



May 2025



# Normanhurst School

**Newsletter**



# Headmistress's Message

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Dear Parents

This term, pupils have been begun their GCSEs, internal exams and assessments. They have shown great determination to succeed, and their positivity has been truly infectious. Our pupils have been incredible in embracing this process, and their efforts have been highly commended. They have also responded thoughtfully to teacher feedback, furthering their understanding and progress.

As time is moving quickly, there is still much to look forward to including the NSPA Summer Barbecue, Moving Up Day and Year 7 Induction, Sports Day, Early Years Celebration Assembly, the Summer Concert, the Year 11 Prom, Speech Day and our Sponsored Walk. I'm looking forward to seeing many of you at some of these events.

In this month's edition, I hope you enjoy seeing pupils engaged in the Mini Marathon, Science Museum trips, The House Music Competition, sporting competitions and our trip to the Spinney Care Home.

We remain incredibly grateful for the kind comments and supportive emails we continue to receive. They are a daily reminder of how special the Normanhurst community is, and of the wonderful people within it.

I hope you enjoy this edition of the newsletter. There is much to celebrate.

With my best wishes

Mrs Jacqueline Job

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## Mini beasts

The Early Years children have really enjoyed our topic of 'mini beasts'. They have learnt about different mini beasts including ants, worms and snails, learning some interesting facts along the way. Did you know ants are very strong and can lift objects 25 times their weight!! Snails can't hear, but can feel vibrations and the longest earthworm is the African giant earthworm which can grow up to 22 feet long! Our mini artists have enjoyed making snail pictures inspired by 'Matisse' as well as creating a collaborative butterfly using sponges.

The children took their mini beast learning to the forest, playing mini beast themed games such as 'find my dinner' when learning about ants, where the children marched in a line to find some food to bring back to the nest. Teamworking skills were developed by passing a caterpillar (a long large balloon) along the line to take back.

In Science we have been exploring different lifecycles, including the lifecycle of the butterfly. We have caterpillars in school now and are excited to watch the butterfly lifecycle in action before releasing the butterflies in the forest! We have also been learning more about plants and the growing process and are excited to be growing our own plants and putting our learning into action to help them grow strong and healthy.



## VE Day Celebrations

The Early Years children loved celebrating VE day. The day started by decorating cupcakes, bunting and medals ready for the afternoon tea where the children enjoyed eating their cakes whilst listening to music.

Early Years ended the day by visiting the Spinney, spotting all the VE decorations outside houses on their way. The children enjoyed some craft with the residents of the Spinney and finished by singing some well known nursery rhymes. It was such a fun day!





## Summer Forest School

At forest school this half term we are thinking about mini beasts alongside the children's learning in the Early Years. They learnt that spiders can walk on walls as they have sticky pads. They have up to 8 eyes and baby spiders are called spiderlings. We found out that the spiders blood is ... blue - that was a surprise! What fun at forest school! What will we be looking at next week?

The children are very sensible when crossing the roads and walking to the forest- they know the rules, especially keeping inside the flag boundary.

In the forest we sat in a circle and held the string going across the circle to make a huge spiders web. The children had to pull this tight and then, the spiderling children had to walk through the web without falling or getting stuck.

They all successfully got to the other side and gave their friend a turn.



## Cows on Chingford Plains

Our Early Years pupils visited Jo's Bookshop to meet author Julia Maria Gouldsboro.

She gave them a special reading of her wonderful book Cows on Chingford Plains. The children especially loved the story, having seen the cows themselves on their forest walks!

Julia has been running a raffle in support of The Samaritans, and we're thrilled to share that our Early Years won a copy of the book, as well as a cuddly toy cow, who will now make its home in the Early Years department.





## From Dioramas to Daydreams: Year 2's Storytelling Garden

In Year 2, the children have been having lots of fun bringing our English learning to life through art and creativity. Inspired by our key text *There's a Tiger in the Garden*, they designed and made their own dioramas to explore different story settings. This hands-on activity helped pupils imagine exciting places for their own stories.

After creating their dioramas, pupils wrote imaginative stories using different settings, just like in the book. They learned how to use adverbs to show how things happen and similes to make their descriptions more interesting.

