



September 2020

Item	Page
<a href="#">Headmistress's Message</a>	<a href="#">1</a>
<a href="#">Goldilocks Comes to Early Years</a>	<a href="#">1</a>
<a href="#">Reception News</a>	<a href="#">2</a>
<a href="#">Maths Fun in Year 1</a>	<a href="#">2</a>
<a href="#">Forest Detectives</a>	<a href="#">3</a>
<a href="#">Working Together Beautifully</a>	<a href="#">3</a>
<a href="#">Push and Pull in Year 3</a>	<a href="#">3</a>
<a href="#">Bahar's Acrostic</a>	<a href="#">4</a>
<a href="#">Year 5 News</a>	<a href="#">4</a>
<a href="#">After School Club</a>	<a href="#">5</a>
<a href="#">New Bike Shelter</a>	<a href="#">5</a>
<a href="#">Thursday Morning Running Club</a>	<a href="#">5</a>
<a href="#">Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award</a>	<a href="#">5</a>
<a href="#">Year 7 Induction Day</a>	<a href="#">6</a>
<a href="#">Getting Social</a>	<a href="#">6</a>
<a href="#">Birthday Book Scheme</a>	<a href="#">7</a>
<a href="#">News from the Music Department</a>	<a href="#">8</a>
<a href="#">European Day of Languages</a>	<a href="#">8</a>
<a href="#">Year 7 Team Building</a>	<a href="#">9</a>
<a href="#">Senior Student Leaders</a>	<a href="#">9</a>
<a href="#">News from the Art &amp; Design Department</a>	<a href="#">10</a>
<a href="#">News from the Art &amp; Design Department Continued</a>	<a href="#">11</a>
<a href="#">Year 10 Science</a>	<a href="#">11</a>
<a href="#">Year 10 Science Continued</a>	<a href="#">12</a>
<a href="#">Normanhurst Sports Report</a>	<a href="#">12</a>
<a href="#">NSPA</a>	<a href="#">13</a>

## Headmistress's Message

Welcome to the September edition of the Normanhurst Newsletter. We have had a really encouraging and positive start to the year. I have been incredibly impressed to see the pupils in class so focused and enjoying their learning. We are extremely pleased to have all pupils back to face the challenges of another academic year, looking so smart and engaged in their education.

I have been delighted to see how well our new pupils are settling into school life at Normanhurst. It has been lovely to join Year 7 pupils on their team building afternoon and to hear about their first few weeks in the seniors.

The Parents' Association (NSPA) has previously bought 34 iPads for the school which are already being well used. This year the NSPA has agreed to support our 'grow your own' project which is something positive that we can take away from our lockdown experience and transfer to school.

Although we have been limited by Government restrictions, I have enjoyed meeting parents at the gate in the mornings and during our parent presentations this term. It has been good to put a name to a face and I am very much looking forward to meeting many more parents in the coming months ahead.

With my best wishes

**Mrs Jacqueline Job**  
Headmistress

## Goldilocks Comes to Early Years

In the Early Years, the children are enjoying their new topic for this term, 'The Countryside'. This is linked into their learning in a variety of ways. There is always a story of the week that brings everything together; recently they used the story of 'Goldilocks and the Three Bears' to learn about the language of size in Maths, to create a forest and cottage for role play and to create their versions of the story with their favourite animals in English. In Science, pupils looked at the names of baby animals and in Music they joined in with bear themed action rhymes. In cookery, the children made 'Goldilocks plaits' which they shared with Mrs Job.





# NEWSLETTER

## Reception News

Reception have had a fun few weeks settling back in to school. They have enjoyed lots of craft activities such as creating self-portraits with loose parts. They have also enjoyed reading the story of 'Bog Baby' and created their own Bog Baby out of clay. They decorated the bog they had created in our classroom with shells, playdough and leaves.

In Maths, the children have explored numbers in different ways as well as enjoying practical outdoor learning lessons. In one of these lessons they learned about capacity, thinking about full and empty. They played a game using different containers to fill up a bucket as well as exploring the musical sounds made by bottles filled with different levels of water. Pupils also went on a number hunt on the local high street to see where they could find numbers. They discovered that numbers are all around!

