



Normanhurst School

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HEADMISTRESS

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

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1 February 2024

Dear Parents

Re: **February 2024 Headmistress's Letter**

They say that time flies when you are having fun and I tend to agree when it comes to learning; I cannot believe that February half term is just around the corner and approaching so quickly. The term has been full of rich and diverse learning experiences and it has been a pleasure to observe pupils really engaging in lessons, asking questions and responding with enthusiasm. I want to congratulate the Normanhurst pupils for their approach to learning and for their behaviour and conduct both inside and outside school. I often have members of the public making comments or taking the time to write to the school to share how impressed they are.

11+ Exams

Once again it has been a pleasure to meet so many excellent 11+ candidates who have applied to join Normanhurst in September. Following their examinations, I am meeting each of them individually for an interview and having the opportunity to talk to them about our school. The offers for places will be sent out on Wednesday 7 February, including the scholarship offers. Some of our internal Year 6 pupils have also applied for scholarships and I shall be interviewing them over the coming days.

Coffee Mornings

Thank you to all the parents who have been able to attend the coffee mornings or have emailed feedback, which is invaluable. I know we have all found this a worthwhile experience and have enjoyed meeting parents during this cycle of coffee mornings. Please remember that our doors are always open and we welcome feedback.

NSPA Junior Disco

This year we see the return of our Junior Disco for Kindergarten to Year 5 on Friday 2 February from 5pm to 6.30pm. This continues to be a popular event and we hope that the pupils will enjoy it. A poster with all the details from the NSPA has already been sent and tickets are available from the school office and from the NSPA in the mornings at drop off time.

Drop-in Morning for Parents in Early Years and Juniors

We would like to invite parents from the Early Years to Year 6 into school on Monday 25 March to attend a 'drop-in' morning. Parents are guided by their children into the classroom from 8.30am, where they will show you the work they have been doing. A bell will ring 5 minutes before the end of the event, to allow pupils to prepare for the formal start of the day.

Stratford Music Festival

This year our Junior and Senior School Choirs have been invited to compete at the Stratford Music Festival on Monday 5th February. The Stratford Music Festival was founded in 1882 and is the UK's oldest music and drama festival. Its alumni include Jonathan Antoine, one half of 'Jonathan and Charlotte', who were runners-up in Britain's Got Talent in 2012 and Charlotte Barbour-Condini, who reached the final of the BBC Young Musician of the Year in 2012. The pupils are incredibly excited to be taking part and they will compete with many local schools all hoping to win this year's title. Further details will follow in a letter from Mrs Scott.

Parents' Evenings

I know we all enjoy the opportunity to discuss your child's progress at Parents' Evenings, which continue this month. The purpose of the meetings is to provide meaningful feedback and they are very much valued. It is important that all families arrive in time for their first appointment as there is no scope to change appointment times on the evening.

In the seniors, it is essential that your children attend with you and are part of the feedback in the meetings. Teachers will discuss each individual pupil's learning and progress. They will want to celebrate what is going well, and to identify areas for your children to focus on as they move forward in their learning this year.

STEAM Fortnight 2024

This year we move away from Science Week to an improved STEAM Fortnight from Monday 11 March to Friday 22 March. We are looking for a range of volunteers to talk to pupils and inspire them to think innovatively. If you have a career in Science, Technology, Engineering, Art or Maths, and would like to volunteer, please email Mr Clair pclair@normanhurstschool.co.uk or Miss Stone vstone@normanhurstschool.co.uk.

Safer Internet Day on Tuesday 6 February

Normanhurst pupils will be celebrating Safer Internet Day on Tuesday 6 February. Pupils will be discussing in class the main principles of staying safe online and the challenges they face growing up with social media as part of their lives.

I would also like to draw your attention to the CEOP website, the link is [Get advice \(thinkuknow.co.uk\)](https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk). This website has lots of helpful advice and a video for parents on a number of topics, but predominately staying safe online.

Informal Concert

On Monday 25 March at 4.30pm the Normanhurst Music department will be hosting an informal concert. This will provide pupils with the opportunity to perform musical pieces and showcase their talents. This may be on an instrument or singing. Mrs Scott is keen to hear from all pupils who would be interested in taking part, including those who have instrumental or singing lessons (whether in school or outside of school). If you think your child would be interested in performing, please email Mrs Scott on VScott@normanhurstschool.co.uk.

Year 11 GCSE Mocks and Summer Examinations

Year 11 pupils will complete their second set of Mock examinations from Wednesday 21 February to Tuesday 5 March.

The timetable has already been shared with pupils and parents and uploaded to the portal. I am pleased to see pupils responding well by attending and engaging in the new booster timetable, including morning boosters. The mock exams will take place in lesson time in the usual URC hall and other rooms in school. In between exams, pupils will have lessons and be supported to revise.

It is extremely important that your child attends the relevant school boosters for their subjects when they are in school. These happen on a weekly basis. If your child has additional tuition, this should not be arranged when your children is expected to attend the school boosters.

During the Easter holidays we will also be hosting our Easter Academy from Thursday 28 March to Thursday 11 April as the pupils move closer towards their examinations. Pupils do not have to be in uniform during these days. They must sign in and out as they enter and leave the building. I hope Year 11 make good use of these opportunities to enhance their revision. Details of this timetable will be sent to parents shortly.

Important Dates for the Diary

Fri 2 February	17:00 – 18:30	KG-Y5 NSPA Junior Disco
Mon 5 February	09:30 – 15:30	Y11 FSC River Study Epping Forest Geography Trip
Tue 6 February	16:00 – 18:30	Y7 Parents' Evening
Wed 7 February	11:30 – 18:00	Y8 'Matilda' Theatre Trip
Thu 8 February	09:00 – 15:45	Y10&11 GCSE Art British Museum (Japanese Printmaking)
	11:30 – 18:00	Y5&6 'Frozen' Theatre Royal Drury Lane
Mon 12 – Fri 16 February		Half Term
Mon 19 February	09:30 – 15:30	Y11 Geography Field Trip Stratford
Tue 20 February	09:30 – 15:30	Y10&11 GCSE Art/Graphics V&A Museum Trip
Wed 21 Feb – Tue 5 Mar		Y11 2nd Set Mock Exams
Mon 26 February	09:45 – 12:00	Y4-6 Oak-Tree Swimming Gala Loughton Leisure Centre
Wed 6 March		Open day
Fri 8 March	09:00 – 15:30	Rec-Y6 Author Visit Workshop (part of World Book Day)
	09:30 – 15:30	Y11 FSC Epping Forest –Science Trip
Mon 11 – Fri 22 March		STEAM Fortnight
Mon 18 March	09:30 – 15:45	Y10&11 GCSE Geography Grade Booster Workshop Stratford
	16:00 – 18:30	KG-Y6 Parents' Evening
Tue 19 March	16:00 – 18:30	KG-Y6 Parents' Evening
Wed 20 March	16:00 – 18:30	KG-Y6 Parents' Evening
Sat 23 – Sun 24 March		DofE Practice Weekend
Mon 25 March	08:30 – 09:00	KG-Y6 Drop In Morning
Wed 27 th March	09:15 – 10:15	House Music Competition - Parents Welcome
Wed 27 th March		Last Day of Term

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



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