Everyone loved sharing their ideas with each other—talking about jungles, icy lands, magical gardens, and even space! The children had so much fun expressing themselves and seeing how everyone's imagination came to life in different ways.



## VE Day Celebrations

To mark the 80th anniversary of VE Day, the junior children at Normanhurst took part in a range of lessons and activities, including building their own Spitfires. Some children followed the BBC's live coverage and watched the King arrive at the ceremonies, after which they joined in the two-minute silence while continuing to watch the broadcast. Others took part in quizzes and art activities to commemorate the event.



The children excitedly tested their Spitfire flying skills in the school playground.

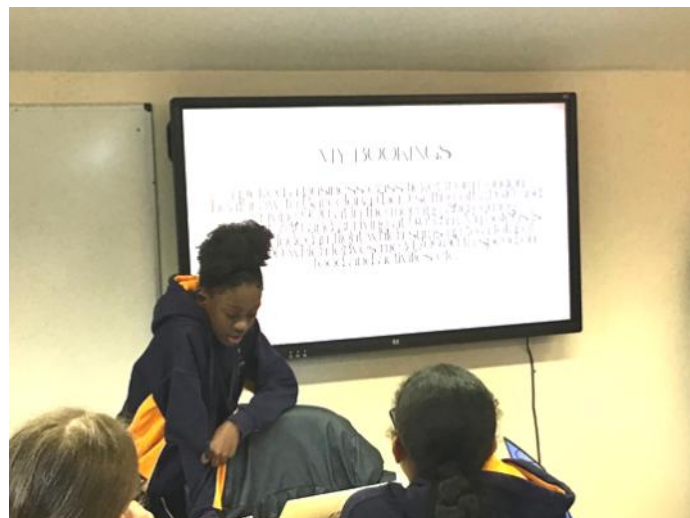
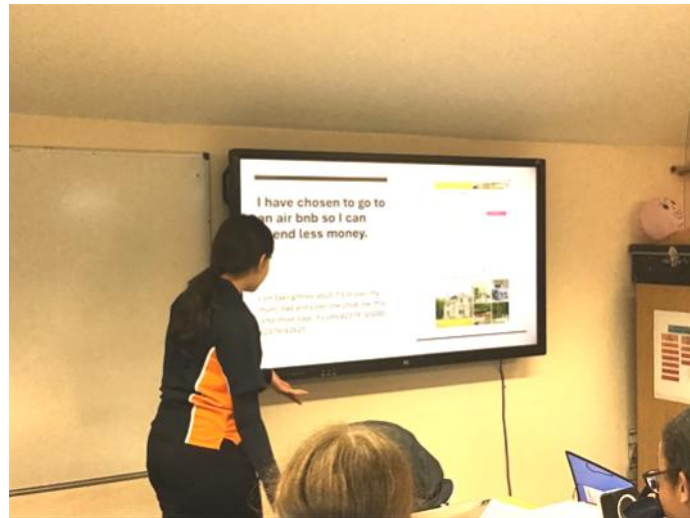




## Y7 Maths

This term, our brilliant Year 7 Maths pupils were given a unique and exciting challenge for their homework: to plan their dream holiday — with a twist. They had a £5,000 budget to cover everything from travel and accommodation to insurance, food, spending money, and even new luggage items. Not only did pupils throw themselves into the task with creativity and enthusiasm, but they also showed exceptional budgeting skills. Each pupil carefully calculated their costs, comparing prices, prioritising needs and wants, and tracking their total spend — with some even landing exactly on the £5,000 mark!

Teachers were blown away by the effort and attention to detail in every project. The pupils clearly took pride in balancing fun with financial responsibility, and their holiday plans included everything from tropical beach escapes to snowy mountain adventures. They produced fantastic PowerPoints, spreadsheets and posters to present to their class and impressed us all.



## STEAM Trips - Science Museum

Last week, years 7 and 8 visited the Science Museum as part of their STEAM programme. The morning started off with a session called Power Up. This introduced the students to the evolution and technical expertise of gaming, over the last 50 years, starting from the first games such as “pong” through to Pac Man, Sonic, Fifa and into the future with virtual reality. The pupils tried their hand at various activities and showed great enthusiasm.

