Normanhurst School

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HEADMISTRESS
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24 April 2023

Dear Parents

Re: Headmistress's Letter

It is wonderful to welcome lighter days and evenings and to see the children with renewed energy for the summer learning and extracurricular activities. I hope you have all enjoyed the Easter break and may I wish every member of our school community celebrating Ramadan, the best through the period of fasting and reflection. We have welcomed the summer term with open arms, and even if the weather can be unpredictable, this term always brings exciting events and memories.

Senior Team Building Experience

We have listened to the pupils' very positive feedback following the team building experiences we introduced last summer. Building on their success, Years 7 and 8 will be going to the Skreens Activity Centre on Monday 19 June and Years 9 and 10 will be going on Tuesday 20 June for a day of team building and character development activities. Further details will follow from Mr Clair, Head of Seniors.

Y11 Final Arrangements

I am pleased to see that Year 11 are continuing to work hard in preparation for their exams, which start on Monday 15 May. They already have the main GCSE summer exam timetable via Show My Homework and they will be given their own individual exam timetables on Tuesday 25 April. They will need to check their schedule for accuracy in terms of the tier of entry and the spelling of their names for the final certificates.

Year 11 finish school on Thursday 11 May at 12pm. On that day, we will be taking the time to acknowledge their many achievements, hand out yearbooks and leavers' hoodies and celebrate the contribution Year 11 has made to school life. Pupils will be expected to come to school at 8.40am in full school uniform and before dismissal they will be given to opportunity to sign each other's shirts. We therefore ask them to bring a suitable pen with them, although this shirt signing is not compulsory. Celebrations will begin at school and continue offsite at The Royal Forest for a special leavers' brunch. Pupils will be dismissed from The Royal Forest at 12.00pm, and any pupils being collected by parents should be picked up from the venue at that time.

Year 11 Book Return – Thursday 22 and Friday 23 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 so this can be recorded on Thursday 22 and Friday 23 June. Please do not return books directly to teachers. 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.

Year 11 Results Day – Thursday 24 August

We will be inviting Year 11 to come into school to collect their exam results on Thursday 24 August from 8.30-10.00am. Mrs Lafferty, the Exams Officer, and the leadership team will be in school to hand out the results and offer advice on the day. Any Year 11 pupils who will not be able to attend in person must let the school office know by Friday 16 June, so that we can plan for your results to be sent out on the day.

Charity News

At the end of term, we once again saw a fantastic effort from our school community to support a very worthy cause.

This was led by our charity committee who has championed the school to support children in very difficult family circumstances by donating Easter eggs. This year we were able to donate many Easter eggs to children (and their mothers) who have been affected by domestic violence. The eggs were delivered to the following safe houses: Hackney Hestia, Tower Hamlets Hestia and Refuge. We are very proud that this has become a tradition started years ago by a former pupil.

Years 7 to 10 Exams and Assessments

We plan to run the scheduled end-of-year assessments and examinations in May and June:

- Year 10 exams will take place from Friday 5 May to Friday 12 May
- End of Year exams will take place for Years 7 to 9 from Monday 5 June to Friday 9 June

Years 1 to 6 Assessments - June

Years 1 to 6 assessment week will take place from Monday 12 to Friday 16 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 take place from Monday 5 to Friday 16 June.

Junior PSHE Information Evening – Thursday 25 May at 5.00pm

Parents are already aware that the Government has published statutory guidance for all schools, including independent schools, for the teaching of Relationships and Sex Education and Health Education.

We will be hosting a parent's information evening on Thursday 25 May in the school Hall to share information about the RSE aspect of the PSHE curriculum. The lessons take place during PSHE, and will be on the curriculum this term. As part of this evening, parents will have the opportunity to see examples of the teaching resources and ask questions before this is formally taught in an age appropriate way.

Oak-Tree Music Festival

The Oak-Tree Music Festival will be taking place on Tuesday 16 May from 6pm at the City Pavilion in Collier Row. This is an exciting return to the school calendar, where all Normanhurst pupils from Years 3 to 8, the Samba Band, a solo performance from our ISA Finalist and an extract from Matilda will be performed alongside items from the other schools within the Group and an Oak-Tree medley. A letter will be coming out shortly with a link to book your tickets.

