

March 2022



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Headmistress's Message

Dear Parents

The second half of the Spring term has been an exciting and rewarding time at Normanhurst. Pupils have been working incredibly hard and they have had the opportunity to enjoy exciting lessons, as you can see in this newsletter. We have continued to have our school focus on the sciences and celebrated Science and Engineering Week, as well as events to celebrate World Book Day and International Women's Day.

Normanhurst is well known for its excellence in arts, design and music. The work our pupils are currently doing is inspiring and continues to demonstrate how talented they are. This term we have celebrated Chinese New Year, participated in the ISA Badminton and A Capella Competitions, and Year 9 and 10 pupils have begun their preparations for the Duke of Edinburgh expedition. The Charity Committee has organised a fundraiser for UNICEF, and Years 7 and 8 went to Danbury for their residential trip.

In sport both juniors and seniors have demonstrated real commitment and dedication. There has been a host of fixtures and competitions and I am proud of what our pupils have achieved. We are also proud of the individual contributions each pupil makes towards our school and the wider life of the community. I hope you enjoy reading this exciting newsletter, and may I wish you all a lovely Easter holiday.

With my best wishes

Mrs Jacqueline Job
Headmistress

EARLY YEARS NEWS



Ready for the ball!



Our Pizza chefs!



Benjamin practising his brushing technique

Italy Continuing with our globe-trotting theme, Early Years have been busy discovering Italy. We started by visiting the Leaning Tower of Pisa, which the children went on to construct from a variety of media. We listened to Italian music, dressed for a Venetian ball, and even made our own beautiful masks.

In our water play we discovered the canals of Venice and made gondolas from fresh fruit for our afternoon snack. We read the story of 'Pinocchio' and then became Geppetto, working together on our new woodwork bench to create a toy cart.

We explored tastes from Italy including Gelato, and we became chefs in a Naples pizzeria. In Rome we were gladiators at the Colosseum. The highlight of the week was the erupting volcano that we created in Science!



Olive and Ediz become carpenters



Konur showing his pancake expertise

Pancake Day In Early Years we celebrated both St David's Day and Shrove Tuesday with lots of

creative activities. The children enjoyed making a Welsh dragon, painting still life daffodils, and then in the afternoon it was time for pancake fun! There were pancake races, flipping the pancake games and a tricky ordering the pancake by size activity. The role play area was made into a garden centre and florist, and the children enjoyed the opportunity to plant seeds both inside and out. The dinosaur cress has grown very quickly and our grass in Lower Kindergarten is shooting nicely.

Assembly Our Early Years assembly to our friends and families was all about our teeth. We began with an episode of Topsy and Tim who were visiting the dentist. We were also lucky enough to have Dr Purushothaman, a dentist, come and speak to us. The children had lots to share with her, especially about their wobbly teeth, and she taught us the importance of cleaning our teeth. A huge thank you to her from all of the Early Years department. The children have had great fun in our role play area 'at the dentist'.



Remy and fluffy friend!

Chicks As part of Science Week, the Early Years Department once again hosted a clutch of eggs which, one by one, hatched into little chicks. The children were able to check on the progress of the chicks each day, and even got to hold the fluffy hatchlings. After one of their daily visits, Lower Kindergarten created their own dancing chicks and had a chick themed snack!

Shakespeare Week We really enjoyed Shakespeare Week. A Midsummer's Night Dream' was the inspiration for an afternoon of magic outdoors, which we transformed into a fairy garden. We performed our very own magic flower story together. What a surprise the magic flower had in store for us!

Making a fairy garden



RECEPTION NEWS



William's clever engineering for his leaning tower

Reception have loved learning about Italy. We learnt all about the Leaning Tower of Pisa. We enjoyed drawing it and then we tried to build it in practical ways. We used marshmallows and spaghetti to see if we could make a tower and see if it would stand. William was the first one to achieve this. "I put spaghetti on the side to hold it". Other children began to magpie his idea and soon we had five Leaning Towers of Pisa that were standing!

We also tried making it using toilet rolls, layering them with card in-between each part; they looked fantastic!

We have also loved learning about Space, and enjoyed presenting our assembly which was all about Space. For this, we worked together to create some planets using paper lanterns, and we even put lights into some of them!

Spring has sprung and we have been learning all about plants and growing! We created some beautiful flower pictures using different fruits and vegetables.



