



Normanhurst School

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HEADMISTRESS

Mrs Jacqueline Job B.S.C., NPQH

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3 October 2022

Dear Parents

Re: **Headmistress's Letter**

I hope your children have enjoyed the first half term as much as we have, particularly if you have recently joined the Normanhurst community this September. Pupils have quickly settled into their routines and it has been wonderful to see them starting this academic year so positively.

We have already been able to invite parents to a number of events such as:

- Year 11 Sixth Form Information Evening
- Year 10 'Being Successful at GCSE'
- Year 7 Information Evening
- Junior 'Drop-In' Morning
- EYFS Read, Write, Inc & Maths Information Meeting
- Year 1 Read, Write, Inc Information Meeting
- Juniors Maths Information Meeting
- Macmillan Coffee Morning
- NSPA Autumn Welcome Walk

It has been superb to see so many parents taking an active part in their children's education.

Independent Schools Association Awards Finalists 2022

I am delighted to share the news that we are national finalists for two Independent Schools Association Awards. We have been recognised for Outstanding Provision for Learning Support and Excellence and Innovation in Mental Health and Wellbeing. It is a real accolade and hugely rewarding for the school to reach the finals and to be acknowledged for the work we do with our pupils, particularly considering that there are nearly 600 schools in the Association. The winners will be announced at the ISA Conference in November 2022.

Harvest Festival Tuesday 4 October

Our Harvest Festival will take place at the Parish Church of St Peter and St Paul in Chingford, with the whole school attending. A number of pupils from Kindergarten up to Year 11 will help to lead the celebrations. This year's theme will be 'Harvest around the World'.

Parents are invited to attend, although places are limited to two per family. Parents will be asked to confirm their attendance via a text back. Parents will be seated at the back of the church and in the balcony above. This is an opportunity for us to join together as a community and to make a donation at the end of the service to support the work of the Trussell Trust Epping Forest Food Bank, should you wish to.

Open Evening Thursday 6 October 6.00-8.00pm, EYFS Open Morning Friday 7 October 9.15-11.15am

Open Evening is a highlight in the school calendar when we open our doors to prospective parents. Pupils will be conducting tours and talking about life at Normanhurst School. I am very proud of their efforts and how they are preparing for this event. They have been good ambassadors for the school, demonstrating our school values. Their enthusiasm for school life, their friendliness and good manners are among the best expressions of what Normanhurst School is all about.

Student Leadership Team

Congratulations to the following pupils who have been appointed to their new roles. Our Student Leadership Team has already made a fantastic start by leading by example and students have shown maturity and enthusiasm in carrying out their roles around the school and in assemblies.

Head Prefects: Leila and Rován
Heads of Warren: Yazmina and Mehrnaz
Heads of Connaught: Gabby and Owais
Head of School Council: Awais
Prefects: Ridoy, Akshhan, Andrew, Salah, Yusuf, Yusufjan and Yilmaz

Head of Sport - Warren: Harrison
Head of Sport - Connaught: Esta
Head of Academics: Sydney
Head of Arts: Imogen
Head of Student Leaders: Diyar

Form Leaders

7M Alex and Shay	7T Raghav and Eisa
9M Mattea	9S George
8D Tiago	8P James, Ayaan and Sayfullah
10B Kiran	10R Krish
11B Ben	11J Charlie

Student Council

7M Kenya, Bella and Selina
7T Eisa
8D Ryan
8P Saif
9M Shayaan
9S Madihah
10B Ismail
10R Timothy
11B Sarim
11J Ismael

Year 6 Prefects

Head of House Warren: Ewan and Aurora
Head of House Connaught: Aarush and Dylan
Head of Sport Warren: Nathaniel
Head of Sport Connaught: Palesa
Head of Community Links Warren: Leyla
Head of Community Links Connaught: Sofia

School Council

Reception: Lilia and Lenna-Mae
Year 1: Gabriella and Ali Can
Year 2: Sophia and Leah
Year 3: Lucia and Jessica

Year 4: Kelly and Caitlin
Year 5O: Romy and Erdogan
Year 5S: Leah and Korai
Year 6: Aurora and Daisy

Eco- Council

Year 1 – Zavier, Year 2 – Nehanda, Year 3 – Clem, Year 4 – Sylvie, Year 5O – Lily, Year 5S – Poppy and Year 6 - Elizabeth

Macmillan Coffee Morning and Pupil Cake Sale

On Friday 30 September we hosted our annual Macmillan Coffee Morning. This was organised by our Student Leadership Team and Charity Committee. It was lovely to see so many parents from all years attending while raising money for such a good cause. I am pleased to say that the coffee morning was followed by a cake sale organised by the Charity Committee to raise funds for those who have recently been impacted by the floods in Pakistan.

These were both heart-warming events and clear examples of pupils in school thinking of others.

