



January 2019

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## Headmistress's Message

As always, the start of this term has been a busy one. Our Year 11 pupils have completed mock exams and have been given feedback to help them as they prepare for their GCSE exams in the summer.

Our 11+ entrance exams have now taken place and we are in the process of interviewing the candidates before finalising our Year 7 offers for September.

The annual round of coffee mornings that take place this term are already well under way, and Mr Hagger and I appreciate the feedback we have been receiving about what we do well and how we can continue to improve aspects of school life.

I also look forward to seeing many of you at the parents' evenings taking place in the coming weeks, where you will have the opportunity to discuss your child's progress with teachers.

I hope you enjoy reading this newsletter which highlights once again how much activity the pupils engage in, both in and out of the classroom. From magic carpet rides to educational outings to sporting events, I am proud to see so many of our pupils taking every opportunity to put their learning into practice and do their best.

With my best wishes,

**Mrs Claire Osborn**  
Headmistress

## Snack Time in Belgique

The Lower Kindergarten children had a lovely morning experiencing snack time in a nearby café.

Although it was a little treat, it also gave our youngest pupils an important opportunity to broaden their language and communication skills. They had the chance to look around at our local environment with their friends, and chat about what they could see. Over their snack, the children shared experiences with each other and behaved beautifully.

Well done Lower Kindergarten.





# NEWSLETTER

## Early Years Fly Around the World

The children in the Early Years are looking at the books of Eric Carle this term. Their current story is 'Roosters off to see the World'. They are using the story to make their own journey to lots of different countries and their chosen mode of transport is a magic carpet!

Every afternoon the children visit another location.

The children were eager to show their friends their journey over sea and land. Kayla in Upper Kindergarten shared her memories of family holidays in Turkey when the class landed in Istanbul.

The children have a taste of the local cuisine at each destination at snack time, and are learning lots about other countries and cultures in this fun activity.



## Year 1 Trip to Colchester Zoo

Year 1 braved the cold and wintry weather to get up close to some animals at Colchester Zoo. On the 23 January the pupils set off in a coach and started their day with a penguin workshop. They saw a close up of a spiky penguin tongue and examples of their waterproof feathers. Kehanique demonstrated the special features a penguin possesses by putting examples on herself including flippers, webbed feet, goggles, a set of warm feathers and another set of waterproof ones. All she needed were some fish! The children were extremely impressed with these flightless birds who can swim underwater for twenty minutes whilst catching fish, flipping them round with their tongues and eating them, all under water. Later, they got the chance to view the real creatures up close, and also saw seals swimming all around them in the huge panoramic aquarium.

Next, a stop in the Kingdom of the Wild. A busy morning made everyone hungry, but before eating, it was time to feed the giraffes and elephants. They guzzled turnip, carrot, parsnip and cabbage! There were so many exotic animals including zebras, rhinos, ostriches and vultures. Everyone then enjoyed their lunch surrounded by a boa constrictor and tortoises, amongst other creatures.

After lunch the children boarded the Lost Madagascan Express train. They spotted grey wolves and competed with them to see who made the best howls. The train provided a premium vantage point to observe leaping lemurs. Mrs Taylor made sure she got to see her favourites – three prowling tigers. They were splendid and drew gasps of admiration from all. This rounded off a perfect day, which is sure to be an absolute highlight of Year 1.





# NEWSLETTER

## 1S China Projects

1S have started their Spring Term having been on a visit to China! Over the Christmas Holidays, the pupils made projects about China to share with their peers. They investigated many different things and came back to school ready to share all of the interesting facts they had found. Their projects were made of everything from papier maché to cardboard. Pictures, write ups and library books were also included in the work produced. The class have used the information they have found independently to support their learning during their humanities lessons so far this term. It has been a fabulous start to the topic! Well done 1S.



## Year 3 Trip to the Science Museum

Year 3 joined Braeside Year 3 on a fantastic trip to the Science Museum. The children were given an opportunity to visit the Wonderlab, where they could independently explore different scientific experiments including electricity, states of matter, forces and magnets. After this, the children watched the 'Feel the Force' show, where they saw with their own eyes how forces and magnets are used to move things around the world. The class even volunteered Mr Grant to take part in the 'Science Museum Games' where he had to warm up and then show what forces are used when throwing a shot put!

