



# Braeside School

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## HEADMISTRESS

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

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1 February 2024

Dear Parents

### Re: February 2024 Headmistress's Letter

It has been another busy start to the term with trips for many year groups and lots of sporting fixtures across the school. We have a busy second half of the Spring Term too with Careers Week, field trips and GCSE Mock exams coming up straight after the half term.

#### Staff reminders

We will be saying farewell to our English teacher and Year 11 Form Tutor, Mr Bibby, who leaves us to embark on a teaching career in a Sixth Form. We wish him the best of luck teaching A Level.

I am delighted that our new English teacher will be Ms Holly Cordery. Ms Cordery has been teaching at Davenant Foundation School and has also taught at Epping St John's; she joins us after half-term. She is looking forward to teaching at Braeside and getting to know pupils and parents in the coming terms.

#### Assessments

Year 11 will be prepared to sit their last set of GCSE Mock exams straight after the February Half Term. Revision lists have been uploaded to Show My Homework to help Year 11 structure their revision effectively. It is important that Year 11 have quiet around the site during these exams. Please do speak to your child about the importance of supporting Year 11 by reading the signs around school and remaining quiet in the transition to lessons. Year 11 will have their Mock Feedback Parents Evening in March.

#### GCSE Options

Year 9 will be preparing to choose their GCSE options subjects this month. An options video will be available for parents and pupils to watch at home. The video will give you an idea of what to expect from the GCSE course and how the GCSE will be assessed. We have asked pupils for a 'straw poll' in Year 9 to gauge what subjects are popular. However, pupils' final decisions will be made after Options Parents Evening. If you have any questions about option choices, please contact Mr Masood.

#### Uniform

Coats must be the regulation design available from the uniform supplier for junior pupils and must be plain black or navy for senior pupils. Coats must be long enough to cover the body and **MUST** be waterproof. The uniform list can be found in the Parents Handbook and also on the website.

You will also notice that the Parents' Handbook has been updated to include a ban on nail and eyelash extensions. Unfortunately, we had pupils arrive at school with these after a family event. Please ensure that your child has these removed before returning to school, as they are not appropriate.

Shoes must be suitable for school and must not be boot or 'Kickers' style and cannot be canvas. You would have already read in the Parents' Handbook **that pupils from Year 5 to Year 11 are permitted to wear one plain stud in the lobe**. Please check your child's ears before the set off for school to ensure that they are wearing a plain stud in the lobe.

### Junior learning and homework

Pupils in Year 3 to 6 will be using Atom Learning to support homework and classwork in line with other Oak Tree Schools. You would have received your log in information from Atom Learning who provide the technical support. If you forget your password, please use the Atom Learning prompts on the letter to retrieve it. The company will be inviting parents to a workshop after February Half Term on 21 February) to explain how this programme can support and extend your child's learning experience. Please do save any questions for the Atom Learning representative for the workshop.

Over the past few Coffee Mornings, I have harvested your thoughts on Seesaw. From September 2024, to align with the other Oak Tree Schools, we will be setting homework on Seesaw (as usual) but we will not be sending paper copies of the homework home with your child (work dependent). If you have any comments or further suggestions other than those offered at Coffee Morning, please do get in touch with Miss Wood.

### Dropping off and collecting your child – residents

I have had to speak with the residents of Ardmore Lane again about parents parking at the beginning and the end of the day. They have identified a number of vehicles that they believe belong to Braeside School parents. The residents have shared the images with me. If they continue to complain, I will be discussing parking with the individuals they have identified. Please do not stop on yellow lines, mount the kerb when parking or use driveways to turn around. Please use the surrounding roads if you drop your children / child off and walk to the gate.

### Parent Portals and reports

Please check your child's report when they are uploaded to your portal. If you need any assistance to access the portal, email [support@oaktreeschools.co.uk](mailto:support@oaktreeschools.co.uk) and our team will be happy to help. Your Parent Portal contains much information, including the Parent's Handbook, timetable and curriculum overviews. Please check your portal regularly as this is an important form of our parent/school communication. You should receive an email when new information has been uploaded.

