



Headmistress's Message

Dear Parents

Welcome to the September edition of the Normanhurst Newsletter.

We have had a really positive start to the new academic year. It has been wonderful to see new and familiar faces around the school. The pupils are focused, enjoying their learning and have shown they are ready to learn.

This newsletter will show how busy September has been. Pupils have visited the theatre and recycling centre, celebrated diversity month, started competitive sports and attended Year 3 camp. I have been delighted to see how well our new pupils are settling into school life at Normanhurst, making friends and getting to know their teachers. Equally, I have been impressed by the pupils transitioning to the next school year, demonstrating maturity and eagerness to learn.

We are also excited to share that we are finalists for the Independent Schools Association (ISA) Award: Innovation for Mental Health and Wellbeing. The school is delighted to be shortlisted again and recognised for the amazing work and support given to our pupils.

I hope you enjoy the first edition of our newsletter.

With my best wishes

Mrs Jacqueline Job
Headmistress

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EARLY YEARS NEWS

The children in **Early Years** have enjoyed learning all about 'habitats' this week. During science they explored different habitats including temperate, desert and grassland. They enjoyed using natural materials like twigs and leaves to create habitats for our toy animals. On Friday afternoon, the Early Years department came together for a special challenge. The children chose an animal and worked in small groups to create a habitat using a range of resources. It was lovely to see the children working in teams to create some fantastic habitats.



The **Early Years** children enjoyed exploring their local environment during our first Friday walk. We headed to the library where the teachers read some stories linked to our current topic 'Explorers'. We then went to the green and the children created natural patterns using twigs and leaves. What a lovely way to end a fantastic week.



JUNIOR NEWS

Year 5 pupils have had their hands (and brains) full with Science in the first few days of school.

Our new topic 'Forces' has enabled the pupils to explore different ways in which forces affect us in life. They went around the classroom and found examples of various forces such as air resistance or friction and took pictures on ipads as evidence for their books. In another lesson, they used Newton Meters to measure the weight of objects and they also learnt that weight is in fact measured in Newton whereas mass is measured in g or kg!



The **Year 6** Prefects kicked off this academic year with a fantastic assembly telling the Junior and Early Years pupils about our goals for the year and reminding them about the School Values. They reminded the Junior pupils that they are working towards becoming independent learners, should always take pride in everything they do and to consistently follow the five school values of Determination, Courage, Respect, Excellence and Friendship. The Prefects then explained how pupils can apply to become their class representative for the School Council or the Eco Council.

They all spoke with confidence and the pupils listened well.

Well done to the Year 6 Prefects for starting the year off so well!



As some of you may remember, **Erdogan (Year 6)** donated tomato plants to the school just before the summer holidays and they were planted in our front garden. Over the summer our school caretakers have been nurturing the plants and we have had our first pick of tomatoes! The staff were very pleased to be the taste testers and they were delicious.

Thank you to Erdogan for helping the school be more green!

JUNIOR NEWS continued

As part of Normanhurst's commitment to sustainability, the children in **Years 5 and 6** went on an educational trip to the Powerday Recycling Centre in West London. On arrival, the children were escorted to a viewing platform above the recycling plant. They sat through a very interesting talk by one of the plant's directors and he explained that Powerday is a recycling plant for the construction industry. The pupils could clearly see all of the trucks, bulldozers, and machines in action. They then took part in a fun quiz with prizes on what they'd learned. The morning concluded with a question and answer session. The children asked some fantastic questions and were praised by the plant's director for their efforts and enthusiasm. Well done Years 5 and 6!



As part of the International Day of Democracy (15 September), the **junior pupils** at Normanhurst learned about the importance of democracy and voting. This was linked to their upcoming School Council and Eco Council elections. The pupils in Year 1, had the opportunity to vote for which book they wanted to read at story time.



JUNIOR NEWS continued

Year 3 Camp

We arrived at Oaklands and met the other schools on their main field. The camp leader explained the order of the day and the children then put up their own tents and joined in with various activities. Over the two days they took part in bush activities which included starting a fire, completing a scavenger hunt, looking for a variety of objects and participating in many other outdoor games. The children all gathered together for dinner, and this was followed later by toasted marshmallows and hot chocolate. The following day the children completed more activities then packed up their belongings, including their tents. It was a great experience and lots of fun.