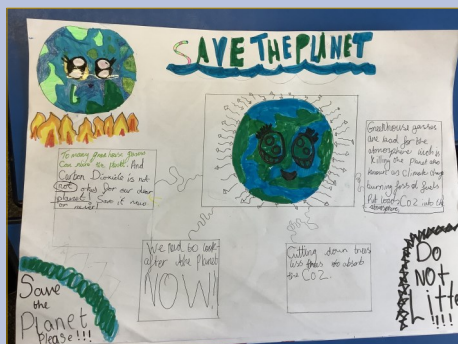
Our bright planets



John's veggie flower

YEAR 4 NEWS

Over February Half Term, the Year 4 pupils were tasked with the challenge to create their own toys using materials from around their house. This linked to our new topic in Geography, "Who are the Global Caretakers?". During the project the children were thinking about ways that they can reduce waste, reuse materials and recycle. The children were very creative and came up with some wonderfully inventive ways to make their toys.



Looking after our planet Earth

This term, continuing with the same theme in their Geography lesson, the children have been incredibly animated and enthusiastic in their learning about global warming, renewable and non-renewable energy, and recycling. They created some fabulous group posters on the topic of global warming and the greenhouse effect.

So now, in response to the question "Who are the Global Caretakers?", Year 4's answer is "We are!".

4R took part in an exciting assembly for parents and half the junior school at the beginning of March. In line with our History topic of The Romans, the children performed their own take on Romulus and Remus, the story of the building of Rome. All the children picked their own parts, chose their costumes, and performed with real style. The assembly finished with a very catchy song, 'Like a Roman', performed with actions. Well done Year 4R!



Ethan's 'silver' robot

JUNIOR MATHS WEEK

It has been a term of special weeks, including Junior Maths Week which was 21-25 February. The children enjoyed a selection of Maths-related challenges and activities to strengthen their understanding in fun-filled, practical ways. The children spent some time researching prominent figures from the world of mathematics and related fields, and then presented their research to their classmates in all sorts of creative ways.

Years 5 and 6 spent all of Maths week together learning and exploring many different aspects. The pupils were split into mixed groups to research two names who made great contributions to the world of STEM: Nikola Tesla and Alan Turing. They worked in their groups using the iPads to research and create a PowerPoint presentation, which they later presented to their peers and teachers. The pupils were very knowledgeable about their own project but were able to pick up facts from the other groups' projects too. They showed excellent computing and presenting skills in this task!

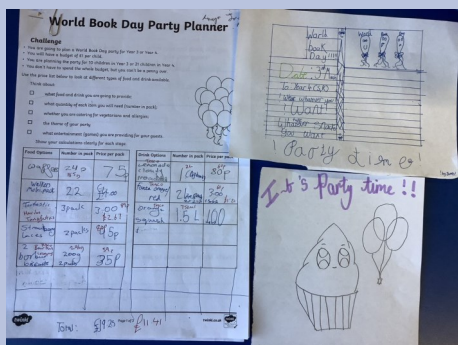


Year 5 and 6 pupils presenting their research on Alan Turing



2D shapes in the forest

During one morning, Years 5 and 6 ventured out into the local forest. They again worked in their groups to create 2D shapes using the materials they could find in the forest. They were given strict rules about shape, perimeter and area. The teams worked hard to create their shapes which were then carefully measured by their teachers to check they met the criteria. Considering none of the pupils had any resources to measure the shapes, just their eye, they impressed their teachers by meeting all the criteria!



Party planning!

Other activities included planning a party for the upcoming World Book Day, in which the children were given a budget of £1 per child to create a super party for their peers. This needed to include food, drink, games, and activities. They needed to use their research skills to budget online all the provisions needed for the celebration. It was lovely to see all children get involved with many displaying excellent leadership roles and volunteering wonderful ideas!



There were lots of colourful 100 t-shirts and tops

All of the pupils were given a treasure hunt solving Maths questions that were hidden around the school. They had to complete this in small groups in order to

receive their reward. The pupils displayed great teamwork and computational skills to solve the clues and get to the treasure at the end of the hunt.



On the Friday, the whole of the Juniors celebrated 100 Days of School in this academic year. They wore t-shirts and jumpers which they had decorated very creatively around the theme of 100. They also completed lots of activities around the number 100, including doing 100 star jumps, making the number 100 in different ways, baking and creating pictures. It was also a great opportunity to review their learning by making a list of 100 things they had learnt so far this year. It was such a fun day!

Happy 100 Days of School!

JUNIOR SCIENCE WEEK

In the week of 14-18 March, the Juniors took part in a range of activities to broaden their knowledge and experience of Science.

