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NORMANHURST SCHOOL

North Chingford's Leading Independent School

Girls & Boys aged 2 ½ to 16

HISTORY

Normanhurst School has been an integral part of the history of North Chingford since its foundation in 1923 in the Ridgeway, a mile away from its current location. The school later moved to its present site in Station Road soon after. The school has changed remarkably over the years into the high achieving, academically successful school with a growing reputation for excellence. Normanhurst operated as normally as possible during the Blitz (one of our specialist rooms was a bomb shelter and held 100 people in a space 20 feet by 12 feet), but due to particularly heavy bombing there was some damage to school buildings. As a consequence, certain classes operated from local parents' homes for a short while. After the localised bombing during the 1944 V1 and V2 attacks, around 60 Normanhurst children and most of the staff were evacuated to the Praa Sands Hotel near Marazion in Cornwall. The crater from a V2 bomb can still be seen half a mile from us next to the Royal Forest Hotel. The return took place early in 1945. Normanhurst has been privately owned throughout its history and in 1996 became part of the Oak-Tree Group of Schools under the ownership of the Hagger Family.

LOCATION

Situated in the heart of the North Chingford community, Normanhurst is on a broad tree-lined suburban street with ample parking. Just opposite the British Rail and bus station, the School is easily accessible to families coming from areas such as Chingford, Buckhurst Hill, Loughton, Chigwell, Waltham Abbey and South East Essex to Walthamstow and North London. With a mixture of traditional Edwardian buildings and modern bespoke classrooms, the pupils benefit from a wide range of specialist facilities that include science labs, ICT suites, art and DT rooms and a well stocked library. PE/Games and swimming take place in large Olympic-quality facilities nearby.

THE OAK-TREE GROUP OF SCHOOLS

Normanhurst School belongs to the Oak-Tree Group of Schools, which includes Braeside School in Buckhurst Hill, Coopersale Hall School in Epping and Oaklands School in Loughton. A successful group of local independent schools, all four are operated with the same aims of excellence and care, being owned and run by qualified educationalists who have much experience in the specialist world of teaching and learning. At the heart of the Oak-Tree Group is a shared structure of leadership to centrally manage areas such as education, finances, IT soft/hardware, marketing and the general business.

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WELCOME TO NORMANHURST SCHOOL

Normanhurst is a small school with a big vision. It's a school where pupils of all abilities, aptitudes and social backgrounds thrive and achieve.

Our community is based upon high expectations of learning and behaviour is underpinned by excellent pastoral care. It is an honour to lead Normanhurst School. The reasons are instantly apparent when you visit and observe school life. Pupils enjoy being part of this school; they want to achieve, aim high and work with endeavour and application.

I have a fantastic team of teachers who bring the best out of the pupils. The imagination of the staff provides pupils with the enthusiasm to go the extra mile creating an appetite for learning. Our pupils achieve very well academically, and are kind and thoughtful. They are encouraged to be confident, resilient, caring and responsible good citizens who can make a positive difference to the world.

Normanhurst School sees every pupil as an individual with talents, and values the contribution of each one, whether it is in academic excellence, artistic flair, musical ability, sporting prowess or community spirit. Our aim is that every pupil

appreciates their value both within the school and in the world beyond. We aim to provide our pupils with a thirst for knowledge and a curiosity for the wider world.

We believe in the value of small classes in which teaching both extends and supports, where the teachers give quality feedback to pupils to help them progress. We believe in giving a breadth of experience to pupils of all ages allowing their talents to be nurtured and harnessed.

Pupils' personal development and pastoral care is excellent. Each pupil is known and pupils have more opportunities to lead and to take on responsibilities. This is a school where each individual can participate and they are encouraged to do so.

I would be delighted to welcome you and your family to join one of our school tours or Open Days so you can experience what sets us apart and see the many ways in which your child will thrive here.



Mrs Jacqueline Job B.Sc., NPQH
Headmistress





NORMANHURST SCHOOL

Excellent Personal Development

Every year we participate in a number of interesting projects including: the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme, writing competitions, art competitions, creative projects including music festivals, theatre trips, shows, productions and sports competitions.

Small Class Sizes

Our teaching groups are deliberately small. This means pupils have a more personalised experience with meaningful feedback, so that they can reach their individual potential and make the maximum progress possible.

Continuity and Progression

Most pupils move from Infants to Juniors and then on to Seniors to sit their GCSE exams.

This continuity makes for smooth transition from one stage of schooling to the next. We know our pupils extremely well, which allows us to maximise their progress and personalise their learning.

Partnership with Parents

Parents are encouraged to be involved in the life of the school. Some are in the Parents' Association, others accompany school trips or help out at school events.

