



Normanhurst School

68-74 Station Road, North Chingford
London E4 7BA

Tel: 020 8529 4307
Fax: 020 8524 7737

HEADMISTRESS

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

E-mail: info@normanhurstschool.co.uk

Website: www.normanhurstschool.co.uk

January 2016

Dear Parents

I hope you and your families had an enjoyable Christmas break and that you are looking forward with expectation to the year ahead. May I wish you all a happy and healthy 2016.

This is a busy term with mock GCSE exams, 11+ and 13+ entrance exams, and Year 9 options evening. We have parent coffee mornings, class assemblies for the juniors and the school production in the week leading up to half-term. This term we also hold the parent consultation meetings when you have the opportunity to discuss your sons and daughters' academic progress and achievements with their teachers.

Coffee Mornings with Mr Hagger and Mrs Osborn

All parents are invited 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 each year group are at the end of this letter.

Normanhurst School Parents Association (NSPA)

The NSPA will be inviting parents to take part in a short online questionnaire. Your answers will be very helpful to them as they reorganise. They and I would value your participation; the survey is short, only ten questions, and can be completed in about three minutes. Information will be sent out shortly.

Maths Super-Learning Day – World of Maths Workshop

We are building on the Maths workshops we offered last year by having World of Maths workshops for pupils in Reception up to Year 7 on Wednesday 13 January. As a school we recognise the importance of strong numeracy skills and mathematical understanding so we hope that this event will inspire and challenge our budding mathematicians.

We are also planning to take Year 10 students to the Forest School Annual Mathematics Lecture: Murderous Maths with Kjartan Poskitt on Tuesday 2 February 2016 from 4.15pm-5.15pm.

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 three 'Designated People' for Safeguarding: me, Mr Beint, the Deputy Head who is responsible for Pastoral Care and Miss Barnard, the Head of Juniors.

All of the Normanhurst staff had their Level 1 Safeguarding Training as part of the staff training day on Monday 4 January. In line with good practice, all members of staff and pupils are regularly reminded about to whom they should take concerns and about how we deal with concerns if they arise. The staff has also had training on the Government's 'Prevent' duty for schools and the PSHE curriculum reflects the latest guidance.

Staff News

We welcome Miss Amanda Savage to the Early Years department. She is a well-qualified and experienced early years practitioner, with over ten years' experience working with pre-school children at the Merryfields nursery and lately at Asquith nurseries. We are delighted that she is joining Mrs Fisher's team at Normanhurst.

School Production: Alice in Wonderland

Rehearsals are in full swing for the school show and Mrs Kazim will be following the published rehearsal schedule running up to the performances which take place over three evenings from Tuesday 9 until Thursday 11 February. More details about how to buy tickets will be sent out to parents shortly.

Keeping up-to-date with News and Events

If you have not yet downloaded the free Normanhurst School App, I encourage you to give it a try. Likewise, the Normanhurst website is updated on an almost daily basis and it is well-worth navigating the site to see what information is available for parents.

You regularly receive communication from the school via the parent portal. If you have any difficulties logging on or using it, please do contact the school so that we can offer support. We aim for excellent communication with parents and the team is happy to help where needed.

Forthcoming Dates for the Diary

January

Tuesday 5 – Wednesday 13	Y11 Mock GCSEs
Friday 8	Kindergarten Coffee Morning – 8.45-10.00am Library
Monday 11	NSPA Meeting – 7.00pm Library
Tuesday 12	Y5 Trip to Ragged School Museum Y10 Parents' Evening
Wednesday 13	Super-Curriculum Day: World of Maths Workshop for Y1-Y7
Thursday 14	U11 ISA Football in Barnet Y6 Theatre Trip to Goodnight Mr Tom – 1.00pm
Friday 15	Reception Coffee Morning – 8.45-10.00am Library Y6/GCSE Historians – visit from Holocaust Survivor Trust U11 High Five Netball tournament in Redbridge from 12.00pm
Friday 22	Y1/2 Coffee Morning – 8.45-10.00am Library
Tuesday 26	11+ Entrance Exam for external candidates and for current Y6 Y8 Parents' Evening
Wednesday 27	Y3 Food Technology Lesson at Pizza Express a.m.
Thursday 28	Y9 Vaccinations 9.30-11.00am Y10 Careers Fair at Forest School 2.00-4.00pm
Friday 29	Schools Youth Art Exhibition at Loughton Gallery for 1 week. Rec-Y6 Drop-In Morning 8.30-9.00am Y3-6 Coffee Morning – 8.45-10.00am Library Y11 Full Reports published to parents Loughton Art Gallery Youth Art Exhibition until Friday 5 February

February

Monday 1	Presentation on The Challenge for all Y11 students
Tuesday 2	Y1/2 Food Technology Trip to Frankie and Benny's Y11 Parents' Evening
Friday 5	Y7-11 Coffee Morning – 8.45-10.00am Library
Tuesday 9 – Thursday 11	School Production – Alice in Wonderland
Thursday 11	Senior G&T Trip to the Wellcome Foundation
Friday 12	KG-Y6 - NSPA Disco from 5.00pm
Monday 15 – Sunday 21	Half-term Holiday
Tuesday 23	Y7 Parents' Evening

March

Tuesday 1	Y9 Parents' Evening
Thursday 3	Y3-6 Coopersale Hall Cross Country Competition Junior Dress Up for World Book Day
Thursday 3 – Friday 4	World Book Day – Author in school: Derek Smith
Friday 4	U11 and U13 ISA Netball Tournament Redbridge
Monday 7	Chartwells Ready Steady Cook Competition in Assembly

Tuesday 8	School in Action Open Morning 9.15-10.30am Y9 Options Evening 5.00-6.30pm
Wednesday 9	13+ Entrance Exams
Thursday 10	U11 ISA Tag Rugby Competition
Saturday 12	DofE Training Expedition
Monday 14 – Friday 18	Science and Engineering Week
Tuesday 15	Junior Parents' Evening – specialist teachers in Hall
Wednesday 23	Final Day of Term - school ends at 12 noon Short reports
Thursday 24	School Office open Easter Academy for Y11 pupils
Friday 25-Monday 28	Easter Weekend
April	
Wed 13 – Friday 15	Easter Academy for Y11 pupils
Monday 18	INSET Day
May	
Saturday 21	Oak-Tree Summer Ball

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



Mrs Claire Osborn
Headmistress

OAK-TREE SCHOOLS is the group name of:

BRAESIDE SCHOOL, BUCKHURST HILL • COOPERSALE HALL SCHOOL, EPPING • NORMANHURST SCHOOL, NORTH CHINGFORD • OAKLANDS SCHOOL, LOUGHTON

HEAD OFFICE ADDRESS: 6-8 ALBION HILL, LOUGHTON, ESSEX IG10 4RA

GROUP MANAGING PRINCIPAL: MR MATTHEW HAGGER B.A. (HONS), M.ED., PGCE PRINCIPALS: MR NICHOLAS HAGGER M.A. (OXON), MRS ANN HAGGER CERT. ED.

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