The children have used playdough to create various objects like their names, as well as using it to join in with 'dough disco'.

In class, Reception have started their new story – Robin Hood. As part of this, the children worked together to create a castle out of a cardboard box which they enjoyed playing in afterwards. They even created a drawbridge.

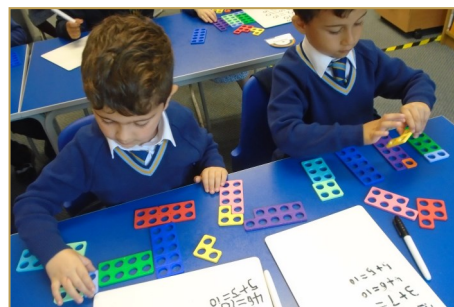
Reception have really enjoyed their Friday afternoon walks with Kindergarten and Year 1. They found a Bog Baby and also went through the 'magical tree'. The parachute also came out for some fun and games on the plains.

In their ICT lesson with Mrs Prior the Reception children have been learning about direction and programming using child-friendly devices called beebots. The lesson made good use of our outdoor space and the autumn sunshine to enhance the learning, and the children loved the opportunity to have their ICT lesson outside and "boss the beebots around"!



## Maths Fun in Year 1

Year 1 have had fun using Numicon to make number bonds to 10. Numicon's flat, plastic tiles with holes for the numbers 1 to 10 makes it an effective way to learn these 'friends of 10' as each tile represents a different number and colour. Pupils have learned some catchy 'friends of 10' songs and completed a variety of different activities to reinforce their learning including cutting out and gluing dinosaurs and matching them to make their number bonds. Year 1 are now using multi-link to represent number bonds to 20.







## Forest Detectives

Year 1 joined with Early Years for fun and exploration in the forest while making observations of animal life. Their Science topic is '**Our Changing World - Animal Antics and Looking at Animals**'. As a discovery starter to the new topic, Year 1 decided to see how many different varieties of familiar and less familiar animals they could find in the categories of fish, amphibians, reptiles, birds and mammals. They identified some of these animal groups and looked closely at them. Pupils noticed some vertebrates (animals that have backbones) and some invertebrates such as worms, insects and spiders. They recognised that they are all animals that they can be put into different groups according to their particular characteristics. Pupils thought that many animals were hiding away, so looked for signs of where they might be by tracking any animal prints and searching for their habitats. They did find some rabbit droppings and close by some rabbit holes. But they probably scared any rabbits away!

The children really enjoyed their outdoor exploring and were amazed to spot so many different animals all around them, from ducks to a water hen, from tadpoles to squirrels. An owl hole, a pond and a magical tree completed the fun!



## Working Together Beautifully

In the first week back at school, Years 2 and 3 created a piece of collaborative artwork for a lovely display outside their classrooms. They created their own 'globe' using collage material in blue and green, added a 'handprint' rainbow, made some beautiful butterflies and decorated each letter for the quote on display – 'We are each unique and beautiful, but together we are a masterpiece'.

The children are very proud of their artwork and are looking forward to sharing it with the rest of the school.



## Push and Pull in Year 3

The Year 3 pupils have started their Science topic of Forces and Magnets and have been learning all about the different forces that help us to move things, including 'pushing' and 'pulling' forces and friction.

Year 3 took the opportunity in the sun to create some freeze frames showing different 'pushing' and 'pulling' forces. The children were very creative and thought of lots of different options, including rowing a boat, pushing a trolley, firing a bow and arrow, brushing hair and fastening a zip.



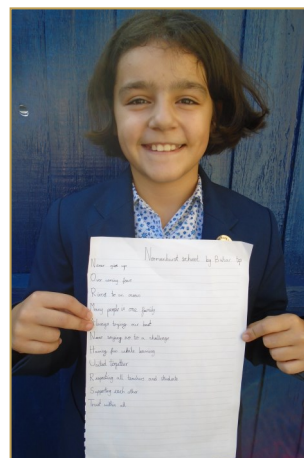
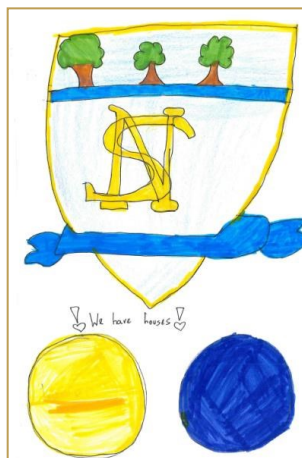
# NEWSLETTER

## Bahar's Acrostic

Year 5 pupil, Bahar, has written a poem about her experience of life at Normanhurst School.

