



# Normanhurst School

**Newsletter**



# Headmistress's Message

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Dear Parents

The Summer term has been filled with laughter, outstanding performances and meaningful learning experiences. While the weather hasn't always been on our side, it certainly hasn't dampened our spirits—or our enthusiasm for learning beyond the classroom.

This bumper edition of the newsletter celebrates many of the highlights from this term, including Speech Day, Careers Day, Sports Day, our ISA sporting successes, the Year 6 Graduation Party, and much more. It was a real pleasure to see so many of you at these events and to share in the joy and achievements of our pupils.

As we bring this academic year to a close, I hope you enjoy reading this final edition of the newsletter. Once again, we are truly grateful for the kind comments and messages of support we continue to receive. They serve as a daily reminder of how special the Normanhurst community is, and how fortunate we are to be part of it.

With my very best wishes for a restful and enjoyable summer.

Mrs Jacqueline Job

# Table of Contents

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<b>1-4</b>	<b>Early Years</b>
<b>5-8</b>	<b>Juniors</b>
<b>9-16</b>	<b>Seniors</b>
<b>17-23</b>	<b>Whole School News</b>
<b>24</b>	<b>NSPA</b>



## Early Years Celebration of the Year

We held our Early Years *Celebration of the Year* in the school hall, and what a heart-warming event it was! The children were beautifully behaved as they sang songs to their families, proudly showcased some of their incredible classwork, and each received a special gift in recognition of their hard work.

Reception explained the science behind how rain forms, Upper Kindergarten delighted everyone with a lively retelling of *The Very Hungry Caterpillar* and its many snacks, and Lower Kindergarten charmed the audience with their dazzling flower hats.

It was a joyful way to mark the end of a fantastic year and to celebrate everything our Early Years children have accomplished.





## Moving Up Day

Oh help, oh no, it's a Gruffalo!" We had such fun on Moving Up Day with a whole day based on the story "The Gruffalo". We started by making Gruffalo crumble, adding in poisonous warts, purple prickles and yellow eyes! Then we created our very own Gruffalo faces by sticking different parts of the Gruffalo's face onto it. We finished the day with a selection of fun Gruffalo resources the children could play with and eating Gruffalo crumble.



## 'Bear Hunt'

"We're going on a bear hunt, we're going to catch a big one". The Early Years children walked through squishy mud, long wavy grass, through the river and through the forest on their search for the bear. The bear was found in the deep dark cave!



## Cooking Workshop

The children joined in with a sensory food workshop. They explored all the five senses through tasting, touching, looking, smelling and listening to a variety of foods. They snapped carrots and lettuce to hear the different sounds.





## Visit to Spinney Care Home

Last week, a group of junior pupils paid a special visit to The Spinney Care Home, where they shared their musical gifts with the residents in a heart-warming afternoon of song and instrumental performances. The children confidently performed a range of pieces they've been practising this term. From cheerful melodies to well-loved singalongs, the room was soon filled with smiles and toe-tapping as the residents joined in and enjoyed every moment.

Following the performances, pupils and residents spent time chatting and catching up. It was a wonderful chance to connect across generations, with stories and laughter shared. The residents were full of praise for our pupils, commenting on their talent, confidence, and the joy they brought to the home. We are incredibly proud of how beautifully they represented our school—not only through their music, but in the warmth and respect they showed throughout the visit.

Thank you to The Spinney Care Home for welcoming us so warmly, and to our pupils for making the afternoon so special. We're already looking forward to our visits next year and continuing our new found friendships.



## Years 6 End of Year Celebrations

Year 6 class enjoyed a well-deserved treat - a private viewing of *Lilo & Stitch* at the local cinema! This special trip was organised to celebrate the incredible effort and dedication they have shown throughout the year.

From their focused preparation for the 11+ examinations to consistently demonstrating excellent behaviour, the Year 6 pupils have truly set a shining example. Their commitment, resilience, and positive attitude have not gone unnoticed, and this fun outing was a way to say a big "well done" for all their hard work.

