



# Norman Hurst School

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## HEADMISTRESS

MRS CLAIRE OSBORN B.A. (HONS), PGCE

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February 2012

### Headmistress's Letter

Dear Parents

This has been an extremely busy and successful half term. If you are following us on Twitter you will know the breadth of activities that have gone on, and the successes we have enjoyed. I encourage you to click on the Twitter link on the school website, or to follow us. It is a great way of hearing our news as it happens.

Over the course of February, you will notice some changes to the school website as we update the homepage to make it more accessible and informative. We have also added pictures from the recent Talent Show and the trip to the O2 to see the Gymnastic 2012 Qualifiers, which you can find in the Events Gallery: <http://www.normanhurstsch.co.uk/Events-Gallery>

The February Norman Hurst Newsletter will be emailed home on Friday 10 February. In it you can read more about school life this term.

### Drop In Morning with Mr Hagger and Mrs Osborn

On 29 February Mr Hagger and I will be available for any parents who would like to come into school to discuss school-related matters. There is no need to book an appointment, simply come to the school office and we will be available to meet you on an informal basis over a cup of coffee. You are welcome to come individually or in groups of up to four people.

### Assemblies

This term's assembly programme includes many form classes leading assemblies on subjects as diverse as friendship, Chinese New Year, famous people and the Diamond Jubilee. Children from Early Years up to Year 11 have presented thought-provoking assemblies to their peers. They are a great opportunity for pupils to develop their self-confidence and to help the school to reflect on important questions in life. Next week the Senior Prefect Team are taking whole school assembly on Monday and Year 5 are taking the junior assembly on Thursday.

### Safer School Partnership Visit

On Monday 27 February a team from the Safer Schools Partnerships will be visiting the school to talk to pupils in Years 6-11 about Personal Safety. The session forms part of the PSHE programme in school and will provide advice for pupils on how to keep safe on the streets. The group will be returning to take some PSHE lessons for Years 9 and 10 in March.

### Parking and Picking up in Station Road

A local resident contacted the school to complain about our parents parking illegally on yellow lines along Station Road at afternoon pick up times. She expressed the concern that she and her children were unable to cross the road safely and that the parking was causing a danger to pedestrians. Whilst I appreciate that it can be difficult to park on Station Road in the afternoon, I would ask you to avoid obstructing the footpath or parking on yellow lines.

Also please avoid stopping in the middle of the road to pick up your children. This is dangerous and causes a problem for other road users who are unable to pass.

### **Updated Policies on the Website**

As part of our good practice as a school, we have an annual cycle of policy updates. The following policies have been updated and are available to view or download on the website over half term:

Anti-Bullying Policy

Curriculum Policy

Educational Trips and Visits Policy

Safeguarding Policies

### **11+ Entrance Examinations**

The first sitting for entrance examinations took place on Wednesday 1 February. 38 children sat the English, Mathematics and Non-verbal Reasoning papers. I want to congratulate our own Year 6 pupils for an excellent effort in the examinations. Not only did they try their best and produce papers of which they can feel proud, but also they were welcoming to the prospective newcomers from other schools.

The external candidates return to school next week for interviews with Mrs Jerrom and me. Our offers will be posted on Friday 10 February. Pupils in our Year 6 currently are able to apply for scholarships in the senior school, along with pupils from other schools. We offer scholarships for academic achievement, sports, creative arts and music. Scholarships of up to 25% can be awarded for excellence in one or more of these areas of learning.

### **Sixth Form Entrance Examinations**

Congratulations to the Year 11 students who applied to selective independent schools for their sixth form studies. Offers were received from Bancroft's (1), Chigwell (3), Forest (2) and St Edmund's (1), including two scholarships from Bancroft's and Chigwell.

Students are also in the process of applying to maintained schools including: Trinity, Davenant, Highams Park, Chingford Foundation, Ilford County High, Beale and Caterham.

