



Normanhurst School

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HEADMISTRESS

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1 May 2019

Headmistress's Letter

Dear Parents

Normanhurst Headship Announcement

When we returned to school last week, Mr Hagger shared with parents and staff future plans for Normanhurst and for the Oak-Tree Group. He explained that my role will be developing over the next two years so that rather than being the Headmistress of two of the four schools, I will become a Principal of all four schools from September 2019.

For the next academic year, I will continue to be Headmistress here at Normanhurst, with Miss Barnard becoming the Head of School, alongside her current role of Head of Juniors, to lead the operational running of the school on a day-to-day basis. Both she and I will be available for parents, as will any member of the Leadership Team, which will comprise, as now:

Mrs Osborn: Headmistress

Miss Barnard: Head of School

Mr Clair: Head of Seniors

Mrs Coates: Assistant Head Seniors

Miss Stone: Assistant Head Juniors

The changes coincide with me becoming Chair of the Independent Schools Association, which is the body to which our schools belong. There are over 500 schools in ISA membership and many of the events, competitions and opportunities we give our pupils arise from our membership of this charitable body, of which I have been an Executive Officer and Trustee for a number of years.

I will be talking to the pupils about the changes in assemblies over the forthcoming week.

Last Call for the Ball

The Oak-Tree Ball is going to be a wonderful event. The plans are in place for a super evening, with lots to enjoy. Thank you to all of those parents who have already made arrangements to come. Any proceeds from the ball will be given to the parents' associations and will be put back into the schools to benefit the children, so it is well worth supporting it. If you have not yet bought your ticket, and did not receive a flyer last week, please contact or pop into the school office for more information. I am looking forward to seeing many of you there.

Senior Break-time Snacks

Seniors may bring in a healthy snack from home for break time, if they do not wish to purchase a snack from the tuck shop available at break. However, just as in the juniors, this must be a healthy snack and should consist of fruit, fresh or dried, crudités, hummus, breadsticks or crackers. No crisps, sweets, chocolates or biscuits should be brought into school. I have already spoken to the pupils about what constitutes an appropriate snack and explained that we will be confiscating unsuitable items.

School Lunches

Following feedback from parents and pupils last term, we have been working hard to improve the range and quality of the school lunches. Pupils have been more positive and seem to be enjoying their school lunches much more. The menus for the summer term were sent to parents last week and can be seen on the website.

GCSE Examinations

The staff and I are pleased to see the focused and mature frame of mind in which Year 11 has returned to school following the Easter break. The GCSE exams begin next week, with practical art and graphics papers, before the written papers commence on Monday 13 May.

I hope our pupils feel well-prepared and positive as their exams start. I wish them all the very best; the staff are behind them and I look forward to sharing the good news of their results in August.

Year 10 Apprentice Prefects

As Year 11 begin their study leave, Year 10 are being invited to apply to become prefects next year. They will have interviews and become apprentice prefects, in advance of the selection and announcement of the new Prefect Team. The prefect team comprises 12 Senior Prefects including the Head Boy and Head Girl, House Captains and Senior Prefects. The final team will be announced as usual on Speech Day.

ISA Regional Athletics Tuesday 14 May

The ISA regional athletics competition this year takes place in Bedford on Tuesday 14 May. As usual the PE department will be taking about 50 pupils to represent the school in Bedford. This is an important athletics meeting, with hundreds of competitors. There are over nearly 100 ISA schools in our region, in fact we are the largest region nationally, so this gives our pupils the opportunity to compete in a large venue with pupils from many other independent schools.

Last year, as in previous years, we won a good number of regional gold medals, which means that those individual competitors or teams represented the region, and our school, in the prestigious national ISA National Athletics Competition in Birmingham in June at the Alexander Stadium. Over the years we have had many pupils selected for Nationals, which is an excellent achievement. Once again this year I will be presenting medals at the event, so I am looking forward to the chance of presenting a medal to one of our own pupils.

Sports Day Friday 21 June

Sports Day takes place towards the end of the summer term this year at the Lee Valley Athletics track for all classes up to Year 10. As usual the senior sports day will be in the morning from 9.30am and the juniors will be in the afternoon from 1pm. All parents, families and friends are invited to join us for the event. The pupils will compete in their Houses and the junior and senior sports shields will be presented.

Pupils come to school in their sports kit on the day, including track suit, and should bring sun block with them; juniors should wear their school caps. Parents of early years and junior aged pupils may take their children home directly from the track at the end of the afternoon; alternatively, pupils return to school by coach and can be collected from school or from After School Club.

Years 7-10 End of Year Examinations

Senior school summer exams are in the week after half-term. During this week normal lessons are suspended and pupils have their exams instead. PE takes place as usual. These assessments form an important part of our monitoring of pupil progress over the course of the year. Parents and pupils will shortly receive a copy of the exam timetable. Please encourage your sons and daughters to revise thoroughly for these assessments, which review the whole year's learning. Pupils are being advised on revision techniques in form time and with their subject teachers, and teachers will be directing pupils towards what they should revise.

Junior End of Year Examinations

Junior pupils also have their assessments split over two weeks. In the week beginning Monday 10 June, pupils in Years 1 – 6 have their assessments in English, Maths and Science and they also have the annual INCAS progress assessment. All the assessments are to help us evaluate the progress each individual child has made over the course of the year. Miss Barnard is sending parents more detailed information about the assessments, and the class assessment timetable.