The children had a fantastic time enjoying the heart-warming film together, creating some wonderful end-of-year memories. We're proud of everything they've achieved - well done, Year 6!

## Years 6 Graduation

On 8 July our Year 6 students celebrated their graduation from Primary School in a joyous event attended by family, friends and staff.

The celebration was a resounding success and ensured a memorable evening for all.

Yearbooks and leavers' hoodies were presented to the pupils, marking their achievements and commemorating their time at Normanhurst school.

After the formalities, the students enjoyed an evening of dancing and spending quality time with their friends.

We are proud of you Year 6 and wish you all the best as you move on to the next exciting chapter of your lives.





## Junior House Trip

The Junior pupils at Normanhurst School enjoyed a well-earned day out for their end-of-year House Trip to Maldon Splash Park. With warm weather and clear skies, the children had a great time playing in the splash park and making the most of the water features.

They also spent time in the playground, enjoying the space to climb, swing, and play with friends. To finish off the afternoon, everyone was given an ice lolly, a welcome treat in the sunshine.

It was a relaxed and enjoyable trip, giving the pupils a chance to unwind outdoors after a busy term. Staff were pleased with how well the children represented the school and how much they enjoyed the day.



## Chartwells Food Workshop

Junior pupils were treated to an exciting and hands-on food workshop delivered by our school catering company, Chartwells. The workshop focused on three key themes: healthy eating, using our senses around food, sustainability and food waste. Throughout their sessions, pupils engaged in interactive activities designed to help them think more deeply about the food they eat and how it affects their bodies and the planet. They explored the importance of balanced diets, the power of our senses in shaping our eating habits, and the impact of food waste on the environment. A highlight of the workshop was the opportunity for pupils to make their own smoothies! Using surplus fruit and vegetables, they blended up delicious and nutritious drinks—proving just how tasty and useful food can be when given a second chance instead of being thrown away. Pupils were amazed to discover how easy it is to turn everyday ingredients into something new and healthy. They also learned simple, practical tips for reducing waste at home, such as how to store produce properly, use leftovers creatively, and make environmentally conscious food choices. It was fantastic to see pupils across all age groups getting involved with enthusiasm and curiosity.





## Y7 & 8 Residential Trip

Between 18 and 20 June, Years 7 & 8 attended their annual residential trip at the Screens Park Activity Centre in Essex. Pupils had the opportunity to engage in outdoor activities including, climbing, kayaking, archery, camp fire building and many more. They thoroughly enjoyed their time at the centre and were actively engaged in team building activities to help develop their confidence, independent skills, respect and cooperation for others.



## Y9 Residential Trip

Year 9 enjoyed a fantastic final residential trip to Danbury.

Blessed with three days of glorious sunshine (though some might say it was a little too hot!), the adventure began as soon as they arrived. The pupils were divided into three groups and took part in a range of exciting activities, including zip wire, orienteering, low ropes, BMX biking, canoeing and archery. Everyone got involved, with many overcoming personal challenges and fears.

One of the highlights of the trip was watching all the pupils come together in the evenings to play cricket. Another favourite moment was enjoying Mrs Saint's famous hot chocolate before bedtime.

Mrs Saint, Mr Ram and Miss Culverhouse were incredibly proud of each and every Normanhurst pupil.





