



Normanhurst School

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HEADMISTRESS

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2 June 2025

Dear Parents

Re: June 2025 Headmistress's Letter

Longer days and lighter evenings are a sure sign that the summer term has arrived. It's been lovely to see the children return with fresh enthusiasm, ready for new learning and exciting experiences. I hope you all had a restful half-term break. We've embraced the start of this term with open arms and are looking forward to the wonderful events to come.

Y11 Text Book Return Day – Monday 16 June

As mentioned in my previous Headmistress's letter, please ensure that all text books are returned on Monday 16 June between 11-12pm. These should be returned to the **Music Room** and not to staff.

Y11 Results Day – Thursday 21 August

We will be inviting Year 11 to come into school to collect their exam results on Thursday 21 August from 8.30-10.00am. Miss Reid, the Exams Officer, staff and the Senior Leadership Team will be in school to hand out the results and offer advice on the day. Any Year 11 pupils who will not be able to attend in person must let the school office know by Friday 13 June, so that we can plan for your results to be sent out at some point during the day.

Moving Up Day

Moving Up Day is fast approaching and will take place on Tuesday 24 June, when pupils will spend the day with their teachers in preparation for next year.

Junior pupils will spend the whole day in school with their new teachers. We are also inviting new pupils who will be joining the juniors in September, so that they can meet their classmates. Parents will be invited into school at the end of the day to meet their child's teacher for next year.

Pupils who will be moving into the Seniors in September have a Year 7 Induction Day on the same day. Current Year 6 pupils will meet the new pupils who are joining us from other schools and there will be a special programme of activities for the day including a team building afternoon offsite. Our current Year 6 parents and new parents are invited to join us at 5pm for a meeting in the school for a short talk about life in the seniors, and will have the opportunity to meet the Senior Leadership Team.

There will also be a Pre-loved Uniform Sale in the afternoon from 3.30-4.45pm at the front of the school.

School Uniform

All the children should return to school for the final half-term wearing their correct summer uniform, and blazers should be worn to school every day. As usual long hair needs to be tied back with plain navy accessories, or with the school coloured hair accessories available from the uniform shop. We have seen an increase in pupils getting their ears pierced during term time; please could families remember to the school policy on earrings. These are only allowed for Years 5 and upwards and should be plain, round, gold or silver. Earrings should not be worn on the days that the pupils have PE. May I kindly ask families to adhere to this school rule.

Research Study with University College London

This term the Year 7 and 8 pupils have been invited to participate in a four year research project called IMAGINE with University College London. 5000 pupils in Years 7 and 8 across the country will have the opportunity to participate in a research project which will give us further insight into pupils' perspective of themselves.

The goal of the IMAGINE study is to explore how adolescents' experiences in and outside school influence how they feel about themselves, including their body image and their mental wellbeing. The data collected will be anonymous, but a summary of outcomes will be shared with the school to inform our curriculum and approach to supporting our pupils. Parents in these year groups will be sent further information regarding the study and how we hope to use the summary of information received to inform our work with the pupils.

We are excited to be offered the opportunity to participate in such an important study and gain an insight into our pupils' perspective. Year 7 and 8 parents will receive a detailed letter requesting consent to participate. Please contact me if you have any questions regarding participating in the study.

Prefect Interviews

Each year I am incredibly proud of the pupils who take the brave step to apply and interview for prefectships. I must say that the interviews are such an enjoyable experience, where pupils are able to talk about themselves and the qualities that would benefit the roles they have applied for. An announcement will be made at Speech Day on Thursday 3 July when the successful pupils will be presented with their badges and prefect ties.

NSPA Summer BBQ

The Normanhurst School Summer BBQ is on Saturday 28 June 12.00-5.00pm. It promises to be a fun community event in the playground, hall and classrooms. This year the theme will be Celebrating the Cultural Diversity of our School Community. Please save the date and look out for further communications from the NSPA. There will be a Bottle Day on Friday 13 June. Pupils will need to bring in an unopened, new bottle of drink, sauce, shampoo etc for the bottle stall at the Summer BBQ and they will be allowed to wear their own clothes as an exchange.

Mobile Phones in School

Please note the following about our mobile phone policy. Pupils in the juniors are not permitted to bring mobile phones or electronic devices into school. Pupils in the seniors are not permitted to use their phones or have them switched on from the time they arrive on the school site until after they leave. Mobile phones should never be used in school, in class, corridors, in the playground or in the toilets.

Pupils' mobile phones are handed in as soon as they arrive at school and they are kept safe until they are returned at the end of the school day. The school does not take responsibility for any loss or damage to mobile phones and they are brought in at the pupil's own risk. If your son or daughter needs to contact you during the school day, they can go to the school office where staff will facilitate any calls. Please could you discuss this with your child to ensure they understand the expectations. Your support is much appreciated.

London Marathon

This term I have been incredibly proud of pupils and staff alike. We saw a good number of pupils participate in the mini-marathon, coordinated by Mrs Botha and supported by other staff runners. We also saw Mr Davies and Mrs Botha both complete the London Marathon, a full 26.2 Miles. It's again incredible how Mr Davies was able to complete the marathon in two hours and thirty minutes. These are lifetime achievements and inspiring to us all.