Parents are invited to school assemblies, plays, musical events and sports days. Most importantly excellent communication with parents is a priority.



AN EXCELLENT CHOICE FOR YOUR CHILD

Learning outside the Classroom

We make the most of our location, taking learning outside the classroom and into the local environment for Art, Science, Geography and more. We use a number of Olympic-quality local sports facilities and offer a wide range of sports throughout the school. Trips and outings form an important part of the curriculum from Kindergarten right up to seniors.

Outstanding Pastoral Care

Parents and inspectors praise the excellent relationships between staff and pupils, and the outstanding pastoral care. We know each and every child in this school, their strengths and talents, their personality and where they need to be encouraged and challenged.

Extracurricular Activities

We offer an exciting extracurricular programme that provides enriching opportunities for pupils to develop new skills, participate in sports and enjoy a range of creative and musical activities. Additional musical instrument tuition and speech and drama lessons are available from Year 1 upwards.

Extended Day

We offer a Breakfast Club and After School Club to extend the school day. Breakfast Club is available for Kindergarten to Year 11 from 7.30am and After School Club runs, for Kindergarten to Year 6, until 6pm.

Success at GCSE

Our aim is for pupils in the seniors to become self-confident, successful GCSE students. We are among the highest performing schools at GCSE in the whole of the Borough. Girls and boys achieve equally highly.

Each year our pupils receive offers to study for A Levels both at selective independent schools and 6th Form colleges. We prepare all pupils to go on to further study, mostly for A Levels but sometimes to diploma or vocational courses in subjects including Computing, Interior Design, Catering, Animation, Graphics and Music Technology.





EARLY YEARS FOUNDATION STAGE: KINDERGARTEN AND RECEPTION - (2w-5 YEARS)



Our pupils achieve well, feel safe and enjoy their learning. There is plenty of space for pupil-initiated learning; quiet areas and a freeflow from the classrooms to the outside learning space.

We understand that learning begins before a pupil joins us, so we spend time getting to know families and finding out about each child. At Normanhurst, children begin to

develop their reading and writing skills following a phonics-based 'letters and sounds' programme.

Alongside, they develop number, problem solving and reasoning skills as well as having projects and topics each term. The learning is interactive and fun. For example, Reception class has a weekly 'Forest Walk' to the nearby Epping Forest, learning about science, nature and the world around them.

The children enjoy exciting practical learning topics including watching tadpoles grow into frogs, growing their own vegetables, learning about the solar system and making their own rockets.

Early Years pupils take part in assemblies, school events and

sports day. Each year on World Book Day children dress up as princesses, superheroes, and fairy story characters. They enjoy cooking, craft, stories, imaginative play and PE.

By the end of the EYFS, pupils have made excellent progress that is reported to parents in the Early Years Profile.

From our latest Inspection Report:

"The EYFS is outstanding at meeting the needs of the range of children who attend."

"The overall quality and standards of the early years provision are outstanding."

"Throughout the setting, excellent attention to children's personal development and communication skills ensures that the children become enthusiastic learners."

"Extremely close attention is paid to fulfilling all aspects of the learning and development requirements of the EYFS."

"The children behave exceptionally well, learn to share, and show evident happiness and enjoyment in school."





INFANTS: KEY STAGE 1 - (5-7 YEARS)

The enthusiasm for learning and the excellent relationships with teachers continue into Years 1 & 2.

We follow the national learning strategies from Year 1 upwards, enhanced with the introduction of French, Drama, Computing, Music and PE, taught by specialist teachers.

English

Children regularly read to an adult progressing through the phonics based 'letters and sounds' reading scheme. Pupils have a reading record book so that reading can be shared at home. They are encouraged to talk about what they have read and to begin to read more widely.

Children are given spellings to learn each week and they are encouraged to apply the spelling patterns to their own writing. Children develop their writing skills and use basic punctuation. Handwriting skills are practised and pupils are encouraged to form their letters and numbers correctly.

In addition, we have a weekly focus on extended writing called 'Big Writing'. Each half term reading and writing skills are assessed.

Mathematics

Pupils develop their number skills and by the end of Year 2 will use addition, subtraction and will be learning about multiplication and simple division.

The topics include: shape and space, time, handling data, money and measuring. Numeracy is taught in a practical way using games and problemsolving.

Pupils are encouraged to enjoy maths and to become confident with core mathematical principles like number bonds and times



tables. Regular assessments are used to help us track pupils' progress.

Additional Subject Areas

Children have a broad range of other subjects across the week: Science, Computing, Music, PE, French, RE, Art and DT, PSHE and Humanities. Learning is enhanced with trips and outings, as well as visitors coming to school.