Music Concerts and Recitals

Parents of our musicians and pupils learning instruments in school will receive an invitation to join us for one of the music recitals taking place this term. In addition, there is the summer concert for parents to attend. Our pupils have produced some lovely work in music lessons this year and in their individual instrumental lessons with visiting staff. The series of recitals will provide an opportunity for the pupils to perform for their families. I am very grateful to Mrs Jones for all of the work she has put into enhancing the music experience for pupils this year.

Clubs from September

We will be finalising the Extra-curricular clubs list for September at the moment and parents will receive a copy of the schedule at half-term. There is a wide range of activities for pupils to select in the autumn term and I hope they enjoy the choices on offer.

Dates for the Diary

Wed 1 May	07:30 – 19:00	Y10 (selected) Engineering trip, NEC Birmingham
	19:00 – 20:30	NSPA meeting (hall)
Thu 2 May	09:00 – 15:30	Y5 Science Museum trip
Fri 3 May	All day	U11 ISA National Boys' Football Final, Derby
	13:00 – 16:45	Y11 DiscGolf/White Water Rafting trip, Lee Valley
Tue 7 May	09:00 – 10:50	Morrisby Online Tests
Wed 8 May	08:45 – 09:00	Y15 Assembly to Parents
Thu 9 May	09:00 – 10:00	Y8 Girls 2 nd Dose HPV Injections
Fri 10 May	13:00 – 16:45	Y11 White Water Rafting/DiscGolf trip, Lee Valley
	18:30 – 20:30	NSPA Y3-6 Film Night
Sat 11 – Sun 12 May		Duke of Edinburgh Practice Exhibition Weekend
Mon 13 May		Y11 GCSE Study Leave commences
Tue 14 May	07:30 – 18:00	Y4-10 ISA Regional Athletics, Bedford
Wed 15 May	08:30 – 09:30	EYFS-Y2 Music Assembly – parents invited
Thu 16 May	10:15 – 16:00	Morrisby Profile Interviews
Sat 18 May	19:30 – 12:30	Oak-Tree Summer Ball
Tue 21 May	08:30 – 09:00	KG-Y6 Parents' Drop In
	15:30 – 18:00	Y7&8 Swimming Gala at Forest School
Wed 22 May	08:30 – 09:00	Y3-6 Music Assembly – parents invited
	08:30 – 15:30	Y2 trip Port Lympne Safari Park, Kent
Fri 24 May	13:00 – 15:30	Y1 'Stars' trip to Better Extreme Trampoline Park
Mon 27 – Fri 31 May		Half Term
Mon 3 – Fri 7 Jun		Y7-10 Internal Exams
Mon 10 – 14 Jun		Y1-6 Internal Assessments
	09:00 – 16:30	Y10 CCSS Cambridge trip
	19:00 – 20:30	NSPA meeting
Tue 11 Jun	16:00 – 17:00	Y7-11 Senior Twilight Music Recital – parents invited
Wed 12 Jun	12:30 – 15:30	Y6 Crucial Crew Debden
Mon 17 Jun	08:30 – 09:00	Y11 Leavers' Assembly and Book Return
Tue 18 Jun	09:00 – 15:30	LAMDA exams
	09:00 – 15:45	Y10 GCSE French trip to L'Institut Francais
	16:00 – 17:00	Y1-9 Twilight Music Recital – parents invited
Wed 19 Jun	08:45 – 09:00	Junior Assembly: BSL Performance – BSL Club parents invited
	09:00 – 15:30	Y3&4 Floating Classroom Barge trip, Paddington
Fri 21 Jun		Sports Day
	19:00 – 22:00	Y11 Leavers' Dinner, Chigwell Hall

Sat 22 – Sun 23 Jun		Duke of Edinburgh Qualifying Expedition
	16:00 – 20:00	NSPA Summer BBQ
Mon 24 – Fri 28 Jun		Y10 Work Experience
	08:30 – 16:30	Y6-9 Essex Cricket Club trip, Chelmsford
Mon 24 Jun	16:00 – 17:00	Y1-9 Twilight Music Recital – parents invited
Tue 25 Jun	16:00 – 17:00	Y1-9 Twilight Music Recital – parents invited
Wed 26 Jun	09:00 – 15:30	KG-Y6 Moving Up Day / Y7 Induction Day
Thu 27 Jun	09:00 – 15:30	Y5&6 Globe Theatre trip
	09:00 – 15:30	Y1 Aviation Experience trip to O ²
Mon 1 Jul	13:00 – 15:00	Early Years Celebration of the Year (URC)
Wed 3 Jul	08:45 – 09:00	Junior Assembly: Y6 Final Assembly – parents invited
Thu 4 Jul	17:45 – 20:00	Speech Day
Fri 5 Jul	08:30 – 15:45	KG-Y6 End of Year Legoland trip
	09:00 – 15:30	Y10 Careers Day
Mon 8 Jul		Full reports published
	18:00 – 20:00	Summer Music Concert
Tue 9 Jul	09:00 – 15:45	Senior House trips to Lambourne End
Wed 10 Jul	12:00	End of Summer term

I look forward to seeing you at the many events taking place this term.

With best wishes

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

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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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