Years 1 and 2 learnt all about minibeasts, their habitats and the important jobs they do for British farming. Following this, they ventured into the forest for a minibeast hunt! They were able to find slugs, snails, ladybirds, beetles, bees, and butterflies, and were incredibly amazed to learn that a butterfly has an exoskeleton. It was a muddy adventure!



Litter pickers at the ready!

Years 1 and 2 had another opportunity to enjoy outdoor learning when they helped to clean up our local community by collecting litter. They filled ten bags!

Year 3 have had a fantastic Science Week! On the Wednesday, they planted sunflower seeds. They cannot wait to see which one grows the tallest! Then on Thursday they went to the Science Museum. In the morning they explored the Aviation and Engineering rooms, and then after lunch they got to watch a fascinating film called Antarctica 3D in the IMAX theatre.

During Science Week Year 4 embraced all things science-based, in our theme of Growth. The children well and truly got into the spirit of the experiments and activities.



Alex and Freddie enjoying the chicks

We were lucky enough to view the chicks developing daily over the week. Each day the children had the opportunity to hold the chicks and understand the life cycle from fertilized egg to baby fluffy chick. Toward the end of this week, the children commented on how leggy and large the chicks had become.

A real treat was the arrival of a new class pet, our giant African snails! Miss Sainsbury kindly brought these in from home. We had a fun afternoon holding the babies and viewing the adults from their tanks. Miss Sainsbury was able to explain what the snails feed on (cucumber and cuttlefish) and tell the children that adults can reach 20cm in length when fully grown!



James and Nina help the Science Museum presenter to 'Feel the Force'

Finally, we undertook a wonderful trip to the Science Museum. The pupils visited the 'Ancient Greeks: Science and Wisdom' exhibition and watched a workshop called 'Feel the Force'. They were also given plenty of opportunities to visit every floor of the museum, taking in every interesting corner.



Elin finds a minibeast



Year 3 in the IMAX theatre



Anaya holding our pet baby snail

JUNIOR SCIENCE WEEK continued



Christian 'mining for coal'

traced around the chocolate chip carefully and collected them on the side. At the end, we have had some cases of perfect mining as well as some with disruption to the landscape around! The children then discussed how their

Year 5 have been learning about renewable energy and they first looked at fossil fuels and their effects on Earth. After discussing what fossil fuels are and looking at the ways in which they affect our planet, the children pretended to be miners and extracted 'coal' from their chocolate chip cookies. They carefully observed their cookies (Earth's crust layer) during this process to see how it was being altered. Their task was to extract the chocolate chips whole, whilst trying to cause minimal damage to their cookies. They used their cocktail sticks to dig around carefully to loosen the 'soil'. Then, they



Destruction of the 'coal face'

mining caused damage in various ways, including crumbs spreading, dust flying and pieces of 'rocks' bouncing around with the force from their cocktail sticks. They were able to equate these interesting findings with concerns for the wellbeing of humans, animals and plants around mining zones.

Year 6 had a very exciting and animal orientated first day for Science Week. After the exciting assembly, they discussed what the term 'Growth' meant to them. After this they created an acrostic poem personalised to their views. Following this they met some Giant Snails and the Chicks, and they learnt all about how they grow and develop.



Kenya enjoying a moment with one of our chicks

Day 2 of Science Week for Year 6 was just as exciting as Day 1! They set up a fascinating investigation to study which environments enable mould to grow the easiest. During this investigation, they looked at the discovery made by Alexander Fleming and used their knowledge to make predictions for the results of the test. They

monitored the experiment every day and after a week or so, they found that the bread that was sanitised, exposed to air and to clean hands had no mould, the control bag had some white mould on one side, and the bread handled by dirty hands had lots of mould on both sides.

After this, they had a fantastic opportunity to talk to Material Scientist/ Engineer, Karen Vernon-Pang via a zoom session that was hosted by Belle Fletcher from Sheffield Hallam University. To finish off their day, Year 6 started to learn about Human and Natural Causes of Air Pollution – what a busy day!

The Year 6 pupils went on a trip to the Science Museum to expanded their understanding of animal habitats and biomes. They watched a 3D film at the iMAX cinema all about Antarctica. They found out about a hidden ice village at the bottom of the sea floor full of animals we had not previously known about, as well as ways all the animals have adapted to living in such freezing temperatures. As well as this, the pupils got the chance to explore the interactive activities in the 'Wonderlab' at the museum. In this immersive experience, they had the chance to test out the friction slides, pulley chairs, test wind power and static electricity as well as find out more about reflective surfaces and light and dark. The Year 6 pupils had a busy day but they all said it was worth it!



