

In praise of the small independent school

Is bigger always better?

Some parents are keen to get their children in to big schools as soon as they can, however there is an argument for children to stay in the comfort of an environment they know and love, with teachers who have watched them grow and learn. We take a look behind the scenes at three smaller independent schools to check out the advantages of selecting a smaller school for children.

"Where we score highly" observed Normanhurst's Headmistress Claire Osborn, "is on the attention to individual pupils needs as we find that children thrive and surpass expected grades when given the opportunity to work in smaller groups. Our GCSE results speak for themselves. Normanhurst is based in North Chingford, and the vast majority of our pupils are local and come from the local area. All of our children, parents and staff belong to our strong community with a unique family atmosphere."

Kaye Lovejoy, Coopersale Hall's Headmistress agrees, "When they start school, some young children are not able to cope with a full week, so we offer a graduated entry scheme that works well for our kindergarten children. The flip side is that our working parents really appreciate our before and after school programme, as the extended school day allows their children to stay in a varied and supportive environment with plenty to keep them occupied."

At Oaklands School in Loughton, Headmistress Cheryl Macnair says, "I feel that the relationships between children, parents and teachers are key. Parents are always welcome to see me or their child's teacher before or after school every day to chat about any aspect of school life. Oaklands has been providing private education in Loughton for 75 years and we feel that our pupils are our best ambassadors as they are consistently polite, confident and well prepared for



senior schools."

Open Days provide the perfect opportunity to compare and contrast, as long as you compare like with like. Not all areas, schools or children are alike, there is no "one best way" to educate your child. So make sure you ask the right questions when you talk to the head, have a good look around, speak to other parents and really look at a school through your child's eyes.■

Coopersale Hall School - Epping
Oaklands School - Loughton
Normanhurst School - North Chingford

www.coopersalehallschool.co.uk
www.oaklandsschool.co.uk
www.normanhurstschool.co.uk
Tel: 01992 577 133 - Coopersale
Tel: 02085 083 517 - Oaklands
Tel: 02085 294 307 - Normanhurst

Coopersale Hall School Epping



OPEN MORNING Friday 7 October 9.30am

For entry into our
Early Years Infants Juniors
2 ½ -5yrs 5-7yrs 7-11yrs

Meet our Headmistress
Miss Kaye Lovejoy

Flux's Lane, Epping, CM16 7PE
Tel: 01992 577133

www.coopersalehallschool.co.uk

Oaklands School Loughton



OPEN MORNING Thursday 6 October 9.15am

For entry into our
Early Years Infants Juniors
2 ½ -5yrs 5-7yrs 7-11yrs

Meet our new Headmistress
Mrs Macnair

8 Albion Hill, Loughton, IG10 4RA
Tel: 020 8508 3517

www.oaklandsschool.co.uk

Normanhurst School North Chingford



OPEN EVENING Thursday 6 October 6pm

For entry into our
Nursery, Reception,
Juniors and Seniors

Meet our Headmistress
Mrs Osborn

68-74 Station Road, N. Chingford E4 7BA
Tel: 020 8529 4307

www.normanhurstschool.co.uk

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OLYMPIC AMBASSADOR TESSA SANDERSON ATTENDS OLYMPIC BALL AT FOREST SCHOOL



FOREST SCHOOL, the nearest independent school to the Olympic Park, hosted an Olympic ball this summer to boost their Olympic fundraising efforts. It is the School's target to award an Olympic scholarship to a pupil from one of the five Olympic boroughs in September 2012.

Lord Coe's Olympic ambassador and former Olympic gold medal winner Tessa Sanderson attended the ball along with other sporting celebrities. Michael Scott, national performance director for British swimming, Emma Wiggs, Paralympic sitting volleyball player and captain of the current GB team, Dillet Gilkes, international Trinidad and Tobago hockey player, Noel Thatcher, six-times Paralympian and winner of five gold Paralympic medals, Liz Stone Paralympian and Old Forester who won gold in Atlanta for equestrian events, and Richard Oswald former Olympic sailor. The Ball was a great success and raised over £8,000 towards the scholarship. Sixth formers Nosheen Kiyani and Calvin Knight helped with the auction and the raffle on the night and were lucky enough to meet Tessa Sanderson and the Pearly Queen, Doreen Goulding.

Forest School is part of the Get Set initiative led by LOCOG and has been involved with many Olympic activities over recent months. Forest pupils took part in the launch of Sainsbury's '1 Million Kids Challenge' where they had the opportunity to take part in four Paralympic sports: goalball, blind football, boccia and sitting-down volleyball. Pupils also met Lord Coe, Jeremy Hunt MP, Ellie Simmonds Paralympic swimmer and Justin King, CEO Sainsbury's.

WEST ESSEX SCHOOLS TOP OF THE CLASS

ONCE again schools in the West Essex area have proved their worth with incredible GCSE and A level results.

North Chingford's Normanhurst School saw an increase in the percentage of pupils gaining higher grades with 86% gaining five or more GCSEs at grade C or above. Several achieved at least three at A/A* with one achieving 9 A/A* grades.

At Chigwell teachers and pupils were celebrating their best ever A level results with more than 50% of grades awarded at A/A*, and 84% at B or above. Of the 84 year group students, 27 achieved at least 3 A/A* grades.

Forest also had reason to celebrate with over two thirds (72%) of pupils achieving at least eight A/A* grades at GCSE. Two achieved an outstanding eleven A* grades. A levels were equally impressive with 82% of results at A*-B grades leading to 80% of pupils receiving their first or second choice university places, ten of which are at Oxford or Cambridge.

One in particular, Joe Davighi achieved 5 A* grades ranking him one of the most academically successful candidates in the country.

Needless to say the heads and teachers at all schools are extremely proud and at WEL we would like to offer our congratulations to all pupils and wish them every success for the future.



KARREN BRADY'S VISIT INSPIRES SIXTH FORMERS

CHIGWELL School sixth formers were delighted to welcome Karren Brady to the school for a question and answer session on 8th September. The vice chairman of West Ham, former managing director of Birmingham City, current non-executive director of Arcadia, Sport England and Mothercare answered a host of questions on her career and business in general, and gave advice to students hoping to follow her success. She also spoke of her desire to see more women in senior positions in business. In 2007 Karren Brady was named Business Woman of the Year and is particularly well known for her

role as Lord Alan Sugar's assistant on the BBC series The Apprentice.

The school was delighted by her visit and head teacher

Sophie Halls commented: 'It was inspiring for us all to discover more about such a successful life story and it gave us an idea of the drive and ambition needed to be a high achiever in business today.'