Caleb said "It was so much fun seeing forces in action in front of my eyes!".



## Sweet Success!

In Year 5, pupils are learning about mass and mixtures in their new Science topic and have started with a very sweet experiment! They had to find out which type of sugar dissolved the fastest in water. The children made their predictions and experimented using scientific techniques to make it a fair test. The children enjoyed experimenting and you can test their knowledge by asking them which type of sugar won!



## Year 5 Dramatic Poetry

The Year 5 pupils have learnt about a new poem, 'Last Night I Saw the City Breathing', by Andrew Fusek Peters. They have been picking apart the poem and looking in particular for personification and imagery. In their most recent lesson they acted out different stanzas and created a class film. They enjoyed using drama in their English lessons to explore different ways of learning about poetry. The children will be writing their own poems over the next few days, and we are expecting them to use their new-found poetic skills to make their work come alive!







# NEWSLETTER

## Year 6 Learn about Scurvy

Year 6 had a lot of laughter and learning going on in their Science lesson when they studied the Scientist James Lind. They first learned how he carried out a scientific experiment on board a ship in order to identify the causes of and cure for scurvy. The pupils enacted freeze-frame scenes from James Lind's story, and had to decide on four key events. They were shocked to find out that it took YEARS for James Lind to convince the Royal Navy that he had found a solution to prevent scurvy!



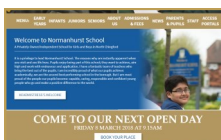
## Year 10 Careers Fair

On Thursday 24 January, Year 10 had the exciting opportunity to look into potential future schools during their Careers day. We visited Forest School which was filled with stalls, each stall representing a different college/university. Many other schools were also taking part. As we approached the stalls, we were introduced to the different opportunities at the given school, and encouraged to think about studying there in the future. We learnt about the different things the colleges offer, what we need to achieve in order to be able to get into the college, and how the college would benefit us if we went there. Some of the institutions being represented were Royal Holloway University, Brunel University, University of Glasgow, ELAM, Loughborough University, London Metropolitan University, Liverpool Hope University and many more. On almost every stall, students were presented with booklets and leaflets providing more information on the school. Students had the opportunity to look further into their interests and passions, while at the same time thinking about their future.

I think most if not all students greatly enjoyed this visit. It's very important to have your future somewhat planned out, as it could save you a lot of worrying. It was an amazing experience, and definitely very helpful for everyone. Year 10 would like to thank Mr Botha for organising the visit and Mr Clair, Mr Coates and Miss Bonella for accompanying us.

By William, 10B

## Social Networking



### Website

Go to the School Calendar page for upcoming events and our [News](#) page for all the latest news and lots more photographs.



### Instagram

Follow us on Instagram for regular photo updates! Search for [normanhurstschool](#) to find us, then click follow!



### App

Keep up to date with the latest news, calendar dates, and much more by downloading the new Normanhurst School App.



### Twitter

Follow us [@NormanhurstSch](#) on Twitter to get the latest updates.

Facebook is our newest form of Social Media. Like us on Facebook to get news, photos, events and updates posted straight to your newsfeed.



# NEWSLETTER

## Holocaust Memorial Day

Year 10 historians delivered a moving assembly to mark Holocaust Memorial Day 2019, drawing on their recent school trip to the Holocaust Exhibition at the Imperial War Museum.

After introducing the assembly and defining the Holocaust, Hawi said she was especially horrified by the 'scientific instruments' that were used by the Nazis to measure head, nose and eye size. As she said, "It was sickening to see how people were merely judged for their appearance". Ilayda then took over and told the school about the stuffed bear she handled during our taught session. The bear had belonged to a child who lived through the Holocaust by being hidden in his music teacher's cupboard. Ilayda also talked about how the Nazis boycotted Jewish shops and smashed up synagogues in Kristallnacht, as shown on the Year 10 power point presentation.