Experiment to grow mould ...



... and the result!

JUNIOR SCIENCE WEEK continued

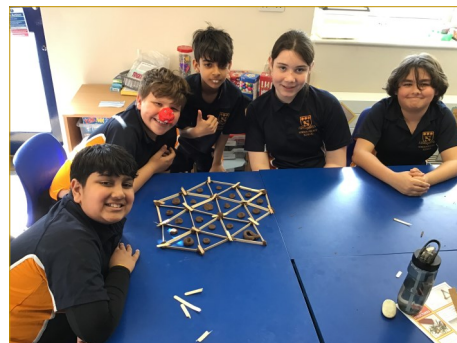
To finish off Science Week, Year 6 planted sunflower and cress seeds to learn about Growth in a more practical way. They have been sent home with their seeds to grow their own plants to bring in at the end of Summer Term. They also created a class plant that they can monitor each day and compare to their plants at home. In addition, a House Competition was held where they had to create the most creative 2D patterns and 3D shapes using lollipop sticks and plasticine. All the children got involved and came up with some very novel ideas; in the end, Warren won for the 2D pattern and Connaught won for the 3D shape. Well done to all of Year 6 for a fantastic week!



Learning about Growth



Creating 3-D shapes ...



... and 2-D patterns!

WORLD BOOK DAY 2022

Kindergarten In Kindergarten the children shared their costumes with their friends as they played musical games. They celebrated their favourite space story 'Aliens Love Underpants' in their class assembly on Friday afternoon.

Reception The Reception children had a fantastic day celebrating World Book Day! Some of the Reception children created their own book based on the story 'The Tiger Who Came to Tea'. They used alliteration to create their own book title and we had books called 'The Cheetah Who Came for Cheese' and 'The Mantaray Who Came To eat Maltesers'. They drew a story map for their story with the characters, setting, a problem and a solution. The children then told their stories to their friends and they were fantastic! They also acted out part



Receptions

of the story 'The Tiger Who Came to Tea'. They had someone acting as Sophie, the child, and someone acting as dad when he got home from work. They had great fun and the children acted out the scene very well! They ended the day by sharing their favourite stories with each other. They had great fun!

Year 1 Year 1 absolutely loved dressing up for World Book Day! We were lucky enough to have a party organised by Year 5 and 6. They arranged for us to play Pass the Parcel, Musical Chairs and Musical Bumps! Everybody was lucky enough to win a prize. We had lots of popcorn, biscuits, and juice. It was amazing!



Lower and Upper Kindergarten



Year 1

WORLD BOOK DAY continued



Year 3

Year 3 Year 3 had a fabulous 'World Book Day'! They dressed as different book characters including 'Fantastic Mr Fox', 'Alice in Wonderland' and even 'Cesario' from Shakespeare's 'Twelfth Night'! During the day, the children enjoyed a party that was planned for them by our Year 4 pupils; they played book-related party games and ate delicious snacks! The children said that they "loved looking at everybody's costumes".



Year 2

Year 4 The children arrived in the morning all dressed in fantastic outfits. We had a couple of Harry Potters, Dorothy from the Wizard of Oz (Toto included), Matilda, and many more. This was a great opportunity to take individual and group photos of the pupils. The morning started with the children planning a reverse fairy tale. The children came up with some brilliant ideas such as 'Dangerous Red' and 'Beary and the Three Girls'.

After lunch, the children were very excited to start their party. This had been arranged by their peers the previous week. They started with dancing and chasing balloons. Then followed a game of Pin the Book on Matilda. A lovely party food spread was laid out for the children to enjoy after the dancing. Finally, the pupils were put back into their story planning groups to build their fairy tale on Scratch. This was a good opportunity for them to practise their team-building skills and demonstrate their coding knowledge!



Year 4



Year 5

Year 5 Year 5 started their World Book Day by reading Beowulf and discussing the Anglo-Saxon themes in it. In the afternoon, Year 5 enjoyed their class party planned and budgeted by a mix of Year 5 and 6 pupils during our Maths Week. After enjoying some treats in class, there were many choices for different activities: Book Treasure Hunt, Limbo, World Book Day mindfulness colouring and most fun of them all: Pin the Nose on the Clown! This was a game planned and produced by the pupils who had planned the party. There were a lot of misses followed by a lot of laughter! Although a few children got extremely close, no one managed to pin the clown's nose YET, so we are expecting to revisit the game and aim slightly more accurately! As a class, we talked about our favourite books and

characters. The children also talked about the characters they dressed up as and explained why they are precious for them. It was a fun-filled day, which we are looking forward to enjoying again next year!

