



# Norman Hurst School

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## HEADMISTRESS

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

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September 2011

## Headmistress's Letter

Dear Parents

As September begins I would like to take this opportunity to welcome all the new families who are joining the school. I hope you and your children soon feel part of our school community and that you all settle quickly into the new routines and experiences which make up life here at Norman Hurst.

### Summer Holiday Projects

It has been a busy summer at the school, with a variety of improvements being made to the school site. The library has been refurbished and is now a lovely open space for the pupils to enjoy their books. It is also laid out in a way that means classes can have library lessons more easily. We have a new electronic whiteboard in there, as well as new fittings and furnishings. I hope you find time to see the changes at Open Evening, if not before.

Similarly there have been a number of improvements made to the junior classrooms. The Kindergarten (Nursery) has a fresh new look, Early Years have a new interactive whiteboard and laptop, Year 1 has new classroom furniture and Year 2 has moved into Room 1 next to Mrs Prior's room. At the front of the school, the Year 3 classroom has been re-fitted with new furniture, Year 5 has been re-decorated and the carpet has been replaced throughout that area.

Mr Farrow, the school caretaker, has been hard at work decorating, painting and overseeing the projects that have taken place on site this summer to ready the school for the start of an exciting new academic year.

### Welcomes

We are welcoming some 34 new children to Norman Hurst this September. There will be opportunities for parents to meet the staff and to get to know the teachers over the coming weeks and months. I look forward to seeing all the progress your children make with us, as well as sharing in their enjoyment of school. It is our aim as a school to help each child make the best academic progress they can, and to enable them to contribute to our school community, as well as to the wider world beyond school.

We also welcome some new members of staff. Mr Jerrom joins us as Head of Juniors and Year 6 class teacher. Miss Scobie joins us to teach Drama and English.

### GCSE Results 2011

We were delighted with the GCSE results this year, which showed an increase on previous years. 86% pupils gained 5 or more GCSEs at A\*-C. There were some excellent individual performances within the year group.

93% pupils achieved a C or higher in Maths, 86% in English, 100% in English Literature. Every pupil who took French or Spanish GCSE gained a C grade or higher. 86% pupils gained at least a C grade in their Core Science GCSE and 79% in the Additional Science.



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

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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.

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6 separate subjects achieved a 100% pass rate at C grade or above: Literature, Physics, Art, French, History and Spanish.

All the pupils taking the ASDAN accredited course passed all 6 areas achieving the equivalent of a B grade at GCSE.

I am sure many of you will be aware of the press coverage around GCSEs and the subjects offered by schools. We encourage our pupils to take a language option and also to take a humanity subject. All pupils take at least 2 Science GCSEs. We remain committed to offering an academic and broad curriculum for Years 10 and 11, so that our pupils are equipped to go on to further education with a secure academic foundation.

### **New Initiatives for September 2011**

#### **Phoning to Report an Absence**

In a slight change to procedures, when your child is absent from school please will you phone to notify the Office and report the absence between 9.00-9.30am. We would ask you to avoid phoning before 9.00am. Ms Humphrys, the Attendance Officer, is in school from 9.00am and she will be able to take your call and record the absence.

#### **Junior P.E.**

As part of the collaboration between the Oak-Tree Schools, from September this year Mrs Jerrom and Mr Tuvey are going to link with Oaklands School, in Loughton, for some of the Junior P.E. lessons. We plan to have netball, football and hockey teams and to enter more I.S.A. competitions locally and nationally, which will give the boys and girls more chances to compete against other schools. We are looking forward to developing an Oak-Tree kit for competitions. Please do feel free to come and watch matches and competitions when they happen; it is always good to have spectators cheering the teams on!

#### **Locker Room**

Senior school lockers have been moved and reconditioned so that every pupil will have a locker from September. Form tutors will be issuing lockers during the first week and we expect all pupils to have, and use, a locker.

If your son or daughter has a locker key from last year they need to bring it into school during the first week and hand it in to the Office, so that new keys can be reissued.

Unfortunately a number of coats and personal belongings were left in the locker room at the end of term. These have been placed in Mrs Jerrom's office. I would encourage you to ask your children to come and claim their items, many of which are un-named which makes returning them difficult.

#### **Curriculum Development**

The juniors have a new Reading Scheme – a wonderful resource with challenging and exciting books. The scheme is a coherent programme that will fun from Early Years right through the juniors. It is a 'letters and sounds' phonics based scheme, which allows children to learn the sounds letters and groups of letters make. This enables them to learn to sound out words, to word build new words and to become more confident writers, able to work out how words might be spelt for themselves.

Mr Jerrom and Mrs Elman, the Literacy Coordinator, will be inviting parents of pupils in Early Years and Key Stage 1 to come to a meeting about the new scheme this term.

Years 3-6 also have a new Mathematics resource, published by Collins, to build on the Maths scheme we have introduced in Years 1 and 2.



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Additionally, over the course of this year, we will be offering after school sessions for parents on ways to support their children's learning at home. Mrs Huxford, the SENCo, will be coordinating this programme.

## **Extracurricular Opportunities**

Following the Parent Survey last spring, we are planning a number of new extracurricular activities. We have a new Karate teacher joining us this term as well as offering saxophone and clarinet lessons, in addition to the instruments we already offer.

There is going to be a senior Handbell club run at lunch time by Miss Digby and new Art and Drama club opportunities. The senior supervised Homework Club will be offered twice a week, rather than just once. We will send home a complete programme of the junior and senior clubs on offer once term has begun. We will also post the programme on to the school website.

## **Reminders**

### **Shoes**

As I reminded pupils and parents last term, our school uniform policy makes clear that shoes should meet the following criteria:

Boys: 'Plain black leather shoes (not suede). Flat, polishable (i.e. no canvas/fabric)'. Although many boys' shoes now have a moulded sole, we do ask that the footwear is a shoe and not a black trainer.

Girls: 'Plain navy or black leather shoes, polishable (not patent/suede/canvas/trainer type or over the ankle)'  
If you have any queries about footwear, please contact the Office to speak to Mrs Jerrom.

### **Sponsored Walk**

Thank you for your support for the Annual Sponsored Walk in July. Mrs Reeve is grateful for the sponsor money already collected, and asks that pupils who still have money to collect bring it into school by Monday 12 September at the latest. We will then announce the total amount donated.

### **Pupil Details**

Please would you advise the office of any changes to your contact details, including address, mobile phone numbers and email addresses, so that we can ensure our records are up to date. Similarly, please inform the school of any changes to your son or daughter's medical information.

### **Forthcoming Events**

- Tuesday 6 September Year 7 Induction Morning from 9-11am
- Wednesday 7 September School begins for all at 8.40am
- Thursday 8 September Pre-Camp Meeting at Oaklands School for Y3 parents
- Thursday 15 September PA Cheese and Wine Welcome for new parents at 6pm
- Tuesday 20 September Post 16 Options Evening for Year 11 and parents at 5pm
- Thursday 22 September Year 3 Overnight Adventure Camp at Oaklands School
- Monday 26 September Languages Day  
Harvest Gift Collection Week
- Wednesday 28 September EYFS 'Getting to Know You' meeting at 3.15pm
- Monday 3 October Harvest Festival at the URC Church in Buxton Road 9.30am
- Thursday 6 October Open Evening from 6pm



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I am very much looking forward to this new school year. I hope the pupils return to school refreshed by the holidays, ready to learn and determined to make the best of all the opportunities the year will offer.

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.

With very best wishes

Yours sincerely



Claire Osborn



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