Mia showed Normanburst pupils a shocking image of how Jews were depicted in 1923 in a newspaper called Der Sturmer. "I was even more surprised that these depictions were distributed in schools so that an entire generation of young people would believe that Jews were inferior", she said. Bryony was particularly horrified by the Euthanasia programme known as T4, where 170,000 mentally ill or physically disabled people were murdered by gas, starvation or lethal injection by 1941. Finally, Christian explained how he was moved at the Exhibition by the model of Auschwitz, which depicts the Jews arriving there in cattle trucks before being selected either to be gassed directly or endure slave labour with starvation food rations.

Finally, the pupils saw a clip of an Auschwitz survivor who currently works as a radiographer in Birmingham. Kitty Hart-Moxon was sent to the death camp in 1943 aged 16, and was one of very few survivors. Despite her reservations, she returned with her son who works as a doctor in Canada, and understandably became very emotional as she toured around where she once was a prisoner.

Well done to Year 10 for delivering a highly poignant assembly to mark Holocaust Memorial Day.

## School Council Visit Houses of Parliament

On Friday 11 January the School Council from Years 1 to 10 took a trip to Westminster to visit the Houses of Parliament. During the trip both the Juniors and Seniors went on a tour throughout Parliament and even got to sit in one of the discussions that were taking place in the House of Commons.

Before going into the House of Commons we were in a lobby, and this was the place where we could voice our opinions on current politics or anything we wanted to say. The Juniors were respectful to all members of staff that we came across and acted very maturely when we were watching the video about how Parliament started.



Overall the trip was a fun learning experience for the Seniors as well as the Juniors, and definitely planted some new knowledge into our heads.

By Crystall, 9T



# NEWSLETTER

## Year 10 Art Trip to The National Gallery

Year 10 GCSE Art pupils visited The National Gallery to continue to develop their investigations of the theme 'Conceal and Reveal'. Pupils had the opportunity to explore examples of portraits that use a variety of visual techniques to communicate messages about the subjects, and their identity. The gallery educator invited pupils to discuss paintings by great masters like Raphael and Rembrandt, to make links between colour, gaze, stance, costume and meaning. Year 10 participated excellently and have begun to create their own self-portrait responses as part of their GCSE portfolio.



## Drug Alert Workshops

Darren Gold from Drugline delivered several thought provoking and often shocking talks on drugs aimed at specific year groups during a PHSE sessions. Year 9, for example, were stunned to learn that Darren had burgled his parents' home to feed his growing drug addiction habit. "Stealing became the norm" he said, while now realising that that stealing from your parents and sometimes becoming violent was "disgusting".

Darren is a reformed drug addict, having served 18 months in Pentonville Prison for his involvement with cannabis and later heroin and crack. While in prison he began the recovery process, though he told Year 9 that his criminal record from 21 years ago can still affect his everyday life such as not being allowed into America. Darren also still pays four times as much as other people for car insurance due to his criminal conviction. On the plus side, he turned his life round by going on a counselling course after serving time, where he met his wife and he now helps others by talking about the dangers of addiction. Darren has also raised money for charity and even ran the London Marathon.

He discussed the dangers of some specific drugs such as Xanax which is intended to treat depression. He explained that some people turn to it because it is also used as an aid for sleep and relaxation, but is so strong that it has been known to stop the heart. Moving onto reasons for addiction, he cited peer pressure, having fun, media and the internet and also curiosity as examples. In fact, pupils learned that over 60% of smokers start off their habit out of curiosity. Darren has not now smoked for 2 years, but reminded Year 9 that most young people start the habit between 14 and 20 years old.

Year 9 finished their session by asking questions. Darren was able to answer Crystall's question about prison conditions through his own graphic description. In the shared cell there was a toilet next to an eating area, leaving little room for privacy. Food was usually either casseroles or curries with little variation. Eric also asked a question about solvent abuse.

These were fascinating sessions for our pupils about the dangers of drug addiction from someone with first hand experience, which will hopefully deter anyone from starting the habit. However, Darren observed the sobering thought that statistically at least one of the Year 9 pupils present would know one person involved in drugs.







# NEWSLETTER

## Pupil News

Our pupils continue to make us proud with their activities and achievements outside of school.

### Green Belt Success

John and Kayce from Year 4 got their green belts in Karate over the Christmas holidays. The photo shows them with Sensei Luke Cuthbert, UKA, who delivers the school's Karate Club sessions (and former club member Laila). Well done!