Homework

Children have reading homework each evening, as well as some English and Maths homework during the week to reinforce or extend the class work. Other homework tasks may also be set, but altogether it should take no more than 20 minutes per night to complete. The homework programme is given to parents at the start of term.

Extracurricular Activities and Opportunities

Pupils take part in the School Council and House competitions, as well as assemblies and school events.

There are sports clubs, sometimes running in the morning before school. In addition, individual tuition is available in piano, guitar, violin, singing and LAMDA speech and drama. Specialist support or dyslexia tuition is also offered by the Learning Support Department.



JUNIORS: KEY STAGE 2 - (7-11 YEARS)

Our pupils move seamlessly from Infants into Juniors, and the junior classrooms are mainly located together to encourage cooperation between classes. The broad and structured education continues through Years 3-6.

Curriculum

All pupils follow a programme that includes: English, Mathematics, Science, Computing, French, Music, Geography, History, RE, Art, Design Technology, Drama, PSHE and PE.

We are guided by the National Curriculum but always aim to offer a richer learning experience, giving opportunities for trips and visits and tailoring the learning to meet the individual needs of the pupils, so that the most able are challenged and extended, and those who need support can work at a pace appropriate for them.

This is possible because classes are small and we have a Learning Support team who work with the teachers in the classrooms to facilitate the learning.

Regular assessments in the core subjects are held each half term to ensure good progress is being made. Alongside these are regular spellings and mental maths tests.

The focus on writing skills continues, with a piece of extended independent writing being completed on a weekly basis.

Homework

Regular homework continues through Years 3-6, gradually increasing with age. There is reading and spelling homework as well as written work, exercises or research projects to reinforce and extend the learning in the classroom.

At the start of the academic year, parents will be given a homework timetable so that they can support their children.







Extracurricular Activities and Opportunities

As well as a number of sports clubs, art clubs, drama and music activities, recorder ensemble and choir, Key Stage 2 pupils can continue with individual musical tuition in clarinet, drums, flute, guitar, piano, saxophone, singing, trumpet and violin. They also continue with LAMDA lessons for speech and drama.

We take part in competitions locally and with the Independent Schools Association (ISA). Cross country, netball, football and athletics teams all take part in regional and even national events. We also regularly enter art and writing competitions.

Every year there is the opportunity to be involved in school shows and events.

We take part in the biennial Oak-Tree Schools Festival of Music and Dance. There are opportunities for the older juniors to go on residential trips: such as the biennial ski trip and PGL activity week.

All juniors have curriculum trips during the school day to enhance the learning and enrich the curriculum.

Pupils can develop leadership skills by being part of the School Council, or through being elected as House Captains or Sports Captains.

Excellent...

"The time I have spent at Normanhurst has been the best-there's always something going on"

**Normanhurst Pupil
Age 9**





SENIORS: KEY STAGE 3 - (11-14 YEARS)

Following our 11+ entrance examinations, external pupils join us in Year 7 from other local schools, both independent and state. The same ethos of excellent relationships between teachers and pupils, high quality feedback and a disciplined but happy atmosphere continues.

In the seniors there are two classes in each year group with about 16 pupils in each.

Curriculum

The curriculum for pupils in Years 7-9 is broad, balanced and challenging; targeted to ensure that pupils of all abilities make the maximum progress possible. We offer two modern languages, French and Spanish, to all pupils alongside the following subjects: English, Mathematics, Science, Art, Design Technology, Drama, History, Geography, Music, Computer Science, PE, PSHE and Religious Education.

We are also keen to develop effective learning habits in our pupils. We encourage them to be confident, socially adept, flexible, resilient learners who can communicate articulately, work independently and engage with their learning enthusiastically.

Pupils understand what their target grades are and are encouraged to make progress towards achieving them. We talk about learning and what success might look like for each individual pupil.

Regular assessments take place across the subjects so that pupils have a good idea about how well they are achieving and what their next steps will be in order to make further progress.

Every September curriculum overviews are sent home for each of the subjects so that parents are aware of the programmes of study for the year.

We make the most of excellent local facilities for PE and Games lessons: for example, rowing in Lea Valley using Olympic facilities, athletics at Pickett's Lock and indoor and outdoor games at the Peter May Centre.

Homework

Regular homework is set every night. The homework timetable is given out to each pupil and is also sent home so that parents are aware of expectations. We reinforce that homework should always be given in on time and completed to the best of our pupils' ability.

Specialist support and dyslexia tuition is available from the Learning Support Department where appropriate.