Year 6 Year 6 celebrated World Book Day in style! As well as dressing up and showing off their costumes they enjoyed their class party. The party was organised during Maths Week by their peers and they played games, danced and made bookmarks as well as eating a treat or two! During the afternoon, they used the iPads to research an author of their choice and created a biography about their life. Some of the authors included C.S. Lewis, Judy Blume, J.K. Rowling, David Walliams and Jeff Kinney. The pupils also redesigned a front cover for their favourite book showing off their art skills. They all enjoyed the day so much they even completed some World Book Day related homework to finish the day off.



Year 6

EXTRA-CURRICULAR CLUB NEWS



Kehanique's wedding dress design

Fashion Design Club The pupils have continued to be incredibly creative in Fashion Design Club. We have been on a journey of understanding how to design prints and patterns for garments. The children have used their storyboards as inspiration, putting their ideas into garment shapes on paper. Some of the children created lolly pop stick people using fabric cuttings, ribbons, and button trims.

British Sign Language Club BSL Club celebrated Science Week and the arrival of the chicks by learning a new song all about a 'Spring Chicken'! You can watch the video [HERE](#) to see their skills in action!

Hama Beads Club Hama Beads Club has been very busy this term! The children have been creatively using the beads to make lots of intricate designs and patterns. Aarush innovatively created separate parts of a person which he then ironed together to make a whole model.

Top: Hama Beads creations; Bottom: Aarush's model



JUNIOR SHAKESPEARE WEEK

At Normanhurst, we took a different approach this year for the Shakespeare Week celebrations: we chose a Shakespeare play to study in class as one of our English books for the entire half term. Each year group in the Juniors looked at a different play and developed their understanding of characters, plots and playscripts. They then completed various tasks based on the plot.

During Shakespeare Week itself, we had a number of activities throughout the Juniors. We ran a Shakespeare Week competition which has produced numerous fantastic entries that we will be submitting. Last year, we received two highly commended places. This year, we are hoping to achieve even more!

There were a number of cross-curricular activities. In Year 6, for example, pupils combined their English, Maths and Science lessons where they became 'The Witches' from Macbeth. They used their measuring, capacity and volume skills to measure out potions and note down the results of each creation. The pupils loved trying out different measurements and seeing the potions bubble.

At the end of the week, we were treated to a One Man Shakespeare Show by Anthony Glenn. Anthony has a range of Shakespeare shows that he acts out all by himself (whilst involving the audience). Our play was A Midsummer Night's Dream. Some children were invited onto the stage to be a part of the play, too! There were lots of laughter and surprises for us all.

We are now all looking forward to our Shakespeare Week next year!



A taste of Shakespearean comedy

DANBURY OUTDOORS CENTRE

The pupils in Years 7 and 8 had the fantastic opportunity to visit Danbury Outdoors Centre on the 7 and 8 March. The residential trip included a one night stay and lots of fun activities for all of the pupils to enjoy. Everyone got the chance to problem solve, climb a vertical obstacle course, zipwire and flex their skills on the archery range. In addition, pupils stayed in some incredibly comfortable log cabins, with some even making their own beds - possibly the biggest challenge of the trip! Topped off with some delicious food, and a few ghost stories round the imaginary campfire, everyone had a fun-filled trip.



Numa, Tajrin and Mia enjoying the sunshine



Ziplining



Problem solving as a team

DUKE OF EDINBURGH AWARD

On Saturday 12 and Sunday 13 March pupils from Years 9 and 10 continued their journey on the DofE programme by completing their practice expedition. In this time they developed skills such as navigation, orienteering, setting up of tents, rucksack packing, the safe use of stoves, diet and menu planning, first aid, emergency procedures and county code, as well as planning their final routes for their qualifying expeditions.

Pupils excelled throughout the weekend and there were some wonderful moments captured on camera that displayed teamwork, leadership, independence and communication, which are of course an integral part of being successful on this great scheme. I was incredibly impressed by the way pupils conducted themselves during this weekend, particularly during the wet weather on Sunday. We now look forward to the assessed expedition where I am sure students will go above and beyond to ensure they complete and achieve the full bronze award.

Mr Matthews
DofE Coordinator



Planning the route and learning map symbols



Pitching the tent



... successfully!

