



# Normanhurst School

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## HEADMISTRESS

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

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3 June 2024

Dear Parents

### Re: June 2024 Headmistress's Letter

This term I have been incredibly proud of pupils and staff alike. We saw 45 of our pupils participate in the mini-marathon, coordinated by Mrs Botha and supported by other staff runners. We also saw Mr Davies and Miss O'Donnell complete the London Marathon, a full 26.2 Miles. These are lifetime achievements and inspiring to us all.

The end of the school year is fast approaching, with a number of celebratory events and performances to enjoy. In the last half term, we were reminded of how talented the pupils are, from the participation in the Maths UKMT Competition, to the outstanding production of Oliver.

This month I would like to enlist the help of all of our parents to ensure the safety of pupils travelling to and from school. I know that it can be very challenging to park around the school, especially at drop off and pick up times. As a school, we pride ourselves on being part of the community, working with local neighbours and businesses. In doing so, it has been brought to my attention that during drop-off and pick-ups times car engines are being left on. Please could I ask parents to switch their engines off once parked. In addition, I am increasingly concerned about the number of pupils being encouraged to run across the busy road instead of using the zebra crossing. Please could we ask you to reinforce good crossing habits by using the zebra crossing

### Residential Trips

This year each pupil has had the chance to attend at least one residential trip. Although pupils have returned tired, they have had an incredible time. Trips like these develop character and encourage our young people to become more resilient and courageous and to develop their problem-solving skills. I would like to thank parents for entrusting your children to us on these overnight stays and to thank staff for their willingness to take the pupils away and for creating such lifelong memories.

### UK Mathematics Challenge

This year many of the senior pupils took part in the UK Maths Challenge (UKMT), a national mathematics challenge. It encourages mathematical reasoning, precision of thought, and fluency in using basic mathematical techniques to solve interesting problems. Our senior pupils in years 7 and 8 worked hard to solve some tricky mathematical problems designed to make students think. Congratulations to all pupils who participated.

### Prefectships

It is wonderful to see such enthusiasm from our prospective Year 10 pupils about wanting to become a prefect. This year pupils have applied for the following roles:

- Head Prefects x2
- Head of House x4
- Head of Arts - including Music, Art and Drama x1
- Head of Sustainability and the Eco Council x1
- Head of Sports x4
- Head of School Council x1
- Head of Academics x1
- Head of Community and Charity

Year 10 pupils have already made applications for the posts above. Pupils were required to write a letter of application for their desired positions. We will soon begin the interview process and make announcements at Speech Day on Thursday 4 July.

I know Year 5 have been completing their letters of applications for Prefectships and I am very much looking forward to the interview stage over the coming weeks.

### **Headmistress Commendations**

This term I am awarding five Headmistress Commendations: to Nathan (Year 10), Tegan (Year 7), Zack E (Year 9), Tommy (Year 7) and Palesa (Year 7):

- Palesa for her commitment to wider school life, representing the school in events and demonstrating the school values inside and outside school.
- Tegan for embracing the school values and demonstrating her commitment to representing the school. She is resilient and has a positive influence in her year group.
- Nathan for demonstrating his strong commitment to the school values, Pupil Voice, School Productions and for leading positively beyond his year group.
- Tommy for demonstrating the school values, volunteering and committing to lunch hall duties. Tommy is committed to helping at school events and activities.
- Zack E for demonstrating a strong commitment to the school values, his continuous involvement in school activities, while being a role model to others around the school.

These pupils are being commended for going above and beyond in their roles while demonstrating the school values. We are incredibly proud of their efforts, commitment and ability to serve and help others: this is the Normanhurst way!

### **Pupil Wellbeing**

Below is a helpful website designed to support pupils during exam time, which parents and pupils may find useful: <https://www.annafreud.org/on-my-mind/self-care/revision/>

Exams are part of life and we aim to help pupils to develop the resilience to cope with them as best as they can. Kooth is also a friendly app available to young people to support them coping with their feelings [www.kooth.com](http://www.kooth.com). The Kooth team are there to provide free, safe and anonymous online support and counselling. The Kooth team are made up of friendly and experienced individuals who support young people.

