



Normanhurst School

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HEADMISTRESS

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

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9 January 2024

Dear Parents

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

Happy New Year to all our families and may I wish you all a happy, healthy, safe and prosperous 2024. I hope you have had a restful break, and found time to enjoy being with the people you love. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the Normanhurst Community for your ongoing support. I also want to say thank you for the lovely Christmas cards and gifts I received at the end of term. I have been overwhelmed by your generosity, touching comments and gratitude.

Looking forward, we have organised a purposeful and positive term with Parents' Evenings, Year 11 Mocks, the 11+ Assessments, STEAM Fortnight, Open Day in March and the Duke of Edinburgh Award.

Winter Fair

Last term Normanhurst saw the return of the Winter Fair. It was a school event full of happiness, festive spirit and laughter. It was wonderful to see so many families come together before the festive break. I was also so impressed with the pupils' performances and ability to run stalls. Once again we saw great sales, marketing and business skills being developed.

The generous donations for our raffle, the support from the NSPA parent volunteers, the staff and the commitment from our pupils made this an event to be repeated annually. Thank you for making this such a special event.

Parents' Evenings

Parents' Evenings will take place in the hall with your child's subject teachers. I look forward to welcoming you into school for these meetings, when you will be able to discuss your son or daughter's progress and achievements so far this year with their teachers. We use an online booking system for the appointment slots and parents will receive a notification email from the school office when these are available to book.

The dates are as follows:

- Year 10: Tuesday 16 January
- Year 11: Tuesday 23 January
- Year 8: Tuesday 30 January
- Year 7: Tuesday 6 February

Please ensure you arrive in time for your first appointment as there is no scope to change appointment times during the evening. In the seniors it is very important that your child attends with you and are part of the feedback. The teachers will discuss your child's learning and progress. Teachers will want to celebrate what is going well, and also to identify areas for your child to focus on as they move forward in their learning this year.

11+ Entrance Exams

This year the 11+ entrance exams are scheduled to take place on Tuesday 16 January in the United Reformed Church Hall. We have a large number of applicants for the 11+ exam and I am looking forward to meeting and interviewing all of the prospective pupils this term. Current Year 6 pupils should come to school as normal and they will be taken over to the church for the exam.

Reminder of Year 9 Option Choices

Thank you to all the parents and pupils who attended the Year 9 Options Evening and Parents Evening last term. Your child's option sheet should be returned to the school office by Friday 19 January 2024. If you still have questions regarding the process, please do not hesitate to contact a member of the senior leadership team. Similarly, subject staff are available to answer any questions regarding the subjects and course content.

Career Talks

Thank you to the parents who have volunteered their time to come into school and talk to the senior pupils about their occupations. We have a few more spaces available for February and March. If you think you may be able to help, please contact Mr Botha via email ebotha@normanhurstschool.co.uk.

NSPCC Junior Workshops

As part of our commitment towards safeguarding our pupils, we will be running a series of workshops supported by the NSPCC for Years 1-6. The 'Talk PANTS' resource, which includes an assembly, is about keeping children safe from abuse. Like the Green Cross Code, it takes a potentially tricky subject and discusses it in an engaging and age appropriate way.

The parent guide to the workshop is available via the link: [pants-parents-guide-online.pdf \(nspcc.org.uk\)](#) . If you have any questions regarding the assembly, please contact Miss Stone.

Speech Day and Prize Giving

An advance date for your diaries: The Annual Speech Day and Prize Giving will take place on Thursday 4 July at the Parish Church of St Peter and St Paul. Speech Day and Prize Giving is for pupils across the entire school. Please do add this special date to your diaries, as all pupils must attend and all parents are welcome to join us.

Advance Notice for Special Events

I have had a number of requests for dates in advance for annual school events. Please make a note of these dates below, further details will be shared closer to the time.

- Sports Day: Thursday 27 June
- Year 11 Prom: Monday 1 July
- Speech Day and Prize Giving: Thursday 4 July
- Whole School Summer Barbeque: Saturday 22 June
- Year 6 Graduation: Monday 8 July

Class Assemblies

This term we hope to be able to invite junior parents into school to watch our class assemblies. Parents will be able to come into the school hall from 8.30am. Assemblies will start at 8.40am and will be finished by 9.00am. I do hope you are able to attend and celebrate the hard work of the pupils and their class.

Snow and Wintry Weather

Our aim is always to stay open even in snowy weather, unless there is a health and safety concern in doing so. The maintenance team arrive on site early to clear paths and to make the site safe, and an update will be posted on the website by 7.15am so that parents are informed about arrangements for the day.

During the winter months, please ensure that your children wear the appropriate plain hats, scarves and gloves, according to the uniform list. If boots are worn to school in snowy weather, shoes should be brought to change into on arrival.

Important Dates

Tue 9 January		School Starts for Pupils
	09:15 – 15:45	Y9 GCSE Art/DT Printmaking Workshop at William Morris
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
	15:00 – 15:45	Y10&11 Drama Workshop Blood Brothers at Braeside
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 – 13:45	Y7 Bank of England Museum Trip
	19:00 – 20:00	NSPA Meeting
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
Fri 2 February	17:00 – 18:30	NSPA Junior Disco
Mon 5 February	09:30 – 15:30	Y11 Geography Epping Forest River Studies Trip
Tue 6 February	16:00 – 18:30	Y7 Parents' Evening
Wed 7 February	12:00 – 18:00	Y8 Matilda Theatre Trip
Thu 8 February	11:30 – 18:00	Y5&6 Theatre Royal Drury Lane (Frozen)
Thu 8 February	09:30 – 15:45	Y10&11 GCSE Art Trip British Museum Japanese Printmaking
Fri 9 February	09:00 – 12:00	House Music Competition
12-16 February		Half 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

