

NEWSLETTER

May 2023



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Headmistress's Message

Dear Parents

It is wonderful to welcome lighter days and evenings, and to see the children with renewed energy and enthusiasm as they go on residential trips and continue learning beyond the classroom.

This bumper edition demonstrates just some of the exciting opportunities pupils have had since the start of the summer term. Years 4 to 9 have been on their residential trips to Danbury, Skreens, PGL and Gilwell Activity Centre. In school, the pupils have celebrated the King's Coronation, sustainability and connections through STEM Fortnight.

This month we are very much looking forward to our Summer BBQ on Saturday 1 July and hope to share this in the next edition of our newsletter.

I hope you enjoy the May edition of the newsletter.

With my best wishes

Mrs Jacqueline Job
Headmistress

EARLY YEARS NEWS

The **Early Years** children had great fun celebrating the King's Coronation. We had an afternoon of crafts and coronation activities. The favourite activity was using big boxes and a selection of different resources to create castles, palaces and carriages. The children got in the boxes, cutting, sticking, colouring and using their imaginations to create a joint collaboration!



We also had crown and bunting making in preparation for the coronation party. The children enjoyed our mini street party, with some treats and dancing.



The children shared their experiences:

"I love the King." - Isabelle

"I liked wearing the crowns." - Henry

"I liked making the crowns." - Anabelle

"I am going to have a party at home." - Adam

"I liked having a little dance." - Konur



EARLY YEARS NEWS continued

During our themed afternoon, we enjoyed learning about Eid, with lantern making, a printing activity, as well as looking at special materials. The children enjoyed learning about mehndi and having a go at decorating a hand themselves. We finished the afternoon by eating a date and learning the phrase “iftar” which means to break the fast.

We were very fortunate to have Dr Shaikh and Dr Mahmood come into school to talk to the children about how they celebrated Eid, and showed some of the special items of clothing they wear. We listened to a song about Ramadan and enjoyed playing musical statues. We ended the time by decorating biscuits using special stampers and finished with a feast.



JUNIOR NEWS

Normanhurst's **Eco-Committee** are proud to be taking part in the national 'No Mow May' initiative. For the month of May, part of our front lawn will not be cut in order to increase the biodiversity on our school grounds. Look out for further updates from the Eco-Committee about our other efforts to increase our school's biodiversity.



JUNIOR NEWS continued



A special thank you to the Junior School Council, Prefects, Miss Stone and the NSPA for the lunchtime reading corner in the playground for the junior pupils! The Prefects got straight into action ordering resources, sorting items and getting everything ready. We are hoping for more sunny weather!



Junior pupils wore an item of light blue to raise awareness of 'World Autism Day' in April. Pupils read stories and fact files and watched videos to learn more about what the world is like if you are Autistic and they enjoyed learning something new.



As part of STEM fortnight, pupils in Early Years to Year 6 took part in a problem solving experience and had to use their Mathematical skills to help them find the answers. Pupils enjoyed working collaboratively and using reasoning skills to solve the riddles. Well done to all the pupils who solved the riddles and puzzles - they were very tricky!

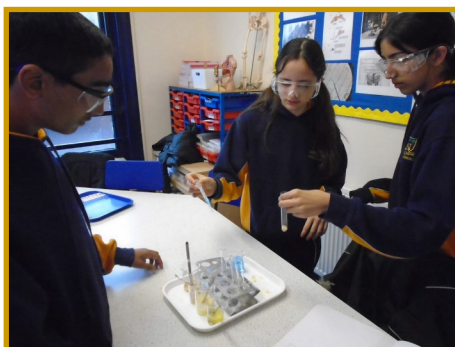
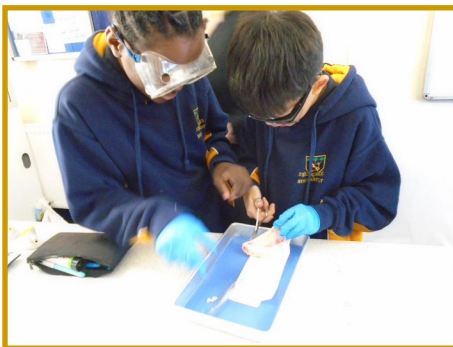


SENIOR NEWS - Science

Year 7 have been learning about the musculoskeletal system in Biology and Neutralisation in Chemistry in the spring term. Here are some snapshots of all the fantastic work they have been doing in Science.