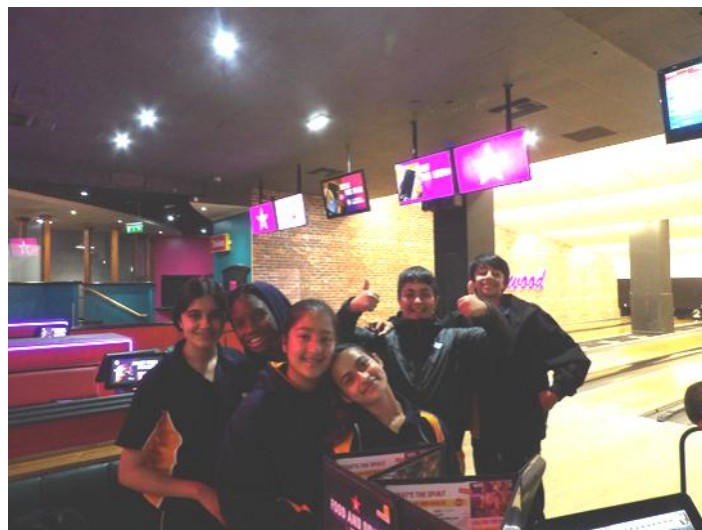
## Senior Winning House Trip

Senior Forest House pupils celebrated a well-earned reward for winning the House Points competition this year with an exciting day out.

Their trip began at the newly opened Forest Cinema in Walthamstow, where they had the exclusive treat of watching the latest *Karate Kid* movie in a private screening. Pupils were fully engaged throughout the film, and the room burst into applause as the credits rolled — a clear sign that everyone thoroughly enjoyed the story.

The fun continued with a lively afternoon of ten-pin bowling and food at Hollywood Bowl in Finchley. The competitive spirit was high as students bowled alongside their teachers, adding to the excitement and camaraderie of the day.

It was a fantastic outing and a well-deserved celebration of Forest House's achievement!



## Y7 Historical Fiction Writing Competition

This year, our Year 7 pupils took part in a Historical Fiction Writing Competition and what a journey through the past it was!

Children were invited to choose any historical topic that inspired them - not just those covered in class. The results were nothing short of extraordinary. From Ancient Egypt to World War II, their stories brought the past to life with creativity, imagination, and an impressive eye for historical accuracy.

Reading through their entries was a delight - each story offered something new, unique, and engaging. After votes from fellow pupils and thoughtful input from the English Department, we're excited to announce this year's winners:

### 1st Place: James

*The Devil's Flame* - a chilling and immersive story set during the 1600s witch hunt craze.

### 2nd Place: Jaskaran

*Treenoble* - a powerful and imaginative tale told from the perspective of a tree experiencing the 1986 Chernobyl disaster.

### 3rd Place: Emma

*The Guards* - a thrilling account of the 1601 Gunpowder Plot, full of suspense and historical insight.

A huge well done to our winners and to every pupil who took part. Your creativity, effort, and passion for history truly shone through.

## Y10 Science Museum Trip

Our Year 10 pupils enjoyed an exciting and educational trip to the Science Museum, where they explored a range of fascinating galleries.

In the Technicians Gallery, they had the opportunity to consolidate learning about the circulatory system by interacting with a virtual heart, explore pressure in a virtual submarine and explore careers in STEM through a series of interactive exhibits, giving them valuable insight into real-world roles in science, technology, engineering, and maths. They also visited the Marvel of Medicine Gallery, deepening their understanding of human physiology, pathology and innovation.

A highlight of the day was the *Power Up* immersive experience, where students had great fun playing video games from across the years.

The trip was both inspiring and engaging, sparking curiosity and enthusiasm for science and future career possibilities.





## STEAM - Pottery Workshop

Senior school pupils participated in pottery workshops at the end of the summer term as part of STEAM week activities.

Pupils had a lovely time exploring their creative side, and many created some outstanding works of art, including gargoyles, creations from the deep, a Stonehenge replica, and many more!