### Normanhurst School

Never give up  
Over coming fears  
Rivers to an ocean  
Many people in one family  
Always trying our best  
Never saying no to a challenge  
Having fun while learning  
United together  
Respecting all teachers and students  
Supporting each other  
Trust within all



Bahar very deservedly received a lot of house points for her home efforts from Mrs Job!

## Year 5 News

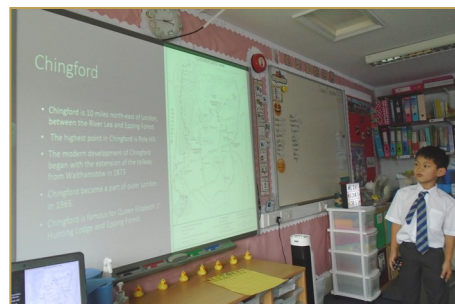
Year 5 have got off to a fantastic start to the Autumn term.

**English** For our English Year 5 summer homework we were set a task to do a presentation about the History of Chingford. We had about 7 weeks to complete it. We all had different types of amazing facts. Most of us did a PowerPoint presentation whilst others did it on paper by hand. After each and every presentation we did a peer assessment to rate each other's work with a thumbs up, in the middle or thumbs down. We all participated in our homework and we had lots of fun!

### **By Bahar and William**

**Art** In Art, Year 5 have been studying the local designer William Morris. In their first lesson, they noticed that Morris took a lot of inspiration from nature in his designs and made lot of symmetrical patterns. So, for their second lesson Year 5 took a walk up to the local forest area and made some sketches of the natural things they saw to get some ideas for their own designs they will be doing in the next few weeks.

**Science** In Science, Year 5 are studying Forces and have looked at the effect of friction. Year 5 completed an investigation to see which ramp material would create the most and least friction using a toy car timed by a stopwatch. The results of the experiment were very surprising and the children had great fun learning through investigation.







## After School Club

In After School Club, the children have been completing a very exciting art project. Miss Sherrie and Miss Sally have been teaching the children about the work of Russian abstract artist Kandinsky, after which they had the opportunity to create some of their own art in his style. They have proudly displayed their work outside the school office.



## New Bike Shelter

At Normanhurst, we are always looking for ways we can help to become a more environmentally friendly school and look after our planet. With support from the London Borough of Waltham Forest, we have had a brand new bike shelter installed at the front of the school, giving more opportunities for children and staff to store bikes and scooters in a safe space. All children (and staff) are welcome to use to the new shelter, whether they use the front or back entrance, however, please note that you should use a bike lock to ensure that all bikes and scooters are secure during the day.



## Thursday Morning Running Club

Congratulations to everyone in our Year 4-6 bubble who has attended Running Club on Thursday mornings. We have had such a good turnout! We are so lucky to be able to run to the forest and experience the beauty of nature. There are so many benefits to an early morning run; it is a great opportunity to increase fitness and stamina, whilst earning house points for. Most importantly it will help pupils to focus better and achieve more in the classroom!

Mrs Botha, Mrs Allen and Mrs Taylor are looking forward to seeing all those who want to take part every Thursday at 7:45am. As they say, the early bird catches the worm!



## Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award

On 13 September, 36 students from Braeside and Normanhurst Schools embarked on their assessment expedition for the Duke of Edinburgh Bronze award. It was a weekend that was full of enjoyment in life lessons and beautiful weather. The students arrived at 8:30 on Saturday morning to prepare their rucksacks and plan the route to walk a 15km loop through Stapleford and back to Lambourne End. They arrived back at camp to set up the tents and cook a well-deserved dinner. Because of the pandemic, everyone then went home to sleep and returned the next morning for the Sunday walk. All 36 students persevered and motivated each other to complete the final walk before going home for a well earned rest, then back at school on the Monday. A huge well done to all who took part and good luck to those who have chosen to embark on the silver and gold awards.