“Pupils largely enjoy being in the school and feel exceedingly well supported by their teachers, who go out of their way to help them.”

ISA Inspection Report

Extracurricular Activities and Opportunities

Every term an extracurricular activities programme is produced with a variety of opportunities for different year groups, updated regularly. These can include sports (rowing, tennis, football, netball, karate, cross country, dance or athletics), performance (drama, choir, music theory, band, orchestra), creative (art, animation, cookery) and academic (computer science, maths booster, science support and revision).

There are opportunities within school to become involved in the Charity Committee and School Council or to be a Librarian. We value the contributions the senior pupils make to the school and we are keen to develop their leadership and team building skills.

We have a Gifted and Talented Programme that offers enrichment opportunities to the most able pupils in school. Pupils have entered national writing and art competitions. They participate in a UK Maths Challenge and have the opportunity to take part in academic learning days off site.

Every year we hold Drama showcases, Art exhibitions and musical events. Private lessons with visiting music teachers are available in a number of instruments including: clarinet, drums,

flute, guitar, piano, singing, saxophone, trumpet and violin. LAMDA Speech and Drama lessons are also available.

Many trips take place related to the curriculum over the year. We are keen for pupils to have a rounded and rewarding experience of learning, and this takes them out of the classroom on many occasions. This includes a language study tour and a ski trip.

Trips make the most of our location, including visits to art galleries, theatres, museums, and London landmarks as well as local places of interest such as Epping Forest, the Queen Elizabeth Hunting Lodge and the Epping Forest Field Centre.



SENIORS: KEY STAGE 4 - (14-16 YEARS)

The oldest pupils at Normanhurst School are in Years 10 and 11. The same ethos of excellent relationships between teachers and pupils continues, with a disciplined but happy environment.

Curriculum

We offer a broad, balanced and challenging curriculum in Years 10 and 11 for pupils working towards their GCSE examinations. All pupils sit a core of GCSE subjects: English Language, and English Literature, Mathematics, Triple Science and Religious Education.

In addition pupils pick four other GCSE courses from the following choices: Spanish, French, History, Geography, RS, Art, Graphic Design, Music, Computer Science, PE, Drama and Business Studies.

For some of our pupils we offer the ASDAN Award in place of one of the option choices. This is offered by the Learning Support department. All pupils have PE lessons and PSHE lessons, which are not examined.

At the start of Year 10 all pupils take the YELLIS test, providing the school with information about target grades and enabling us to track progress effectively. With the attention we can give in our small class sizes, pupils are encouraged to reach their potential, achieve and even exceed these target grades.

Homework

Homework becomes more challenging to reflect the demands of the GCSE courses, and pupils can expect to complete about 1.5 hours homework per night. Support is given for revision and we hold an Easter Academy each year offering an intensive revision programme for pupils in Years 10 and 11, with exam practice and preparation.

The curriculum is differentiated and challenging, with the teaching developing explicit thinking skills, fostering a collaborative partnership between teacher and pupil so that pupils talk about their learning, take initiative and progress towards success.

Extracurricular Activities and Opportunities

Educational trips, extracurricular activities and the opportunities for extension and support continue to be a feature of school life. Furthermore pupils can take on leadership responsibilities as



Librarians, Prefects, House and Sports Captains, members of the Charity Committee or School Council. We also offer the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme.

GCSEs

We have been one of the highest performing school in the Borough over recent years and our latest results can be seen on our website, which is updated each August.

Our small class sizes and individual attention at this most crucial stage is highly valued by pupils and parents alike. There are extra booster classes in the Easter Break and our senior school teachers are on hand to help at all times, our pupils frequently surprise themselves by achieving higher than expected.