After lunch the pupils went to the Technicians Gallery where they were introduced to the skills needed for a range of different careers such as wind turbine maintenance, CGI and visual effects, welding, coding and prosthetics.

It was a great trip!





## SPORTS NEWS

On Monday 28th April, the Junior School girls' football teams travelled to Shooters in Epping to compete in the highly anticipated Oak-Tree 5-a-side competition. It was a fantastic day of sport, filled with determination, teamwork, and growth.

Despite the warm conditions, every player gave their all and showed impressive resilience. The girls demonstrated excellent sportsmanship, supported one another, and gained valuable experience that will serve them well in future matches. The standout performance of the day came from the U10 team, who battled their way to a well-earned silver medal. Narrowly missing out on the top spot by just one goal, their efforts were a clear testament to their skill and determination on the pitch.

The U9 team also had moments to celebrate, with Charley (Year 4) being named Player of the Match for her outstanding heroics in goal. Her bravery and quick reflexes kept her team in the tournament.

Overall, it was a successful and rewarding day for all involved - well done girls.



At Normanhurst School, preparations are now underway for our much-anticipated Sports Day, which will take place at the Lea Valley Athletics Centre this June. Pupils from Years 7 to 10 have begun their training, getting to grips with a variety of athletic events as they prepare to represent their houses with pride and determination. With enthusiasm building and friendly competition on the horizon, we are looking forward to a fantastic day of sport, teamwork, and school spirit.



## SPORTS NEWS continued

The year 7/8 Netball B team took to the court for their highly anticipated first match, eager to showcase their hard work and dedication. Despite a spirited effort and strong teamwork, the match ended in a defeat.

From the start, it was clear that the B team was ready to battle, displaying great energy and enthusiasm. The players showed impressive teamwork, passing the ball with confidence and positioning themselves well on the court. The first quarter saw both teams trade goals, with the B team holding their own against a well-organised opposition.

However, as the match progressed, the opposition's experience and tactical play began to show, and they pulled ahead in the second and third quarters. The B team fought hard to close the gap, but at times struggled with converting possession into goals. A huge well done to everyone involved.

## House Music Competition

Thursday 8 May saw the return of the popular House Music Competition at Normanhurst School. The competition saw some of our youngest and oldest pupils taking part in a fun-filled morning of singing.

The Houses battled it out – performing one song each to showcase their talents. This year we had songs such as Yellow by Coldplay and Don't Stop Believing by Journey.

Our guest judge this year, sitting with Mrs Job, was Mr Scott, who gave very thoughtful feedback to all the houses after their wonderful performances.

After much deliberation from the judges it was decided that the House Cup would be shared this year between the victorious houses Forest and Ridgeway. Well done to both!





# Oak-Tree Ski Trip

Our pupils had an amazing time on the recent Oak-Tree Ski Trip!

Together with the other Oak-Tree Group schools, they hit the slopes in beautiful Passo Tonale, Italy for a fun-filled week of skiing, laughter, and unforgettable memories!

Pupils were very lucky to have excellent skiing conditions and the ski school instructors were pleased with everyone's progress through the week.



# London Mini Marathon 2025

Well done to the Normanhurst pupils that took part in this year's London Mini Marathon!

The event was held on Saturday 26th April, the day before the full London Marathon. It was wonderful for pupils to cross the iconic marathon finish line supported by staff and also parents.





## After School Club

Our After School Club pupils recently showed their creativity as they celebrated Spring, Easter and Mother's Day in style! From making delicious chocolate Rice Krispie cakes, to sewing and crafting beautiful Mother's Day cards and flowers, the pupils have truly enjoyed expressing their creativity and spreading joy as well as having lots of fun playing outside and dressing up.

The pupils have been working really hard but also having fun!



