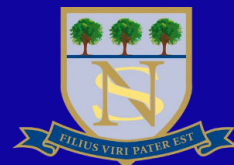


NEWSLETTER



January 2024



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Headmistress's Message

Dear Parents

Happy New Year!

Our pupils have returned to school re-charged and focussed, despite the chilly and windy weather. They continue to demonstrate a good 'attitude to learning' and every day they make valuable and insightful contributions and demonstrate the Normanhurst School values.

I have really enjoyed the 11+ interviews with our internal and external pupils wishing to join the senior school in September. I am in the process of finalising our Year 7 offers and scholarships.

Can I thank the Normanhurst Community for their generous food bank donations. These donations have all gone to the local food bank and they have asked me to pass on their thanks.

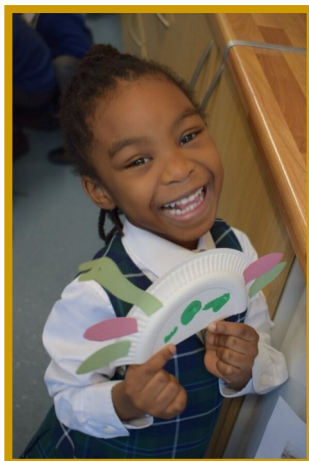
I hope you all enjoy reading this newsletter which highlights the opportunities available, such as the House Spelling Bee, Key Stage Three and Four Revision workshops, the Aim Higher Writing workshop, Careers Day and the Bett Show Exhibition to name a few.

With my best wishes

Mrs Jacqueline Job
Headmistress

EARLY YEARS NEWS

The **Early Years** children came together for an exciting afternoon to learn about dinosaurs. The afternoon began by heading to the garden to see how big a T-Rex footprint is, we couldn't believe that we could fit 9 children along the length of the print. The children then made fossils by pressing shells into dough and created different types of dinosaurs by crafting paper plates. The children had lots of fun 'hatching' baby dinosaurs from ice eggs and using their imagination at the tuff tray with dinosaurs.



The **EYFS** and **Junior Pupils** were treated to a special 'Burns Night' Assembly led by Mr Botha, Head of Rangers House.

We had a special guest, Mr Whyte, our School Caretaker, who was born in Scotland and told us about a few traditions.

We then finished the assembly by listening to and trying to sing the National Anthem of Scotland – The Flower of Scotland.



JUNIOR NEWS

As part of our exploration into the history of flight in humanities, **Years 2** visited the RAF Museum in Hendon. Our guide, Toni, led us on an informative journey through the museum, sharing details ranging from The Wright Flyer to the mysteries of an invisible plane. We delved into the evolution of aircraft materials, noting the changes made over time to enhance safety. Toni provided insights into the various components of planes and their functions, such as how the propeller contributes to increased speed.

Our knowledge expanded as we learned about the Spitfire, its speed, and its significance during wartime. We also gained insights into the Red Arrows, their appearances, and even had the opportunity to simulate their manoeuvres. Exploring technological advancements, we examined the role of radar in tracking aircraft locations. Throughout our visit, Toni engaged us with thought-provoking questions, keeping us actively involved and ensuring our accurate understanding.

After having our satisfying lunch, we enjoyed play time in the museum playground, engaging in activities like climbing and swinging from different aircraft structures. Our visit to the RAF Museum proved to be an enriching and enjoyable learning adventure.



During the first week of the Spring Term, a selection of children in **Year 4** were invited to a local school's writing workshop.

Children from different schools in Chingford joined together to spend the day with the talented Karl Nova, a London-based poet and hip-hop artist.

Under Karl's guidance, the children produced a selection of fantastic poems, learning new skills and techniques along the way.



JUNIOR NEWS

On 25 January **Year 3** visited Whipsnade Zoo where they participated in a giraffe behaviour workshop and then compared it to the behaviour of other animals within the zoo. The children were able to come up close to the giraffes, be entertained by the chimps and further their knowledge on penguins.

It was a really fantastic day!



Our first 4-house Spelling Bee at Our Normanhurst was indeed a competitive event for our houses (Rangers, Forest, Ridgeway and Buxton) to put forward their best spellers.

During the first round, each participant from Year 5 to Year 10 was given two words to spell. Some of the words to be spelt by our pupils were: hyperventilation, industrialisation and fluorescent! Each house received help from the audience if their participant couldn't spell a word and this also earned them points! Our next round was a Countdown style word activity and audience members also took part in this round to earn points for their houses!

All the points are being counted at the moment and the winner will be announced shortly.