ISA A CAPELLA COMPETITION

On Friday 11 March nearly 40 students from Years 5-11 took part in the ISA A Capella Competition. We travelled by coach to Leighton Park School where we joined choirs from at least 20 other schools, including 6th forms.



Junior choir

Our Junior Choir, led by Lucy (Y11) and Imogen (Y10), had the nerve-racking job of opening the whole competition with a rousing performance of "Wavin' Flag". The pupils injected real enthusiasm and joy into their performance, all singing so well, with solos by Palesa and Sophia and great percussion provided by Orson, Troy, Bella and Felix. The Junior Choir and their senior leaders had worked on a great arrangement of the song, splitting into lots of different groups, all taking lead parts along the way.



Normanhurst A Capella choirs

We were then treated to some great performances from other schools until it was the turn of our Senior Choir. The Senior Choir sang "Brighter Than The Sun", with lots of pupils (Lucy, Numa, Dylan, Matias, Imogen W, Imogen B, Yazmina and Sarim) taking solos, and fantastic percussion provided by Malachi. It was a brilliant performance with all pupils taking a turn at the tune or backing vocals through the piece, showing a good, interesting and varied arrangement.



Senior Ensemble

After a break and some more school entries it was finally the turn of the Senior Ensemble. Only nine pupils are allowed in the ensemble category and they have to show a more complex arrangement and harmonies. The Normanhurst Ensemble did not disappoint, with lead vocals by Gabi and every member of the group taking a solo in the beautiful song "Give Your Heart a Break".



Senior choir

Once the Senior Ensemble had performed it was time for lunch whilst the judges deliberated. The judges were the famous a capella group, "The Sons of Pitches", who won Gareth Malone's televised search for the best British a capella group. Once lunch was over they treated all the pupils to a short concert, including a song they improvised on the spot on the subject of "fishing" suggested to them by our own Felix! This was a highlight of the

day with all our pupils impressed and inspired by their amazing arrangements and stage presence.

The prizes were announced and although we didn't win, we were extremely proud of our performances and there was a lot of singing on the coach ride home, which, in traditional school trip fashion was stuck in traffic for two hours!

Our a capella choirs are student led, with pupils making the decisions on repertoire, arrangements and movements. Lucy and Imogen took on the lead roles this year, with lots of help and suggestions from the other students and we were one of the few schools that entered the maximum three categories, all completely student led. All are welcome to join our school choirs and our Y9s and Y10s are already planning the performances for next year. Watch this space!

PUPIL NEWS

Nicolas Y7 Nicolas was recently selected to participate with his viola in the "Young Artist Overture Day" with the London Philharmonic Orchestra.

The lucky few were exploring some Scandinavian music - *Finlandia* by Sibelius and *In the Hall of the Mountain King* by Grieg. They played a little concert at the end of the day alongside other LPO musicians and Junior Artists.

Nicolas's mother was at the recital and commented, "Unfortunately, we were not allowed to record during their recital, but please believe me when I say that it was amazing! So much talent in one room. We are so proud of Nicolas and his music journey. We hope that today was the first of many concerts with the LPO and other wonderful orchestras, including the Normanhurst one!"

We at Normanhurst are also very proud of you, Nicolas, and we are sure your musical achievements will just grow and grow!



What a wonderful experience for young musician Nicolas!



Lucy with first place medal

Lucy Y11 On March 19th I represented London North at the ISA National Cross Country Championships at Worksop College. The day was bright and sunny and it thankfully wasn't too muddy. I got to walk the course before my race and make note of any challenging parts. It was a 4km race and there were some steep hills and some parts were sandy. There was also a really long, slow incline at the end. Just before my race it was announced that the 6th form race would be run at the same time, which meant that I'd be running against 18 year olds.

The race started well, as I was the only one representing London North, I had a really good starting position and managed to stay in the top ten. By the end of the first lap I was in the top six and at the beginning of the second lap I'd moved into 3rd place. The two runners ahead of me were a good distance away, but I wasn't sure if they were in my race or the 6th Form race. I stayed in 3rd place throughout the second lap and put a good distance between myself and the runner in 4th. I pushed at the finish and got a great time of just over 15 minutes, at that point I knew I was in the medals, but, because the 6th formers were running as well, I

wasn't sure exactly what medal. I was so pleased when they told me I was the first KS4 student and was national champion! My medal and prize were presented by Sean Gaffney, an amazing athlete who has taken part in the Commonwealth and Invictus Games.

It was a great way to end my senior cross country season and I would like to say a special thank you to all of the Normanhurst PE department for helping me and encouraging me, and in particular Mr Evans for always pushing me and never letting me settle for mediocrity.