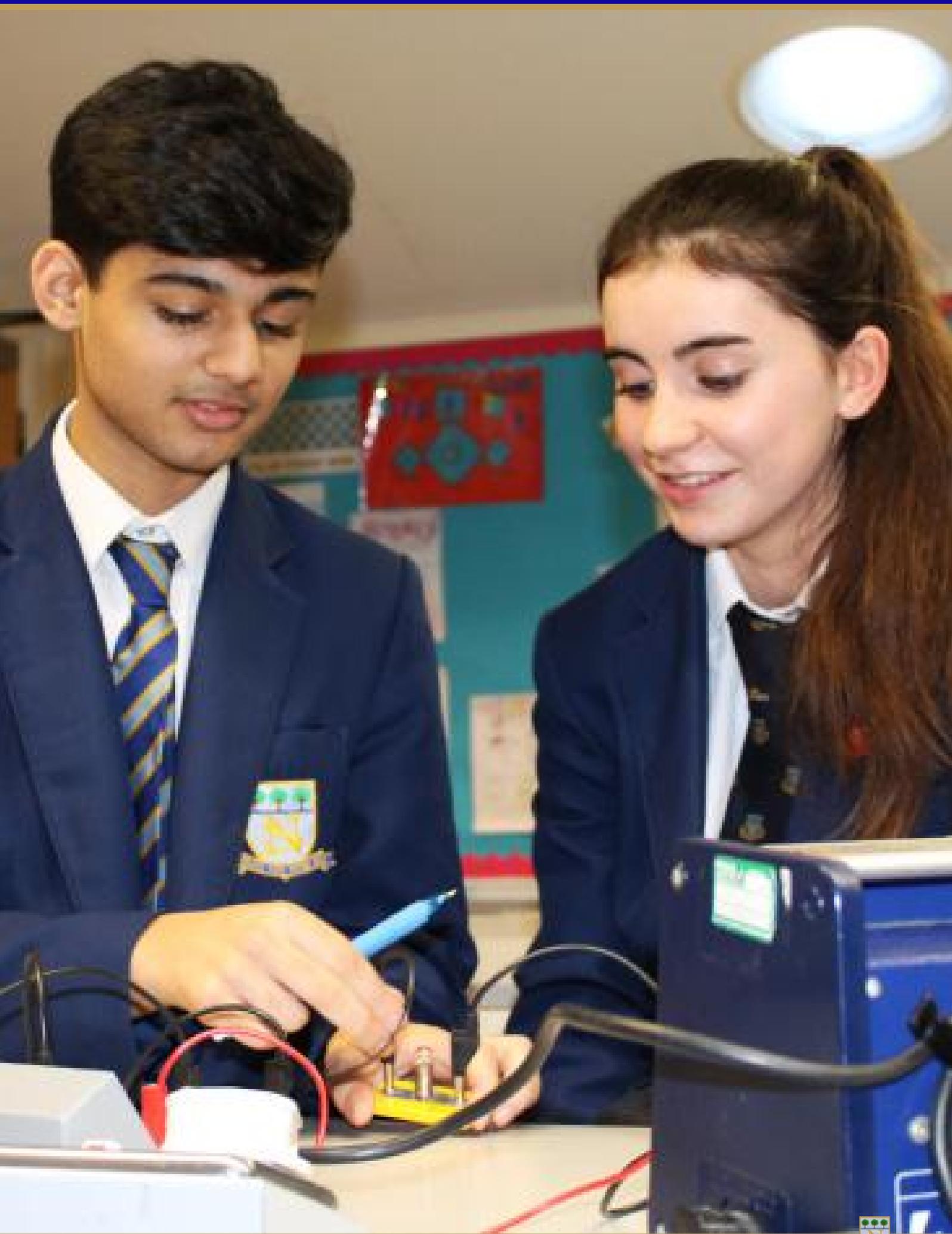
All pupils take the core subjects:

- English Language
- English Literature
- Mathematics
- Sciences

Other optional subjects offered include:

- Art
- Business Studies
- Graphic Design
- Drama
- French
- Geography
- History
- Computer Science
- Music
- Religious Studies
- Science (additional)
- Spanish





AFTER GCSES AND CAREERS ADVICE

In Years 10 and 11 pupils are prepared for the transition to Sixth Form in a number of ways.

We provide a careers week for Year 10 including work experience, careers talks and individual professional interviews with feedback.

We hold an information evening on the process of choosing a Sixth Form, which both pupils and their parents attend. Pupils receive an information booklet and there is an opportunity to ask questions.

Teachers prepare a bespoke reference for each pupil, which details their academic achievements and their contribution to the life of the school.

Pupils have been successful in their applications to a number of popular schools, both independent and state, including a number of scholarship offers.

Pupils are encouraged to be diligent and committed students, who know the value of hard work. We develop this in a number of ways including our revision boosters, Easter Academy and mentoring programme.

Pupils know the importance of being able to work independently and to meet deadlines.

The vast majority choose to study locally in independent and state schools, grammar schools or FE colleges. Although the majority take A Level courses with the expectation of going on to university, some of our students choose more creative or vocational studies including interior design, art, ICT and sports.

We count among our alumni Oxbridge and Russell Group university graduates; those who have pursued careers in law, medical sciences, education, accountancy, music, engineering, politics, creative arts, music, drama and sport.

“Results at the end of Year 11 have been consistently above the national average for maintained schools.”