ATOM Learning

At the start of the first half term Years 4, 5, and 6 have been introduced to ATOM learning by teachers to become familiar with the platform and consolidate their understanding of concepts taught in class. Thank you to the parents who were able to attend the parents ATOM learning talk. I hope you found it informative and can see the value in its introduction. All parents should have now activated their parent accounts, however if further support is needed please do not hesitate to contact Mr Masters. We have organised a parents' meeting on Monday 3 October at 6.30pm online and the details will be shared on Seesaw.

Gift a Book

This term we continue with our 'gift a birthday book' scheme, where pupils on their birthday can gift one of their favourite books to the school. A certificate is placed inside the cover of the book explaining who has gifted the book and photos will be placed in the newsletter. Thank you for supporting this; pupils are very proud to donate their books in assembly and explain their choice of book.

Black History Month, Dyslexia Awareness Month and Diwali

In October we begin to celebrate Black History Month and pupils will have a variety of lessons across the school learning about some of the many significant black people in history and in the modern day. Pupils will also celebrate Dyslexia Awareness Day on Monday 10 October by wearing something red with their uniform and donating money to the British Dyslexia Association. The pupils will learn about the many attributes of dyslexia and participate in circle times, poetry readings, role play and solving riddles. The newsletter and our social media pages will celebrate the pupils' learning as part of their understanding of diversity and inclusion. Pupils will also be learning about Diwali this month, and participating in a number of activities to celebrate the event.

Revision and Positive Study Habit Workshops

We are pleased to host study and revision workshops for the senior pupils. This has been supported by the NSPA, who have subsidised the costs per pupil. On Monday 17 October, there will be a series of workshops.

Years 7 and 8 - Exam Busters Workshop aims to empower pupils with exam preparation tips, revision tools and stress management techniques. It includes:

- Stimulating a positive attitude towards learning, revision and exams
- Upskilling pupils with effective memory techniques
- Providing a comprehensive exam tool kit

Years 9 and 10 - The Super Speed Study Skills workshop is an effective, immersive workshop that aims to inspire pupils to take control of their studying. It includes:

- How to maintain motivation when studying
- To raise standards of learning and cognition
- To encourage the adoption of a range of learning techniques

Year 11 – Mind Mapping which is designed to help pupils better organise their thoughts, allowing pupils:

- To show them how to make and take mind mapped notes
- To boost understanding and recall
- To encourage creativity and build excellent planning skills

These workshops will provide some excellent additional tools to their skillset and revision techniques to add to our pupils' exam repertoires. Further details will be shared shortly.

Parent Talk – How to help your child revise or form positive study habits

We will be hosting a parent talk for parents of pupils in Years 7-11 on how to help your child revise or form positive study habits. This will be online on Monday 17 October at 5pm, run by the company 'Positively You'. There will be limited spaces available, with one place per family. These will be available on a first come first served basis. Please see link below:

Patrick Clair is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting

Topic: My Meeting

Time: Oct 17, 2022 05:00 PM London

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/73646131455?pwd=puzqm03DepYlY8x24kLfah7oWMBEsJ.1>

Meeting ID: 736 4613 1455

Passcode: UiR1jU

Year 3 Camp and Year Group Residential Trips

It was amazing to have all of the Year 3 pupils attend the annual Oak-Tree overnight camp. Miss Varley, Mr Ram, Miss Stone and I were very impressed with the pupils. They demonstrated that they were independent, kind, thoughtful and they engaged with all of the team building activities. I was delighted to see them enjoying themselves and developing their skills beyond the classroom. A great start to Year 3!

This year, each year group from Year 3 to Year 9 will attend a school residential trip:

- Year 4 will be going to Danbury Activity Centre 8-9 May 2023
- Year 5 will be going to Lambourne End Activity Centre 26-28 April 2023
- Year 6 will be going to PGL Marchants Hill 3-5 May 2023
- Year 7 and 8 will be going to Skreens Activity Centre 10-12 May 2023
- Year 9 will be going to Gilwell Activity Centre 14-16 June 2023

Further details will follow in the next few weeks.

Oak-Tree Fireworks Display

The Oak-Tree Fireworks Display is back this year and will take place on Sunday 13 November at 4.30pm. It is an opportunity to bring families together across the group and will be a fantastic event with an amazing firework display. Please order your tickets, if you have not yet done so, here: [Fireworks Display 2022 - Book Here](#).

NSPA Events

The Normanhurst Schools Parents Association is very much part of our school community. The committee are always looking for parents to join and support events. To join the NSPA please email normanhurstschoolpa@gmail.com

- NSPA Quiz Night - Friday 14 October – 7-9pm
- NSPA Meeting - Monday 17 October (zoom) – 7pm
- Oak-Tree Group Fireworks - Sunday 13 November 4.30pm
- NSPA Winter Fayre Planning Meeting - Monday 21 November 7pm
- School Winter Fayre - Monday 12 December – 4-6.30pm

If you are able to donate a prize for the raffle for the Winter Fayre, please make contact with Miss Reid in the school office by email t Reid@normanhurstschool.co.uk

Online Safety

Each year we continue our partnership and commitment with parents to safeguard our pupils and children online. Each term through the curriculum and engagement in activities and discussion, we will refresh and upskill our pupils knowledge and behaviour of being online and engaging in social media. Below is a link of TikTok Playbook designed for teachers, but I think very useful for parents too:

https://www.internetmatters.org/tiktok-playbook/?utm_source=Sprint&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=TikTok_playbook&utm_content=TikTok_playbook_email#tiktokplaybook

There is also a guide for parents <https://www.internetmatters.org/hub/esafety-news/tik-tok-app-safety-what-parents-need-to-know/>.

