



Normanhurst School

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HEADMISTRESS

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6 June 2022

Dear Parents

Re: **Headmistress's Letter**

I cannot believe how quickly the school year is going. Competitions and events have returned to our school calendar and it is more important than ever to read all communications that come from the school, particularly as this final term is full of special events and trips.

NSPA and School Barbecue

This term we have seen the return of the NSPA summer walk which was, once again, wonderful to share with the school community, parents, pupils and pets. We also had an action-packed school summer Barbecue, which was full of laughter, dance, great food and drink, but most importantly an event for the whole school community to come together and enjoy each other's company. It was wonderful to hear the buzz between staff and pupils, pupils and pupils, and families and teachers. There is something so special about seeing grandparents and extended family attending, making it a true Normanhurst family event.

I would like to thank the school staff, pupils and parents for attending and thank the many members of the school community and beyond who donated to the event. However, the NSPA definitely deserve a special thank you. They are a special group of people, led by Sinead Greenaway, who work tirelessly to make events like the Barbecue happen. The NSPA are very much appreciated and sit at the heart of the school community. If you haven't thought about getting involved yet, please do, they are always thinking of new ideas.

ISA Jubilee Challenge

Our pupils at Normanhurst entered the ISA Platinum Jubilee Design Challenge. The gallery is now live on the ISA website, and I'm pleased to say that our EYFS group work has been selected to be featured in the live online gallery. We are very proud of their brilliant artwork and you can view the gallery here:

<https://www.isaschools.org.uk/platinum-jubilee-design-challenge>.

Well done Early Years!

ISA Shakespeare Success

I am delighted to share that two junior pupils from Normanhurst have been awarded prizes in the Shakespeare Week Competition 2022. Congratulations to James in Year 2 for being awarded first runners up in the 4-7 years' category. We were also informed that Sofia in Year 5 was awarded a highly commended in the 8-11 years' category. Both children's work will be shown in the ISA online exhibition:

<https://collections.shakespeare.org.uk/exhibition/exhibition/still-my-beating-mind>

(<https://collections.shakespeare.org.uk/exhibition/exhibition/still-my-beating-mind/page/2/object/still-my-beating-mind-sofias-poem-highly-commended-8-11-years>)

Congratulations to both pupils; their entries were impressive.

Sustainability

Congratulations to Aarush and Aurora in year 5 for writing a letter to 10 Downing Street about sustainability. It was an impressive and persuasive letter and they are the recipients of an official reply.

ISA Athletics Success

Congratulations to all the pupils who represented the school in the ISA Athletics Competition in Bedford. The pupils had a fantastic day representing the school against many other ISA schools attending. The school had three national places: Freddie in Year 10 won the 100m hurdles, Laila in Year 7 won the girls' 70m hurdles and Bella in Year 6 won the rounder's ball throw event. Other noteworthy performances included a second place for the Year 5 boys sprint relay, made up of Evan, Tahan, Benjamin and Nathan, and Bobby in Year 7 who finished second in Year 7 javelin. The pupils had a great day and we congratulate them for representing the school so well. All pupils who have won their event will compete in the National Competition in Manchester later this term.

Year 11 Book Return – Thursday 23 and Friday 24 June

Text books or library books issued to Year 11 pupils need to be returned. There are two days on which pupils can do this. Pupils should arrange to return their text books directly to the school office on Thursday 23 and Friday 24 June. They need to bring all of their GCSE text books, for every subject, to school in a labelled carrier bag. They may also have library books or text books from earlier in their school career, which have not yet been returned. These can all be brought back to school at the same time. The office staff have a tick list to register all of the returns. Books should not be returned directly to teachers, or dropped off at other times.

Key Stage 3 Exams: Year 7 to Year 9

Years 7, 8 and 9 now have their end of year summer exams. Pupils will have had the opportunity to make good use of the revision skills we have taught them in school. These are important exams and I know our pupils will want to perform well, but please do not hesitate to contact us if your child is struggling. We will be talking to pupils about preparing for exams, how to manage their time and to support their mental health. If you have any concerns or additional support is required, please initially contact your child's form tutor.

Junior Assessment Week: Years 1 to 6 Assessments

Junior assessment week will take place from Monday 6 to Friday 10 June. Junior pupils will complete assessments in Maths, English and Science. Results will be sent to parents in the end of year school report. INCAS online assessments will also take place from Monday 6 to Friday 17 June. If you have any questions regarding the assessments, please speak to your child's class teacher.

