

## February 2024



### Item .....Page

Headmistress's Message .....	1
Early Years News.....	2-3
Junior News .....	4-5
Senior News .....	6-8
Music Department News .....	8
Pupil News.....	9
Sports News.....	10
Message from the NSPA.....	10

### Headmistress's Message

Dear Parents

The Spring term is always an exciting time, with lots to celebrate; from Parents Evenings, Chinese New Year, ISA competitions, Safer Internet Day and Mental Health Week, to name a few.

Every day our pupils continue to impress us with their leadership skills and drive to make progress.

This term our 11+ entrance exams and interviewing have returned and we are busy finalising our Year 7 offers for September.

Year 11 pupils have sat their final round of Mock exams and they are focused on the Summer exam series and targeted revision.

I hope you all enjoy reading this newsletter which highlights the richness and diversity of the curriculum and the value of learning beyond the classroom. I am proud to see so many of our pupils taking ownership of their learning and through pupil voice leading change for the future.

With my best wishes

**Mrs Jacqueline Job**  
Headmistress

## EARLY YEARS NEWS

**Kindergarten and Reception** had a fun-filled afternoon that was themed around the Victorian era. They began with a circle time where we learned about Queen Victoria and some of the changes that took place during her reign. Next, we compared how life was different back in Victorian times by looking at old toys and clothing. The children then engaged in a carousel of activities such as building railways, crafting Victorian clothes for our dolls, and making "Jack-in-the-boxes". There were some beautiful watercolour paintings inspired by William Morris and the children also made the Victorian toy "thaumatropes" and enjoyed spinning their creations to make pictures. They finished our afternoon with Queen Victoria's favourite snack - the Victoria Sponge.





## EARLY YEARS NEWS continued

On Tuesday 6 February, we started our Chinese New Year celebrations in the **Early Years** Department. We began by exploring some of the traditions that take place during the Lunar New Year. It was lovely to hear some of the children share the ways they celebrate at home. The children had a lot of fun engaging in creative activities such as making lanterns, masks and dragon puppets. There was also a role-play area where the children could cook and serve Chinese food to their peers and we even had noodles and prawn crackers for our snack. To conclude the afternoon, Reception and Kindergarten performed a dragon dance and listened to a story about the "Nian Monster".



On Wednesday 21 February, the children visited the Discover Centre for a special space-themed workshop. They started with a story called "The Box Rocket" and the children had a great time acting out different parts of the story. We then boarded our rocket and zoomed off to a strange new planet with 'Commander Dapo'. When they arrived, the children searched for hidden words, had lots of fun in the many role play areas and explored creative activities.



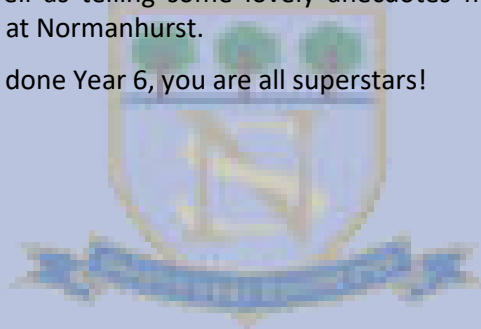


## JUNIOR NEWS



This year, the theme of **Year 6's** class assembly was their learning journey throughout their time at Normanhurst. They performed two wonderful songs, as well as telling some lovely anecdotes from their time at Normanhurst.

Well done Year 6, you are all superstars!



Pupils in the **Junior School** and **Eco Council** supported the work of the RSPB by participating in the 'Big Garden Bird Watch' on the last weekend of January. Normanhurst School have been supporting this Charity Weekend for a few years in a row and the pupils always make us proud. Pupils and their families sat in their gardens, local parks or nature reserves and watched for birds for an hour to help give the charity a snapshot of how our wildlife is faring. Pupils then filled in a tally chart for Miss Stone and Ms Rudman to pass onto the RSPB. Well done to everyone who took part for helping the charity; the RSPB have said that the hour you spent supporting their work is a big help to them and their cause.