Here is what some of the children had to say:

"I enjoyed making the tents and meeting new friends" - Charlie

"The best thing about camp was the delicious toasted marshmallows" - Sophia

"At camp, breakfast was great because I had 2 bowls of cereal and a pain au chocolat" - Leah

"Making fire at camp was so much fun" - Henry

"Dinner was tasty, my favourite dinner sausage and mash" - Arabella

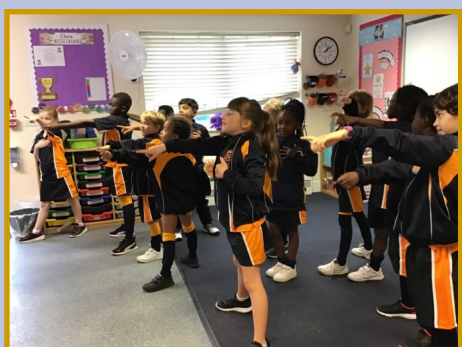


JUNIOR NEWS continued

As you may be aware, our Juniors became joint first prize winners in the annual **Shakespeare Week Competition** last term. They designed their own Shakespeare inspired art and literary work, which was turned into class books. We submitted their entries for the Whole School Category and were informed of our pupils' success just before Speech Day.

The Juniors were rewarded with a Shakespeare Workshop last week, provided by an external company. Our workshop leader (Jo) was an absolute Shakespeare expert and engaged our pupils in acting and various games based on 'A Midsummer Night's Dream'. Junior classes took part in creative activities that analysed characters' personalities and deepened their understanding of a complicated plot. They also acted out some scenes.

It was a brilliant way to celebrate their success and enjoy a whole-school prize at the beginning of this term! We are already looking forward to taking part in this year's competition!



SENIOR NEWS

Normanhurst students in **Year 7** had a fantastic trip to London Zoo meeting amazing animals, from tiny marching leafcutter ants to a giant 193kg silverback gorilla. They discovered key facts about their favourite animals - from the foods they eat to the threats they face in the wild and found out how the zoo is tackling threats and protecting endangered species with their global wildlife conservation work.

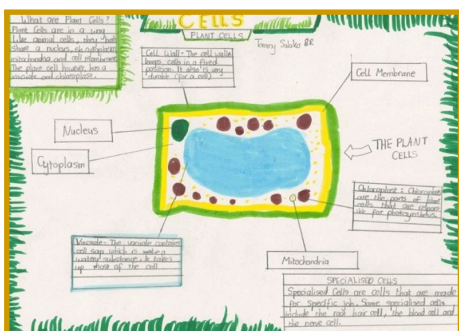
Students experienced wildlife from across the world from the lush rainforests of South America to the mountainous monkey filled jungle of Central Africa. Year 7 specifically learnt about London Zoo's international breeding programmes to protect species and their efforts to reintroduce them to the wild; innovations to improve animal monitoring; and state of the art technologies to detect and prevent wildlife threats from new diseases to illegal poaching. Overall we were delighted to see students improving their knowledge to better protect wildlife and encouraging a lifelong love of animals and their environments.



SENIOR SCIENCE NEWS

Year 7 have been learning about laboratory rules and how to design experiments this September. They enjoyed learning how to use a Bunsen burner correctly and the differences between physical and chemical changes.

They also enjoyed their first Geography and Science cross curricular trip to London Zoo.



Year 8 have deepened their knowledge about enquiry-based learning and have enjoyed communicating their learning via peer reviewed presentations. They have both made an excellent start to their school year. Keep up the good work, we look forward to visiting the BBC Earth Experience with you soon!

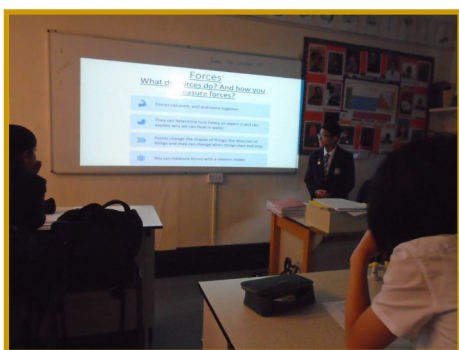
Do try this at home: [Ward's World](#) gives lots of ideas about home science and how to do this safely. We would love to see any experiments the students do at home.

Year 9 students have begun their GCSE course learning about the building blocks of matter and life. This term, they began learning about cells in Biology and have also successfully completed their first Required Practical. Well done Year 9!

Do try this at home: The interactive '[The Scale of the Universe](#)' is an excellent resource to find inspiration in the beauty of the visible and invisible world.

Year 10 are now well into their GCSE Course. A few practical activities that were highlights this month were the food tests required practical in Biology as well as various demonstrations in Physics and Chemistry.

Do try this at home: This [article](#) talks about the real-life applications of enzymes and is an excellent talking point on why we need to study them.



Year 11 have now begun their journey towards their GCSEs and have been busy learning about 'Rates of Reaction' in chemistry, 'Forces and Acceleration' in Physics and 'Human Reproduction' in Biology.

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

SPORTS NEWS

Y7 students were selected during a PE lesson to represent the school at an ISA Football Tournament. Although they lost their first two games they scored goals in every game they played, resulting in them qualifying and going through to the Plate Competition. They successfully won their semi-final match 5-0 and went on to win the final 6-0. Well done team!



