



Normanhurst School

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HEADMISTRESS

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

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1 March 2024

Dear Parents

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

I cannot believe the term is going so quickly. It continues to be a busy one full of rich and diverse learning experiences. I want to begin by congratulating the Normanhurst pupils for their attitude to learning. I have been in lessons observing the pupils' progress and seen first-hand their engagement and enthusiasm.

Staff Update

This term I am pleased to welcome back Mrs Allen, the Head of Early Years and Reception teacher from maternity leave. Mrs Allen will be the Reception class teacher along with Mrs Thompson. Mrs Thompson joins the Early Years Team having recently taught at Ainsley Wood Primary School. Mrs Thompson has also recently gained her Forest School qualification which we will make good use of on Friday afternoons.

This means Miss Armstrong will be leaving Normanhurst at the end of the Spring term, but will remain within the Oak-Tree Group, joining Coopersale Hall School. I would also like to thank Miss Armstrong for being the Reception teacher this academic year to date. She has ensured that the children have continued to be nurtured, happy and have made progress this academic year. Her care and attention has enabled the children to flourish in her care. I am also incredibly grateful to Miss Stone for covering the Head of Early Years post in Mrs Allen's absence, with the support of Miss Sulzmann. They have led the team with such professionalism and care.

Congratulations

At the end of last term, the Reception children drew a picture of their families which was entered into a 'Young Writers' competition called 'Me and My Family'. We are delighted to announce that all of the children's entries have been chosen for publication in a book. As a participating school, Normanhurst will receive a complimentary copy of the book shortly after publication and the children will receive a special certificate.

I am also excited to congratulate William in Year 2 who has been selected as the winner of the Shakespeare Week poster competition. William's poster has been chosen from nearly 150 entries. This means that William's poster will now be professionally printed - congratulations William. As a school we will be celebrating National Shakespeare Week, from Monday 18 to Friday 22 March.

Open Morning Wednesday 6 March

We are looking forward to our annual spring Open Morning on Wednesday 6 March. This is an opportunity to see the school in action for perspective parents.

Residential Trip Meetings

We would like to invite parents and pupils into school for a meeting ahead of the residential trips in the summer term:

Year 4 - Tuesday 26 March at 4pm in the Year 4 Classroom

Years 5&6 - Thursday 9 May at 4pm in the Music Room

Years 7&8 - Tuesday 26 March at 5pm in the Music Room

Year 9 – Thursday 9 May at 5pm in the library

The pupils will focus on character development, independence and communication skills through challenging themselves in a number of outdoor activities, while embracing the outdoor experience.

If parents are unable to attend the information evening or have questions, please do not hesitate to contact Miss Stone for the Junior trips on vstone@normanhurstschool.co.uk, Mr Clair for the Years 7 and 8 trip on pclair@normanhurstschool.co.uk and Mrs Saint for Year 9 residential trip on JSaint@normanhurstschool.co.uk

Class Photos

Our annual class photos will take place on the morning of Monday 22 April. All pupils are required to wear their school uniform and teachers will inform classes of arrangements separately, if they have PE during this time.

Year 11 Yearbook

We know that over the years, parents have taken many photos of the Year 11 pupils in various school events. Please could we ask for some of these to be emailed to Yearbook@normanhurstschool.co.uk We feel it is incredibly important for all pupils' school memories to be represented in the Yearbook.

PSHE Parent Consultation Sessions

On Tuesday 7 May, as part of our commitment to the delivery of PSHE, we run an annual parent consultation session for parents. There will be one Junior and one senior session, where Mrs Saint will explain how RSE topics are taught at age related expectations. Mrs Saint will also show parents some of the Jigsaw resources used, so that parents are informed on what is taught in lessons in the summer term and can be prepared for any questions that the pupils ask at home. This year both sessions will take place online via Zoom using the following links below:

Junior Consultation Meeting 5pm

Julie Saint is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: PSHE Talk Juniors

Time: May 7, 2024 05:00 PM London

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/4658794057?pwd=fSygvfOfQaNpeobKS1828rY02cxLy8.1&omn=79484219897>

Meeting ID: 465 879 4057

Passcode: PSHE

Senior Consultation Meeting 6pm

Julie Saint is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: PSHE Seniors

Time: May 7, 2024 06:00 PM London

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/4658794057?pwd=fSygvfOfQaNpeobKS1828rY02cxLy8.1&omn=72209205238>

Meeting ID: 465 879 4057

Passcode: PSHE

Duke of Edinburgh Award

This term we see the Year 9 and 10 pupils participating in the Duke of Edinburgh course prepare for their practice assessment on Saturday 23 to Sunday 24 March, with their final assessment taking place Saturday 27 to Sunday 28 April. We all want to wish them the best of luck in their quest to complete the award and thank Miss O'Donnell for leading the award.