ISA Inspection Report

LEAVERS DESTINATIONS

There is a wide range of schools, colleges and apprenticeships chosen by our pupils when the time comes to leave Normanhurst at the end of Year 11. The most recent offers can be found on our website, and they include the following:

- Anglo European School
- Ashmole Academy
- Bancroft’s School
- Beal High School
- Brentwood School
- Broxbourne School
- Capel Manor College
- City and Islington College
- Chigwell School
- Chingford Foundation Sixth Form
- Chobham Academy
- Davenant Foundation School
- Easton College
- Epping Forest College
- Felstead School
- Forest School
- Haringey College
- Harlow College
- Havering College
- Heathcote School
- Highams Park High School
- Hockerill Anglo-European College
- Holy Family Catholic School
- Hymers College
- Ilford County High School
- King Solomon High School
- Leyton College
- London Academy of Excellence
- New Hall School
- Newham Collegiate Sixth Form
- Ravensbourne College
- Roding Valley High School
- Sir George Monoux College
- St Edmunds’ College
- St Ignacius College
- Seven Kings High School
- Totteridge Academy
- Trinity Catholic High School
- Wanstead High School
- West Hatch High School
- Winchmore School
- Wisbec
- Woodbridge High School
- Woodford County High School



CREATIVE ARTS

Art and Design

In the Art and Design department, pupils develop their imaginative and artistic talents working with a broad range of materials.

Small class sizes mean that our pupils are able to cultivate their own unique forms of self expression in an encouraging and supportive environment.

The standard of Art and Design work in our school is extremely high and as a result our pupils' work has won several competitions as well as being exhibited in prestigious venues, galleries and websites.

In the last year our pupils have won at regional and national level in several competitions including the ISA Art and Design competition. We have exhibited our work in several exhibitions including an exclusive showcase of our pupils work in the Loughton Art Gallery.



Music

Music plays a strong part of our school life at Normanhurst.

As a part of our music curriculum visiting staff offer tuition in all the main instruments, while the school choir and vocal performance tutoring enhance many performing opportunities within and outside of school.

Music is taught by specialist teachers to all pupils from Reception upwards. There is a Music Theory extracurricular club and pupils are able to sit Music Theory examinations with the Associated Board of the Royal College of Music at school. We take part in the biennial Oak-Tree Schools Festival of Music and Dance, which brings together Normanhurst and our two sister schools enabling us to showcase our junior and senior choirs, orchestra, handbells, dance groups and rock band.

Every year we also take some of our singers and instrumentalists to a local old people's home to entertain them. This is always much appreciated and offers another opportunity for our school to reach out into the local community.



Drama

Drama is taught by a specialist teacher from Year 1 upwards and is very popular.

This year projects have included mask making, slapstick, Commedia dell'arte, pantomime, improvisation and script writing. Through drama the pupils develop self-confidence, presentation skills and teamwork.

As well as timetabled drama lessons and afterschool clubs, we stage annual productions and regularly use drama in our school assemblies, with numerous opportunities to perform in front of small and large audiences.

Drama is offered as a GCSE option in Years 10 and 11.





SPORTS

Work within Physical Education is designed to support, contribute to, and complement the aims of the school.

Physical Education at Normanhurst provides an enjoyable, satisfying and balanced approach for all students to develop physically, socially, emotionally and cognitively.

The curriculum is taught by specialist PE teachers from Year 1 upwards and is designed to offer a comprehensive range of experiences through which pupils are encouraged to develop the personal qualities of commitment, fairness and enthusiasm.

Normanhurst offers pupils a varied programme of physical activity that is constantly reviewed and updated. The school uses some of the borough's finest sporting facilities, including the Peter May Centre for indoor and outdoor activities, the Chingford Leisure Centre for swimming, The Chingford Tennis Centre at Rolls Park and the indoor and outdoor track and field facilities at Lee Valley Athletics Centre which is also used by UK Athletics to train Olympic athletes.

Pupils at Normanhurst are encouraged to widen their interests beyond the curriculum, and are welcome to attend clubs and after school activities regardless of ability.

All pupils are given the opportunity to represent their House in the numerous sports competitions that take place throughout the year, in both the junior and senior parts of the school.

Normanhurst successfully participates in sporting events locally, regionally, and nationally. This provides opportunities

for pupils to achieve their potential in the competitive field.

However, we also recognise that tolerance, good sportsmanship and the appreciation of one's own and others' strengths and weaknesses are an important part of the learning process.

We aim to develop positive attitudes towards sport and encourage our pupils to develop their own initiative, determination and courage whilst stressing the value of exercise and fitness; healthy habits and social cooperation.

