



# Norman Hurst School

68-74, Station Road, North Chingford  
London E4 7BA  
Tel: 020 8529 4307  
Fax: 020 8524 7737

## HEADMISTRESS

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

E-mail: [info@normanhurstschool.co.uk](mailto:info@normanhurstschool.co.uk)

Website: [www.normanhurstschool.co.uk](http://www.normanhurstschool.co.uk)

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### Headmistress's Letter

Dear Parents

The first few weeks of term have been busy and productive with a focus on high expectations and on striving to achieve our best in every area of school life. I have been impressed with the attitude and hard work of many pupils in the lessons and activities I have seen over the course of September.

### ISA Regional Art Competition 2011

Mr Beint and I spent last Friday with the Independent School Association Headteachers and Heads of Art from the London North area. Part of the day involved the regional stage of the annual ISA Art Competition. This includes entries from schools as far south as Knightsbridge and as far north as Bedford. The standard of work this year was particularly high and there was a record number of participating schools. Despite stiff competition our pupils won in 13 different categories (yes 13!), 6 of which were first prize meaning they will be competing in the National Finals later in the year. Well done to them all on such a fantastic result!

The regional winners are as follows:

<b>1<sup>st</sup> place</b>	Ben Maclean for Textiles (16 and under)
<b>1<sup>st</sup> place</b>	Natasha Vassileva for Sketchbook work (11 and over)
<b>1<sup>st</sup> place</b>	Christopher Dennis for Art (14 and under)
<b>1<sup>st</sup> place</b>	Chandni Nakum for Art (16 and under)
<b>1<sup>st</sup> place</b>	Natasha Vassileva for Three Dimensional Art (16 and under)
<b>1<sup>st</sup> place</b>	Siena Reed for Three Dimensional Art (14 and under)
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> place</b>	Lillian Delves for Design (14 and under)
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> place</b>	Chandni Nakum for Photography (14 and over)
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> place</b>	Nico Martini for Textiles (16 and under)
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> place</b>	Chandni Nakum for Sketchbook work (11 and over)
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> place</b>	Andrew Stylianou for Art (14 and under)
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> place</b>	Andrew Stylianou for Three Dimensional Art (14 and under)
<b>Highly commended</b>	Paul Chadha for Textiles (16 and under)

### Open Day

We have our annual Open Day on Thursday 6 October from 6.00pm. All the Years 5 and 6 parents have received invitations to come along and learn more about life in the seniors. However, all parents are welcome to come if you would like to see what the pupils have been achieving so far this term.

If your son or daughter has been asked to help, please ensure they arrive back at school at 5.30pm and return the permission slip to the School Office before Thursday.

### Early Years 'Getting to Know You' Afternoon

It was lovely to see the Kindergarten and Reception parents at the 'Getting to Know You' afternoon last week and to hear your extremely positive feedback about the school. Your children are a delight; they are enjoying their time here, making very pleasing progress and have a wonderful enthusiasm for all the new learning opportunities.

Mrs Fisher and I want to thank you for your support and for the way we are working together to give your children the best experience of school that we can.

### **Practical Science Inside and Outside the Classroom**

Science is a core subject throughout the school and we are always looking for ways to bring the subject alive. Last week I spent time with the GCSE Scientists in a practical Biology lesson where they examined leaves to discover the structure of stomata in an experiment involving painting the leaves with nail varnish, peeling it off and looking at the imprints under microscopes.

At the other end of school, Reception began their weekly 'Forest Walk'. Looking resplendent, along with the teachers, in high visibility jackets they walked down to Chingford Plains for their nature studies looking for mini beasts and learning about the natural world.

Years 3 and 4 also take advantage of the Epping Forest for their Science lessons, using the opportunities it provides for practical, investigative learning.

Some pupils from the juniors and seniors will be demonstrating their scientific skills in the Science laboratories on Open Evening doing experiments.

### **Modern Languages News**

Last week was Languages Week, when schools all over the country celebrated language. We had a special assembly on Monday led by four of the Year 11 linguists reminding us all about the power of language and how important it is to speak another language in the world today. This was followed by a special international themed lunch prepared for us by the kitchen staff.

Mrs Antoniadou and Mrs Kimpton, our French and Spanish teachers, have been telling their classes about Linguascope, an interactive educational website which we now subscribe to. Each pupil will be given a username and a password to log onto the site. A wide range of language games and activities are available there to reinforce the learning that takes place at school. Homework tasks can also be set up on the site for the pupils to complete and for staff to assess. Do have a look at it when your sons and daughters log on.

