



Normanhurst School

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HEADMISTRESS

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

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1 December 2023

Dear Parents

Re: **December 2023 Headmistress's Letter**

This has been a very busy term with the start of coffee mornings, Year 11 mock exams, Year 9 options evening, our first trip to Iceland, Oak-Tree Fireworks, revision workshops and community outreach visits to the Spinney Care Home. I cannot believe that the festive season is upon us, with activities and rehearsals for performances well on the way. There is plenty to celebrate and enjoy for all and lots still to look forward to.

Yearbooks

Work has already begun on the yearbooks for Year 6 and Year 11. We have many photos available at school, but we are aware that, as parents, you may also have some great photos taken over the years. We have therefore set up a yearbook email address which allows parents to send in photos to be considered for the yearbooks. Please email yearbook@normanhurstschool.co.uk and put either Year 6 or Year 11 in the subject heading. The deadline for photos is Friday 9 February 2024.

Thursday Morning Career Talks

Year on year our pupils tell us how valuable they find the weekly career talks. We are very grateful to our parents who volunteer and give up their time to inspire our pupils about the occupations available to them. Each year we continue to add new parent talks. We are therefore interested in hearing from parents from a variety of sectors and industries to come into school during the Spring Term on Thursday mornings to offer a 20-25 minute talk to our pupils about their occupation and role, as well as the journey and motivation to work in these fields.

If you think you would be able to offer your expertise, please could you email Mr Botha who is responsible for Careers Education by Friday 8 December via email: Ebotha@normanhurstschool.co.uk.

Christmas Carol Service

We have been rehearsing Christmas songs for our Carol Service which is going to be a fantastic event, full of happiness and cheer. The service takes place at The Parish Church of St Peter and St Paul on Wednesday 13 December at 2.30pm. Parents are very welcome to join us to share in this festive celebration. EYFS and Junior pupils may be collected from the church at the end of the service. The senior pupils will walk back to school and be dismissed from there.

Winter Fair Monday 11 December 4-6pm

We are very much looking forward to the return of the Normanhurst Winter Fair. There will be a number of musical performances, Santa's Grotto, pupils will be running the stalls and a variety of refreshments will be served by the NSPA. There will be a few stalls provided externally. If you would like to purchase a stall for the event please contact treid@normanhurstschool.co.uk by Thursday 7 December. Please do come along and support what promises to be a wonderful school event.

There will also be a raffle and tickets are available to purchase at the school gate and from the school office.

Christmas Jumper Day, Christmas Lunches and the Visiting Pantomime

Once again, we look forward to our annual Christmas lunches on Monday 4 and Tuesday 5 December. Christmas lunch will be followed by class parties for the Early Years and the Juniors:

- Monday 5 December - Early Years and Years 5-9
- Tuesday 6 December - Years 1-4 and Years 10-11

Pupils will, as usual, be allowed to wear a festive jumper on the day of their Christmas lunch and party. They should also wear their Christmas Jumper on Thursday 7 December to celebrate National Christmas Jumper Day.

Last Day

The final day of term on Thursday 14 December will be a non-uniform day when pupils will be able to wear something festive and bring in an item for the foodbank. Pupils can wear jeans, or something sensible for school, but we would like to see everyone wearing something festive.

Please note the dismissal times for the last day of term, after final celebrations and rewards assemblies:

- EYFS and Years 1, 2 and 3 at 11.30am
- Years 4, 5 and 6 at 11.40am
- Years 7, 8 and 9 at 11.50am
- Years 10 and 11 at 11.55am

Mock Exams

The Year 11 pupils have already begun to sit a full set of mock exams. This will enable pupils to see clearly how they are currently performing and how to build on these grades before the final exams in the summer. Our pupils have been working extremely hard for their mocks and have also attended a programme of after school booster sessions, Half term Study Academy and made good use of lunch time quality improvement time.

We are looking forward to seeing this hard work reflected in their mock results.

Snow and Wintry Weather

Our aim will always be to stay open in the wintry weather, even if the snow comes. In the unlikely case that we are unable to open, we will move to our online home learning programmes. On snow days, the maintenance teams will arrive on site early to clear paths and to ensure that pupils, staff and parents can make their way safely into the buildings. We will always aim to update our website and email/text all parents and staff by 7am so that you will know our plans for the day ahead.

