



Normanhurst School

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HEADMISTRESS

Mrs Jacqueline Job B.SC., NPQH

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1 February 2022

Dear Parents

Re: February 2022 Headmistress's Letter

I cannot believe February half term is approaching so quickly. This has been yet another busy Spring Term full of rich and diverse learning experiences. I wanted to begin by congratulating the Normanhurst pupils for their approach to learning. It has been pleasing to observe pupils really engaged in lessons, asking questions and responding with enthusiasm.

11+ Entrance Exams

It has been wonderful to meet so many excellent 11+ candidates this year who have applied to join Normanhurst in September. As well as writing their exam papers, I am meeting each of them individually for an interview and have the opportunity to talk to them about our school. The offers for places will be sent out at half term and this includes the scholarship offers. Pupils who are currently in Year 6 have also been able to apply for scholarships and I shall be interviewing the applicants over the next month.

Transport for London: STARS School Travel Plan Scheme Accreditation

We have received some great news that Transport for London have awarded Normanhurst School the London STARS Schools Travel Plan Award, at GOLD level. This demonstrates our commitment towards having a safer and healthier school environment and is not an easy accreditation to achieve. Let's continue to walk, cycle, scoot or take the bus to school.

Parents' Evenings

It has been excellent to see such good attendance at the Parents Evenings this term. It has been pleasing to hear from parents that the meetings are valued. The Year 7 Parents Evening will take place on Tuesday 1 February in the Hall. Please ensure you arrive in time for your first appointment as there is no scope to change appointment times on the evening. In the seniors it is very important that your children attend with you and are part of the feedback in the meetings. Teachers will discuss your child's learning and progress. They will want to celebrate what is going well, and will want to identify areas for your children to focus on as they move forward in their learning this year.

Reminder of Year 9 Option Choices

Thank you to all the parents and pupils who attended the Year 9 Options Evening last term. Your child's option sheet should be returned to the school office by Thursday 3 February. If you still have questions regarding the process, please do not hesitate to contact Mr Clair. Similarly, subject staff are available to answer any questions regarding the subjects and course content.

Revision Workshops

You will be aware from my last newsletter, that Years 7-11 recently participated in a series of revision workshops and we were able to run a workshop for parents via Zoom. We explored tried and tested revision methods, strategies to motivate and general tips to overcome challenges. Thank you to those parents who were able to attend; the feedback received was very positive. We will be sending to all parents the PDF workbook to support conversations at home about revision and the construction of timetables. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the NSPA for making a contribution towards the cost of the workshops. We appreciate the support.

Coffee Mornings

Thank you to all the parents who have attended the Coffee Mornings or emailed feedback, this feedback is invaluable. I know, Mr Hagger, Mrs Osborn and I have very much enjoyed meeting parents and appreciate hearing what you have to say. We have seen almost all year groups, with Years 9, 10 and 11 taking place just after half term. Please remember that our doors are always open and we welcome feedback.

NSPA Spring Walk

The NSPA will be inviting families to join together for a Spring Walk in the forest on Sunday 24 April. These have been very popular in the past and we hope that many of you will want to join us. Look out for further details in due course.

Drop-in Morning for Parents in Early Years and Juniors

We would like to invite parents from the Early Years to Year 6 into school on Tuesday 1 February to attend a 'drop-in' morning. Parents will be able to come into the classroom from 8.25am with their child and your child will show you the work they have been doing. A bell will ring 5 minutes before the end of the event, to allow pupils to prepare for the formal start of the day.

Second Hand Uniform Sale

There will be a Second-Hand Uniform sale on Tuesday 1 February at the front of the school from 8.30-9.30am. If you are unable to attend but would like an item, please remember you can contact the school office and they will contact the NSPA.

Science Week 2022

We are in the process of planning Junior and Senior Science Week 2022. The theme for this year is 'Growth'. We are looking for a range of volunteers to talk to pupils and inspire them to think innovatively. If you have a career in Science, Technology, Engineering or Maths, and would like to volunteer please email Miss Collings on kcollings@normanhurstschool.co.uk and Mrs Cooper on scooper@normanhurstschool.co.uk

Oak-Tree E-Safety Workshops 3 March

On 1 March, The Oak-Tree Group has organised e-safety workshops for pupils from Year 3 to Year 6. The staff will also have their own workshop to be able to support your child through the ever changing world of the internet. The day is run by two ex-police officers, known as 'The Two Johns', who have worked with CEOP (Child Exploitation and Online Protection) and within the police service. This is an incredibly useful and eye-opening support for parents. More details will follow in a separate communication.

Oak-Tree Summer Ball 2022

Plans are in hand for the Oak-Tree Ball in the Summer Term. Head Office has booked The Prince Regent Hotel in Chigwell on Saturday 18 June 2022 from 7pm until 1am, so do save the date! The Ball will have a 1920s Great Gatsby theme and will be open to parents and friends of the four schools. Mr Hagger will write in due course with further details.