Residential Trips

I am always amazed by our pupils' resilience, ability to challenge themselves and to overcome their fears. This year, each pupil from Year 3 upwards has had the chance to attend at least one residential trip where they have demonstrated their independent skills. These trips also develop and shape their characters as young people, while also enabling them to have an incredible time. I would like to thank you for entrusting your children to us on these overnight stays and the staff for being willing to take the pupils away and for creating such lasting memories.

Head Teacher Commendations

This term I am awarding the following Headmistress's Commendations:

- Demauri in Year 8, Lachlan in Year 7, Caitlin in Year 6 and Lilia in Year 3 – for making significant contributions towards the wider life of the school and school leadership. They have been excellent role models and shown courage and determination throughout the academic year.
- Sayfullah in Year 10 – for embracing the school values and demonstrating his commitment to representing the school. He is resilient and has a positive influence in his year group, while always wanting to drive innovation and improve the school.
- Selina in Year 9 and Kenya in Year 9 - for demonstrating the school values, volunteering and committing to running a lunchtime club and supporting student wellbeing.
- Daisy in Year 8, Leyla in Year 8 and Shay in Year 9 - for demonstrating a strong commitment to the school values, their continuous involvement in school activities, while being role models to others around the school.
- Sinan in Year 8 - for demonstrating the school values and volunteering his time and expertise as a national table tennis champion, to coaching others around the school.

These pupils are being commended for going above and beyond in their roles, exemplifying the core values of our school. We are incredibly proud of their dedication, commitment, and their willingness to serve and support others - this truly 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. 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.

Junior Assessment Week: Year 1 to Year 6 Assessments

Junior assessment week will take place from Monday 9 to Friday 13 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. If you have any questions regarding the assessments, please speak to your child's class teacher.

Non-Uniform Bottle Day: Friday 13 June

Pupils may wear their own clothes in return for bringing a bottle for the bottle stall at the Summer Barbecue. This should be a new, sealed bottle of drink, toiletries, or anything else. 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.

Early Years Celebration: Monday 23 June

Our Early Years department will be celebrating the end of year on Monday 23 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. As usual Reception will be joining the main Speech Day on Thursday 3 July at St Peter and St Paul Parish Church.

Sports Day: Thursday 26 June

I am pleased to announce that our annual Sports Day will take place on Thursday 26 June at Lea 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 will be taken to Lea 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. Juniors 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. 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. 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.

Senior pupils will be dismissed from school as normal, EYFS and Junior pupils may be collected from Lea 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 3 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 3 July at the following times:

- Reception to 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 to 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: Wednesday 9 July

We are hoping to hold our charity sponsored walk again this year, the afternoon of Wednesday 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 Ms Hon-Ng, who has been Head of Art and DT since 2023. I would like to thank Ms Hon-Ng for her commitment and dedication to the subject and wish her well for next year. I am pleased to announce that we have appointed Mr Stephen Knibbs to take over as Head of Art and DT from September. Mr Knibbs will be joining us from North Bridge House School, where he has taught Art and DT as well as being a class teacher, since 2017. He's extremely passionate about the subject and is really looking forward to joining us.

Ms Awan, who has been teaching Science with us since January will also be leaving at the end of the academic year. I would like to thank Ms Aswan for her hard work with the students. We will be joined in September by Miss Egharevba, who has been Head of Science at Braeside since January 2024 having been Director of Learning in Science for eight years previously in the Harris Federation.

I know you will join me in wishing Mrs Huxford-Bonella well when she starts her maternity leave during the summer holiday. Her MFL classes will be taught by Ms Kolodziejczyk (pronounced Ko-lo-jay-chick) from September, who joins us from the London Academy.

We will also be joined in September by Mrs Revoir, who will come to us from Braeside where she has been teaching Humanities throughout the school for many years.

Important Dates

Mon 2 – Fri 6 Jun		Y10 Work Experience / Y7-9 Exams Week
Wed 4 – Fri 6 Jun		Y5&6 Mersea Island Activity Centre
	09:00 – 14:30	LK-Rec End of Year trip to Willows Farm
Mon 9 – Fri 13 Jun		Junior Assessment Week
Tue 10 Jun	16:00 – 18:30	Y10 Parents Evening
Wed 11 Jun	09:30 – 15:40	Y9 Science Museum (STEAM)
Thu 12 Jun	17:00 – 18:30	Summer Concert
Mon 16 – Wed 18 Jun		Y9 Danbury Residential Trip
Mon 16 Jun	08:30 – 09:00	LK-Y6 Drop In Morning
Tue 17 Jun	09:00 – 12:15	Y6 Lee Valley Odeon Trip
Wed 18 – Fri 20 Jun		Y7&8 Skreens Chelmsford Residential trip
Mon 23 Jun	14:30 – 15:30	EYFS Celebration of the Year (hall)
Tue 24 Jun	09:00 – 15:30	Moving Up Day & Y7 Induction
Thu 26 Jun	09:15 – 15:30	Sports Day
Sat 28 Jun	12:00 – 17:00	NSPA Summer BBQ
Mon 30 Jun	09:15 – 15:30	Y9 GCSE Art students trip to Tate Modern
	09:30 – 15:40	Y10 Science Museum (STEAM)
Thu 3 Jul		Speech Day St Peter & St Paul Church

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



OAK-TREE SCHOOLS is the group name of:

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