Moving Up Day

Moving up day is fast approaching and will take place on Thursday 29 June, when pupils will spend the day with their teachers in preparation for next year.

Junior pupils will spend the whole day in school with their new teacher. We are also inviting new pupils who will be joining the juniors in September so that they can meet their classmates. Parents will be invited into school at the end of the day to meet their child's teacher for next year.

Pupils who will be moving into the Seniors in September have a Year 7 Induction Day on the same day. Current Year 6 pupils will meet the new pupils who are joining us from other schools and there will be a special programme of activities for the day including a team building afternoon offsite. Our current Year 6 parents and new parents are invited to join us at 5pm for a meeting in the school for a short talk about life in the seniors, and will have the opportunity to meet the Senior Leadership Team.

There will also be an NSPA nearly new Uniform Sale in the afternoon from 3.00-4.45pm at the front of the school.

School Uniform

All the children should return to school at the start of the Summer Term wearing their correct summer uniform and blazers should be worn to school every day. As usual long hair needs to be tied back with plain navy accessories, or with the school coloured hair accessories available from the uniform shop.

Class Photographs

We have booked a photography company to take class photographs on Tuesday 2 May. Weather permitting they will be taken outside, or alternatively, in the school hall. The photographs will be available for parents to order soon thereafter. Please ensure your children are in the correct uniform and footwear on the day, including socks and hair accessories.

These photographs are always a lovely memento of the year, especially for any pupil moving to a new school in September.

Prefect Interviews

This term we will be recruiting for the new prefect leadership teams for next year. There will be prefect positions for Year 11 prefects and Year 6 junior prefects. The interviews will take place in school during the summer term. An announcement will be made towards the end of term and successful pupils will be presented with their badges and prefect ties at Speech Day on Thursday 6 July.

NSPA Events: Summer Walk Sunday 14 May 11am and Summer BBQ Saturday 1 July 12.00-5.00pm

We are excited that the NSPA has organised another walk on Sunday 14 May at 11am. This is a chance to join us for a short walk in the local community and have well-deserved refreshments afterwards back at school. Tickets are available from the school office.

I hope to see many of the Normanhurst Community at the Summer BBQ on Saturday 1 July to celebrate 100 Years of Normanhurst School. Please save the date and look out for further communications from the NSPA. It promises to be a fun community event in the playground, hall and classrooms.

Careers Events for the Seniors

Our programme of careers events began last term, and continue this term with Year 10 pupils having a week of work experience from Monday 12 – Friday 16 June. All Year 10 pupils will spend a valuable week in the workplace learning about the responsibilities, opportunities and challenges of professional life.

We will also be hosting our annual Careers Day on Friday 7 July, in which professionals, including former Normanhurst pupils, from a range of fields talk to the students about their careers, giving information, inspiration and practical advice. If you are available to share your occupation with the pupils and would like to take part, please email Mr Botha on the following link to introduce yourself: ebotha@normanhurstschool.co.uk.

Mobile Phones in School

Please note the following about our mobile phone policy. Pupils in the juniors are not permitted to bring mobile phones or electronic devices into school. Pupils in the seniors are not permitted to use their phones or have them switched on from the time they arrive on the school site until after they leave. Mobile phones should never be used in school, in class, corridors, in the playground or in the toilets.

Pupils' mobile phones will be collected during the morning form time and they will be kept safe until they are returned at the end of the school day. The school does not take responsibility for any loss or damage to mobile phones and they are brought in at the pupil's own risk. If your son or daughter needs to contact you during the school day, they can go to the school office and they will facilitate any calls. Please could you discuss this with your child to ensure they understand the expectations. Your support is much appreciated.

New Staffing Update

We will be saying goodbye to Mrs Mouslmani, our Head of Maths in the senior school on Friday 28 April. Mrs Mouslmani is leaving due to personal reasons and will be taking a break from classroom teaching. Mr Christou, our former Head of Maths, will be returning as Head of Maths from 1 May until the end of the academic year. As this is an incredibly important role, we have already begun the recruitment process and look forward to making an announcement soon. I would like to thank Mrs Mouslmani for her drive, determination and passion for Maths. This has been infectious and her impact will be missed at Normanhurst.

