



# Normanhurst School

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## HEADMISTRESS

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

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January 2015

Dear Parents

Happy New Year! I hope you and your families had an enjoyable Christmas holiday.

I am very much looking forward to the forthcoming term. We have coffee mornings for parents, a series of assemblies for the juniors and the school production in the week leading up to half-term. This term is also the term in which we hold parent consultation meetings when you have the opportunity to discuss your sons' and daughters' academic progress and achievements with their teachers.

Year 11 return to their GCSE mock examinations when they have the opportunity to test their knowledge and understanding of the GCSE work they have been studying over the last two years.

### Coffee Mornings with Mr Hagger and Mrs Osborn

All parents will receive an invitation to a coffee morning over the course of this term. They provide a chance for parents to come and meet me and Mr Hagger to discuss school life. Please do come to talk over a cup of coffee, share your views or ask questions. The coffee mornings take place in the library from 8.45-10.00am on Fridays; dates for the each year group are at the end of this letter.

### Parent Questionnaires

Every few years we send out a questionnaire to all parents. A whole school survey helps us to find out what we are doing well and where we can improve further. As a school we are committed to continuing school improvement. We take your feedback seriously, analyse the findings in detail, which then contributes to our whole school development planning.

In the week beginning Monday 12 January, we will be sending out details of how to complete the online survey, which takes about ten minutes to complete. Thank you in advance for taking part; your responses and involvement are very much appreciated.

### Maths Super-Learning Day - Cambridge Hands-On Maths Roadshow

Over the past five years we have been developing the breadth and depth of the curriculum we offer and finding new ways to engage, inspire and challenge our pupils. This year we have a Maths Super Learning experience for pupils from Year 1 up to Year 9 on Thursday 15 January. The Hands-On Maths Roadshow is part of the University of Cambridge Millennium Maths Project, which is designed to promote **creative approaches to mathematics** and **strategic thinking** and to **stimulate mathematical curiosity**. **Do read more about it on the website** <http://maths.org/roadshow>

### Safeguarding Children

Keeping children safe in school is our utmost priority and the Safeguarding Children Policy is available for all our parents to read on the school website. You can also request a paper copy from the school office, if you prefer. In school we have two 'Designated People' for Safeguarding: me and Mrs Jerrom, the Assistant head who is responsible for Pastoral Care. In line with good practice, all members of staff and pupils are regularly reminded about whom to go to if they have any concerns and about how we deal with concerns when they are raised.

As part of our programme, this term one of the local Metropolitan Police Officers, PC Brand, will be visiting to talk to children from Years 6-11 about keeping safe on the internet.

### **Marking Policy in Juniors and Seniors**

When we mark books at Normanhurst School we aim to do more than just tick a right answer, or put a cross beside an incorrect one. We see marking as part of our assessment of how much progress your children are making, so you will find comments that identify what has been done well, and what skills have been mastered, as well as targets and comments on how to make the next steps. Whilst these will not appear on every piece of work, they will be a regular feature of the marking. Alongside this you will also see that pupils sometimes self-assess or peer-assess their work. This is a valuable tool to help pupils identify for themselves how well they have done and to identify areas they think they need to improve.

Juniors use a 'polishing pen' to make their improvements.

In the juniors, the teachers often use a 'Two Stars and a Wish' system: the stars are the achievements and the wish is the next step for further progress.

In the seniors you will find positive comments for skills and understanding shown and targets or next steps for further progress.

### **Welcomes to new staff**

We welcome three new members of staff to Normanhurst this week. Mrs Tina Walledge joins the Learning Support Team; she will be working with Mrs Willemse and the Year 2 class. Two experienced teachers join us: Mrs Sinem Kazim is the new Drama Coordinator teaching Drama across the school, as well as some English. She also becomes the Senior Head of Connaught House and the Duke of Edinburgh Award Coordinator, a role she had in her previous school. Mr Jonathan Walwyn is the new Head of Science; a role in which he too has previous experience. Both teachers have taught up to A Level and bring valuable experience to Normanhurst in helping to prepare our students for Sixth Form and beyond.