Annual Parent Coffee Mornings

Every year we invite parents to a coffee morning to discuss school life and for you to share your experiences with me and either Mr Hagger, the Group Managing Principal, or Mrs Osborn, the Group Education Principal. The office will send an invitation the week before. Coffee mornings will take place on a Friday morning from 8.45 – 9.45am on the following days:

Kindergarten and Reception	Friday 25 November
Year 1 and Year 2	Friday 2 December
Year 3	Friday 9 December
Year 4	Friday 13 January
Year 5	Friday 20 January
Year 6	Friday 27 January
Year 7	Friday 3 February
Year 8 to Year 11	Friday 10 February

Christmas Child Shoe Box Appeal

Every year as a school we make an amazing effort to support the work of Operation Christmas Child by filling shoe boxes with gifts to send to children overseas in need of support. It is a wonderful charity, which brings joy to many children and young people in significant need. This year we are having a Shoe Box House Challenge once again to see which house can donate the most boxes in the juniors and seniors. The deadline for these boxes is Friday 18 November,

We aim to send at least 75 boxes and your help will be much appreciated. Please look out for the information leaflets when they come home. Half term is a good time to collect items for a shoebox, ready to bring into school after the holiday.

Access to Portals

As requested at the start of term, please access your Parent Portal for ongoing information and to update any details that may have changed. This includes contact details (we need at least two current emergency contacts) and medical information. We upload key information to the Portal so that it can be accessed at your convenience.

Please contact the school office if you have misplaced your login details.

Uniform Reminders

Please remember that pupils come back to school in winter uniform after the half term break.

The full uniform list can be found through the link: www.normanhurstsch.co.uk/parents-pupils/school-uniform/ Junior pupils should all wear the regulation school coat, scarf and winter hat. From Year 7 upwards pupils may wear either the regulation coat, or a plain navy or black coat, without any logos or decoration. Pupils are only allowed to wear plain navy or black scarves, hats and gloves.

Please can I remind parents and pupils that hair should be neatly cut for school, or tied back if long. It isn't suitable to have long hair over the eyes in school. All long hair must be secured in a hair band throughout the day.

Can I also kindly remind parents that earrings are only allowed to be worn by pupils from **Year 5 upwards**. Earrings should be plain round gold or silver studs, and must not be worn on PE days.

Important Dates for the Diary

Tue 4 Oct	09:30 – 10:30	Harvest Festival
Thu 6 Oct	18:00 – 19:30	Open Day – Seniors
Fri 7 Oct	09:15 – 10:30	Open Morning – EYFS/Infants/Juniors
Mon 10 Oct	16:00 – 18:30	EYFS/Junior Parents' Evening
Tue 11 Oct	16:00 – 18:30	EYFS/Junior Parents' Evening
Wed 12 Oct	16:00 – 18:30	EYFS/Junior Parents' Evening
Fri 14 Oct	09:00 – 15:30	Year 1 & Year 2 trip to Whipsnade Zoo
Fri 14 Oct	19:00 – 21:00	NSPA Quiz Night
Mon 17 Oct	11:15 – 13:30	Years 3-6 Trip to Fire Concert at the Barbican

	19:00 – 20:00	NSPA Meeting
Sat 22 – Tue 25 Oct		Key Stage 4 Languages Trip to Paris
Mon 24 Oct – Fri 4 Nov		Half Term holiday
Mon 7 Nov	09:00 – 15:45	Year 9 Imperial War Museum
Tue 8 Nov	08:30 – 09:15	EYFS/Junior Parent Drop-in
Sun 13 Nov	16:30 – 18:45	Oak-Tree Fireworks event
Mon 14 Nov	09:00 – 15:30	Year 9 trip to Imperial War Museum
Mon 14 Nov	19:00 – 20:00	NSPA Meeting
Tue 22 Nov	16:00 – 18:30	Year 9 GCSE Options Parent Meeting
Fri 25 Nov	09:00 – 15:30	Year 10 trip to Bank of England
Mon 28 Nov – Wed 7 Dec		Year 11 Mock GCSE Examinations
Tue 6 Dec	16:00 18:30	Year 9 Parents' Evening
Mon 12 Dec	16:00 – 18:00	NSPA Winter Fayre
Wed 14 Dec	14:30 – 15:30	Carol Service at St Peter & St Paul Church
Thu 15 Dec	11:30 – 12:00	Last Day of Autumn Term – school closes at midday

The Leadership Team, your child's form tutor or I are 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.

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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