## Y10 Careers Day

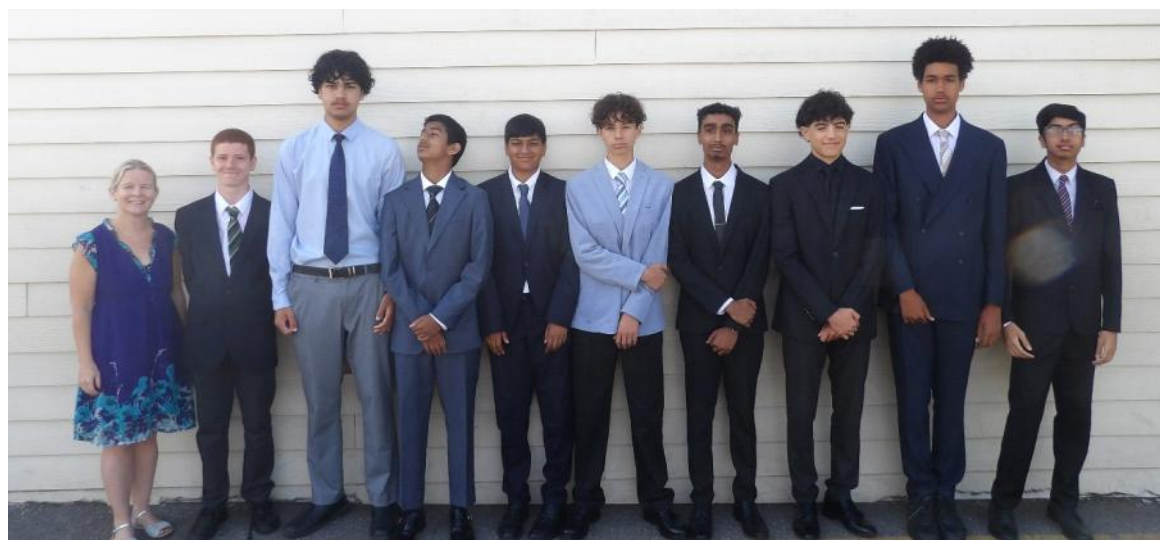
On Friday 4 July the Year 10 careers programme culminated in the annual careers and mock interview day. The day consisted of two sessions: in the morning, the pupils had the opportunity to listen to seasoned professionals who introduced them to their respective professions. The speakers were:

Han Newman (Sport Psychology), Sinead Greenaway (Media), Douglas Cherry (Law), Dathan Muscat (Engineering) and Daniel Kelley (Software Engineering)

The pupils and the speakers were then treated to a drinks reception and lunch, hosted by Mrs Saint.

In the afternoon, the pupils were subjected to 20 minutes of one to one interviews, during which they had to talk about their ambitions, interests and involvement in everyday school life.

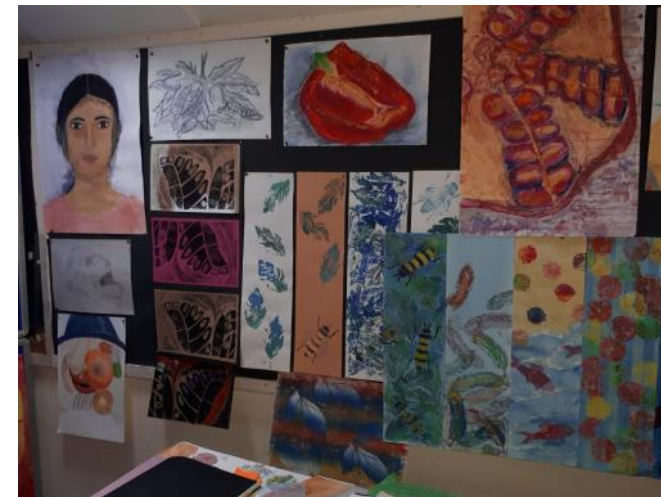
The interview panel was very impressed with our pupils and gave them some constructive feedback at the end of the session. The Year 10 group, soon to be in Year 11, has gained valuable experience in how to conduct themselves in a formal interview scenario, an experience that will be extremely useful for imminent sixth form application process. The year 10 pupils would like to thank everybody who made the day possible.



## Y11 GCSE Art Exhibition

On the afternoon of 1 July, the four Year 11 artists that completed their GCSE course in fine Art and Graphics displayed their work to family and school friends in the Art classroom. The exhibition is a culmination of 2 years of coursework, where the pupils completed individual responses to various themes, including a theme set by the exam board earlier this year. The work was moderated the week previously and a fantastic display of work was exhibited on the day.