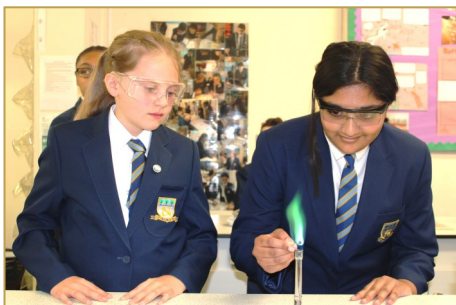




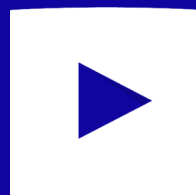
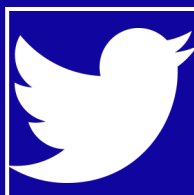
## Year 7 Induction Day

Both new and existing pupils enjoyed their Year 7 Induction morning at the start of the term. The day gave them the chance to get to know each other better, meet some of their teachers and have a tour of the school. They all had a lot of fun in their taster Art and Science lessons.

In Art they were challenged with the task of creating an artistic map of their journey to school. Working collaboratively during the activity, they had to work together to decide the best materials to create their map. In Science, Year 7 were given an exciting introduction to bunsen burners. After donning their goggles and learning the proper safety procedures, they used splints soaked in different solutions to create some crazy, colourful flames.



## Getting Social







## Birthday Book Scheme

As mentioned in the Headmistress's letter recently, we have started a new voluntary initiative whereby staff and pupils are invited to donate a copy of their favourite book on their birthday to the school library. On the inside cover, they can explain to prospective readers why they have enjoyed the book so much.

The scheme has already received books from two members of staff who share with us their reasons for their choices.

"I donated the book 'Anne of Green Gables' by L M Montgomery because it is the life story of a girl who, despite being an orphan and having an incredibly challenging childhood as a result, managed to stay positive and grow up to be an adult—and a teacher—who made a positive impact on everyone she met. It is a book that champions having an active imagination and a positive outlook. It is also a book that stresses the importance of friendship. Additionally, it champions the 'this girl can' attitude, all of which impacted me hugely as a girl growing up in a country where society sometimes encourages a woman to stay silent and endure. I donated this book because I hope students who pick it up off the shelves find positivity and joy in small things just as Anne of Avonlea did."

**Mrs Jayaram**

"I chose the story of 'Tadpole's Promise'. I first read the book several years ago to a Reception class and the response was one of those very special teaching moments. The idea is simple, it's a love story between a caterpillar and a tadpole, who both promise never to change.

The book is landscape in layout, unusual in younger children's books, the pictures are delightful and full of so much additional detail. The text is flowing and engaging, and as you read there is the expectation of a 'happily ever after' ending. I don't want to spoil it for anyone who has not yet read it but I will say that the audience's response to the dramatic and unexpected ending is always unforgettable and one that many children I have read it to at Normanhurst will remember for a very long time."

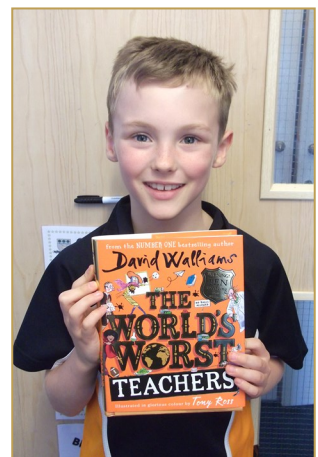
**Mrs Fisher**

One of our Year 3 pupils has also been kind enough to donate a copy of his favourite book, 'The World's Worst Teachers' by David Walliams. He explained the reason for his choice.

"I chose this book because I thought people would find it funny. When I read this book three weeks ago, I remember reading about a crazy art teacher who wasn't the most intelligent, because she let the children stick paper onto her, so she could be a human work of art, how crazy! I hope you like this book."

**James, 3P**

**Nathaniel** in 4L celebrated his birthday last weekend. He turned nine on 27 September and donated copies of not one but two of his favourite books, 'Going Solo' by Roald Dahl and 'Captain Underpants' by Dav Pilkey. Thank you for your generosity in sharing these books with the school, Nathaniel!