### **Easter Academy for GCSE Classes**

Our aim is that every pupil is able to achieve their best in the GCSE examinations each year and to that end we run an Easter Academy, which is a revision course for pupils held on 4 days over the Easter holidays. A timetable for the academy is drawn up by Mr Christou, Deputy Head and Examination Officer. The programme will be emailed home to parents and given to pupils after half term. The Academy will run on the following days:

Friday 30 March

Monday 2 April

Thursday 19 April

Friday 20 April

The revision sessions are of enormous benefit to the pupils and we will be encouraging all to attend the relevant sessions.

### **We Are Writers!**

Normanhurst School is writing a book, which will be available for you to buy. Every pupil from Kindergarten up to Year 8 has been involved in the project with the 'We are Writers' initiative. They have composed short stories and these are being compiled into a book. Mrs Elman, the Literacy Coordinator has been overseeing the project and I am very much looking forward to reading the results. The book will be available to purchase at our book fair in March.

### **World Book Week**

The juniors have an exciting programme of activities for Book Week this year: a book fair, visits from writers, the opportunity to buy signed copies of the authors' books, a dress-up day and a special activity day on Friday 2 March. Mrs Elman will be writing to the junior parents with more information soon. You might want to start thinking about which book character your child would like to become for the day! There will be prizes of a book for the best-dressed character.

## Dates for your Diary

### Special Events

- Thursday 22 March Oak-Tree Schools Music Festival at Hawkey Hall from 6.00pm (rehearsals all day for performers)
- Wednesday 28 March Easter Service at the Parish Church from 2.00pm
- Friday 6 July Speech Day at Chingford Assembly Hall from 6.00pm

### Other Events and Activities before Easter

- 6 February Year 8 Trip to the Jewish Museum
- 6 February Parents Association Meeting 7.00pm in the School Hall
- 7 February Year 9 Parents' Meeting 4.00-6.00pm
- 9 February Year 5 Class Assembly
- 10 February Last Day of Half Term Charity Non-Uniform Day (£1 for DeBRA) and Sports Mark Event
- 20 February Back to School!
- 21 February PA Shrove Tuesday Pancake Races after school (details to follow)
- 24 February Deadline for entries into the 2012 Inter-house Photography Competition
- 27 February Year 7 Trip to the British Library
- 28 February Year 10 Parents Meeting 4.00-6.00pm
- 29 February Parents Drop-in with Mr Hagger and Mrs Osborn 9.15-11.00am
- 1 March Scholastic Book Fair (Thursday-Monday)
- 1 March Year 2 Class Assembly
- 2 March World Book Day celebrations in the juniors including Writer in Residence
- 6 March Kindergarten-Year 7 Parents Meeting 4.00-6.00pm
- 13 March School in Action Open Morning 9.15-10.30am
- 20 March Year 9 Options Evening for GCSE 5.00-6.00pm

### Finally

I hope you have an enjoyable half term holiday. Please note that in the case of adverse weather and possible school closures, any information will be posted on the website for parents to read and we will text your mobiles on Groupcall. As you know, we make every effort to ensure that the school remains open.

I look forward to seeing you at Parents Meetings and other events this term. As always please contact the Office if you have any concerns you would like to discuss with a member of staff or to book an appointment.

With best wishes

Yours sincerely



Claire Osborn  
Headmistress



**OAK-TREE SCHOOLS** is the group name of:

COOPERSALE HALL SCHOOL, EPPING    OAKLANDS SCHOOL, LOUGHTON    NORMANHURST SCHOOL, NORTH CHINGFORD  
ADMINISTRATIVE/ACCOUNTS ADDRESS: 6-8 ALBION HILL, LOUGHTON, ESSEX IG10 4RA

GROUP MANAGING PRINCIPAL : MR MATTHEW HAGGER B.A.(HONS), M.ED., PGCE    SCHOOLS PRINCIPALS: MR NICHOLAS HAGGER M.A. (OXON)    MRS ANN HAGGER CERT.ED.

Normanhurst School is owned in partnership by Mr N.O.Hagger M.A. (OXON)    Mrs M.A.Hagger CERT.ED.    Mr M.O.Hagger B.A. (Hons), M.ED., PGCE