Staffing Update

There are some new teacher appointments to announce for September 2022. There have been many applicants for roles and a strong field of candidates from which to select.

I am pleased to congratulate Miss Stone, who becomes the new Head of Juniors from September. Miss Stone, as you will know is currently already a member of the senior leadership team, as Assistant Head Juniors. I am incredibly excited about this appointment. Miss Stone will be available to meet parents and introduce herself to parents who are less familiar with her after half term in preparation for September.

I am also pleased to inform you that we have now appointed Miss Ridge to the post of Science teacher. Miss Ridge has taught across the full senior range from Year 7 to Year 13. As part of the recruitment process she has already taught our Year 9 pupils and is very excited to be joining the science department, which will be led by Mrs Jayaram in September.

Mrs Jones will be leaving Normanhurst at the end of the year and move within the Oak-Tree Group to Coopersale Hall to develop music there as they extend the school to offer a senior provision. Mrs Jones has significantly developed music at Normanhurst and we thank her for everything that she has done. I am pleased to inform you that we have appointed Mr Christofides to be our new Head of Music. Mr Christofides is an experienced Head of Music and has worked in many schools, including DLD Independent College in London, which has won a number of ISA awards. He is a violinist, plays the piano and many other instruments, as well as being highly skilled in the use of technology in music which we are also keen to develop within the school.

Mrs Coates, the Head of English and Assistant Head of Seniors, will be leaving us at the end of the term to relocate to Scotland. Mrs Coates has been instrumental in leading the school and her passion for language and literature has inspired our pupils to discover just how much fun English can be. We wish Mrs Coates the best of luck in Bonnie Scotland. The recruitment process is underway for Mrs Coates' replacement.

Treasure Island Production

On 19 May we saw the school community come together to watch the annual school production, which this year was Treasure Island at the Redbridge Drama Centre. It was an evening filled with laughter and truly great acting. Our pupils took on their new roles very well and were very believable. Congratulations to all the performers and musicians for making it a performance to remember and thank you to Mrs Kazim, Mrs Jones, Miss Low Ten Que and Miss Fagan for their hard work on putting the production together.

Prefect Applications

It is wonderful to see such enthusiasm from our prospective Year 10 pupils about wanting to become a prefect. Pupils have already started thinking about which roles they would like to apply for. This year, pupils have the opportunity to apply for the following roles:

- Head Prefects - traditionally known as Head Boy or Head Girl
- Head of House for Warren and Connaught
- Deputy Head of House for Warren and for Connaught
- Head of Sports - Sports Captain
- Head of Arts - including Music, Art and Drama
- Head of Form Captains
- Head of School Council

Pupils were required to write a letter of application over the half term. The deadline for applications is Thursday 9 June 2022. I wish all pupils the best of luck and look forward to seeing them at the interview stage. Announcements will be made at Speech Day on 30 June.

Year 6 Prefect applications will also need to be written and handed in by Thursday 9 June. Good luck to all of those applying.

Sports Day: Thursday 23 June

I have the pleasure in saying that our annual Sports day will take place on Thursday 23 June at Lee Valley Athletics Track and Field. All pupils will be involved and will compete, while representing their houses, Connaught or Warren. The senior pupils will come to school as normal in their PE kits and they will be taken to Lea Valley for a 9.15am start.

All pupils will compete in individual track and field events until 12.15pm and they will then return to school to have lunch and participate in lessons. The junior sports day will take place from 12.30pm until 3.30pm. All junior pupils will participate in relay races, throws, jumps and obstacle runs.

They will compete at the following times:

- Years 3 to 6 – 12.30-3.30pm
- Early Years to Year 2 – 2.30-3.30pm

Please note that these are approximate times and may vary slightly on the day. DE Photos will be taking photographs of events, as they have done for many years, and you will be able to purchase a photo as a memento of the day if you would like to. Parents will be able to come and join us to spectate during the day. We will publish a Sports Day program in advance so you can see which events your child will be participating in for their House. Senior pupils will be dismissed from school as normal, EYFS and Junior pupils may be collected from Lea Valley at 3.30pm.

Early Years Celebration: Monday 27 June

Our Early Years department will be celebrating the end of year on Monday 27 June at 2pm at the United Reform Church, Buxton Road. This event is for the families and children in Kindergarten and Reception. It will be wonderful for parents to join us in celebrating the wonderful achievements and progress of the children in Early Years.