Do try this at home: The [‘Virutali-Tee’](#) is a fantastic way to explore basic human anatomy with your

child. Our homes are filled with acids and bases. You do not need laboratory equipment to figure out what sort of chemical is in your laundry detergent, all you need is a red cabbage! This [website](#) gives you further information.



Year 8 have been learning about the respiratory and digestive systems in Biology, the reactions of metals and non-metals in Chemistry and all about electromagnets in Physics this term. Here are some snapshots of all the fantastic work they have been doing in Science.

Do try this at home: Watch this [lecture](#) about the ‘Chemistry of Fireworks’ to learn about chemical reactions. The [‘Get body Smart’](#) website provides a lot of easy to access information about human anatomy and organisation.

The **Year 9** pupils have begun their GCSE course learning about the building blocks of matter and life. This term, they began learning about energy in Physics, went on the study Cell division in Biology and finally ended the term learning about the Periodic Table in Chemistry.

Do try this at home: This lecture and demonstration about [‘Investigating the periodic table with experiments’](#) is an excellent watch.



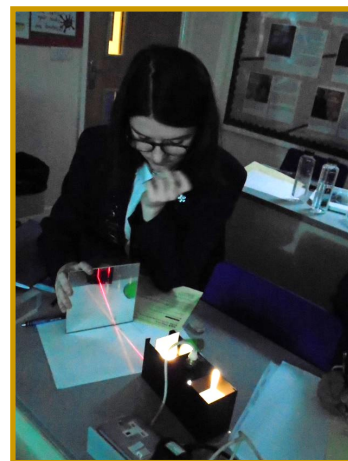
Year 10 have had a busy term and are now well into their GCSE Course. Some highlights this term included learning about Reactions in Chemistry, where the pupils followed several complex methods independently and dissected an eyeball during their Triple Science lessons.

Do try this at home: The pupils will have their first taste of GCSE examinations when they sit their end of year examinations next term; these videos about [‘Revision in y13 vs y10’](#) and [‘How to best choose your A level Subjects’](#) are good starting points to begin to consider the next steps in Year 11 and beyond.

SENIOR NEWS - Science continued

Year 11 have now reached the end of their Normanhurst Science journey and are gearing up for their GCSE examinations. They did have some fun in the laboratory learning about waves and on their GCSE Biology Fieldtrip to the Epping Forest Field Studies Council.

Do try this at home: This [exam survival guide](#) is an excellent resource to help your children prepare for the upcoming examinations.



RSC Funded KS2 Teacher training event



This was an opportunity for Years 5 and 6 teachers from feeder schools to liaise with the Science department at Normanhurst School to help ease student's transition from primary to secondary school. It was a lively and informative evening with all the teachers being incredibly passionate about teaching Science and making it accessible and practical to all students. Principal issues addressed ranged from 'what an ideal Year 7 Science student would be' to 'common Science misconceptions' and 'how to ensure curriculum continuity'. The teachers were introduced to the activities demonstrated in the Science assembly and other curriculum linked resources.

Y7&8 Shakespeare Show - Midsummer Night's Dream by Anthony Glenn

On 27 March, Anthony Glenn's *Shaking Up Shakespeare* theatre company visited the school and produced a fabulous one man performance of 'A Midsummer Night's Dream' to Years 7 and 8. This included extracts from Shakespeare's original play, along with some improvisation and audience participation. The pupils were enthusiastic participants and they had a wonderful experience. Since both year groups had studied 'A Midsummer Night's Dream', this really helped them understand the play and see it brought to life. Our aim at Normanhurst is to develop a love and passion for the works of Shakespeare and Anthony's performance really helped to encourage this.