By Lucy, 11B

What a fantastic achievement, Lucy! Well done!

CELEBRATING SHAKESPEARE



The Young Shakespeare Company

On 23 February Years 9 and 10 were treated to an outstanding performance of Romeo and Juliet by the Young Shakespeare Company. Four fantastic actors joined us in our school hall where they proceeded to run the pupils through rehearsal tactics, before putting on their own version of the classic Shakespeare play with a modern twist. Three pupils even volunteered to be a part of the play - hopeful young thespians in the making! The company stayed around at the end of the play to answer any questions the pupils may have had.

Then on 24 March, Years 7, 8 and 9 had the pleasure of being visited by Anthony Glenn, leader of Shaking up Shakespeare. They were treated to an hour long performance of Romeo and Juliet, which involved lots of our own young thespians getting up and joining in, and got a whole overview of the classic love story from a totally new perspective. After the performance the Year 9s, who have been studying the play in depth as they prepare for GCSE Literature, also got an hour long workshop with Anthony, where they created scenes from the play in groups and considered their own interpretations of the story. It was a fun-filled morning loved by all, the perfect celebration of Shakespeare Week!



Ayaan and Numa getting to grips with Shakespeare

HOUSE PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION

Mrs Parrott has once again launched what has become an annual and much loved feature of the Normanhurst calendar, the House Photography Competition. In a nod to developments in visual media and young people's interests a new category called Digital Art has been introduced for the first time this year. This category is for all drawings and images created digitally, as well as photographs that have been edited digitally.

As well as the Digital Art category, there are photography categories of 'The Things that Unite Us' and 'Surface and Pattern'. The competition is open to all pupils in the school, and also to staff and to parents and guardians, who will be judged in their own groups.

The closing date is Tuesday 26 April, and entries (one per category) can be emailed to Mrs Parrott at dparrott@normanhurstschool.co.uk, or a printed version can be brought in to school. Please ensure your entry is clearly labelled with your name and the category. For full details of the competition, please click [HERE](#).

Good luck and happy snapping everyone! Look out for the results in our next edition of the newsletter.



FRENCH CHANDELEUR CHALLENGE

This half term, all pupils in KS3 French took part in the Chandeleur Challenge, to celebrate the French pancake day. Pupils followed different recipes and designs and prepared very creative pancakes, to represent all sorts of things – from animals, to shapes, to faces. Pupils were asked to either draw the pancake or to cook it themselves, and the results were wonderful, with some very colourful and well thought out creations. Every form then voted for the best three pancakes in their classes, and the pupils received ten house points each.

Bonne chandeleur!



NORMANHURST SPORTS REPORT

GCSE PE Y10 and Y11 GCSE PE pupils recently spent a theory lesson learning about and creating the different types of energy drinks that are on the mass market. They learnt about the differences between hypertonic, hypotonic and isotonic drinks such as Lucozade and Powerade before creating some of their own using recipes provided to us by Loughborough University as part of their Higher Education Unboxed programme. The task aimed to raise pupils' awareness of sports nutrition, in particular the composition of sports energy drinks. Pupils also compared the ingredients and branding for different sports drinks on the market, before creating their own energy drinks that meet the needs of a specific target audience.



Creating an energy drink



Victory against The King's School

U13 Football vs The King's School Our U13 boys football team made a long journey to Harpenden, Hertfordshire to play The King's School for a fixture rearranged from before Christmas. Despite the long drive the boys started quickly and were soon 2-0 up with the first goal coming via a composed finish from Kaylan into the bottom corner from a corner kick. The pitch was extremely wet and our boys dealt very well with it creating numerous chances to score throughout the game. They controlled possession throughout and were a real danger going forward.

Despite a missed penalty towards the end of the first half we went into the break 4-0 up. The second half followed much of the same pattern with us scoring 4 goals but unfortunately conceding one right at the end resulting in a resounding 8-1 win!

Goals were scored by the following: Josh x 2; Kyle x 2; Kaylan x1; Bobby x 1; Charlie x1; Luke x 1. Well done to all involved.

U11 Rugby vs St. Aubyn's School Our U11 team undertook their second competitive contact fixture of the year against St Aubyn's, Woodford Green, in a tight game where both sides showed excellent defence and some good passing. The boys showed a huge improvement from their fixture against Keble earlier in the term. Unfortunately we ended up on the losing side by



Rugby at St Aubyn's

6 tries to 1 with us coming so close to scoring many more. Stand out performances came from Troy who made a try-saving tackle on a boy almost double his size, as well as from Leo for excellent tackle technique, Felix for leading the team and Nathaniel for scoring our try along with some excellent attacking runs!