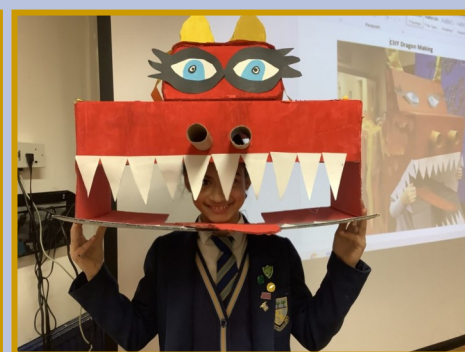


## JUNIOR NEWS continued

On 8 February the **years 5 and 6** students were taken to see the musical 'Frozen' in the West End. Students were enthralled by the intricate set design and 'magic' that was created on stage. At one point in the show, Elsa dramatically transforms her dress in the blink of an eye, the student's faces during this moment were pure magic as they tried desperately to understand how it was done. Overall the trip was a huge success and we were proud of our students for their beautiful manners within the theatre.



As part of this year's Lunar New Year celebrations, the **junior pupils** at Normanhurst took part in a variety of exciting events. The week started with an interactive Chinese New Year assembly hosted by Mrs Hon-Ng and Mr Marsden. During the week, the children enjoyed Chinese snacks, produced Chinese-based artworks, and finally came together for a Chinese dragon procession. The dragon was made by all the classes in the junior school, with Reception to Year 5 making the body sections and Year 6 making the head.



Finally, in British Sign Language Club the children made Chinese New Year signs. Well done to everyone who joined in with the celebrations.





## SENIOR NEWS

### Year 8 Theatre Trip to Matilda 7 February

Aaryan - "My experience of the trip was fantastic. I thought the dancing was very well choreographed, the props were really cool and you could see clearly what was going on. I think the best character has to be Miss Trunchball because the actor who played it was a man and made it sound and look convincing to the traditional female Miss Trunchball. I would rate this trip a 9/10 - fantastic!"

Eisa - "The Matilda play was very good, exciting and very well acted out. The trip altogether was an amazing experience and the food was good too!"

Tommy - "The play was phenomenal. The characters were played in a unique and yet accurate way. The main character, Matilda, was played amazingly and had a brilliant solo performance. I would definitely watch the play again. It was a fantastic and memorable trip!"



**Years 7 and GCSE Music students** visited His Majesty's Theatre in London this term, to watch Sir Andrew Lloyd Webber's Phantom of the Opera. The story is based upon the 1910 French novel of the same name by Gaston Leroux, and tells the tragic story of a beautiful soprano, Christine Daaé, who becomes the obsession of a mysterious, masked musical genius living in the subterranean labyrinth beneath the Paris Opéra House.

Everyone very much enjoyed the drama and the incredible special effects, including the iconic chandelier crashing into the stage! Students commented on how much they enjoyed the music and beautiful singing by the performers.

Students also enjoyed seeing the sights of London as we travelled to and from the theatre by coach.



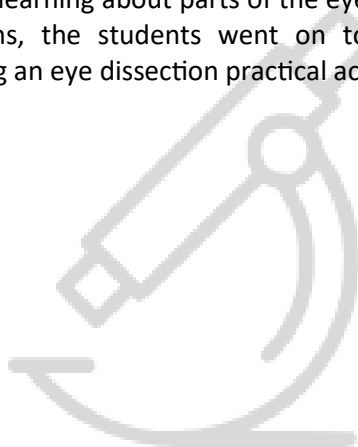
## SENIOR NEWS continued

GCSE Fine Art and Graphics students from **Years 10 & 11** participated in a Japanese Printmaking workshop at the British Museum on 8 February, with the acclaimed contemporary artist Hiroko Amado. Students learnt about the traditional printmaking method of wood block carving and printing with the artist.



### Year 10 Triple Science

After learning about parts of the eye in their biology lessons, the students went on to identify them during an eye dissection practical activity.



### Years 11 Geography Field Trips

The Year 11 Normanhurst Geographers spent a very productive day at Epping Forest Field Centre on 5 February. The purpose of the field trip was to carry out their GCSE Geography primary data collection needed for their forthcoming GCSE examinations. This year they studied the change in the cross profile of a river to observe the characteristics as we move downstream, with a focus on changes to width, depth and velocity.