JUNIOR TRIPS

This month, **Year 4** embarked on their first residential trip to Danbury Outdoor Activity Centre. The children arrived at lunchtime to arrange their cabins and eat their packed lunch. Thankfully, the weather was beautiful while the pupils undertook their first afternoon activities. While one group conquered the low ropes and climbing wall, the other explored the obstacle course and low ropes. After the afternoon activities, the children enjoyed a delicious roast chicken dinner, followed by chocolate fudge cake. After dinner, the pupils took part in games, followed by a movie and hot chocolate.

Day two, started with a wonderful breakfast of sausage sandwiches. The morning activities were archery and the obstacle course for group one and the climbing wall and archery for group two. Finally, the children packed up their cabins and departed after a pizza lunch. All the children were incredibly courageous, impressing Mr Matthews and Ms Rudman with their determination to do well. Well done Year 4!



JUNIOR TRIPS continued

Year 5 had an exciting start to the Summer Term with a trip to Lambourne End! We stayed at the Outdoor Centre for two nights and got involved with lots of new activities to challenge ourselves and build on our teamwork skills. We tried rock climbing, fencing, rafting, archery, high ropes, and even underground caving! We were proud of our resilience and determination to try new activities (even when they were a bit scary) and stay away from home. We cannot wait for our next residential trip in Year 6!



JUNIOR TRIPS continued

Year 6 had an amazing visit to PGL at Marchants Hill in May. It was an exciting experience where our pupils spent two nights and three days which were full of activities!

On the first day, children were welcomed by their group leader and after lunch took part in team building activities and trapeze. After their activities, they enjoyed a well-prepared dinner and finished the day with a quiz night!



On the second day, after enjoying a delicious breakfast, they attended their fencing session followed by abseiling. After lunch, they learnt survival skills in the forest and enjoyed a high view of the PGL landscape from a zipwire! Their day came an end with an evening activity of 'splash' where pupils tried to prevent a water balloon from exploding in various challenges. There was a lot of laughter echoing through the fields!

On our third day, pupils took part in rifle shooting and buggy building. Rifle shooting, particularly, was an exciting experience and many hit their targets!

We arrived at school (full of memories to cherish) just before the bank holiday, which helped our pupils rest after a fun-filled few days away from home.



TRIPS continued



Years 6 to 8 (and the teachers) had a great day out at LEGOLAND on 15 May learning about robotics and the science of rollercoasters. Pupils were able to build legislation robot vehicles and test them in the workshops, with the brilliant supervision of one of the Lego design engineers. Year 6 looked at the science of rollercoasters including forces and magnetism. After a fun time learning, pupils were able to experience some of the rides themselves after better appreciating the engineering behind them.

"It was great fun making robots using scratch coding" - Sienna Year 7

"The workshop was fantastic" - Max Year 7



SENIOR TRIPS

From 10-12 May, Years 7 and 8 enjoyed a wonderful residential trip to Skreens Park Activity Centre where they enjoyed a huge variety of activities including kayaking, archery, tomahawk, abseiling, high ropes and wheelchair challenge.

Despite the weather, pupils pushed themselves physically out of their comfort zones to achieve great things and build upon camaraderie and teamwork. We were all very proud watching our pupils act responsibly and behaving so positively and maturely throughout the trip.



Y11 FINAL PE TRIP

As the **Year 11's** time at Normanhurst School draws to a close, the PE team decided to take them on a Go Ape adventure on 28 April. Students noticeably had lots of fun with their friends in a challenging environment, and were able to create memories for years to come.

We wish them every success for the future - The PE Team.



Y11 Final Assembly

On Thursday 11 May we said a fond farewell and good luck to Year 11 prior to their exams starting on the 15 May. Old photos and a video montage was presented to the students bringing back fond memories of their time at Normanhurst seniors. A few tears were shed and many shirts signed before a leaving brunch was held in their honour at the Royal Forest Chingford. All staff wish this brilliant year group well in their exams and look forward to celebrating with them at their forthcoming graduation ball on Monday 3 July.

Mr Clair



OAK-TREE SKI TRIP

Last term our students went to the Madonna di Campiglio Ski Resort in Italy to learn how to ski as part of the Oak-Tree Group Ski Trip. The weather was glorious and our pupils were resilient, focussed and determined to become better skiers.

