



Norman Hurst School

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HEADMISTRESS

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January 2012

Headmistress's Letter

Dear Parents

Happy New Year to you all! I hope you enjoyed the holiday and were able to spend time together as a family. All year groups from Year 1 – Year 10 will have received reports at the end of term. Please do send in your acknowledgement slips with any comments you would like to make. These will be seen by your child's form tutor, and also by me.

I want to say a heartfelt thank you for the many lovely cards and gifts I received for Christmas. It was very generous of you; thank you very much indeed.

Now it is time to welcome in a new year and to welcome pupils back to school. I am looking forward to all that 2012 will bring. If your daughter or son is joining us for the first time this week, you and they are especially welcome. I am sure they will settle quickly into life here; teachers will help them to learn the new routines, to make friends and to feel at home.

Learning is at the heart of all we do and we are committed to making that learning fulfilling, challenging and enjoyable. My goal is that pupils will have genuine enthusiasm for their time at school and will engage with the work wholeheartedly. In fact, enthusiasm is my theme for the first assembly of 2012:

"Enthusiasm is one of the most powerful engines of success. When you do a thing, do it with all your might. Put your whole soul into it. Stamp it with your own personality. Be active, be energetic and faithful, and you will accomplish your object. Nothing great was ever achieved without enthusiasm." – Ralph Waldo Emerson

I hope that many pupils will continue to take part in the extra-curricular activities available this term. For the older pupils there will be a number of GCSE revision sessions on offer to help pupils prepare as effectively as they can for the GCSE examinations. I would urge you to ensure your children attend these where possible.

Here are some reminders for the term:

Uniform and Accessories

At the end of last term, despite several reminders, pupils were coming to school in a range of hats, scarves and gloves that do not fit the uniform regulations. We are quite clear that all these items should either be the school issue from Forest Casualwear in Loughton or be plain navy blue or black. Hats should not be the tasselled ski-wear variety in all the shops this year. Please could these be kept for out-of-school use.

Similarly school bags should be plain and a dark colour in the senior school.

Boots should not be worn to school. In snow and ice we will, of course, review this and notify parents and pupils, but until that point pupils should come in suitable black or navy shoes, according to the uniform policy.



OAK-TREE SCHOOLS is the group name of:

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

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



Thank you for your cooperation with this. I appreciate that uniform can become a bone of contention at home, but we believe that maintaining high standards of uniform has a positive impact on pupils behaviour and work ethic. Visitors and local residents frequently comment on the good standard of our pupils' dress and behaviour, which is to their credit.

Parents' Meetings

There are Parents' Meetings this term for junior classes and senior classes. As always details will be emailed out to you. I would encourage you to take the opportunity to come into school to talk to the teachers about your daughter or son's progress. We want our pupils to find their talents, to be making good progress and to feel positive about their learning. Parents' Meetings form a very valuable part of that process and the partnership between home and school.

GCSE Examinations

The Year 11 students have a number of GCSE papers in January. I wish them well for all their examinations. We are continuing to run our mentoring and coaching programme with Year 11 to help each pupil achieve their potential, as well as offering Booster Classes and extra sessions. All Year 11 pupils should be revising at home and practising for these papers. Mr Christou, the Deputy Head, is the Examinations Officer. If you have any questions about the GCSEs please contact the school to speak to him, or the subject teachers, about it.

As is our custom, we will be offering an Easter Academy again this year. More details will be sent out in the second half of term. These revision days have a very positive impact on pupils' achievement and I hope that all Year 11 will be available to attend.

Dates for your Diary

Special Events

We have a number of special events taking place. More details will follow nearer the time:

Thursday 26 January Normanhurst's Got Talent in the School Hall from 5.00pm
Thursday 23 March Oak-Tree Schools Music Festival at Hawkey Hall from 6.00pm
Wednesday 28 March Easter Service at the Parish Church from 2.00pm
Friday 6 July Speech Day at Chingford Assembly Hall from 6.00pm

Parents Association AGM

Wednesday 18 January is the PA AGM at 7.00pm in the School Hall. I know the outgoing committee would value a good representation of parents so that a new committee can be elected and so that parents have the opportunity to be a part of the Parents' Association.

If you would have liked to attend, but are unable to do so, please email the School Office and we will pass on your apologies to the PA Committee.

I will be at the meeting and I look forward to seeing as many parents as possible there.

Other Events and Activities this Half Term

10 January HPV Vaccinations for Year 8 Girls
11 January School Council Meetings
17 January Year 11 Parents' Meeting
18 January Year 2 Trip to St Paul's and the London Museum
19 January ISA Football Tournament in Barnet
20 January Charity Committee Hot Chocolate and Cookie Event for Seniors



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25 January	EYFS Coffee and Croissant Morning
31 January	Year 8 Parents' Meeting
1 February	11+ Entrance Examinations
2 February	School Council Meetings
3 February	Y1-5 Parent drop-in morning
6 February	Year 8 Trip to the Jewish Museum
7 February	Year 9 Parents' Meeting
10 February	Last Day of Half Term and Charity Non-Uniform Day

Finally

Our aim is to keep the school open in the event of snowfall, but we will be guided by Health and Safety considerations. In the event of snow, we will notify parents via the website if the school is affected. I hope that this will not be the case, but we are mindful that our first priority is to ensure the safety of our pupils and staff. Let's hope we remain snow free!

I look forward to seeing you at Parents Meetings and 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



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