JUNIOR NEWS

Year 4 visited the Buckhurst Hill Synagogue and were greeted by the Rabbi. He gave the children a talk about the beginnings of Judaism and how he had travelled around the world to practise his teachings. He then showed us artefacts including the Ark, 10 Commandments and Torah scrolls and read us some stories in Hebrew.

The children were able to ask a variety of questions about Judaism which Rabbi Brandman answered fantastically well to give them further insight.



Years 5 visited the Wonderlab at the Science Museum in order to improve their understanding of their Forces and Space topic. The children carried out various experiments with friction, where they went down slides with different surfaces to compare surface friction and its effects on speed. They also looked at the effects of air resistance using a large fan and designed various models to test on it.

After lunch, they visited the Space exhibition and learnt how astronauts travelled to the International Space Station using rockets and how most of the rockets were used to boost a small capsule into space. Afterwards, they learnt about the journey back, where there is a controlled 'crash-landing'.

It was an informative visit full of interesting activities and Year 5 had a great deal of fun too!



JUNIOR NEWS

Pupils in **Years 5** visited the British Museum in order to kick start their History topic: Ancient Greeks!

They visited various galleries in order to learn how people of this era used architecture, sculpting and pottery to depict stories. They were extremely impressed to learn that some of the monuments that were built at that time were a lot taller than our current homes! They also studied different artefacts to deepen their understanding of trade at the time and to help them understand how important this was and how trade enabled the Greeks to expand overseas.

It was a great trip full of interesting artefacts!



As part of the **Year 6** History curriculum, the pupils went on a fantastic trip to the Duxford Air Museum. During the day, the children visited various aircraft hangers containing historical exhibits relating to WW2, including land warfare, The Battle of Britain, and the D-Day Landings.

They also had the opportunity to step on board Concorde, as well as sit in a replica Spitfire cockpit and take shelter in an Anderson Shelter.



JUNIOR NEWS

As part of our green commitments to the school, the **Eco Council** planted poppy seeds during their latest meeting. Once the seeds have germinated, the children (with the help of Mr Whyte) will plant the flowers in the School's garden. Well done Eco Council on another green mission!



Normanhurst Juniors were treated to a wonderful assembly learning about different brass instruments. Mr Olsson, our Brass Instrument Peri Teacher, played a variety of brass instruments, with the help of some senior pupils, impressing the junior children with the different sounds they could make. He then showed the pupils that you can make an instrument using almost anything and played 'The Hose Pipe'!

Thank you Mr Olsson for a great assembly!



Normanhurst School are proud to announce we have now been given the highest level accreditation from TfL Travel for Life – Gold Level! The pupils and staff have been working together to show high standards which will inspire others to transform travel habits, fully engage the wider community to promote best practices, and working towards a healthier and safer London. Having already achieved Bronze and Silver Level, we are now pleased to have our Gold Level. With special thanks to the **Eco-Council Team**, lead by Poppy our Year 6 Eco-Prefect, who have led the work and encouraged other pupils and staff to get involved.

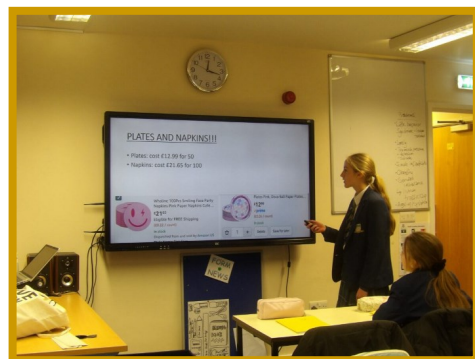
Well done everyone!



SENIOR NEWS

Pupils in **Year 7** were tasked with planning a party for 50 people and given a strict budget for their homework. Pupils had to consider the venue, entertainment, catering and decorations as well as other details, all whilst staying within their budget. They then had to pitch their party to their classmates when they returned from the holidays. The pupils impressed the Maths team with their varied party ideas and every pupil stayed within budget!

Well done Year 7!



On 12 January, **Year 8 Geographers** travelled through 4.6 billion years of our planet's history, as they spent the day in South Kensington at the prestigious Natural History Museum. With Mr Clair and Miss Deen as tour guides, they witnessed some of the Museum's biggest sights, and got the opportunity to try out some interactive gallery quizzes throughout the day.



With a focus on their unit of study on 'Tectonics', they were able to learn about the amazing natural forces that help shape our planet in the 'Volcanoes and Earthquakes'

gallery. From the casts of victims from the Mount Vesuvius eruption of AD 79 and objects melted by lava flows to the ways that we try to build against earthquake damage, the Earth's surface was laid bare in this gallery. Students enjoyed exploring how the powers within shape the world in which we live in the Volcanoes and Earthquakes gallery, through dramatic film footage, exhibits, interactive games and the famous earthquake simulator which recreates what it was like during an earthquake using a scene in a Japanese supermarket in Kobe in 1995, where students could feel the room sway.