Speech Day Celebrations: Thursday 30 June

Celebrating the pupils' hard work and success at Normanhurst has been a strength over the years. Speech Day normally takes place at Chingford Assembly Hall, however, we are unable to use the venue this year due its previous use as a Covid testing and vaccination centre. Therefore, Speech Day will take place in St Peter and St Paul Parish Church on the Green, a short walk from the school.

All pupils from Year 1 to Year 10 are expected to attend Speech Day, which takes place on **Thursday 30 June** at the following times:

- **Year 1 - Year 6: 2.00pm.**
Pupils will be taken to the Church by staff and parents will need to collect their children from the church at the end of the event.
- **Year 7 – Year 11: 4.00pm**
Pupils will be taken to the Church by staff at the end of the school day. Pupils will be dismissed or should be collected from the church.

Year 11 pupils receiving awards can also attend the event, with parents and pupils confirming their attendance in advance via the school office.

Whole School Sponsored Walk: Tuesday 5 July

We are hoping to hold our charity walk again this year in the afternoon of Tuesday 5 July. The children from Early Years to Year 1 will be walking to Connaught Waters, and their parents are invited to walk with them. The rest of the school from Year 2 to Year 10 will walk to the Bikers' Hut in High Beech. All children are to come to school that day wearing their PE kit and to bring a bottle of water and a healthy snack. Pupils will be back at school for normal end of day dismissal.

Pupil Wellbeing

There are some useful websites designed to support pupils during exam time, which parents and pupils may find useful:

- https://www.youngminds.org.uk/young-person/coping-with-life/exam-stress?gclid=Cj0KCQjwhLKUBhDiARIsAMaTLnEFN3pRfeAr4UYhEpR3DIJ8Mo3MsT-OIKIiNoI5j24DCleQiYysnQkaAuTkEALw_wcB
- <https://www.annafreud.org/on-my-mind/self-care/revision/>

Exams are part of life and we aim to help pupils to develop the resilience to cope with them as best as they can.

Dates for the diary

Mon 6 – Fri 10 Jun		Y7-9 End of Year Exams
Mon 6 – Fri 10 Jun		Junior Assessment Week
Mon 6 – Fri 17 Jun		Juniors INCAS Online Assessments
Tue 7 Jun	16:00 – 18:30	Y10 Parents' Evening
Wed 8 Jun	10:30 – 12:30	Reception trip Dinosaur Golf
Thu 9 Jun	19:00 – 20:00	NSPA Meeting
Mon 13 – Fri 17 Jun		Y10 Work Experience
Mon 13 Jun	09:00 – 15:00	Y4 trip to Lambourne End
Wed 15 Jun	16:00 – 17:00	Informal Twilight Concert (Music Room)
Thu 16 Jun	16:00 – 17:00	Informal Twilight Concert (Music Room)
Tue 21 Jun	09:00 – 15:00	KG-Y2 trip to Paradise Wildlife Park
Tue 21 Jun	16:00 – 17:00	Informal Twilight Concert (Music Room)
Thu 23 Jun	09:15 – 15:30	Sports Day
FR 24 Jun	12:10 – 15:00	LKG trip to Suntrap

Mon 27 Jun	09:00 – 15:30	Y7&8 trip to Skreens Activity Centre
	09:00 – 15:00	Y3&4 Kidzania house trip
	09:00 – 15:00	Y5&6 Harry Potter Studios house trip
	14:00 – 15:15	EYFS Celebration of the Year
Tue 28 Jun	09:00 – 15:30	Y9&10 trip to Skreens Activity Centre
	12:00 – 15:30	Y6 trip to Jump Giants
	16:00 – 17:00	Informal Twilight Concert (Music Room)
Wed 29 Jun		Moving Up Day
Thu 30 Jun	14:00	Speech Day for Years 1 to 6
	16:00	Speech Day for Years 7 to 11
Fri 1 Jul		Careers Day
Mon 4 Jul	09:00 – 15:45	Senior House Trip to Harlow Activity Centre
Tue 5 Jul	18:30 – 19:30	Summer Music Concert
Wed 6 Jul		Last day of term

As ever, the Leadership Team, your child's form tutor or I am very happy to discuss any questions or concerns that may arise. Please do feel free to email or contact the school office if you would like to meet with us and discuss any issues. In the meantime, I look forward to seeing you at the events above.

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

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