Well done and good luck to Tilly, Harini, Kelsie and Joe.





## Junior Speech Day & Prize Giving 2025

We held our annual Junior Speech Day to recognise the hard work, talent, and growth of our pupils over the past academic year. It was filled with pride, inspiration, and a true celebration. Pupils beamed with pride as they received their well-deserved awards, recognising their achievements across all areas of school life. This year, we were honoured to welcome Neelam Bhakar as our Guest Speaker. A former Normanhurst School pupil who left in 2022, Neelam has gone on to build a successful bespoke baking business, NKB Bakehouse, turning her passion into a thriving entrepreneurial journey. Neelam spoke with warmth and honesty about her experiences since leaving Normanhurst. She shared the challenges and rewards of starting her own business and offered inspiring advice to our pupils, encouraging them to follow their passions with determination, creativity, and self-belief. We also had a range of music from The Normanhurst School Orchestra, our Choir, and a performance from British Sign Language Club. Congratulations to all of our prize winners this year.



## Senior Speech Day & Prize Giving 2025

Normanhurst School held our annual Senior Speech Day and Prize Giving, celebrating the many achievements and successes of our pupils throughout the year.

This year our guest speaker was Laurie-Anne Power KC, a leading criminal barrister and media consultant. Her practice includes serious criminal offences such as murder, terrorism and complex fraud. She has appeared before both domestic and international courts and worked on the International Criminal Trials in Sierra Leone.

As well as the huge array of prizes awarded, the event was filled with many performances and musical numbers, such as 'A Million Dreams' by our String Group, a vocal duet of 'Slipping through my Fingers' by Sofia and Elizabeth, and a wonderful Piano Solo of 'Interstellar' from Diana.

We are very proud of our Head Prefects who both gave very moving speeches about their time at Normanhurst. We wish the new Head Prefects, House Captains and Prefects the best of luck next year.

It was a fantastic afternoon full of proud pupils, staff, friends and family. Congratulations to all of our prize winners!





## Pupil Spotlight

Faith in year 5 participated for the first time at the English Gymnastics Espoir Open in June and came third place for her ball routine in the under 10 Bronze level. It was quite a daunting experience having to perform in front of 31 judges but Faith kept focused on her practice behind the scenes, and stepped out in confidence on the carpet and did her club proud!



## STAFF vs STUDENTS ANNUAL NETBALL MATCH

Wednesday 9 July saw the annual epic sporting contest of the staff versus pupils netball match.

Both staff and pupils played really well with exceptional teamwork by the students and some outstanding shooting skills by the staff.

The staff team was victorious - well done to all!





## Sports Day - Seniors

Lee Valley Athletics Centre was filled with the sound of children cheering each other on during this year's Senior Sports Day events. Every pupil got into the spirit of the day, with homemade posters and team colours filling the audience stands.

The track events were as competitive as ever, especially during the relays where we had some staff members taking part.

The pupils also really enjoyed taking part in the field events, which included javelin, long jump, high jump, shot put and discus.

A special mention goes to Laila for winning the prestigious Victrix Ludorum award.

Bobby set a new javelin record for Year 9/10 with an impressive throw of 35m. This remarkable achievement highlights Bobby's talent and dedication to the sport. Bobby also won the Victor Ludorum award.

Raghav set a new high jump record! Raghav's exceptional performance in the high jump event was a highlight of the day.

A big congratulations to Ridgeway for winning the Senior Sports Day shield. Their teamwork and consistent performance across various events secured them the top spot.



## Sports Day - EYFS, Infants and Juniors

Team spirit was in the air at Lee Valley Athletics Centre for this year's Sports Day. Every single pupil got into the spirit of the day, with homemade posters and team colours everywhere.

The Early Years, Infants, and Juniors loved taking part in their many events, including running, bat and bean bag, skipping, and relay. They also enjoyed field events such as long jump and howler throw. It was fantastic to see so many smiling faces!

Well done to Forest House who took the cup this year!







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.

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**