School Uniform and Rule Reminders

We take great care to maintain high standards of uniform and presentation at school, and as the wintry weather is set to continue, I would like to remind you of the school's uniform expectations so that these can be resolved before the start of term in January:

- Pupils may wear a pair of plain gold or silver round stud earrings to school from Year 5 upwards only
- Long hair should be tied back securely all day
- Hair styles should be neat and tidy, not heavily styled, no quiffs, or cut-in designs
- All school bags and sports bags in the seniors are to be plain navy or black. There are currently a few seniors with patterned bags with large logos on them that are not permitted.
- Pupils may not wear black trainers to school instead of their black polishable shoes
- Plain Navy leggings must be worn with the PE Skort, not Black.

All pupils should be wearing winter uniform. Juniors from Reception class upwards are expected to wear the regulation school coat purchased from the uniform shop.

- Seniors must wear either the school coat or a plain navy or black coat. Coats should not have design features and should be appropriate for school. All seniors hang up their coats in school and I suggest coats should be practical and not expensive. They should also be named.
- Cold weather accessories: in the juniors, the school woollen hat and scarf available from the uniform suppliers should be worn. In the seniors, a plain black or navy scarf or gloves are to be worn. No pupils should wear coloured or patterned hats, gloves or scarves. Please be aware that seniors will have non-uniform items confiscated and these will need to be collected from the school office.
- Boots are not a part of school uniform in any part of the school, including the Early Years classes, so please make sure that pupils have sturdy black school shoes throughout the winter. If it snows, pupils may wear boots to and from school, but will need to wear shoes on site and in the buildings.

We are very aware that when returning to school in the Spring Term, the weather may be colder. Pupils may wear a white thermal top underneath their school shirt if they feel the cold.

NSPA

The NSPA have been fabulous once again in sponsoring so many excellent pupil experiences and valuable equipment for our pupils. This year the NSPA have:

- Purchased new table tennis bats and balls
- Bean Bag chairs for the junior reading corners
- Subsidised the Yearbooks, Hoodies for Year 6 and Year 11, Prom and Year 6 Graduation Celebration
- Subsidised the revision workshops for Years 7-11 and parent guidance session
- Provided an annual Christmas gift for the pupils

We are incredibly grateful to the NSPA for their ongoing support.

Important Dates

Fri 1 December	08:30 – 09:45	Y3-Y6 Coffee Morning
Tue 5 December	16:00 – 18:30	Y9 Parents' Evening
Wed 6 December	09:15 – 10:15	KG-Y1 Nativity
	09:15 – 15:45	Y7 & Y9 V&A Museum Trip
	09:30 – 15:30	Y3-6 V&A Museum Trip
	14:30 – 15:30	Y2 Nativity
Thu 7 December	13:00 – 15:30	Rec-Y8 Pantomime Trip Aladdin
	19:00 – 22:00	Y10 Old Vic Theatre trip A Christmas Carol
Mon 11 December	15:45 – 18:30	Winter Fair
Wed 13 December	14:30 – 15:30	Carol Service
Thu 14 December		Last Day of Term
Tue 9 January		School Starts for Pupils
Wed 10 January	09:30 – 15:30	Y5 British Museum Gallery Trip
Thu 11 January	09:30 – 15:30	Y7-11 Positively You Revision Workshops
Fri 12 January	08:45 – 09:45	Years 1 & 2 Coffee Morning
	09:00 – 15:45	Y8 Natural History Museum
Mon 15 January	08:45 – 15:30	Y6 trip to IWM Duxford
Tue 16 January	09:15 – 12:45	11+ Entrance Exams for external applicants and current Y6
	16:00 – 18:30	Y10 Parents' Evening
Thu 18 January	09:30 – 15:30	Y7 Bank of England Museum Trip
	09:30 – 15:30	Y9 GCSE Art/DT Printmaking Workshop William Morris
Fri 19 January	08:45 – 09:45	EYFS Coffee Morning
Mon 22 January	09:30 – 15:30	Y5 Science Museum Trip
Tue 23 January	16:00 – 18:30	Y11 Parents' Evening

Wed 24 January	09:00 – 13:30	Y2 RAF Hendon Trip
	12:50 – 14:30	Y4 Synagogue Buckhurst Hill
Thu 25 January	08:30 – 09:00	KG-Y6 Drop In
	08:45 – 15:30	Y3 Whipnade Zoo
	15:00 – 16:00	NSPA Pre-loved Uniform Sale
Tue 30 January	16:00 – 18:30	Y8 Parents' Evening
Wed 31 January	12:30 – 18:30	Y7&GCSE Music trip Phantom of the Opera

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