## News from the Music Department

**Year 4** are learning about music from Latin America, which is based on complicated and exciting rhythms. Pupils have been learning how to read, write, compose and perform their own versions. They have also been learning about some of the countries and culture in Latin America and how the music there has influenced our own music classroom.

**Year 8** pupils have been debating the definition of music. The pupils are learning about non-traditional notations and this has led to interesting discussions on what the word "music" means. Some of the pupils (Ayaan, Anna, Vraj, Margarida) took quite a scientific view, defining it as multiple sounds put together in sequence, and Ethan went further by using the word "vibrations". Others (Isabelle, Luke, Jordan, Sophie, Ella) focussed more on their response to music, defining it in terms of emotions and expressions, while Harry introduced the idea of music as therapy.

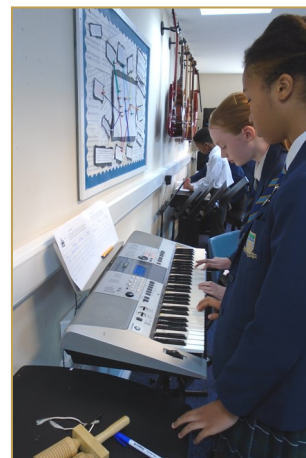
Gaining inspiration from listening to avant garde composers such as John Cage, Kathy Berberian, Anna Clyne and Steve Reich, the pupils will be using non-traditional notations to compose their own piece of programme music. If you are interested in music that uses non-traditional notation or challenges the definition of music please do listen to:

Anna Clyne, "Night Ferry"

Kathy Berberian, "Stripsody"

Gyorgy Ligeti, "Artikulation"

And look up the BBC reporting on John Cage's "As Long as Possible".



## European Day of Languages

The European Day of Languages is celebrated across Europe on 26 September every year. It aims to promote the rich linguistic diversity of Europe and raise awareness of the importance of lifelong language learning for everyone.

The Modern Foreign Languages department held an assembly to mark the occasion, and has organised a house t-shirt competition for juniors and for seniors. The deadline is Friday 2 October. There will be three winners in each category, juniors and seniors. The first prize winners in both the juniors and seniors will have their t-shirt printed plus ten house points. You can also enter your t-shirt design in an online competition [here](#).

The deadline for the online competition is the 31 December 2020.

In the meantime, the MFL department is looking forward to seeing all of the pupils' wonderful designs.







## Year 7 Team Building

In the first week of term, the Year 7 pupils had the opportunity to go to Chingford Tennis Club to participate in a range of team building activities. They spent the sunny afternoon taking turns to be team leader and, assisted by out Sports Captains, the teams had to navigate through a number of activities which could only be completed by working together. All the teams were determined, showing resilience and energy to keep going, even when their plans didn't work the first time. It was an impressive afternoon that helped our Year 7 begin to build strong relationships. Well done Year 7!



Thank you to our new Year 11 Sports Captains—William, Rafael, Paige, Reuben, Alex and Emily—who worked hard on their first assignment to make this an enjoyable and successful experience for the younger

## Senior Student Leaders

Normanhurst has returned to an exciting time of elections and campaigns for our student leaders. Having applied in the summer term, our Year 11 prefect team has got well under way performing their duties and delivering assemblies to key year group bubbles. Meanwhile our form classes have been busy electing school councillors and form leaders, who will meet with key prefects to continue working on improving the school.



### Prefect Team:

<b>Head Boy</b>	Rafael
<b>Head Girl</b>	Lucy
<b>Heads of Warren House</b>	Crystall/Emily
<b>Heads of Connaught House</b>	Sam/Nneka
<b>Head of School Council</b>	Hamza
<b>Head of Form Leaders</b>	William
<b>Warren Vice Captains</b>	Reuben/Amardeep
<b>Connaught Vice Captains</b>	Lily/Sasha
<b>Warren Head of Music</b>	Alexa
<b>Connaught Head of Music</b>	Jake
<b>Warren Head of Sport</b>	Paige
<b>Connaught Head of Sport</b>	Alex
<b>Prefects:</b>	Centino      Paarth Mario      Harleen Trinav      Max