### Sofia Becomes a Gator

Year 2 pupil Sofia was invited to a trial at swimming club Waltham Forest Gators, and she was successful!

She has now started her swimming journey with the club and as the photo shows, she is very excited and proud of herself. We are all very proud of her too!



### Tyan Builds His Own PC

Tyan started planning his PC project in August 2018. This involved doing research on the specification of the PC he wanted to build, the compatibility of the components that he wanted, how he wanted it to look, the budget and also where he could buy the various components - 10 in total - and at the best price. The whole process took approximately 14 weeks. For a sense check he was also sounding out his ideas with a school friend in Year 10 who had done similar projects.

Tyan sought the help of the same school friend for guidance and started building the PC on 27 December and partially completed the build on 29 December. However the water cooler was not fitting properly in the case so he had to improvise by modifying the case and re-routing some wiring.

After just over 4 months the project was complete!

The specification of the PC is:.

i7 9700k

2 x 4 GB sticks DDR4 Ram

Msi b370 plus motherboard

Cooler Master ML240I rib water cooler Corsair 650 watt psu (power supply unit) Cooler Master Mastercase H500 (mesh version for optimised airflow)

Well done Tyan for your hard work and dedication to the project!



## We are now on YouTube!

Keep up to date about what is going on at Normanhurst School by following us on our YouTube page, which is filling up with videos from school events.





# NEWSLETTER

## Loughton Young Artists Exhibition

A diverse selection of artwork produced throughout Years 10 and 11 has been exhibited as part of the 2019 Loughton Young Artists Exhibition. This was a fantastic opportunity to showcase the variety of working styles and concepts being explored by pupils. The exhibition shows examples of painting, drawing, printmaking, photography and sculpture, and explores ideas related to the themes 'Conceal & Reveal' and 'States of Change'.

The private viewing was very well attended, with proud pupils taking the time to share their ideas and artwork with their families. The Loughton Young Artists Competition offers five local schools the opportunity to exhibit, and will then select a winning artwork at the end of February.



## Normanhurst Sports Report

**U15 Volleyball** On Tuesday 15 January, we took our U15 boys' volleyball team to Leyton VI Form College for the Borough Volleyball event. The boys enjoyed a quick masterclass in their PE lesson from Mr Evans and set off in good spirits. Our team, made up solely of Year 9's playing against pupils a year older, performed superbly, narrowly losing 23-16 to Chingford Foundation and drawing 17-17 with Leytonstone thanks to some great rallies. The boys went out in the group stage on points difference. A special mention goes to Eric Cabello for superb leadership and gameplay.

**U14 Football** On Thursday 24 January Normanhurst boys took out their gum shields and dropped their tackle bags to play their Derby football match game against local rivals Forest School. The Year 9 boys had some enforced changes to the side which meant a change in formation and positions for some players. With the wind against Normanhurst at kick off, the start of the game saw a fiery opening with both teams clearly wanting to take the lead. Physicality was a major factor during the opening segments and a well-executed counter attack from Forest saw them take an early lead. The game continued to produce end to end football with both teams eager to take secure the lead. The next two chances fell to Forest whose troublesome striker added to the Forest score line making the score 3-0 going into half time. Forest then extended their lead mid-way through the second half, making the score 4-0. Normanhurst, with five minutes remaining, started to take the upper hand as Forest switched off during open play. Normanhurst's first goal was scored by Max as he capitalised on a defensive error. Shortly after this Captain Eric, with a powerful run from midfield, added to the Normanhurst score line.

The boys were brilliant once again and I could not ask for more from them. Man of the match goes to captain Eric who read the game brilliantly in central midfield and to Centino for his flair and vision throughout. The final score was 4-2 to Forest.







# NEWSLETTER

## Normanhurst Sports Report continued

**ISA U11 Football** On Thursday 17 January, we took 13 boys to the regional ISA 5-a-side football tournament at Mill Hill Powerleague.

The A team played superbly well throughout the day, going unbeaten in the group stage and securing large wins against Windrush Valley, Trevor Roberts and Abercorn whilst drawing with local rivals Avon House. This meant that we qualified for the quarter finals as group winners where we met Rushmoor School from Bedford. This was the boys' best performance of the day and we ran out 2-0 winners meaning we were through to the semi-finals. Here we met an extremely strong Gatehouse School and came out on the wrong side of a 4-1 score line despite taking an early lead.



