



Normanhurst School

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HEADMISTRESS

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July 2020

Headmistress's Letter

Dear Parents

Normanhurst through Covid-19

None of us would have imagined a few months ago how much our daily life would change this year. I certainly never anticipated that we would have a situation in which schools were closed and schooling had to quickly adapt to being delivered online to our pupils at home.

In what has been a hugely challenging period, I have been greatly encouraged by how the Normanhurst community has responded. I am so proud of the way our pupils have adapted and coped with learning at home and, subsequently, with the return to school for many of them. I am also proud of the staff who have shown tremendous commitment to providing excellent learning opportunities for the pupils and who have been determined to enable as many children as possible to come back into school when we were able to do so.

My heart goes out to all our families who have lost loved ones during this time. Our sympathies, thoughts and prayers are with you.

Special NSPA Thanks

Had we been able to hold Speech Day this year, I had planned to thank and make presentations to two members of the Parents Association who have given so much to the NSPA and the school for many years. Jo Lotherington stepped down from the role of Chair at the last AGM, and Vandita Chisholm stepped down as Secretary. Both of them have children in Year 11 this year who are now leaving Normanhurst to continue their studies at Sixth Form.

We are very grateful for everything they have done in their time in office, and previously, to support the NSPA. They have spearheaded fundraising and supported the school in many ways, from the iPad project to our annual barbecues and legendary family quiz nights and suppers.

End of Term Assemblies and Celebration of Achievement

There will be a Zoom assembly for all year groups before the end of term. Year 9 assembly will be on Wednesday afternoon, and Years 7 and 8 on the last day of term. Year 7 assembly will be at 8.45am and Year 8 at 9.15am. Year 10 will have a Zoom assembly at 11.15 which will include the pupils in school and the pupils at home. Final assemblies for the juniors will be in class bubbles on the final morning in school.

We plan to award certificates for Housepoints and for other achievements. All certificates will be sent home via the portal electronically so that parents have them to celebrate with their children. We are keen to acknowledge the pupils' efforts and achievements this term, though it might look a little different to usual.

Thursday 9 July: Last Day of Term – please note the earlier finishing times.

Arrangements for Year 10

Pupils on site leave at **11.30**. Pupils will leave the site from the rear entrance after their assembly, which includes the prefect announcements.

Finish times for Juniors

- Kindergarten at **11.30am** from the front gate
- Reception at **11.40am** from the front double gate
- Year 1 at **11.50am** from the front double gate

- Year 2 at **12.00pm** from the front single gate
- Year 3 at **11.30am** from the rear gates
- Year 4 at **11.40am** from the rear gates
- Year 5 at **11.50am** from the rear gates
- Year 6 at **12.00pm** from the rear gates

End of Term Reports

Reports will be published on **Tuesday 7 July**, and all parents can download them from the portal. If your child is leaving Normanhurst this summer, please ensure you have downloaded the reports and any other information from the portal you would like to keep by Friday 10 July.

The reports will look different from the usual detailed report because the pupils have been learning at home for most of the term, and senior pupils in Years 7 – 9 are still not allowed to return to school for lessons.

Given our understandable decision to cancel the end-of-year examinations in June because pupils were working at home and implementing exam procedures would have been impossible in this context, there is no summative assessment data in the reports this year for juniors or seniors. Comments will be more general in nature and will summarise the work done; likewise, targets will be simplified.

GCSE Results Thursday 20 August

We wish all our Year 11 students well with their GCSE results this year in these unprecedented times. GCSE results are published on Thursday 20 August. The Leadership Team, Mr Christou and I will be in school in the morning for pupils to come into school to collect their results from 8.30 - 10.00am. They need to be collected from Science Room 6. Pupils should sign in at the office when they arrive.

The staff are really looking forward to seeing Year 11 on results day. It will be lovely to see them all in person to collect their results. Please would students bring their locker keys with them so that they are able to empty their lockers and take any items away with them. Any school books that have not yet been returned can also be returned on that day.

If for any reason schools are not able to see pupils in person on results day, we will contact you prior to the day and results will be sent out electronically to the pupils, with the hard copy results sheets posted home on Thursday by Mr Christou. Mr Christou is making arrangements for this contingency plan, if needed.

