



# Normanhurst School

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## HEADMISTRESS

MRS CLAIRE OSBORN MSc., B.A. (HONS), PGCE

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2 March 2020

Dear Parents

### Re: Headmistress's Letter

We have an exciting week ahead at Normanhurst: our budding actors are almost ready for the school production of *'The Dracula Spectacula'*, which takes place at the Redbridge Drama Centre. Tickets are now available for purchase, and I am very much looking forward to seeing the performance on Thursday 5 March. It will be lovely for the pupils to perform to a full house.

This coming week is assessment week in the juniors and the children will have the opportunity to show us the progress they have made since September. This is followed by our STEAM Week, celebrating science, technology and the arts.

### School in Action Open Morning Friday 6 March

We have our open morning on Friday. I am very grateful to all of the pupils and prefects who are helping out and being guides for the morning. Current parents are also welcome to come and look around. Sometimes our junior parents enjoy coming to see the seniors, to give them a flavour of the style of lessons in the upper part of the school. Mrs Job, our Headmistress from September, will also be there to talk to parents, so please do come along, if you would like to see her. The Open Morning is at 9.15am.

Senior parents please note that there will be no tuck shop on Friday, so your children may wish to bring a healthy snack into school instead on that day.

### 13+ Entrance Examinations

We hold our 13+ entrance examinations on Wednesday 11 March. This is for new pupils wishing to join Year 9 in September 2020, if places are available.

### Coronavirus Awareness

All parents and staff have received letters about the Coronavirus, which follow the advice given by Public Health England and the Independent Schools Council. Mr Hagger and I check the advice daily and we will ensure our response is in line with the official advice. We have posters and information in school, additional sanitizers are in place and pupils have been informed in a calm and factual manner about both the virus and the appropriate way to respond to the current situation. I gave an assembly to the whole school on Friday with Mrs Prior, our school nurse. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the school.

### Junior Parents' Meetings this term

The Early Years and Junior parents' evening is scheduled for the week beginning Monday 16 March. If you would like to see the specialist subject teachers, they will be available in the school hall on Tuesday 17 March from 4pm until 6pm. No appointments are necessary to see the Music, Drama, Computing, Languages and PE staff.

Drama – Mrs Kazim and Mr Coates  
French and Spanish – Mrs Kimpton and Miss Bonella  
Computing – Mrs Prior and Mr Ram  
Music – Mrs Jones  
PE/Games – Mrs Taylor, Mr Banks and Mr Evans  
Refreshments will also be available in the hall.

### **NSPA Easter Walk Sunday 15 March at 11.00am**

All parents, teachers and pupils are welcome to join us for the Easter Walk on Sunday 15 March at 11.00am. We will meet at the school and then go for a forest walk in search of nature and chocolate, before returning to school for refreshments and a raffle.

We will also help our environment by taking litter pickers with us as part of our 'NSPA goes green' campaign.

Tickets are available from the school office.

### **Year 11 and GCSEs**

We are offering the Easter Academy revision programme again this year during the Easter holidays. I cannot emphasise enough how important it is for your children to attend the relevant revision sessions and to have an effective revision plan in place at home, so that they are well prepared for the summer papers. The dates have been finalised and published, so there shouldn't be any difficulties with encouraging your child to attend.

All pupils should now be working to a revision programme and giving considerable time at home to revision.

### **May Bank Holiday**

Although a little way off, please note that the early May Bank Holiday has moved this year from its usual position on a Monday to Friday 8 May. This means that the long weekend will coincide with the extended 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations of VE Day.

### **Year 10 Mock Exams from Tuesday 21 April**

The Year 10 pupils have their Mock Exams when we return to school after Easter. This is their first opportunity to experience GCSE mock practice, which we hope they will find useful. We want pupils to develop good working habits at home and so we encourage them to have a revision timetable in place for the holidays to help them prepare.

Exam practice is a very helpful way of developing the skills needed to perform well in exams, and we hope our pupils will use this opportunity to master the aspects of their GCSE courses covered already.