Mrs Job was incredibly proud to take the Normanhurst pupils away for such an exciting experience.

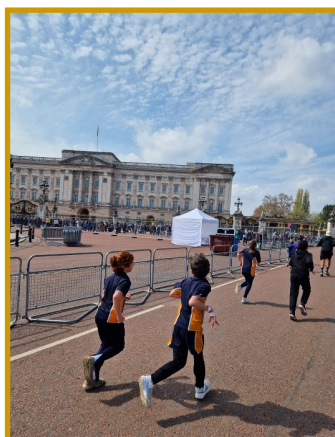


LONDON MINI MARATHON

Congratulations to all the London Mini Marathoners! It was a brilliant day with fantastic support from staff and parents. For each pupil who finished we shall receive a £10 donation from TSC to spend on IT or PE equipment.

Congratulations to Ethan who represented Waltham Forest in the London Mini Marathon Championship race. Ethan had to qualify and ran a very fast time. Well done!

Congratulations to Mrs Botha who completed the London marathon on Sunday. This was her 11th marathon.



EYFS - YEAR 8 CORONATION CELEBRATIONS

Pupils from Early Years to Year 8 celebrated the Coronation for King Charles III with a Playground Street Party where good fun was had by all. Residents from the local Spinney Care Home joined us in our red, white and blue party with sweet treats, music and a game of Bingo. The afternoon culminated with a rendition of the National Anthem - God Save The King!



PUPIL NEWS

Normanhurst Junior Pupils entered the ISA Coronation Artwork Challenge this term and we are very proud of all the entries from our school. Xavier in Year 1 was chosen by the ISA as one of the most creative pieces from all the schools that entered and his work features on their website. Xavier created a paper mosaic using recycled books and magazines and the finished piece was outstanding. Well done Xavier!



UKA Multi-Sports Easter Camp

Congratulations to Erdogan (Y5O) who won a trophy for great leadership and for being a good role model and to Ali Can's (Y1) team for winning the silver medal.

They had fantastic time! - Sensei Luke

UKMT

Many of our seniors pupils this year entered the UK Mathematical Challenge (UKMT). It encourages mathematical reasoning, precision of thought, and fluency in using basic mathematical techniques to solve interesting problems. Our senior pupils worked hard to solve some tricky mathematical problems designed to make pupils think. I am pleased to say that many of our pupils achieved bronze, silver or gold certificates and these will be handed out in assembly.

Congratulations to all pupils that participated.



Oak-Tree Festival

WOW - WHAT AN EVENING!

The Oak-Tree Festival 2023 was held on the evening of Tuesday 16 May, and what an event it was. All four of the Oak-Tree Schools came together for what is always one of the biggest events in the Oak-Tree calendar. Pupils, teachers and parents have been eagerly awaiting this ambitious project held at the City Pavilion in Collier Row, and it was a great success.

All children from Year 3 to Year 8 took part, as well as a few other senior musicians, making a total of around 370 pupils.

The programme was lively and varied, with singing performances, an orchestra, samba bands, soloists and much more. The children loved performing in front of such a large audience of around 600 parents and friends, even though it may have been slightly daunting at first!

It was a fantastic evening that helped to showcase the varied talent of the pupils from the Oak-Tree Schools. Well done everyone!



NSPA

Dear Parents

We have recently finished a great summer walk through Epping forest. Many parents, children and pets showed up to interact and assist in maintaining our lovely surroundings, after which everyone returned for a coffee and a chat.

Get the date in your calendar because the NSPA is getting ready for the annual Summer BBQ on Saturday July 1. One Hundred Years is the theme this year and more details will follow. This is an event that you really do not want to miss out on.

We have been working very hard behind the scenes to support workshops, House excursions, and the Coronation celebrations. Staff and pupils have welcomed this very much.

The pre-loved uniform sales are still very popular, although rain stopped play a little at the last event. Don't forget if you need anything please email or ask in the school office.

The NSPA is always happy to hear ideas from other parents and look forward to seeing you all at future events.

With best wishes

The NSPA Committee

normanhurstschoolpa@gmail.com



NSPA
Normanhurst Parents' Association