### Long term medication and medical information

If your child requires the school to store and, when needed, administer long term medication, please download and complete the appropriate forms. These forms and the labelled medication should be given to the office staff on the first day of term. It is imperative that we have the most up to date medical information to support your child at school. Please ensure that you have informed us of any changes to your child's medical conditions or allergies. Please keep checking your child's medication to check whether it is in date and still in use.

### Parents' Evening and Options Evening

Parents' Evening and meeting dates are published on the school website for all years. Please make a note of these. We cannot hold another Parents Evening if you are unable to attend as these have been scheduled throughout the year. Pupils in Year 10 and 11 who are studying GCSEs have 2 Parents Evening to discuss progress after exams. Do check on the school calendar when your parents evenings take place.

### PSHE Curriculum

It is statutory to deliver the PSHE curriculum in all schools. We use a comprehensive and interactive scheme to support the teaching of the PSHE curriculum. You will be able to access the topics on your Parent Portal. It is beneficial for pupils to have a variety of ways in which we deliver PSHE so we quite often use trips and visits as a way of making the curriculum as relevant as possible. We have secured The Upfront Theatre Workshop to deliver some important themes to our Key Stage 3 and 4 pupils.

### Trips and visits

I am delighted that we continue to take our pupils on trips and visits to enhance their learning experience. You are involved for any trips or events that incur a cost in advance. **Year 2 and 3 will be visiting The William Morris gallery in Walthamstow on 7 February** to look at the history of William Morris and how he changed art and textiles. Year 2 will also be visiting the London Transport Museum on 19 February. **Year 10 will be visiting a mosque in South**

**Woodford on 22 February** to support their GCSE Religious Studies course. **Year 6 have a very interesting visit to the Houses of Parliament on 23 February** to look the building and the work that goes on there in politics. On **Wednesday 28 February, Years 2-5 will be going to London to explore the Natural History Museum.** Year 7 will be learning about the water cycle and ways to make water use sustainable in Britain. They will be going on a trip in March to the SES Water Zone in Kent to find out how our water supply is cleaned and how it has changed over time. **On 7 March, we will be celebrating World Book Day.** This year, Senior pupils will also be taking part at their request. We will communicate to you about the details of the day nearer the time.

### Careers Week

Following our successful careers event last year, we will be holding this again in March. It was mainly a success owing to the number of parents and relatives that came in to offer their career advice to our pupils across the school. We are delighted that one of our past students will be visiting the school to talk about her work in criminal psychology to our pupils. Mrs Aksoy will be inviting parents and relatives to share their experiences of the work place. Please do get in touch if you would be able to offer something in this event.

### Dates for the Diary

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

Thur 01 Feb	Year 7 – 11 Upfront Theatre Workshop
Mon 5 Feb	Year 7 – Year 10 Assessment Week
Tues 6 Feb	U11 Tag Rugby Festival @ Eton Manor
Weds 7 Feb	Year 2 & Year 3 Trip to The William Morris Gallery
Mon 12 Feb – Fri 16 Feb	Half Term
Mon 19 Feb	Year 2 Trip to The London Transport Museum
Mon 19 Feb	Year 11 Mocks all week
Thurs 22 Feb	Year 10 Trip to The Mosque
Fri 23 Feb	Year 6 Trip to The Houses of Parliament
Mon 26 Feb	Years 4 – Year 6 Swimming Gala
Wed 28 Feb	Year 2-5 Trip to Natural History Museum
Thurs 29 Feb	Year 9 Immunisation
Fri 1 Mar	Open Day
	U11 5 a side football @ Woodford Green Prep
Tue 5 Mar	Year 7 Trip to SES Water
Wed 6 Mar	Oak Tree Group Spelling Bee @ Coopersale Hall
Thurs 7 Mar	World Book Day
Fri 8 Mar	Year 5 & Year 6 Netball Vs Chigwell
	Year 1 & Year 2 West Essex Athletics
Sat 9 Mar	Bronze D of E Practice Weekend

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



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