



Normanhurst School

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HEADMISTRESS

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Headmistress's Letter

Dear Parents

Welcome back to the final half-term of this academic year; one which seems to have flown by. Senior pupils have their end-of-year examinations this week and juniors have their InCAS assessments and class tests next week. The aim of these in both juniors and seniors is to review progress made, set next steps and recognise individual achievements.

Once exams are over there are a number of trips, activities and special events, dates of which are listed at the end of this letter.

At the beginning of the last week of term reports will be sent home for all classes up to Year 10. Reports will be uploaded onto the portal on Monday 8 July to allow time for you to read and discuss them before the close of the school year.

Senior Breakfast Club

We introduced the senior breakfast club last year in response to requests from parents and pupils. Breakfast is available from 7.30am in the school hall and is overseen by Mrs Walledge, who is one of our learning support team. Please do consider using the facility if your child is in Years 7-11 and you need to drop them at school from 7.30pm. There is a selection of cereal, toast, yoghurt, fruit and drinks available to choose. At the moment only a few seniors are using the club.

Open Kitchen and Menu Tasting Event

As Mr Hagger indicated in his recent letter, we would like to invite families to come into school to taste some of the dishes on the school menus and to see the kitchens. The plan is for the event to run one evening in June from 6pm to 7pm, with the date to be confirmed next week.

We are also going to ask parents, pupils and staff to complete an online food questionnaire over the next week. This consultation is to help us to evaluate the current lunch experience, and the menus, with a view to then improving and developing them. We want to hear your views and the pupils' views, so please do complete the survey if you can.

Sports Day Friday 21 June

As you know from my previous letter, we have our Sports Day on Friday 21 June at the Lee Valley Athletics track. The senior event takes place in the morning and the junior event in the afternoon. Junior parents who attend can take their children home directly from the stadium at the end of the afternoon.

The PE department will be sending home a letter with details. All parents, families and friends are welcome to join us. It is an excellent event and I know the pupils appreciate having spectators in the stands to cheer them on. You will have a programme on the day, so that you know which races your children are taking part in. The Sports Cups will be presented to the winning junior and senior house, as well as the Victor and Victrix Ludorum awards for the senior boy and girl champions.

Please ensure your children have a bottle, school sports cap, and that they have sun cream applied. Please also send some into school to top up if it is a sunny day. We will have gazebos for the juniors to sit under during the afternoon, so that they are not in direct sunlight. The seniors will be sitting on the stands until they are competing so that they can be shaded for parts of the morning.

Early Years Foundation Stage End of Year Celebration Monday 1 July

All parents and carers of children in Kindergarten and Reception are invited to the Early Years Celebration at the URC in Buxton Road on Monday 1 July at 2.00pm. We are looking forward to celebrating all the pupils have enjoyed and achieved over the last year. Do come and join us! Mrs Fisher will provide details to parents, but all Early Years children are welcome to come along, even if they do not usually attend on a Monday.

Moving Up Day and Year 7 Induction Day Wednesday 26 June

Pupils will spend the whole day in school with their new teacher on Moving Up Day. We are also inviting the new pupils who will be joining us in September so that they can meet their classmates.

We would like to invite parents to drop into the hall from 2.45pm onwards to have a cup of tea and chat with the teachers about the day.

The pupils who will be moving into the seniors in September have a Year 7 Induction Day on the same day. Current Year 6 pupils will meet the new pupils who are joining us from other schools in Year 7, and will find out which form class they will be in. There will be a special programme of activities for the day including a team building activity offsite in the afternoon.

Our current Year 6 parents and new parents are invited to have coffee in the hall at 9.15 am and for a short talk on life in the seniors, as detailed in the letter sent out before the half-term break.

There is also an NSPA nearly new Uniform Sale in the morning and in the afternoon from 2.45pm.

Extra-curricular Activities

The school office has organised the clubs and activities booking sheet for the Autumn Term so that we can organise the programme and ensure that staffing ratios are appropriate. There is a number limit to some of the clubs, which may mean that we have to operate a waiting list. Please would you complete and return your requests to the office as soon as possible. We will then be able to confirm the places before the summer break.