The Languages department are also posting some useful website links onto the Learning Resources area of the school website for pupils to use to enhance their learning.

### **Citizenship and PSHE in the Seniors**

An important part of the Personal, Social and Health Education Programme is drugs awareness and education. Every year a team from the Drugline charity come into school as part of our Health Education programme. They have been working in school for over ten years and visit over 90 schools to raise awareness of the dangers of drugs. They are visiting on Monday 10 October to give a 30 minute talk to Years 7-8 first, followed by Years 9-11.

Mr Beint, the PSHE Coordinator, liaises with the charity and he will be present at both talks. If you have any questions about the sessions he will be happy to talk to you about them.

### **Reminders**

#### **Coats**

Despite the glorious weather we have been enjoying over the past week, the temperature will no doubt begin to drop as October gets underway. May I remind you that children from Reception to Year 6 should only wear the regulation school coat available from Forest Casuals in Loughton, with the school scarf and hat. From Year 7 upwards coats must be plain black or navy as stated in the uniform list available to view on the website.

No hoodies, tracksuit tops, patterned coats or fashion outerwear may be worn. Pupils will be asked to remove any items which do not comply with the published expectations. This includes on the journey to and from school.

#### **Late Arrival to School**

If junior parents from Year 1 upwards are running late and arrive after 8.45am when registers close, please do not take your children directly to their classroom. Instead you need to go up to the school office to sign them in. Any senior pupil arriving after 8.45am should also go up to the office to sign in.

#### **Parents Association**

The Parents Association held their AGM on Thursday 29 September. Thank you to those parents who came along. We are grateful for the hard work the PA does on behalf of the school. I want to take this opportunity to thank them for all they do. I know they are keen to involve parents in any way you are able to offer. We appreciate how busy people are, but if you would like to be involved please do let Hilary Fullilove, the Secretary, know by email to [hilaryfullilove@hotmail.com](mailto:hilaryfullilove@hotmail.com)

A big thank you goes to Mrs Janice Kerruish, who has stepped down from her position of Chair of the PA after several years in the post. Elections for new officers will take place in January 2012. The PA will be sending out Role Descriptions to parents shortly, so that you can see what might be involved in being a helper, committee member or officer.

One way to become involved and to meet other parents is to be part of the Christmas Dinner Dance. Please return your slips to book places for the Christmas Event on Saturday 3 December. If you need another copy of the letter, contact the school office and they will send you the information.

### **Normanhurst on Twitter**

If you are a follower of Twitter, I am sure you will be pleased to know that you can now follow Normanhurst on Twitter. In a new departure for us, as of last week we began to 'Tweet' as part of our drive to share school news with as many of the parents and friends of the school as possible. If you go to the school website you will find a Twitter link on the home page, from which you can read our latest updates.

### **Sports News**

#### **High-Five Netball**

A group of pupils from Years 4 – 6 attended a High-Five Netball course at Chingford Foundation School on Wednesday 28 September. This will enable Normanhurst to participate in the Borough league and maybe, if successful, to represent the Borough in the London Youth Games.

High Five is a variation on Netball which involves a rotation of players so that pupils learn to play in all positions on the court. Normanhurst played against Parkside School and won all three matches.

#### **Netball Match Results this term.**

##### Year 10/11

Normanhurst v Lammas won 18 - 3

Normanhurst V Chingford Foundation School lost 14 - 8

##### Year 9

Normanhurst v Chingford Draw 15 - 15

Normanhurst v Holy Family won 18 - 8

Normanhurst v Fredrick Bremner won 17 - 8

#### **Forthcoming Events**

- Thursday 6 October Open Evening from 6pm
- Friday 7 October Jeans for Genes Day – non-uniform day
- Monday 10 October Drugsline Talks for the Seniors
- Tuesday 11 October Years 6 and 7 Settling In Parents Evening (Y6 Room/Hall)
- Thursday 13 October Parents Forum – Supporting your Child's Learning and Home
- Friday 14 October Junior Netball Tournament all afternoon
- Friday 21 October School finishes for half term holiday at normal time
- Monday 7 November School starts at 8.40am

As always, if you have any concerns or questions you would like to raise with the school, please contact your child's form teacher or telephone the school office to arrange an appointment. We are always happy to talk to parents about areas of concern and to resolve difficulties where we can. Last year we had one complaint which was investigated and resolved.

With very best wishes for the rest of term and the forthcoming holiday

Yours sincerely



Claire Osborn



**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.