New Senior Basketball Club

Students arrived extra early at 7.30am to learn new basketball skills with the hope of entering basketball competitions during the year.



Advanced Sports Programme

Senior students exploring anatomy and physiology in our Advanced Sports Programme.



MUSIC DEPARTMENT NEWS



The music department is very busy getting ready for its musical production of Oliver. Auditions have been taking place throughout the last two weeks and there is a wonderful sense of energy and excitement from the students awaiting the final cast list!



All year groups are thriving in their music lessons and Black History month is being covered in class in the form of Blues Music. Students in Year 9 are learning to play the blues and jazz and groovy sounds can be heard coming from the music room regularly! The Year 10 GCSE music class are enjoying specialising in their favourite subject and exciting musical educational trips are planned.

From Monday 25 September, Mrs Scott will be offering a Ukulele Club. For the Seniors this will be on Tuesdays from 1.20-1.50pm and for the Juniors this will be on Wednesdays from 12.35-1pm. Please speak to Mrs Scott if you are interested in coming along.



PUPIL NEWS

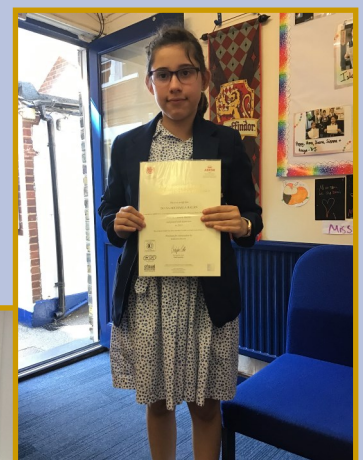
Nina (Year 6) and Dylan (Year 9) were very busy during their summer holiday with performances and theatre work! Nina performed at the Millfield Theatre with her Stagecoach class where she performed 3 pieces and also received the certificate for her RSL Grade2 Musical Theatre Performance Award where she achieved a Merit! Both Nina and Dylan attended a Musical Theatre holiday course at the Sylvia Young Theatre school. Dylan played Detective Tony in the play Sister Act - they both had a fantastic time! They also had an amazing opportunity to take part in an industry experience week on a partnership between Stagecoach and Audition Ready. In less than 5 days, they put together an amazing performance with workshops lead by industry professionals such as Millie O'Connell (Six The Musical), Claire Cassidy (Matilda the Musical the movie) Choreographer Jane McMurtie (Newsies) and representatives from some of the UK's top talent agencies. They also got to work with Jack Ryder (EastEnders), Greg Arrowsmith (Musical Director for Hairspray) and Rosie O'Hare (Hairspray). They were very grateful for these opportunities and we are very proud of Nina and Dylan's achievements!



Congratulations to two of our pupils for attending Basketball Trials earlier this month with Cruz Basketball Academy. Both Eshan (8B) and Raghav (8R) have been selected to represent the U14 team in the London Community Basketball League (CBL). The league is made up of 10 teams from across London and is a grass roots initiative to prepare players for entry into the BBL and NBA. Eshan and Raghav will be training with their team weekly and we wish them the best of luck for the season.

Diana in Year 6 has been busy over the summer writing for The Young Writers Competition. Diana received a Certificate of Merit for writing an original piece of creative writing and it has been selected for publication in the Young Writers' Anthology. The book will be published in a couple of months and Diana hopes to donate a copy to the school library. Diana also received her 'Initial Grade Piano' Exam Certificate and she passed the exam with distinction.

Well done to Diana for both of these wonderful achievement, we are very proud of your efforts!



COMMUNITY NEWS



Here at Normanhurst we are so excited to be starting off our monthly visits to The Spinney Care Home. In our first visit we played a friendship themed game of Bingo with the residents and enjoyed some drinks and great conversation with them after the game. We are so excited to visit more regularly again.



NSPA

Dear Parents

Normanhurst has been a busy place since September, for the school and for the Parents Association team. We are also delighted to have purchased 22 new I pads to facilitate learning throughout the school.

Our next event is on Friday 6 October at 7pm in the school hall:

Come along and have a blast playing 'Name that Tune' Music Bingo - from Taylor Swift to Beyonce to Abba...and beyond. Sing along and win win prizes!

Full bar on the night and tickets include a fish & chip / veggie supper

Tickets are on sale now £10 for adults and £5 for children

Please contact us at normanhurstschoolpa@gmail.com if you would like to join the NSPA team or if you would be interested in supporting any of the events. New ideas are always welcome so please do get in touch if you feel inspired.

With best wishes

The NSPA Committee

normanhurstschoolpa@gmail.com



NSPA
Normanhurst Parents' Association