In addition to those clubs, for which there is a charge, there will be the usual PE extra-curricular clubs, lunchtime clubs and senior boosters. The full programme of all activities will be published ready for the start of term in September.

Summer Holiday Activity Programme

Parents will receive a letter detailing the summer holiday programmes being offered across the four Oak-Tree Schools for pupils from Early Years up to Year 6. If you would like to sign up for any of the activities on offer, please do so at your earliest convenience, as these are proving extremely popular with Oak-Tree parents.

Pupil Prefectships

We held the interviews for the senior prefect team in May before the half-term break, and as is our custom, the new Heads of School will be announced at Speech Day. This year over three quarters of Year 10 applied for a position, which is a record number. Although not everyone can be successful in gaining a senior prefectship, all of the applicants can be proud of how well they conducted themselves in the interviews. In making our decisions, we have looked at the pupils' contribution to school life in their time at the school, as well as their character, maturity and citizenship and whether they are good role models to their peers.

We also select junior House Captains, Vice Captains and prefects for Year 6 from the current Year 5 pupils and their interviews take place over the next two weeks.

Speech Day and Prize Giving Thursday 4 July 6.00pm

As you know Speech Day and Prize Giving is on Thursday 4 July in the Assembly Hall at 6.00pm. As always school closes at 2.00pm for all pupils apart from children in Kindergarten or Reception classes. Speech Day is compulsory for all pupils from Year 1 up to and including Year 11. Together we celebrate pupils' many achievements, but we also look back on the year that has passed and recognise the significant landmarks within it.

There will be a number of musical performances during the evening, alongside an exhibition of Art work. The formal part of proceedings will be followed by a short reception with refreshments. I do hope that many parents will be able to attend and share in this special occasion.

Uniform and Presentation Reminders for Speech Day and Prize Giving

Please ensure your children are well-presented for Speech Day. Boys should have neat and tidy hair styles, without any cut-in designs. Fringes should not hang over the eyes.

Girls' long hair must be tied back securely with a plain blue or black hair band. There has been a recent increase in the number of 'pretty' headbands, bows and slides. Any 'Alice bands' or hair slides should be plain navy or black, not ornate or colourful. Senior girls must wear navy opaque tights on Speech Day.

Shoes should be plain black or navy leather, with a proper sole. Trainer-like shoes are not permitted and shoes should not have any visible logos or colourful design features. Junior pupils should wear the correct summer uniform. Juniors should wear white socks with summer dresses and long grey socks with grey shorts.

Year 10 Careers Education

There will be a focus on Careers Education for the Year 10 students towards the end of term. There is a week of Work Experience beginning on Monday 24 June, and a Careers Day on Friday 5 July, with talks from a number of professionals and mock interviews in the afternoon. Year 10 pupils come into school in business attire on that day.

We hope Year 10 will enjoy these experiences and gain much from them as they look ahead to their futures beyond school.

Normanhurst Summer BBQ Saturday 22 June 4.00-8.00pm

The Normanhurst School Parents' Association is organising the annual Summer Barbecue, which will be a fun-filled event for the whole family, so please do come along. There will be an information flyer sent home to all parents and information on the website and social media.

All parents, their families and friends are welcome to join us. There will be food, a bar, music, stalls, competitions, bouncy castle, prizes and much more, including the ever popular 'sponge the teacher'.

All junior aged pupils, up to and including Year 6, must be accompanied by a parent or adult who takes responsibility for them for the duration of their stay at the event.

NSPA iPad Challenge

The NSPA have reached their ambitious target of providing 36 iPads, charging bags and apps for the pupils to use in classes at school. It is wonderful to have reached this goal and to have ordered the iPads so that they can be set up for the start of term in September.

I would like to thank the NSPA Committee for their tireless efforts in fund-raising and prioritising this venture, which will benefit all of the pupils in school, from the Early Years up to GCSE students.

Teachers will be able to book out the iPads and use them in class in a host of ways: to enable pupils to access educational resources, conduct research and record their work.