### Form leaders:

<b>7M</b>	Mia
<b>7S</b>	Esma
<b>8B</b>	Vraj
<b>8R</b>	Luke
<b>9E</b>	Freddie
<b>9J</b>	Gabby

### Student Council:

<b>7M</b>	Janayd
<b>7S</b>	Arty
<b>8B</b>	Kiran
<b>8R</b>	Kian
<b>9E</b>	Awais
<b>9J</b>	Owais

## News from the Art & Design Department

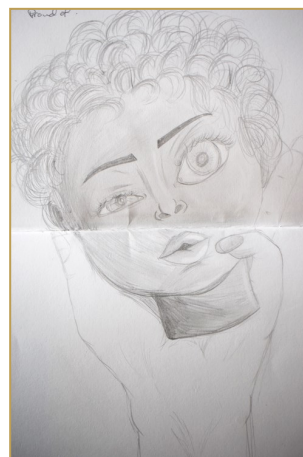
**Year 7 Colour Experiments** Year 7s first art project explores colour and a variety of ways that we can use it in art to create dynamic images. The classes start with the basics, looking at creating a colour wheel and then how to 'read' it to help when making artwork. Students then further experimented with the media of watercolour and masking fluid to develop their knowledge of the techniques and tricks to build layered and textured paintings.



**Year 8 Learning to Look** In their recent Art lesson, Year 8 went on an observation walk to the forest. They were asked to collect three objects. The objects had to have something that they all had in common and something that separated them all. Pupils looked at scale, texture, form and type to help them collect their objects. In the classroom one set of students described the objects in words while others tried to find ways to record the objects through drawings, showing texture using mark-making. Pupils were challenged to explore a wide variety of ways to use the media of pencil, graphite and chalk pastels. Selected work has been added to the working wall in the classroom and will inform longer, more detailed drawings in their next lesson.



**Year 9 Radical Figures** For their first design brief for DT, Year 9 pupils are researching the exhibition Radical Figures, which was on at the Whitechapel Gallery over the summer. Pupils have to develop ideas to create a bag that can be sold in the gallery shop to promote the exhibition. They have worked collaboratively and independently to look at the work of the artists and explore some of the background of The Whitechapel Gallery. They then produced a piece of written research as well as a visual response to their chosen artist from the exhibition. This supports the pupils to develop a broad visual language and understanding of a range of techniques, skills and concepts.



**Year 9 Me, Myself & I** In Art, Year 9 are exploring how an artwork can communicate ideas and concepts. For their first drawings of the year they have worked from observation to draw their hand holding a significant object. Pupils then move on to self portrayal, looking at how to build a portrait by starting with the eye. As the project progresses students will continue to build excellent skills in a variety of techniques, including printmaking and painting, while also developing their own, individual artistic voice.



**Year 10 Conceal and Reveal** This year's new GCSE Fine Art students are starting to explore how to develop a drawing to respond to a theme. The first theme of Conceal and Reveal offers students the opportunity to really explore their own interests. Students are supported to analyse and respond to a wide range of artists that they have independently researched. The initial drawing this year will be experimented with to look at how process can create meaning in art.



## News from the Art & Design Department Continued

**Year 10 Graphic Communications - Researching Music Aesthetics** To kick start their design work for their first GCSE design brief in Graphics, pupils have been researching existing music genres and aesthetics.

Pupils start with a really broad range of information and ideas. As the project progresses pupils start to narrow down and refine their work to produce an individual and dynamic range of design products for a new band. Students are supported to work both by hand and digitally to explore a wide range of design techniques.

**Art Club - The colourful world of Hunterwasser!** The first artist Art Club looked at this year was Hunterwasser. They spoke about his work, what it might mean, how they think he made it, and what 'spoke' to them about it.

Pupils then made a visual response to his work and were able to transfer their ideas on to a canvas bag using textile crayons. The results really capture the energy, colour and spirited world of Hunterwasser!



## Year 10 Science

**Investigating Solar Cells** The Year 10 pupils have been learning about renewable and non-renewable energy sources and exploring the possibility of only using renewable electricity sources to meet global electricity requirements. They have also been learning about 'embodied energy' or the energy that is used to make technological devices, mobile phones in particular.

