These will look different next year and I am sure you will agree, are simpler to read and understand than our previous systems. We have worked with a number of other schools in finding what works best for the pupils and parents at Braeside School. As reporting season opens next year, I will explain what the changes are and how this benefits your child.

Staffing

We are sad to announce that Mrs Willemse will be leaving Braeside after 5 years. Mrs Willemse has been working in the Oak-Tree Group for many years and is now relocating to the other side of London to take a position in another school that her children will be attending. We are so very grateful for Mrs Willemse's hard work, support and kindness over the years and she will be very much missed. We wish her the very best of luck in her relocation.

Mrs Braithwaite will be retiring from French teaching at Braeside after many years. However, she will still remain involved with LAMDA and will be offering these lessons, which are incredibly successful, next academic year alongside Mrs Reales, who currently teaches singing.

Next year, the Kindergarten staff will remain the same: Miss Tucker, Mrs Patel and Mrs Fiori. The Reception class teacher, and Head of Early Years, will be Mrs Doss. Mrs Doss began this year in Reception before handing over to Miss Ali when she was on Maternity Leave.

The Year 1 teacher will be Mrs Thompson, as currently. Year 2 will be taught by Mrs Barr and Year 3 will be taught by Miss Ali. The Year 6 teacher for next year will be Mrs Hearn. Year 5 will have Mrs Adams. Mrs Adams has worked at local schools and has previously worked with both Mrs Rodway and me. She will be teaching Year 5 whilst Mrs Gadd is still on Maternity Leave, and will be teaching French throughout the school as well as some GCSE Spanish. Mrs Adams is experienced in both junior and secondary school settings and we are looking forward to her joining Braeside in September.

The senior form tutors will be:

Year 7 – Miss Barret and Miss Jemal

Year 8 – Mrs Rodway and Mr Reich-Storer

Year 9 – Mrs Alahi and Mrs Wroblewski

Year 10 – Miss Coleman and Mrs Flagg

Year 11 – Mr Bibby and Mr Masood

Roles and responsibilities Year 10 and 11

We have a process for selecting positions of responsibility across the school. We aim to select school wide positions such as Head Girl and Head of Houses at the end of the academic year. We award these prestigious positions at Speech Day. I have circulated the job descriptions to all Year 9 and 10 pupils. Pupils should apply for their selected role(s) by **9am on Monday 12 June** in writing to me. They must look at the job description carefully and attempt to

highlight in their application where they feel they meet the criteria. Interviews will be held on **Wednesday 14 June** at school with Miss Wood and me.

Wellbeing and exams

Our assembly theme before half term focussed on well-being around exam season. Pupils were advised to get enough sleep, drink plenty of fluids such as water and juice, avoid sugary foods and drink and to take regular breaks and exercise. It is important to schedule revision and breaks in – humans are not machines. Children should have equal amounts of rest and work. A personal revision schedule will support this. If you need further advice and support, please visit: <https://www.youngminds.org.uk/young-person/coping-with-life/exam-stress>.

Dates for the Diary

Mon 5 Jun	Return from half term break Year 7 – Year 10 Exam Week Year 5 Bikeability
Tues 6 Jun	Year 5 Bikeability Year 1 Visit to Southend
Wed 7 Jun	Kindergarten Trip to Loughton Library
Fri 9 Jun	U13 & U15 ISA Tennis @ Welwyn Tennis Club
Mon 12 Jun	Exam Week Year 6 – Year 9 Swimming Gala
Wed 14 Jun	U7 ISA Multiskills Festival
Fri 16 Jun	Year 5 & Year 6 Football Match Vs Chigwell School
Tue 20 Jun	Year 5 and Year 6 Oak-Tree Quadkids Athletics @ Ashton Playing Fields
Wed 21 Jun	Year 8 French Study Day
Wed 21 Jun – Fri 23 Jun	Year 5 and Year 6 Residential Trip to Lambourne End
Fri 23 Jun	Year 8 Drama Performance
Sat 24 Jun – Sun 25 Jun	Duke of Edinburgh Weekend
Mon 26 Jun	Careers Week
Wed 28 Jun	Moving Up Day and Disco
Thu 29 Jun	Year 5 and Year 6 Oak-Tree Athletics
Fri 30 Jun	Year 1 – Year 10 Trip to Legoland
Fri 7 Jul	Speech Day
Mon 10 Jul	Sports Day
Tue 11 Jul	CricketFest
	Vaccination catch up session
Wed 12 Jul	End of Summer Term Break up at 12pm

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact 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.

Braeside School is the trading name of Braeside School Ltd; registered in England at 6 Albion Hill, Loughton, Essex IG10 4RA; company number 0783067