The students visited three different sites of Debden Brook leading to River Roding, and gained valuable insight of learning outside the classroom, by having the chance to get into the river channel to take various measurements. Although they had to work hard and it was a challenging day, they returned with primary data and research that gives them a solid foundation for their exams in the Summer. Well done to all!



## SENIOR NEWS continued

On 19 February, the Year 11 Geographers embarked on an insightful day to the heart of a new east London – the Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park. In conjunction with the Field Studies Council, our students took part in the 'Challenges in Cities' course, an urban geography course focused on regeneration in line with their GCSE syllabus requirements for urban fieldwork.



They set off from the Aquatic Centre on foot, to compare two areas, a more deprived area – Carpenter's Estate, and East Village as a regenerated area. The Year 11s undertook the geographical enquiry by collecting primary data through various fieldwork techniques. This included students taking photographs of housing, transport links, and social aspects of the areas as a log, and keeping a service tally of services such as schools, health centres etc present in the sample area. Splitting into smaller groups using a random sampling map for East Village, they conducted a building quality survey and crime index.

Pupils were able to develop a case study of Stratford, London, gaining an overview of the scale and structure of a major city. They investigated ways of life and contemporary challenges that affect urban change including deprivation, housing, transport, infrastructure and development. Their experience on the day enabled them to consider the location, including connectivity and importance of the city.

## MUSIC

Normanhurst students of the **Junior and Senior Choirs** competed against other local schools at the Stratford Music Festival. The Junior Choir sang "Speed Bonny Boat" by William Ross unaccompanied - for which they were commended for their excellent tuning. They then performed one of their favourite songs "Be the Change" by Emily Barden. They received an excellent award of 84 marks and were commended for their excellent diction and expression.

The **Senior Choir** performed Adele's "Skyfall" and were commended for their "skilful singing, diction and personalisation" of the song. They then sang a jazz a cappella song called "Follow the Star" by Peter Gritton. They were commended again for their "savvy take" and "stylish vocal inflexions". They achieved second place and 86 marks.





## PUPIL NEWS

Sophia in Year 3 had the amazing opportunity to participate in an Arsenal Women's game as a mascot for the team. Sophia sent Normanhurst School an extract from her diary about her experience.

'I woke up early in the morning and got dressed in my Arsenal kit (I go to football at Arsenal Hub on Sunday). Today I was going to walk out with the players so I got dressed and met my two friends who were being mascots with me. We met at the train station and went to the Arsenal hub, meeting with all the other people who were doing the walk out too.



Then our parents left and our coach Billie took us to the stadium. Before we got in the security checked our bags and from there we went in a changing room.

We got new Arsenal kits to wear and I had time to have an apple for a snack before we played a game

together where someone throws a ball and we have to clap before we get the ball and if you don't you lose a life, you have three lives in total.



After our game we went outside and all the Arsenal players came out and we high fived them, then we high fived the Man United players. We went to see the players warm up then went back inside and lined up to see who we were with.



Then we went out with the players and I held a camera until we were going out but I had to drop it when we were going out of the tunnel. When we walked to the middle of the pitch I high fived everyone even Mary Earps! Who is an amazing goalkeeper!

We went to our parents and watched the rest of the match and the final score was three to Arsenal and one to Man United. Then I went to my friend Bella who walked out with the players and she was with... Beth Mead! One of the best players for Arsenal.

I had food at the stadium before we made bracelets for the team. We also played Lego before we went home and went to bed. I had lots of magical dreams of the day!



## SPORTS NEWS

Normanhurst's Netball Fixture against Forest School was a really lovely game to watch and be a part of. This is a super group of girls who are all very keen to play and learn. They were ahead throughout the game but had a particularly strong attacking team. All the girls really took on board feedback about passing selection and retaining possession. Defensively strong throughout with many interceptions made by Shade, Alexandra and Bella. Outstanding work-rate from Kenya and Selina. The Final score was a win 21-0 against Forest School.

Well done to all the girls!



## 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 our Summer Walk on Sunday 12 May. We look forward to seeing you there.

Please do contact us at [normanhurstschoolpa@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:normanhurstschoolpa@gmail.com)



**NSPA**  
Normanhurst Parents' Association