The New Term in September

Parents will be receiving the updated Parent Handbook towards the end of the holiday ready for September, as well as your son or daughter's timetables for the new year.

We look forward to seeing the **Year 7 pupils** for the second part of their induction on **Wednesday 2 September at 8.30-12.00**.

All other classes return for the new term on **Thursday 3 September** at the normal times for an **8.40am start**.

Key Dates for the Autumn Term so far

Wed 2 Sept	08:30 – 12:00pm	New Y7 Induction Day
Thurs 3 Sept	08:40am	First Day of Term for Pupils
Mon 14 – Fri 18 Sept		Y1-6 Baseline Tests
Tue 15 Sept	08:30 – 09:00am	Y1-6 Parents' Drop In session
	15:30 – 16:30pm	Y2-6 Maths Information Parents Meeting
	17:00 – 18:00pm	Y11 Sixth Form Transition Parents Meeting
Tue 22 Sept	15:30 – 16:00pm	KG & Rec Parents Meeting inc. RWI/Maths information
	17:00 – 18:00pm	Y10 'Being Successful at GCSE' Parents Meeting
Fri 25 Sept	08:00 – 08:30am	Y1&2 RWI Talk to Parents
Tue 29 Sept	17:00 – 18:00pm	Y7 Informal Parent/Teacher Evening
Fri 2 Oct		Individual pupil photos

Thu 8 Oct	18:00 – 20:00pm	Open Evening – more information to follow in September
Fri 9 Oct	09:15 – 11:15am	Early Years Open Morning
Tue 13 Oct	16:00 – 18:30pm	KG-Y6 Parents' Evening (specialist staff in hall)
Wed 14 Oct	16:00 – 18:30pm	KG-Y6 Parents' Evening
Fri 16 Oct	18:00 – 19:30pm	GCSE Presentation Evening and Celebration for 2020 leavers
Mon 19 – Fri 30 Oct		HALF TERM
Fri 20 Nov	08:30 – 09:00am	Rec-Y6 Parents' Drop In session
Tue 24 Nov	17:00 – 18:30pm	Y9 Options Evening – information about GCSE subjects
Mon 30 Nov - 8 Dec		Mock Exams for Year 11
Tue 1 Dec	16:00 – 18:30pm	Y9 Parents' Evening

Complaints

As you are aware, we have an open door policy throughout the school and we make every effort to respond quickly to any queries or concerns you may have. I thought you might like to know that over the course of the last academic year we had no formal complaints. Thank you for your continued support.

Final Thoughts

To all those parents whose children are leaving Normanhurst this July, I wish you and your children the very best for the future.

I look back on ten wonderful years as Headmistress at Normanhurst. It has been a privilege and a joy to lead the school. Normanhurst is a very special place. I have been blessed to lead a community with respect and kindness at its core, where pupils can be treated as individuals and can develop a strong sense of their worth and value. I feel immensely proud of our students. Not just proud of their academic achievements, but proud of the people they become, the talents that they discover, the inner confidence they find, and the rich and varied contributions that they make to school life.

How can I sum up the pupils I have worked with over the years? They make me smile; they are generous, appreciative and thankful. They don't just think about themselves but they care for others within the school community and beyond it. They can be intrepid and adventurous; they are prepared to try new things and rise to a challenge. They invest in school life. They have opinions and have a voice. They change the world for the better.

So as the school year draws to its close, I look back with much thankfulness. And I look forward with great anticipation for the next exciting chapter in Normanhurst life when Mrs Job becomes Headmistress in September and I take on my Principal role in the Oak-Tree group full time.

Thank you for the support and kindness you have shown me. I am humbled by your lovely comments and emails.

I hope you all have a restful summer break, and that you and your families remain healthy and safe. With my very best wishes and grateful thanks to you all.

Yours sincerely



Claire Osborn
Headmistress

OAK-TREE SCHOOLS is the group name of:

BRAESIDE SCHOOL, BUCKHURST HILL • COOPERSALE HALL SCHOOL, EPPING • NORMANHURST SCHOOL, NORTH CHINGFORD • OAKLANDS SCHOOL, LOUGHTON

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