



# Braeside School

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## HEADMISTRESS

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

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1 October 2024

Dear Parents

### Re: **October 2024 Headmistress's Letter**

It is hard to believe we are already in October! We have had several parent meetings this month for trips, regarding GCSEs, Sixth Form applications, the curriculum and phonics. We very much appreciate you attending to support your child on their educational journey as well as supporting the school. I hope to see Junior parents at the forthcoming Harvest Festival at St James' Church on the last day of the half term.

### **MIDYIS and YELLIS data**

Pupils in Year 7 have completed an online cognitive ability test called MidYis. We use a company called CEM who process the data from a standardised test. The test results are then sent to school for analysis. Teaching staff have access to the data so that they are able to plan appropriately for pupils' individual needs. We do not share this information with pupils. This supports teachers to stretch, challenge and support pupils where needed.

Pupils in Year 10 have also taken an online cognitive test in school time. This is referred to as YELLIS data. Again, staff will use this data to plan appropriately for your child over the course of the GCSEs. I will be sharing this data with your child so that they are aware of what GCSE grades they should aim for at the end of Year 11. We also ask pupils to set aspirational targets for themselves. These targets will be recorded on the GCSE Target Stickers on the front of their workbooks. Please discuss this data with your child when they receive them. If you have any further questions about the data or about the tests themselves, please contact Miss Wood, Mr Masood or me.

### **Assessment and feedback**

Pupils in the seniors will have half termly assessments with a revision list on Show My Homework. Pupils will then receive class and individual feedback on these assessments and they will be fixed into their books along with a personal feedback sheet. It is important for parents to check their child's books regularly for further insight into the assessments and next steps for the future.

Pupils in Year 11 will not be taking part in these half termly assessments this year as they have mock exams instead. The mock exams will be straight after the October half term (starting on Monday 4 November). A timetable will be issued to parents and pupils in advance of the half term break so that Year 11 pupils can plan their revision accordingly. Pupils must have an exam pencil case and black ball point pens to write with. Pupils must bring a ruler, pencil, eraser, sharpener and calculator (when needed). Year 11 pupils must only have a clear water bottle to drink from. Please ensure that this equipment is ready in advance of the exams.

### **Sixth Form applications**

Thank you to parents of Year 11 pupils who attended the meeting regarding Sixth Form applications. Your daughter may be attending an open day or an open evening in the next few weeks. If they are in school time, please do complete an absence request form as usual with the name of the school that you are visiting. Mr Masood, Ms Coleman and me will be completing references. We ask that you allow a 5 working day turnaround for these as your daughter will be applying to several Sixth Forms.

### **Uniform reminders**

We have had to purchase spare goggles and hats to accommodate pupils who have forgotten equipment on Wednesday for swimming. Please ensure that your child is adequately prepared for the day as children can become distressed when they do not have the correct equipment such as a towel or a swimming hat. When children are distressed about not being prepared for school or forgetting something, it can impact on their day at school.

Senior pupils should be wearing black tights in the Autumn Term. Please also note that we have never had white tights or navy tights or socks as part of the Braeside uniform. Socks are not permitted until the Summer Term when we inform you that the weather has changed.

Pupils in Year 5 and above are permitted to wear one plain stud in each lobe. Please leave any new ear piercings for a long holiday so that your child complies with the uniform requirements for earrings. Pupils must not have multiple piercings. If your child is in Kindergarten to Year 4, they are not permitted to wear earrings to school. Please ensure that you check your child's uniform before they leave for school so that jewellery that is not permitted is left at home.

### **Parking around the school**

I have met with several residents of Ardmore Lane since the start of term who are concerned about the number of cars that use the road to turn around. They have asked that you consider where you turn your car around and avoid mounting the pavement (as it poses a risk to pupils and staff) and that you do not block the road. Several residents have complained that they have been unable to access their road or house because they are waiting for a car to turn around in the road which has caused unnecessary congestion. Please park considerately and use the roads around the school as far as possible.

### **Assembly themes this term**

We have assembly twice a week. Senior assembly is on Monday morning, Junior assembly is on Thursday morning and the Whole School Assembly (Achievement Assembly) is on Friday morning. This half term we have explored our safeguarding procedures including the introduction of staff lanyards and we have discussed how to keep ourselves safe. We have celebrated the pupils who have been selected for positions of responsibility across the school. The Charity Committee have organised an assembly explaining how Jeans for Genes Day raises money to help with scientific research. We will look at the importance of setting goals and making personal targets and Year 7 will be delivering an assembly on The Epping Forest Foodbank who we will be supporting again this year ahead of the Harvest Festival.