Two of the memorable activities they very successfully completed were investigating how solar cells work and writing an email to a friend convincing them that buying a new version of a mobile phone to replace a device that is working fine is probably not the most environmentally friendly thing to do.

The students enjoyed the practical element of this topic, and as you can read from this [link](#) to Damon's persuasive piece of writing, they have gained a solid understanding of the energy impact of consumerism and our disposable attitude to mobile phones.

**Triple Biology** The Year 10 triple pupils have been learning about bacteria in their triple Biology lessons. Here is one pupil's account of culturing micro-organisms:

'On the 23<sup>rd</sup> of September, the Year 10 triple science pupils did a practical on microbiology. As part of our lesson on growing bacteria, we got to help prepare agar plates, practise aseptic technique and begin to grow bacteria.'





## Year 10 Science Continued

It was very difficult to avoid contaminating the plates, we had to do everything in a small area above a roaring blue bunsen flame. This included sterilising the equipment and neck of the bottle of the culture, applying the culture to the plate and spreading it around. We also investigated various types of antibiotics, by applying a small disc to a separate section of the agar plate for various antibiotics. We then sealed the plates and stored them to observe the following week.

My favourite part was practicing aseptic technique as it was very tricky and dangerous but really thrilling. It was also very interesting to observe the colonies on other plates.'

By Lucy, 10C

## Normanhurst Sports Report

**PE Lessons** This term we have offered pupils the chance to play some of the summer sports that they missed out on over the summer school closures. Pupils have been having tennis lessons at Chingford School of Tennis and have been using the cricket ground at Rolls Park for curriculum fielding/striking games, such as softball, rounders and cricket.

**Extra-Curricular Clubs** This half of term we are offering athletics at Lee Valley, netball in the playground, cricket at Chingford Cricket Club and Running Club in the forest.

Fortunately the weather has been excellent through most of September. If we continue to have reasonable weather into October we will be able to have summer sports up to half term.

Unfortunately we are not currently able to have inter school competitions, but we will be running a whole week of inter house sports events during lessons to provide pupils with a competitive sports experience in the first half of term.

**GCSE PE** Our Year 10 GCSE PE pupils have made an excellent start to their GCSE course learning about a variety of topics including energy use, body types, diet and health and fitness. They have had a mixture of practical and activity based theory lessons which has enabled pupils to gain new knowledge which will only hold them in good stead for the future. This picture shows an example of some pupil work on body types in which pupils had to create the three different body types after being given their specific characteristics.

Both of our GCSE cohorts joined up and ventured to Lee Valley Athletics Centre for an interactive session on warm ups and cool downs. Here, pupils learned about the components of a warm up and a cool down and had to formulate an appropriate warm up for their chosen athletics activity in addition to self-analysis of performance for their coursework. The pupils always enjoy going to such an impressive facility and were a credit to the school!







## Normanhurst School Parents' Association



**NSPA**  
Normanhurst Parents' Association

Dear Parents

Welcome to all our new parents and pupils and welcome back to everyone else. We are delighted to introduce the Normanhurst School Parents Association (the NSPA).

The beginning of the school year is usually an exciting time for the NSPA. It's when we start to plan the activities and events that will enrich our children's time at school as well as create opportunities for parents and teachers to socialise and raise money for those extras that makes school so much more fun!

But, as with everything else, Covid has impacted on what we will and won't be able to do this year so we're looking for inspirational ideas to help us 'come together whilst being apart'.

To start, we will be hosting a zoom call on **Monday 12 October 2020 at 7pm**. Please follow [this link](#) to join the meeting.

**Meeting ID:** 465 879 4057      **Passcode:** NSPA

This will be a chance to meet the existing NSPA team, to find out what we (usually) do and most importantly, to generate creative, Covid guidance-friendly ideas to build our school community over the year ahead.

We also need input and thoughts on how to invest the funds we currently have and will be generating. On that subject, we're really pleased to announce that we have purchased a new table tennis table and a large Connect 4 game for the playground along with three nice planters. I'm sure these will be enjoyed by both pupils and staff.

So that's it for the moment, please do join us for the Zoom call so we can start to plan for what promises to be an interesting year.

Best wishes

**The NSPA Committee**