House Competitions

The House system continues to go from strength to strength. So far we have had Chingford Fashion Week and the House Spelling Bee. This leads us nicely into the House Music Competition on Wednesday 27 March at 9.15am where parents are invited to attend. We can seat up to 60 parents (no buggies please) in the hall and spaces will be allocated on a first come, first served basis, with an allocation of 2 seats per family.

NSPA Summer Walk

We are very much looking forward to our Summer Walk after the Easter holidays. We are hoping that as many families as possible will be able to join us on Sunday 12 May. Further details will be sent to parents in due course. Thank you in advance to the NSPA for organising this event.

Senior Assessments and Examinations for Years 7 to 10

This is advance notice of assessments and examinations happening for Years 7 to 10. We plan to run the scheduled end-of-year assessments and examinations in April, May and June. Year 10 exams will take place from Monday 29 April to Friday 3 May. End-of-Year exams will take place for Years 7 to 9 from Monday 3 to Friday 7 June.

Senior Entrance Examinations

The main Entrance Examination for new pupils wishing to join the Seniors at Year 8 or 9 from September 2024 will be held on Wednesday 13 March.

There will also be an additional opportunity to take the 11+ Entrance Examination on this date for prospective pupils who were unable to attend in January.

Year 11 GCSE Update

Year 11 pupils have completed their second set of Mock examinations and are now on the final stages before their GCSEs start at the beginning of May.

They have already received a copy of the summer exam timetable and this is also available on Show My Homework. All schools are required to keep reserve exam dates available in case this is needed for exams. We will be informing Year 11 parents separately about these dates.

Revision is underway in preparation for the summer exams, which take place at the United Reformed Church hall and in other places at school. In between exams, pupils will have sessions to help them with focused revision before exams.

During the Easter holidays from Thursday 28 March to Tuesday 9 April we will also be hosting our Easter Academy as the pupils move closer towards their examinations. Pupils do not have to be in uniform on these days. I hope Year 11 take this opportunity to support their revision by attending on site.

As we move closer towards the summer exams, we will be celebrating the Year 11's efforts and hard work by hosting a Celebration Breakfast followed by the annual Year 11 Normanhurst School Prom on Monday 1 July at The King's Oak at 6.30pm.

Important Dates

Wed 6 March	09:15 – 11:15	Open Day
Fri 8 March	09:00 – 15:30	Rec-Year 6 Author Visit Workshop (part of World Book Day)
	09:30 – 15:30	Year 11 FSC Epping Forest –Science Trip
Mon 11 – Fri 22 March		STEAM Fortnight
Thu 14 March	09:30 – 15:30	Year 9&10 Centre of the Cell trip
Mon 18 March	09:30 – 15:45	Year 10&11 GCSE Geography Grade Booster Workshop Stratford
	09:30 – 15:30	Year 7&8 Centre of the Cell trip

	16:00 – 18:30	KG-Year 6 Parents' Evening
Tue 19 March	09:30 – 15:30	Year 7&8 RAF Museum
	16:00 – 18:30	KG-Year 6 Parents' Evening
Wed 20 March	09:30 – 15:30	Year 9&10 RAF Museum
	16:00 – 18:30	KG-Year 6 Parents' Evening
Fri 22 March	09:15 – 15:15	Year 1 Willows Farm Trip
Sat 23 – Sun 24 March		DofE Practice Weekend
Mon 25 March	08:30 – 09:00	KG-Year 6 Drop In Morning
Tue 26 March	16:00 – 16:30	Year 4 Residential Trip Parent Meeting (Y4 classroom)
	17:00 – 17:30	Year 7&8 Residential Trip Parent Meeting (music room)
Wed 27 March	09:15 – 10:15	House Music Competition - Parents invited
		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