### **Events this term**

There are several activities, events and visits coming up between now and the end of half term. Please do read the communications carefully so that your child is adequately prepared for trips including a re-fillable bottle of water and a waterproof coat.

A list of the activities and trips can be also found at the end of this letter.

A huge thank you to all of the pupils that have been asked to help at Open Day and Open Evening. We are very proud of the way our children talk about school and how they conduct themselves at a public event. Thank you for your support in dropping your child off and picking the up to accommodate the evening.

Year 9 have an exciting science event on 2 October called 'CSI Science'. A specialist company are visiting Year 9 to recreate a crime scene where they use their science and skills and knowledge to investigate an incident.

Key Stage 3 pupils have had the Stride Foundation visit school to talk about issues facing young people today and to explore what further challenges there may be ahead. Year 9 and 10 will have a workshop on 3 October. On the same day, Ms Coleman has organised a mosaic workshop for Junior pupils who will be making a commemorative piece of work for the school. Thank you to FOBS who have contributed towards this lovely event.

Year 3 to Year 11 will have a 'Resilience Workshop' on 7 October. As a school, we support pupils to develop their independence and empowerment through well-being activities that promote their resilience. The entire week will focus on activities that support resilience and well-being and the well-being ambassadors have organised events in school time as part of this strategy.

Year 6 will be visiting the Harry Potter Warner Bros studios on 10 October for a fun filled day of literature and film favourites. On 11 October Year 10 GCSE Religious Studies pupils are going to Waltham Abbey Church for a question and answer session with Revd Peter to solidify their knowledge of the exam syllabus so far.

There are a variety of sporting events that your child may be invited to this term including a WESSP football tournament (local schools), ISA Cross Country competition, a swimming gala at a local school and inter Oak Tree Schools matches. Please ensure that you read the communications about timings and equipment needed for these events.

An invitation has already been sent regarding the Harvest Festival for Junior parents. This is on the last Friday of the half term (18 October). Please read the letter carefully as there are no parking spaces at St James' URC Church. The car park is for residents of the flats and the area will be cordoned off so that cars cannot access the church. Please find alternative parking before the event starts at 2pm.

### Wellbeing as we head towards assessments

Pupils must have assessments to guide them on their learning journey. Parents can support in this by providing a quiet and calm place to work and revise. Please also encourage your child to prepare over a period of time and not 'cram' information the night before an exam or assessment. Please be actively involved in the revision process by asking questions to test or to revise material. This helps to make your child feel confident in taking an assessment.

### Dates for the Diary

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

Tuesday	01 Oct	Open Day
Wednesday	02 Oct	Year 9 CSI Forensic Workshop
Wednesday	02 Oct	U16 ISA London North Netball
Thursday	03 Oct	Year 9 & 10 Stride Workshop
Thursday	03 Oct	Mosaic Workshop
Thursday	03 Oct	Year 9 & 10 Netball Vs Normanhurst School
Friday	04 Oct	House Netball Year 3 – 11
Friday	04 Oct	Year 5 & 6 WESSP Football @ The Grange
Monday	07 Oct	Year 3 – 11 Resilience & Wellbeing Workshop
Wednesday	09 Oct	Year 4 – 11 ISA Cross-Country
Thursday	10 Oct	Year 6 Harry Potter Studios
Thursday	10 Oct	Year 7 & 8 Swimming Gala @ Chigwell School
Friday	11 Oct	Year 10 RS GCSE Trip to Waltham Abbey
Friday	11 Oct	Year 3 & 4 Trip to Natural History Museum
Friday	11 Oct	Year 7 – 11 Wellbeing Film Afternoon
Monday	14 Oct	Year 7 – 10 Assessment Week
Tuesday	15 Oct	OTG 7 a side Netball
Tuesday	15 Oct	Year 7 Team Building @ Lee Valley
Tuesday	15 Oct	Junior Parents Evening
Tuesday	15 Oct	Year 10 Parents Evening
Wednesday	16 Oct	KG & Rec – Church Farm
Thursday	17 Oct	Year 7 & 8 Netball Vs Normanhurst School
Friday	18 Oct	Harvest Festival @ St James Church
Friday	18 Oct	Break up for Half Term
Monday	04 Nov	Return to School
Monday	04 Nov	Year 11 Mocks
Thursday	07 Nov	Year 1 Trip to The Museum of the Home
Friday	08 Nov	PGL Weekend

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to get in touch with myself or Miss Wood. I wish you a restful break and I hope to see you in person in our end of term events.

With kind regards

Yours sincerely



Chloe Moon  
Headmistress



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