Informal Concerts

Over the next two terms the music department are aiming to run a series of informal concerts providing the opportunity for all our pupils to perform and showcase their talents. This could be on an instrument, singing or a group or solo dance. Mrs Jones would be keen to hear from all pupils who would be interested, including:

- Those who have instrumental or singing lessons (whether in school or outside of school)
- Those who have dance lessons
- Those who are self-taught and would like the chance to perform

If you think your child would be interested in performing at one of these concerts, please email Mrs Jones tjones@normanhurstschool.co.uk

Year 11 GCSE Examination Update

Year 11 pupils will complete their second set of Mock examinations from Monday 7 March to Friday 18 March. They will be given a timetable and this will also be uploaded to the portal. They have plenty of time for revision to prepare and they will be doing revision instead of the usual homework tasks during this period. These examinations will take place in lesson time in the United Reformed Church and other rooms in school. In between exams, pupils will have lessons and be supported to revise.

I have received a number of enquires asking whether the Summer examinations will take place. At this stage it very much appears to be moving towards the examinations happening, and therefore we will continue to prepare the pupils for this. It is however extremely important that if your child is in school, they attend the relevant after school boosters for their subjects. These happen on a weekly basis. During the Easter holidays we will also be hosting subject boosters as the pupils move closer towards their examinations. Pupils do not have to be in uniform during these days. They must sign in and out as they enter and leave the building. I hope Year 11 will use these opportunities to enhance their revision. Details of this timetable will be sent to parents after the February half term.

Turning off our Car Engines

If you are dropping off or picking up your child from school in a car, please will you turn your engine off while waiting. I am sure we can all agree that exhaust fumes right outside the school are not helping the environment or air quality. Thank you all in advance: in doing so we can play our part in taking care of the environment.

Important Dates for the Diary

Tue 1 Feb	08:30 – 09:00	LK-Year 6 'Drop-In' Morning for Parents
	08:30 – 09:30	Second Hand Uniform Sale
	16:00 – 18:30	Year 7 Parents' Evening
Wed 2 Feb	09:00 – 15:20	KG-Year 6 Chinese Dance Workshops
Tue 8 Feb	17:00 – 18:00	Song & Dance Twilight Concert – Extra-Curricular Musicians
Wed 9 Feb		Year 9 DTP/Men ACWY Vaccinations
Thu 10 Feb	17:00 – 18:00	Year 9 Year 11 GCSE Music Presentation Evening
Fri 11 Feb	08:40 – 09:00	Year 4S Assembly to Parents

Mon 14 Feb – Fri 18 Feb

Half Term Monday 14 February – Friday 18 February

Mon 21 – Fri 27 Feb		Junior Maths Week
Fri 25 Feb	08:45 – 09:45	Year 9 to Year 11 Coffee Morning for Parents
Wed 2 March	09:00 – 09:15	Year 4R Assembly to Parents
Fri 4 Mar	08:40 – 09:00	KG-Reception Assembly to Parents
Sat 5 – Sun 6 Mar		D of E Practice Weekend
Mon 7 – Tue 8 Mar	overnight	Year 7 Year 8 Residential trip Essex Outdoor Danbury
Mon 7 – Fri 11 Mar		Junior Assessment Week
Mon 7 – Fri 18 Mar		Year 11 Mock Exams
Fri 11 Mar	08:30 – 15:30	ISA A Capella Competition – Junior/Senior Choirs
	08:40 – 09:00	Year 6 Assembly to Parents
Sat 12 – Sun 13 Mar		D of E Practice Weekend
Mon 14 – Fri 18 Mar		Junior Science Week
Wed 16 Mar	09:00 – 15:30	Year 4 Science Museum trip
Fri 18 Mar	08:40 – 09:00	Year 5 Assembly to Parents
Mon 21 – Wed 23 Mar	16:00 – 18:30	Junior Parents' Evenings
Wed 23 Mar	09:00 – 15:30	Year 10 and Year 11 Biology Field Trip High Beech
Thu 24 Mar	09:00 – 15:30	Year 6 Science Museum trip
Fri 25 Mar	08:40 – 09:00	Year 2 Assembly to Parents

A reminder about absences from school

If your child is unwell and unable to attend school please telephone the school office to report the absence to a member of the Office team or email absence@normanhurstschool.co.uk by 9am. Please do not send your child to school if they are unwell in any way. Children will be sent home if they display any signs of illness. No child should attend school if they display any symptoms of Covid-19, or if they should be self-isolating.

With my very best wishes

Yours sincerely



Jacqueline Job
Headmistress



OAK-TREE SCHOOLS is the group name of:

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

HEAD OFFICE ADDRESS: 6 ALBION HILL, LOUGHTON, ESSEX IG10 4RA

GROUP MANAGING PRINCIPAL & DIRECTOR: MR MATTHEW HAGGER B.A. (HONS), M.ED., PGCE CO-DIRECTORS: MR NICHOLAS HAGGER M.A. (OXON), MRS ANN HAGGER CERT. ED.

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