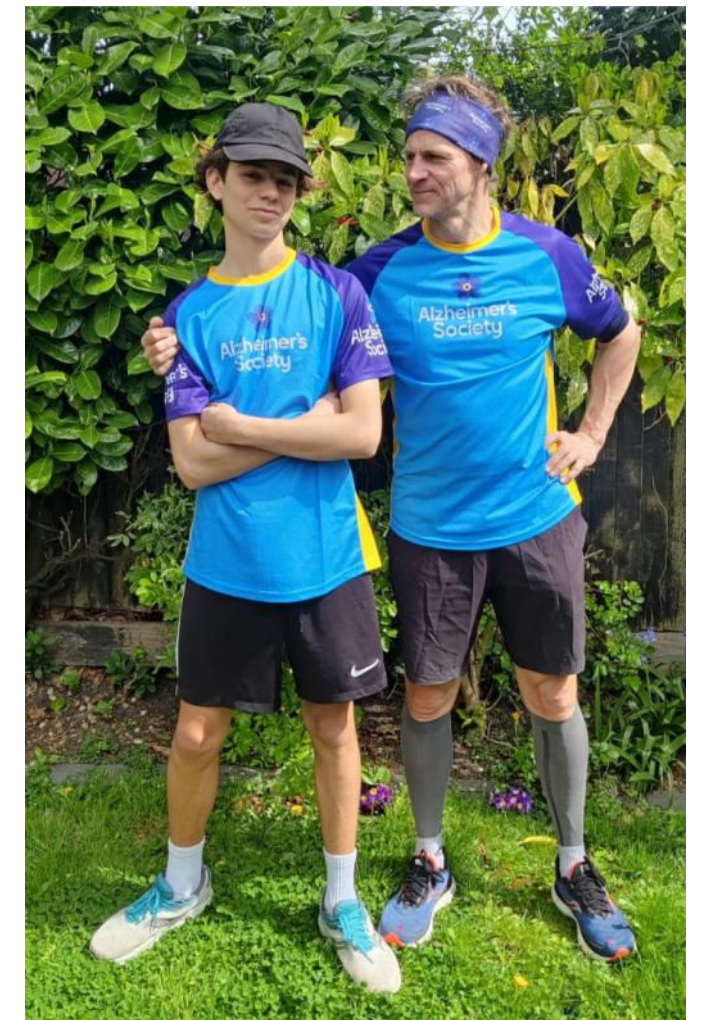
## Pupil Achievements

Nicolas (year 10) embarked on a very special challenge over Easter, running the London Virtual Marathon in memory of his grandad, who sadly passed away from Alzheimer's Disease.

Well done to Nicolas who completed the challenge in 7 days instead of 8 as originally planned and raised £1,110 for The Alzheimer Society!

He had the support of his friends and family during some runs - a big shout out to Zack, Immie and Sofia.

A great achievement!





## Pupil Achievements

Henry's football team (Buckhurst Hill FC under 9's) won a football tournament for which they had won several matches to get to the final.

The team won 4-0 in the final against a very good side, and Henry's team were absolutely amazing, and very impressive. Henry played on the left wing and didn't stop moving into space, running and passing the ball.

He is thrilled and the boys are having a party to celebrate.

Well done Henry!



**NSPA**  
Normanhurst Parents' Association

Dear Parents

The Normanhurst School Parents Association are a friendly group of parents and staff who seek to fundraise for the school. In the past, we have raised money for playground equipment, iPads, a sound system and extra beanbag chairs for the school library.

The NSPA also has a pre-loved uniform shop. Please complete an order form, which can be handed into the school office or emailed to [info@normanhurstschool.co.uk](mailto:info@normanhurstschool.co.uk) and we will try and fulfil your requirements. All proceeds are fed back into improving the school experience for our children, so please support us.

**DATE OF NEXT SALE: Tuesday 24 June at 3.30pm**

As a committee, we are always looking for parents to join and support our events. We love our school community and are seeking fresh ideas to broaden our skillset and widen our expertise.

We can be contacted on [normanhurstschoolpa@gmail.com](mailto:normanhurstschoolpa@gmail.com). You don't have to come to every event or join the committee - you might be able to volunteer by helping at an open morning with serving drinks or by providing something we need for an event.

If you have suggestions, we want to hear them!

With kind regards  
Normanhurst School Parents' Association





**Tap and give us a follow on our  
social media accounts**