



Normanhurst School

68-74 Station Road, North Chingford, London E4 7BA

Tel: 020 8529 4307

HEADMISTRESS

Mrs Jacqueline Job B.SC., M.Ed., CMgr FCMI, NPQH

E-mail: info@normanhurstschool.co.uk

Website: www.normanhurstschool.co.uk

1 February 2023

Dear Parents

Re: **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 a pleasure to observe pupils really engaging in lessons, asking questions and responding with enthusiasm.

11+ Exams

It has been wonderful to meet so many excellent 11+ candidates this year who have applied to join Normanhurst in September. Following their examinations, I am meeting each of them individually for an interview and having the opportunity to talk to them about our school. The offers for places will be sent out on Friday 10 February and this includes the scholarship offers. Some of our internal Year 6 pupils have also applied for scholarships and I shall be interviewing them over the coming days.

Sparx

Senior pupils from Years 7-10 have been using Hegarty Maths to support their home learning. These year groups will be introduced to the Sparx learning platform as we begin to phase out the use of Hegarty Maths. Sparx is a newly developed and improved version of Hegarty Maths, created by the same company. It develops pupils' understanding of maths through personalised retrieval practice. It will encourage mastery, and develop pupils' understanding of mathematical concepts. Mrs Mousmani will be introducing Sparx to Years 7-10 pupils in lessons throughout this month.

One of the features of the platform is that parents are notified by email of the progress of their child's homework. For parents to have access to this feature, parents will need to give permission for their email address to be shared with Sparx, for this purpose only. Further details will sent to parents by Mrs Mousmani very soon.

Parents' Evenings

It has been excellent to see such good attendance at the Parents' Evenings this term and pleasing to hear from parents that these meetings are purposeful and very much valued. The Year 7 Parents' Evening will take place on Tuesday 7 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.

Coffee Mornings

Thank you to all the parents who have been able to attend the Coffee Mornings or emailed feedback, this feedback is invaluable. I know Mr Hagger, Mrs Osborn and I have very much enjoyed meeting parents during this cycle and appreciate hearing what you have to say. Please remember that our doors are always open and we welcome feedback.

NSPA Junior Disco

This year we see the return of our Junior Disco for Kindergarten to Year 4 on Friday 3 February from 5pm to 6.30pm. This event has been popular in previous years and we hope that the pupils will enjoy it.

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 7 February to attend a 'drop-in' morning. Parents will be able to come into the classroom from 8.30am 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.

Pre-loved Uniform Sale

There will be a pre-loved uniform sale on Thursday 2 February at the front of the school from 3pm to 4pm. 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.

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.

Art Exhibition

It was wonderful to see so many parents visit the Art Exhibition on Saturday 28 January. I am always so amazed to see how talented and creative our pupils are across the school. Thank you to Ms Parrott and the Art teachers for their support and for organising the event.

STEM Fortnight 2023

This year we move away from Science Week to an improved STEM Fortnight from Monday 6 March to Friday 17 March. The theme for this year is 'Connections'. 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 and Maths, and would like to volunteer, please email Miss Sainsbury on Rsainsbury@normanhurstschool.co.uk and Mr Clair on Pclair@normanhurstschool.co.uk. The programme for STEM fortnight will be shared with both junior and senior pupils very soon.

Safer Internet Day on Tuesday 7 February

Normanhurst pupils will be celebrating Safer Internet Day on 7 February. Pupils will be discussing in class the main principles of staying safe online, fake news and challenges they face growing up with social media as part of their lives.

Informal Concert/Recital

On Tuesday 28 February at 4.30pm the Normanhurst Music department will be hosting a Music Concert and Recital. This will provide pupils with the opportunity to perform musical pieces and showcase their talents. This could be on an instrument or singing. Mr Christofides would be keen to hear from all pupils who would be interested in taking part, including those who have instrumental or singing lessons (whether in school or outside of school). If you think your child would be interested in performing, please email Mr Christofides YChristofides@normanhurstschool.co.uk

Year 11 GCSE Mocks and Summer Examinations

Year 11 pupils will complete their second set of Mock examinations from Tuesday 2 March to Monday 13 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 support will be provided during Quality Improvement Time and after school Boosters. These exams

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.

It is 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. If your child has additional tuition, this should not be arranged when your children is expected to attend the after school boosters.

During the Easter holidays we will also be hosting our Easter Academy from Monday 3 April to Friday 14 April 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 shortly.

Staff Update

It is with great sadness that we say goodbye to Mr Marsden, our teacher of PE and Year 7 form tutor, at February half term. He leaves Normanhurst to become a Sports Science Lecturer at Havering College. I would like to take the opportunity to say thank you to Mr Marsden for his boundless energy and enthusiasm. He has inspired many pupils to play basketball and stay active. Mrs Mouslmani, Head of Maths, will become 7M's form tutor until the end of the academic year.

Late Arrival

A gentle reminder about uniform and lateness to school. Please could I remind parents that the school gates open at 8.30am each morning and pupils should be in their classes by 8.40am. If they arrive after 8.40am pupils must go to the office and sign in the late register.

Important Dates for the Diary

Wed 1 Feb	08:40 – 09:00	Year 4 Class Assembly to parents
	12:30 – 15:00	UKG-Reception trip to Millfield Theatre, Edmonton
Fri 3 Feb	08:45 – 09:45	Year 7 Coffee Morning
	17:00 – 18:30	KG-Year 4 NSPA Disco (Hall)
Tue 7 Feb	08:45 – 09:45	KG-Year 6 Drop In Morning
	16:00 – 18:30	Year 7 Parents' Evening
Wed 8 Feb	08:40 – 09:00	Year 6 Class Assembly to parents
Thu 9 Feb	09:30 – 15:30	Year 11 FSC Science trip, High Beech
	17:00 – 23:00	Year 9 'Juliet' Shaftesbury Theatre trip
Fri 10 Feb	08:45 – 09:45	Year 8-11 Coffee Morning
Mon 13 – Fri 17 Feb		Half Term
Mon 20 Feb – Fri 24 Feb		Junior Assessment Week
Fri 24 Feb	08:40 – 09:00	Year 5O Coffee Morning
Wed 1 Mar	09:00 – 11:00	Open Morning
Thu 2 Mar – Mon 13 Mar		Year 11 Mock Exams
Fri 3 Mar	08:40 – 09:00	Year 3 Class Assembly to parents
Fri 10 Mar	08:40 – 09:00	Year 5S Class Assembly to parents
Fri 10 Mar	09:30 – 15:30	Year 7&8 Science trip, FSC Epping Forest High Beech
Sat 11 Mar – Sun 12 Mar		Duke of Edinburgh Practice Weekend
Fri 17 Mar	08:40 – 09:00	Year 1 Class Assembly to parents
Mon 20 Mar	16:00 – 18:30	Junior Parents' Evening
Tue 21 Mar	16:00 – 18:30	Junior Parents' Evening
Wed 22 Mar	16:00 – 18:30	Junior Parents' Evening
Fri 24 Mar – Thu 30 Mar		Ski Trip to Madonna di Campiglio
Thu 30 Mar		Last Day of Spring Term

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



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

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