Activities include:

- Netball
- Hockey
- Football
- Athletics
- Basketball
- Tennis
- Swimming
- Rugby
- Cross Country
- Swimming
- Gymnastics/ Dance
- Rounders
- Cricket
- Outdoor adventure activities
- Fitness training







BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

Clubs and Extracurricular Activities

Pupils have the opportunity to learn one of our many instruments including: brass, saxophone, clarinet, violin, guitar, flute, piano, percussion, voice. We offer many orchestras, bands and ensembles.

We offer LAMDA Speech and Drama lessons. 75% of all grades awarded were distinction last year. There are regular school productions and concerts for all age groups.

We have a wide range of clubs for all ages including: art, drama, Lego, karate, music groups, sports, chess, debating, computing, cooking, reading, music theory and academic boosters.

We have an established House system, with a range of competitions and challenges throughout the year, including House Music and Sports Day for the whole school.

We are licensed to deliver the Duke of Edinburgh Awards scheme with the majority of pupils reaching the Bronze Award by the time they move on at the end of Year 11.

Our extra-curricular programme is extensive and includes regular trips overseas.

Competitions

Every year we have winners in a number of regional and national Art and Design events, including national winners in the Independent Schools Association annual awards and many winners in regional competitions.

Locally, the Oak-Tree Schools collaborate on joint events including sports competitions, art exhibitions, music festivals, camps, enrichment days and trips. We also have national success in many sports.

Events

We give all pupils many opportunities to participate in sport, art, drama, music, charity work, school council, community events, assemblies, the Oak-Tree Award, Duke of Edinburgh Award and more.

We hold regular whole school events throughout the year including musical performances, drama showcases, Prize Giving, Science Week, Sports Day, Harvest Festival and the annual Christmas Carol Service.



PASTORAL CARE

Pupils' wellbeing underpins all aspects of school life.

Normanhurst is a school with a friendly family atmosphere, where pupils feel safe and are encouraged to share their problems and concerns. The Headmistress and Senior Leadership Team are responsible for Pastoral Care with the Form Tutors and Heads of House also playing an important role.

We have a mentoring system in place in the seniors, with 'buddies' and 'playground pals' in the juniors. Form groups are kept small so form tutors have the opportunity to know each individual child, and to support them within school.

The House System within the school is designed to promote positive interaction between pupils whilst fostering an atmosphere of mutual trust and respect. The Heads of House ensure that the pupils have a sense of belonging, whilst providing advice and guidance on issues relating to their education and wellbeing.

We have junior and senior School Councils which meet regularly to discuss topics of interest to the pupils and the councillors are able to make suggestions about how school life could be made even better. In addition, pupils have the opportunity to become Form Leaders and to apply join the prefect team in Year 6 and Year 11.

We are a generous school with a flourishing Charity Committee; pupils organise fundraising events to support local, national and international charities. The pastoral team aims to ensure pupils are happy and secure, and provides a point of personal contact with parents.

"The quality of care provided by the staff, and the attention given to pupil's welfare, health, and safety, are excellent."

ISA Inspection Report

Excellent...

"My son is coming on in leaps and bounds since joining the school and regularly tells me what he has learned. The school feels like a community – caring and friendly."

Year 7 Parent



FAQs

What are the benefits of a school that goes from 2 ½ to 16?

We understand the educational needs of children all the way through their compulsory education and we can ensure that progression from one stage to the next is smooth and supported.

Teachers share their knowledge and understanding of the children and progress is maintained.

The school is a community. The strong sense of caring and togetherness permeates from the oldest pupils down to the youngest. We are one school, on one site, where pupils can share important school events together like Speech Day, Harvest Festivals, celebrations, concerts, the annual sponsored walk and Sports Day.

Pupils in the juniors gain from the expertise of specialist teachers who are graduates in a wide range of subjects and who work together with the staff in the junior school to make the curriculum relevant, exciting and challenging.

How involved are parents in the life of the school?

We have a Parents' Association who put on an event every term for friends and parents of the school. This culminates in a Summer Barbecue where the whole school community gets together.

Parents are invited into school for assemblies and events, and sometimes to accompany trips and outings.

Parents are invited to offer work experience placements for our Year 10 pupils for a week in the summer term to give them an experience of the world of work.

This is immensely valuable for pupils as they consider their career choices and where they want to study next.



How does communication work between school and home?

In our EYFS and juniors, parents have the opportunity each day to talk to the class teacher, either in the hall in the morning or at the school gate in the afternoon.

We encourage parents to contact the school if they would like an appointment with the form teacher or a member of the senior team. The Headmistress is freely available to see parents and is happy to discuss your child's progress with you if you have any concerns.