Staff News

This term we have a new main caretaker joining the staff, Mr Roger Wahid. He has experience working in a range of settings, including in a college where he taught practical NVQ courses to young people.

There are four members of staff leaving Normanhurst at the end of the academic year. We are very grateful for all they have done at Normanhurst in their time with us, and we wish them well for the future.

Mr Cutler is moving on to Highams Park. I am delighted that we have appointed an experienced senior science teacher, Mrs Ujwala Jayaram, to join the science department from September. She is currently teaching at Finchley Catholic High School.

Miss Sarah Greenin is moving to teach in an international school in Spain from September.

After ten years at Normanhurst, which began when she was a trainee teacher, Miss Tinisha Smith has decided to widen her professional experience and move to the state sector from September.

I am delighted with the junior appointments we have made. Miss Katherine Collings joins the junior team having spent four years at the Goldbeater junior school in Edgware and Miss Charlotte Prebble joins us from Burghclere primary school. They will both be in school for Moving Up Day and are looking forward to meeting their classes and parents.

Mrs Anne Kleinfeld has been the senior History teacher for fourteen years. She has decided to stop teaching and to focus on writing, which was her background before she began her teaching career at Normanhurst. Mrs Natalie Wilson, an experienced History and RS teacher, and exam marker, joins us in September from the Sacred Heart School, an independent school in Norfolk.

Some current members of staff take on new responsibilities from September: Mr Ian Grant becomes the junior Head of House for Warren; Mrs Denise Parrott becomes the senior Head of House for Connaught; Mr Serder Dograr becomes the junior English Co-ordinator; Mr Fraser Banks becomes Head of PE and Games and Duke of Edinburgh Co-ordinator and Mrs Gemma Allen becomes the Oak-Tree Challenge Co-ordinator.

Forthcoming Events

Mon 3 – Fri 7 Jun		Y7-10 Internal Exams
Tue 4 Jun	09:00 – 15:30	EYFS Thorndon Country Park trip
Wed 5 Jun	19:00 – 20:30	NSPA Meeting
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	08:00 – 08:30	Transition to Year 1 Meeting for Reception parents
	16:00 – 17:00	Y7-11 Twilight Music Recital – parents of performers invited
	17:30 – 18:30	Y3 Summer Camp meeting for Y2 parents
Wed 12 Jun	12:30 – 15:30	Y6 Crucial Crew Debden
Mon 17 Jun	08:30 – 09:00	Y11 Leavers' Assembly – parents invited
	09:00 – 15:30	Rec-Y6 Maths Workshops
Tue 18 Jun	09:00 – 15:45	Y10 GCSE French trip to L'Institut Francais
	09:00 – 15:30	Rec-Y6 Maths Workshops
	16:00 – 17:00	Y1-9 Twilight Music Recital – parents invited
Wed 19 Jun	09:00 – 15:30	Y3&4 Floating Classroom Barge trip, Paddington
Fri 21 Jun		Sports Day
	19:00 – 21:00	Y11 Leavers' Dinner, Chigwell Hall
Sat 22 – Sun 23 Jun		Duke of Edinburgh Qualifying Expedition Weekend

Sat 22 Jun	16:00 – 20:00	NSPA Summer BBQ
Mon 24 – Fri 28 Jun		Y10 Work Experience
Mon 24 Jun	08:30 – 16:30	Y6-9 Essex Cricket Club trip, Chelmsford
	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	09:30 – 15:30	Y7&8 London Zoo trip
	14:00 – 15:00	Early Years Celebration of the Year (URC)
Wed 3 Jul	08:45 – 09:00	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
	09:00 – 15:30	LAMDA exams
	13:00 – 15:30	Whole School Sponsored Walk for charity
	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
Thu 22 Aug		GCSE Results Day
Tue 3 Sep		Y7 Induction Day
Wed 4 Sep		Start of Autumn Term – pupils return

As always, please do contact the school office, your child's form teacher or a member of the SLT, if there is anything you would like to discuss. I very much look forward to seeing you at our school events this term.

With my best wishes for the final half-term.

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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