The B team were placed within a very strong group and battled superbly in all of their group matches but unfortunately did not qualify for the quarter finals. Due to the A's getting to the semi-finals we anticipate that, for the first time in the school's history, they have now qualified for the National ISA football tournament in May which will be held at England's training base, St. George's Park. This is a fantastic achievement and testament to all of the hard work of all the pupils in Years 5 and 6. Once we hear more details about the next round we will of course pass this on to parents.

**Junior Netball** The U11 team and regular netball club members had a warm up match against Avon House to help them prepare for the upcoming ISA netball competition on Wednesday 6 February. This friendly match was held at the Peter May Centre. The opposition made up of mostly Year 6 were very strong and our youngest player in Year 4, for whom this was a first experience of a netball match, coped extremely well and worked hard to mark her opponent and intercept the ball. Ella and Margarida did an excellent job marking the goal shooter who was as tall as Mrs Taylor!



**Senior Netball** The senior girls' U13 team has been meeting on a Thursday to practise with girls from Braeside at Peter May to prepare for the ISA netball meeting at Redbridge Sports Centre in February. The Oak-Tree group will submit a combined team and pupils are working hard to earn a place on the team.

**Curriculum PE** This term all pupils in Years 3 - 9 have been taking part in hockey and/or rugby. They have all come on so much and it will not be long before they will be able to compete in local, borough and ISA competitions in these sports. However, please remember that pupils can only take part in these sports if they bring the required gum shield, shin pads and footwear to each lesson.

**Golf Club** On Mondays after school Mrs Taylor and Mr Botha run a club that helps children from Years 4 - 11 learn the basic skills for golf at Chingford Driving Range. This is a paid for club and there are currently five spaces available, so if your child is interested in this club please let the school office know, and we can sign them up! Along with trips to Top Golf, all golf club members are invited to play at High Beech Par 3 course in the Summer Term and can also compete in our Inter House Golf competition.





# NEWSLETTER

## Normanhurst Sports Report continued

**U11 Swimming Gala at Forest School** The Junior swimmers competed in a gala with many other local independent primary schools including Oaklands, Loyola, Avon House and Bancrofts to name a few. Races were either 25m for each stroke, a 50m freestyle race and 4x25m relays. Both boys and girls competed and our swimmers were able to put into practice some of the skills they learned in their Monday lessons. Notable performances came from Mert (Year 5) in the butterfly and Alicia (Year 5) in the backstroke. Well done to everyone who swam.



## Normanhurst School Parents' Association

Dear Parents

Happy new year to you from the NSPA. We are looking forward to another fun-filled fundraising year to enhance our children's school experience, and it looks as though 2019 will be the year in which we will fulfil our main fundraising goal of providing iPads for the school.



The first event for 2019 we are organising will be the Junior Disco, which takes place on Friday 8 February from 18:30-20:30. There will be snacks and party bags for the children, and a cash bar and nibbles for the parents to enjoy whilst watching their little ones on the dancefloor. Children from Kindergarten to Year 3 are welcome. Make sure you get your ticket as this is always a sell-out event.

The Oak-Tree Summer Ball for parents and their guests is on the 18 May, where you can be a part of a Casino Royale experience and raise money for the school. Steve Muntzer will be the DJ for the evening, and there will be opportunities to take part in raffles and auctions. Book your tickets to make sure you enjoy this glamorous, elegant and sociable evening.

We are planning many other events for you to take part in and meet other parents and teachers. If you also want to get involved with the NSPA we will be delighted to welcome you. Here are some dates for your 2019 diary.

**8 February - Mini Disco**

**11 March - NSPA meeting**

**24 March - Easter Walk**

**1 May - NSPA meeting**

**10 May - Film Night, Years 3-6**

**18 May - Summer Ball**

**10 June - NSPA meeting**

**22 June - Summer BBQ - 4pm-8pm.**

**15 September - Welcome Walk.**

We look forward to seeing you at an NSPA event in 2019.

**The NSPA Committee**