GCSE teaching will continue after the exams and feedback, and pupils will cover more of the course content before the summer break.

Parents will receive information about the results after the mocks are completed.

### **Dates for the Diary**

Mon 2 Mar		Junior Assessment Week
	08:45 – 09:45	<b>Y5</b> Parents' Coffee Morning (Music Room)
Wed 4 Mar	08:45 – 09:00	<b>Reception</b> Class Assembly to Parents
	09:00 – 15:30	School Production Tech/Dress Run, Redbridge Drama Centre
Thu 5 Mar	09:00 – 15:30	School Production Tech/Dress Run, Redbridge Drama Centre
	19:00 – 20:30	School Production (Redbridge Drama Centre)
Fri 6 Mar	09:15 – 11:00	Open Morning
Sun 8 Mar	09:00 – 16:00	Duke of Edinburgh Training Day at Braeside School
Mon 9 – Fri 13 Mar		Junior Science Week
Mon 9 Mar	08:45 – 09:45	<b>Y6</b> Parents' Coffee Morning (library)
	15:00 – 16:00	Junior Parents Meet and Greet new Headmistress
Wed 11 Mar	08:45 – 09:00	<b>KG</b> Assembly to Parents
	09:30 – 13:00	13+ & additional 11+ exams
Thu 12 Mar	14:00 – 16:00	<b>Y10&amp;11</b> GCSE Drama AQA Devising Workshop
Fri 13 Mar	09:00 – 15:30	<b>EYFS</b> trip to Sea Life Centre, Southend
	09:00 – 15:30	<b>Y1-6</b> Sea Life Centre, London
Sun 15 Mar	11:00 – 13:00	NSPA Easter Walk
Mon 16 – Mon 23 Mar		<b>Y11</b> Mock Exams
Mon 16 Mar	08:45 – 09:45	<b>Y7-9</b> Parents' Coffee Morning (library)

	09:00 – 12:00	<b>Y2</b> trip to Epping Forest (Queen Elizabeth Hunting Lodge)
Tue 17 Mar	16:00 – 18:30	<b>KG-Y6</b> Parents' Evening (specialist staff in the hall)
Wed 18 Mar	08:45 – 09:00	<b>Y3C</b> Class Assembly to Parents
	16:00 – 18:30	<b>KG-Y6</b> Parents' Evening
Thu 19 – Wed 25 Mar		Scholastic Book Fair
Mon 23 Mar	08:45 – 09:45	<b>Y10&amp;11</b> Parents' Coffee Morning (library)
Wed 25 Mar		<b>Y7-11</b> short reports/Y11 mock results published
	08:45 – 09:00	<b>Y3P</b> Class Assembly to Parents
	09:00 – 15:30	<b>Y11</b> GCSE Geography Field Trip
Thu 26 Mar	12:00	Last Day of Term
Fri 27 Mar	08:30 – 15:00	<b>Y11</b> GCSE Easter Academy: Maths Set 1
Mon 30 Mar	11:30 – 15:00	<b>Y11</b> GCSE Easter Academy: Science
Tue 31 Mar	08:30 – 11:30	<b>Y11</b> GCSE Easter Academy: English
Wed 1 Apr	08:30 – 11:30	<b>Y11</b> GCSE Easter Academy: Spanish Speaking
Mon 6 Apr	08:30 – 11:30	<b>Y11</b> GCSE Easter Academy: History
	12:00 – 15:00	<b>Y11</b> GCSE Easter Academy: Geography
Tue 7 Apr	09:00 – 10:30	<b>Y11</b> GCSE Easter Academy: Music
Wed 8 Apr	08:30 – 15:00	<b>Y11</b> GCSE Easter Academy: Art & Graphics
	08:30 – 11:30	<b>Y11</b> GCSE Easter Academy: Music

I have appreciated meeting and talking to many parents this term at parents' evenings. If you do have any matters you would like to discuss, please contact the school office to arrange an appointment with me or with a member of the Senior Leadership Team.

With my very best wishes for the rest of term.

Yours sincerely



Claire Osborn  
Headmistress



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