Other highlights included coming face-to-face with incredible beasts in the famous Dinosaurs gallery, where we tiptoed past the first T-rex skeleton ever discovered, before spending time among the herbivores including a Triceratops skull and the first skeleton of an Iguanodon known to science.

A thoroughly informative and enjoyable learning outside the classroom experience for Year 8 Geographers!



SENIOR NEWS

On 9 January, **Year 9** visited the William Morris Gallery in Walthamstow for a Printmaking Workshop. Students toured the William Morris house and gallery with an educator and created 2 colour prints with a practising artist.



Year 7 went on a Maths Trip to the Bank of England Museum in London where they were able to explore the economy, the history of the Bank, and develop their financial literacy skills. They developed their understanding of inflation and how the Bank helps us in our everyday lives too. They first visited the 'Stock Office' which was designed by Sir John Soane, they then learnt about the early years of the bank from 1694-1800. The pupils then enjoyed visiting the bank note gallery and seeing historical notes and learning about counterfeit notes and the printing technique that creates the raised textures on bank notes called 'intaglio'. Pupils even had the opportunity to hold a bar of gold!



A great day had by all.



SENIOR NEWS continued

Senior students from **Years 7 to 11** participated in a number of study skills workshops led by Natalie from the 'Positively You' educational group.

The Years 7 and 8 'Exam busters workshop' provided students with skills for life. It covered: the art of study; exam preparation and revision; memory skills; relaxation exercises; stress reduction tips; organisation tools and wellbeing.



The **Years 9 and 10** 'Super speed skills study workshop' enabled students to experience the power and effectiveness of creative study techniques and learn how to remember things more easily by using their imaginations. By understanding how their brain works, students will learn how to harness its power to better achieve their goals.

Year 11 were tutored in – 'Mind Mapping' revision techniques. Mind mapping is one of the most powerful study tools. This universal, lifelong learning technique enables students to visually organise information to assess multisensory learning and unleash higher-order thinking skills, like analysis and synthesis. This workshop developed creative thinking, analytical reasoning and recall.

Our **Computing Department** was delighted take students on a special trip to the BETT ExCel Exhibition on 26th January. This excursion had been meticulously planned to offer our students a unique and enriching experience in the realm of educational technology.



The BETT ExCel Exhibition is internationally acclaimed for showcasing the latest advancements in educational technology and digital strategies. This immersed our students in an environment where they could explore innovative tools, strategies, and insights that have the potential to transform their learning experiences.



A highlight of the exhibition was the deep dive into a whole-school approach to Artificial Intelligence. Students discovered how AI is integrated into education and its potential to revolutionise teaching and learning processes.

We believe that this experience not only broadened our students' perspectives but also ignited a passion for leveraging technology as a tool for empowerment in their educational journey. We look forward to an engaging and insightful trip to the BETT ExCel Exhibition again next year.



PUPIL NEWS

Lachlan (Year 6) had an amazing time performing in Panto last season. He sang and danced his way through illness, the show must go on!

He has made some great friends through his time performing with the Panto and loved working with Clive Rowe and the other professionals in the show. After his final performance, emotions ran high as he confessed to being on the verge of tears, touched by the emotional response of his fellow cast members.

He had the little extra part of playing Mini Mildew, having to get in and out of the wobbly washing machine with the wonky wobbly washer and dryer as well.

Well done Lachlan and what an amazing experience.



Nina (Year 6R) recently took part in the Barking Dagenham Harold Hill 52nd Stage Festival. This year Nina achieved 3 medals competing in Class B Modern where she got 3rd place out of 15, in Class B Tap where she got 2nd place out of 14 and in Junior Small Modern Troupe where, together with Sofia (Year 7), they achieved 1st place!

This was the first time they had competed in a festival as a group so it was fantastic for them to achieve their 1st place!

Nina is competing again soon in Class B Lyrical dance so fingers crossed for this competition!



Sofia (Year 7) achieved an amazing 4th place out of 15 participants in her tap dance solo competition - a great result for her first ever dance competition.

Well done Sofia!

COMMUNITY NEWS

This week Years 1 and 3 took a trip to The Spinney Care Home. All the pupils had a lovely afternoon chatting and playing games with the residents.

The residents commented on how wonderful and helpful they all were!



NSPA

Dear Parents

The NSPA facilitate at many events and fund trips to enhance the children's learning experiences at school and we need your continued support to make this happen.

We would love to see you at future events and the next one is the Junior Disco on Friday 2 February from 5-6.30pm We look forward to seeing you there.

Please do 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