### **Key Stage 3 Exams: Year 7 to Year 9**

Years 7, 8 and 9 now have their end of year summer exams. Pupils will have had the opportunity to make good use of the revision skills and strategies elevate and we have taught them in school. We have already shared the prep packs and timetable, to provide guidance for each subject that has exams. These are important exams and I know our pupils will want to perform well, but please do not hesitate to contact us if your child is struggling. We will be talking to pupils about preparing for exams, how to manage their time and to support their mental health. If you have any concerns or additional support is required, please initially contact your child's form tutor.

### **Junior Assessment Week: Year 1 to Year 6 Assessments**

Junior assessment week will take place from Monday 17 to Friday 21 June. Junior pupils will complete assessments in PIRA, PUMA, a writing and SPAG assessment. Results will be sent to parents in the end of year school report. INCAS online assessments will also take place the first week after half term. If you have any questions regarding the assessments, please speak to your child's class teacher.

### **Non-Uniform Bottle Day: Tuesday 11 June**

On 11 June we will be having non-uniform Bottle Day. This is where pupils have a chance to wear their own clothes but instead of bringing in money, pupils should bring in a new, sealed bottle. This could be a bottle of drink, toiletries, or anything else in a bottle. Bottles will be collected at the school gate as pupils come into school. The bottles will form part of a bottle tombola at the Summer Barbecue.

### **Year 11 Book Return: Friday 14 June**

Text books or library books issued to Year 11 pupils need to be returned on Friday 14 June. Pupils should arrange to return their text books directly to the school office so this can be recorded as returned. Please do not return

books directly to teachers. They need to bring all of their GCSE text books, for every subject, to school in a labelled carrier bag. They may also have library books or text books from earlier in their school career, which have not yet been returned. These can all be brought back to school at the same time. The office staff have a tick list to register all of the returns.

### **NSPA Events: Summer Barbecue Saturday 22 June 12pm to 5pm**

Thank you to the NSPA for organising the wonderful recent Summer Walk. The weather was on our side and this made the event even more enjoyable with the Normanhurst community.

The next event to look forward to is the Normanhurst Summer BBQ on Saturday 22 June. The NSPA has been working hard behind the scene to make this event a success. Tickets are now available from the school office and at the end of the school day at the gate. It promises to be action-packed community event in the playground, hall and classrooms. Please try to spare an hour or two support the NSPA and the school. The theme this year will be Charlie and the Chocolate Factory – Wonka comes to Normanhurst.

### **Early Years Celebration: Tuesday 25 June**

Our Early Years department will be celebrating the end of year on Tuesday 25 June at 2.30pm at school. This event is for the families and children in Kindergarten assisted by the Reception class. It will be wonderful for parents to join us in celebrating the wonderful achievements and progress of the children in Kindergarten. This year Reception will be joining the main Speech Day on 4 July at St Peter and St Paul Parish Church.

### **Sports Day: Thursday 27 June**

Our annual Sports Day will take place on Thursday 27 June at Lee Valley Athletics Centre. All pupils will be involved and compete, while representing their houses; Forest, Buxton, Ridgeway and Rangers. The senior pupils will come to school for registration as normal in their PE kits and they will be taken to Lee Valley for a 9.15am start. Senior individual track and field events run until 12.15pm, after which pupils will return to school for lunch and afternoon lessons.

The junior sports day will take place from 12.30pm until 3.30pm. All junior pupils will participate in relay races, throws, jumps and obstacle runs. They will have morning lessons and lunch in school.

Pupils will compete at the following times:

- Years 3 to 6 – 12.30-3.30pm
- Early Years to Year 2 – 2.30-3.30pm

Please note that these are approximate times and may vary slightly on the day. DE Photos will be taking photographs, as they have done for many years, and you will be able to purchase a photo as a memento of the day if you would like to.

Parents are welcome to join us to spectate during the day. We will publish a Sports Day programme in advance so you can see which events your child will be participating in for their House.