U8 Boys Hockey

U9 Hockey vs Forest School On Tuesday 8 March the U9 boys' hockey teams were in action against a strong Forest outfit. This was a first hockey outing for this age group and collectively pupils did incredibly well despite losing both fixtures that were closely contested. There were many stand out performances and both teams came away from this experience achieving something which we hope to build on going forward.

Key Stage 1 PE As the weather improved Years 1 and 2 have been out on the field at Peter May enjoying the sunshine and improving their throwing skills. They have practised throwing for accuracy and distance, and throwing a foam javelin. They also enjoyed a fun book-themed PE lesson for World Book Day, doing their lesson in their amazing costumes.



Y1 and Y2 practising their throwing

NORMANHURST SPORTS REPORT continued

Netball All the netball teams have been very active this term.

U9 Team The U9's have had their first few matches and have played really well. Their first ever match was against Daiglen School. They narrowly lost 7-3 but everyone played their part and all the progress from start to finish was fabulous. We then travelled to Gatehouse School to play a triangular fixture with Faraday School. This time we took two U9 teams and with their improved match experience they both put together a very strong performance, leading to a 4-2 win for the A team. Well done to all who played.



U11 netball

U11 Team This term the U11's have also been very busy with tournaments and friendly matches. They have progressed so much this year and I have been really impressed with their level of understanding and commitment. They came 4th in the borough High 5 Netball Tournament. They lost to Gatehouse School in a tightly contested match at Peter May.

U13 Team The U13's have also made fabulous progress this term in their matches. They have played in the ISA competition and in the Borough tournament at Redbridge, and have also had friendly matches against Northbridge House, Kings School and St Aubyns. Each time they have played their performances have improved. This showed in their last game of the season at St Aubyns where they all gelled and they started to score and won the last three quarters of the match.

U16 Team Another busy term for the U16 team. Competitive matches are used to help with GCSE assessment for pupils who have chosen netball as part of their practical, so the matches against Mount School, Braeside, Northbridge House and Forest were invaluable experiences and opportunities for our pupils to demonstrate their ability. Well done to everyone who represented the U16 netball team this year.



U16 netball

Y11 PE As the Y11 pupils head toward their last few weeks in school they have had the opportunity to experience different fitness activities at Chingford Leisure Centre. This has included an induction and use of the cardio and weight machines in the gym. In the studio they have tried Boxercise, circuits, yoga and Pilates, all to help them become able to maintain their fitness independently after they leave Normanhurst.



Year 11 girls trying out Boxercise

NSPA

Dear Parents

As the Spring term finishes, we have some great Normanhurst School Parents Association events to tell you about, coming up after Easter.

SPRING WALK On Sunday 24 April we are holding the Spring Walk. This is a wonderful opportunity to meet other parents and chat with some of the teachers. We start in the school hall, and end back there with hot drinks, sausages rolls and hot cross buns. Our walks at this time of year are always popular with the children as they include an Easter-themed quiz, with the children coming away with bundles of mini-eggs!

SUMMER BBQ Then we have the long-awaited return of the Normanhurst Summer BBQ which will be taking place on Saturday 21 May and, to commemorate the Queen's 70 years on the throne, will be Platinum Jubilee themed. The BBQ raffle is a large part of the event's fundraising, so if you have a prize you can donate, that would be hugely appreciated. Please contact us on the email below if so.



OAKTREE GROUP OF SCHOOLS BALL And another return of a big calendar event: the Oak-Tree Ball is back! It is on Saturday 18 June and this time is being held at the Prince Regent in Chigwell, with a wonderful Gatsby theme. Please buy tickets ASAP before they all go.

SECOND HAND UNIFORM SALES We recently had a very successful pre-loved uniform sale, which raised over £270. Many thanks to the parents who stopped by during this sale. Huge thanks to Janie Bird and Lorraine Green for all their efforts with selling the uniform, and for storing it throughout the year.

Our next stall will be on 17 May, but please remember that you can place an order with the school office in the meanwhile. It is a really good way to top up on extras, or to buy the whole PE kit/school uniform for your children.

We look forward to seeing you at these wonderful upcoming fundraising events and in the meantime, have a wonderful Easter holiday.

With best wishes

The NSPA Committee

normanhurstschoolpa@gmail.com



NSPA
Normanhurst Parents' Association