Mr Christofides, Head of Music, will be leaving us on Friday 12 May to teach at Broomfield School as Head of Music, running a larger department. I am delighted to announce we have appointed Mrs Scott to join Normanhurst immediately after, as Head of Music. Mrs Scott has lead a variety of Music departments in the state and independent sectors, and has also previously coordinated the Redbridge Music Service. We would like to thank Mr Christofides for his passion for music technology, his input for the school production and his work with the Music staff to produce a wonderful informal concert.

Ms Sainsbury will be leaving us at the end of the academic year to be a class teacher at New Hall School, closer to home. Ms Sainsbury has been an excellent class teacher and coordinator for Humanities and Science. We would like to thank her for her drive, commitment and passion. She has organised some excellent events which the pupils across the school have benefited from. We have now appointed Mr Dunkin who is an experienced classroom teacher, joining Normanhurst from Church Langley Primary School. He has a lovely manner with our pupils and is very much looking forward to meeting parents on moving up day in the summer term. We have also appointed Mr Davies to start in September and join the junior team as a class teacher. Mr Davies joins Normanhurst from East Lane Primary School having taught pupils in Key Stage Two from Years 3 to 6. He is very excited to be joining the school in September.

We can officially congratulate Mrs Allen, Head of EYFS and Reception teacher, who will soon be having her first child in late June. The process of recruiting a teacher to take over in June until the end of the academic year has already begun and I look forward to making this announcement soon.

Mrs Taylor, Teacher of PE will also be leaving Normanhurst at the end of the academic year to take a break from teaching and to focus on property management. We would like to thank her for her drive, energy and passion for sport. She has had a positive impact on many pupils and their engagement in sport in her time with us. I can formally announce that Miss O'Donnell has been appointed as Teacher of PE and Games and will be joining the department in September. Miss O'Donnell is an experienced teacher and Examiner who will join Normanhurst from Sherrardswood Independent School. She is a keen sports person and is excited to be teaching EYFS, juniors and seniors.

Important Dates for the Diary

Tue 25 Apr		Start of Summer Term
	15:45 – 16:15	Year 6 Residential trip parent meeting (hall)
	17:00 – 17:30	Year 7&8 Residential trip parent meeting (hall)
Wed 26 – Fri 28 Apr		Year 5 Lambourne End Residential trip
	17:00 – 17:30	Year 9 Residential trip parent meeting (hall)
Thu 27 Apr		Year 9 DTP vaccinations
Fri 28 Apr	12:45 – 18:15	Year 11 Final PE trip to Go Ape Alexandra Palace
Tue 2 May	08:30 – 11:30	Class photos
Wed 3 – Fri 5 May		Year 6 Marchants Hill PGL Residential trip
	09:00 – 15:30	Year 11 Geography Field trip Olympic Park
Thu 4 May	08:30 – 15:30	Year 11 Geography Field Trip Epping Forest
	15:45 – 16:15	Year 4 Residential trip parent meeting (Y4 classroom)

Tue 9 – Wed 10 May		Year 4 Essex Outdoor Danbury Residential trip
Wed 10 – Fri 12 May		Years 7&8 Skreens Residential trip
Fri 12 May		Year 11 Study Leave commences
Sun 14 May	11:00 – 13:00	NSPA Summer Walk
Mon 15 May – Fri 16 Jun		Year 11 GCSE Examinations
Fri 19 May	09:30 – 15:30	Years 9&10 Science trip, FSC Epping Forest High Beech
Thu 25 May	19:00	Drama Production 'Matilda' Redbridge Drama Centre
Mon 29 May – Fri 2 Jun		Half Term
Wed 28 Jun		Sports Day
Sat 1 Jul		Summer BBQ
Mon 3 Jul	19:00 – 22:30	Year 11 Prom at Prince Regent Hotel
Thu 6 Jul	14:00	Speech Day Years 1-6
	16:00	Speech Day Years 7-11

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