Senior pupils will be dismissed from school as normal, EYFS and Junior pupils may be collected from Lee Valley at 3.30pm. Please note that if your child requires a place on the minibus back to school, they will arrive slightly later.

### **Speech Day Celebrations: Thursday 4 July**

Celebrating the pupils' hard work and success at Normanhurst has been a strength over the years. We will again be having our annual Speech Day at St Peter and St Paul Parish Church on the Green, a short walk from the school.

All pupils from Reception to Year 10 are expected to attend Speech Day, which takes place on Thursday 4 July at the following times:

- **Reception – Year 6: 2.00pm**  
Pupils will be taken to the Church by staff and parents will need to collect their children from the church at the end of the event.

- **Year 7 – Year 10: 3.45pm**  
Senior pupils will be taken to the Church by staff at the end of the school day. Pupils will be walked back to school and dismissed from school.
- **Year 11** pupils receiving awards can also attend the event, with parents and pupils confirming their attendance in advance via the school office.

### Whole School Sponsored Walk: Tuesday 9 July

We are hoping to hold our charity sponsored walk again this year, the afternoon of Tuesday 9 July. The children from Early Years to Year 1 will be walking to Connaught Waters, and their parents are invited to walk with them.

The rest of the school from Year 2 to Year 10 will walk to just beyond Connaught Waters. All children are to come to school that day wearing their PE kit and to bring a bottle of water and a healthy snack. Pupils will be back at school for normal end of day dismissal.

### Staff Updates

As in all schools, July sometimes sees staff moving on to pastures new and it is no different at Normanhurst. This year we will be saying goodbye to Miss Deen, Head of Geography and RS. Miss Deen leaves Normanhurst after 14 years of service and will be going to support her family. I would like to thank Miss Deen for her hard work, commitment and dedication to the school. Her passion for geography has inspired many to pupils to study the subject beyond GCSE and she been a valuable form tutor over the years, providing excellent pastoral support.

We are pleased to say we have now appointed Ms Marks to be Head of Humanities in the seniors and Miss Sherwood to be the Geography Coordinator from September 2024. Miss Sherwood will join us as a passionate geographer. She has already taught Year 10 at Normanhurst and is very much looking forward to meeting the Normanhurst community in September. Miss Sherwood will be visiting the school during the Summer term to have a handover with Miss Deen.

### Important Dates for the Diary

Mon 3 – Fri 7 Jun		Y7-9 Internal End of Year Exams
Mon 3 – Fri 7 Jun		Y10 Work Experience
Wed 12 – Fri 14 Jun		Y9 Residential Trip to Danbury
Fri 12 Jun	16:00 – 16:30	Y3 Oak-Tree Camp Parent Meeting
Mon 17 – Fri 21 Jun		Junior Assessment Week
Tue 18 Jun	08:30 – 09:00	KG-Y6 Drop In Morning
Thu 20 Jun	17:30 – 18:30	Summer Concert
Sat 22 Jun	12.00 – 17:00	Summer BBQ
Tue 25 Jun	14:30 – 15:30	EYFS End of Year Celebration
Wed 26 Jun	09:00 – 15:45	Moving Up Day/Y7 Induction Day
Thu 27 Jun	09:15 – 12:15	Sports Day Seniors
	12:30 – 15:30	Sports Day Years 3-6
	14:30 – 15:30	Sports Day KG-Y2
Mon 1 Jul	18:30 – 22:30	Y11 Leavers' Prom King's Oak
Thu 4 Jul	14:00 – 15:30	Rec-Y6 Speech Day at St Peter and St Paul Church
	15:45 – 17:30	Y7-11 Speech Day at St Peter and St Paul Church
Fri 5 Jul	08:15 – 16:00	LK-Y6 House trip to Legoland
	09:00 – 15:45	Y10 Careers Day
Mon 8 Jul	08:30 – 16:00	Y7-10 Senior House trip to Thorpe Park
	17:00 – 18:30	Y6 Graduation Party
Wed 10 Jul		Last Day of Summer 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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