### **School Show**

Rehearsals are in full swing for the school show and Mr Henderson-Jones and Mrs Kazim will be following the published rehearsal schedule running up to the performances which take place over three evenings from Monday 9 February. More details about how to buy tickets will be sent out to parents shortly.

### **Speech Day 2015**

An advance date for your diaries: Speech Day and Prize Giving will take place on Thursday 2 July in the Chingford Assembly Hall from 6.00pm. All pupils from Year 1 to Year 11 are expected to attend for a celebration of the successes and achievements of our pupils over the course of the school year. Parents are also invited to join us.

### **Snow Days**

It will always be our intention to keep the disruption to the children's education to a minimum but that in the event of heavy snow parents should check the website for updates and announcements. We will also aim to text alerts by 7.15am.



**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



## Dates for the Term

Monday 5 January	Staff Training Day
Tuesday 6 January	Spring Term begins at normal time 8.40am
Tuesday 6 January	Y11 Mock Exams begin (timetables already issued)
Monday 12 January	NSPA Meeting Hall 7.00pm
Tuesday 13 January	Y10 Parents' Meeting Hall 4.00-6.30pm (online booking system)
Thursday 15 January	Cambridge Hands-On Maths Roadshow in school (Y1-Y9)
Friday 16 January	Coffee Morning with Mrs Osborn and Mr Hagger for Kindergarten parents
Tuesday 27 March	11+ External Candidates and Year 6 Entrance Exams
Thursday 22 January	G&T Art/DT Trip (Y7-9 + GCSE)
Friday 23 January	Coffee Morning with Mrs Osborn and Mr Hagger for Reception parents
Saturday 24 January	ISA Swimming Gala at the Olympic Pool
Tuesday 27 January	Y8 Parents' Meeting Hall 4.00-6.30pm (online booking system)
Thursday 29 January	Higher Education and Careers Fair at Forest School
Friday 30 January	Coffee Morning with Mrs Osborn and Mr Hagger for Y1&Y2 parents
Friday 30 January	Drop-In Morning 8.30-9.00am (Rec – Y6)
Friday 30 January	Y11 Full Reports and mock exam results sent home
Monday 2 February	Visiting Speaker for Y6-Y11 on Internet Safety (PC Brand)
Tuesday 3 February	Y11 Parents' Meeting Hall 4.00-6.30pm (online booking system)
Friday 6 February	Coffee Morning with Mrs Osborn and Mr Hagger for Y3-6 parents
Friday 6 February	NSPA Disco for Kindergarten-Y2 Hall 5.00-6.00pm NSPA Disco for Y3-6 Hall 6.15-7.15pm
Monday 9 February	School Production (3 night run) 7.00pm
Friday 13 February	Coffee Morning with Mrs Osborn and Mr Hagger for Senior parents
Tuesday 3 March	Y9 Parents' Meeting Hall 4.00-6.30pm (online booking system)
Friday 6 March	NSPA Coffee Morning for parents 8.30-10.00am in the library
Tuesday 10 March	School in Action Open Morning from 9.00-10.30am
Tuesday 10 March	Year 9 Options Evening Hall 5.00-6.00pm
Tuesday 17 March	KG-Y6 Parents' Meeting Hall 4.00-6.30pm (online booking system)
Tuesday 24 March	Y7 Parents' Meeting Hall 4.00-6.30pm (online booking system)
Thursday 26 March	Short Reports for Y7-11
Thursday 26 March	End of Spring Term – school ends at 12 noon
Friday 28 March	Ski Trip to Italy to 5 April

I wish all our pupils a happy, healthy and successful 2015. I look forward to seeing you at the Parents' Evenings, coffee mornings and other events this term. Members of the leadership team and I are always happy to talk, so do ask for an appointment if there are any issues you would like to discuss or feedback you would like to give.

With best wishes for the New Year

Yours sincerely



Claire Osborn  
Headmistress



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