We have at least one formal communication with home each term; a short report, full report or parents' meeting. Settling in reports are sent home after the first few weeks in school. There are regular newsletters and Head's letters about what is happening in school and the website is regularly updated with information and news. There is a text messaging service that we use for reminders.

There are termly drop-in mornings for parents to visit the junior classrooms and regular coffee mornings with the Group Managing Principal and the Headmistress.

We use the school website and Twitter to share news.

Does the school offer lunch?

Lunch is included in our school fees and is provided throughout the school. There is a wide variety on offer.

The School Council and the catering company work together on new menus and choices for children of all ages. We offer a vegetarian option and a Halal option each day alongside a hot main meal, jacket potatoes, pasta, rolls, baguettes and a salad bar. The fruit platters are a very popular choice for dessert, as are the hot puddings.

Teachers check the pupils in the early years and juniors are eating properly; they will inform parents of any concerns.

Do you offer a Breakfast and After School Club?

We have a Breakfast Club from 7.30am until 8.40am each day that provides drinks, breakfast cereals, toast and fruit. The children may choose activities they do after breakfast until the school day begins at 8.40am.

After School Club runs until 6pm. Sandwiches and fruit are provided every day, homework can be completed in a quiet area and there is a variety of activities on offer.

What learning support do you offer if my child is struggling?

We are fortunate to have a well-resourced Learning Support team coordinated by our SENDCo.

This means that we are able to provide a Learning Support Assistant to be working within the classroom where needed.

Differentiation of work, so that all pupils are able to make progress, is at the heart of curriculum planning in the school.

We also have specialist support staff who can give one-to-one targeted support to pupils to help them make progress.

In addition to this we have a specialist dyslexia tutor who provides lessons for pupils and who can undertake assessments if necessary.





Admissions

Choosing the right school for your child is one of the biggest decisions you can make, therefore we strive to make the admissions process as easy as possible.

The admissions procedures differ depending on the age of your child. However, the process usually begins with a visit to the school, either on one of our Open Events or on a pre-arranged personal tour.

Registration

Parents are invited to tour the School and meet with the Headmistress to discuss their child/ren. In order to secure a place on our waiting list parents will need to complete the Registration Form.

A place on the waiting list does not guarantee admission. The School must feel reasonably sure that it will be able to educate and develop the prospective pupil to the best of his/her potential and in line with the general standards achieved by the pupil's peers.

Lower Kindergarten (ages 2½ to 3) and Upper Kindergarten (ages 3½ to 4)

Taster sessions are arranged for prospective children whose families have registered them with us.

Sessions will last for between 40 and 60 minutes, and will mainly consist of informal play-based activities observed by members of the Early Years team.

Offers will be sent if children successfully pass our entrance criteria.

Reception (ages 4½ to 5)

Taster sessions are arranged for prospective children whose families have registered them with us.

Taster sessions will last for between 60 and 70 minutes and will mainly consist of informal activities, with some more focused tasks observed by members of the Early Years team.

Offers will be sent if children successfully pass our entrance criteria.

Years 1 to 6 (ages 5½ to 10½)

Children will be invited to spend a long morning in school at a mutually convenient time.

The morning will include formal academic assessments in English and Maths, with additional informal classroom observations.

Offers will be sent if children successfully pass our entrance criteria.

Years 7 to 9 (ages 11 to 14)

Children will be invited to spend a long morning in school either during the official Entrance Examination day or another time.

The morning will include formal entrance examinations with papers in English, Maths and Reasoning, with additional informal classroom observations and formal interviews.

Offers will be sent if children successfully pass our entrance criteria.

Places are extremely limited throughout the school and you will need to contact our Admissions Registrar, on 020 8529 4307 or by email to admissions@normanhurstschool.co.uk to discuss your child's entry.

Entrance Exams

7+ ENTRANCE

This is by individual assessment and interview.

11+ ENTRANCE EXAMINATIONS

The main Entrance Examination for entry into the Seniors at Year 7 is held in January. This is followed by an interview with the Headmistress for each applicant and their parents. Results will be posted to families in the February half term break.

13+ Entrance Examinations

The main Entrance Examination for entry into Seniors at Year 9 will be held in March.

There will also be an opportunity to take the 11+ Entrance Examination on this date for entrants unable to attend the main date in January.



LEARN MORE ABOUT NORMANHURST SCHOOL

When choosing a school for your child there are many factors to take into account specific to you and your child's needs. Therefore it is wise that parents get to know the school well before making the final decision. At Normanhurst School there are many opportunities to do just this.

COME AND VISIT US

Open Days in March and October

Personal tours can be arranged at a time to suit you.

CONTACT US

NUMBER: 020 8529 4307

EMAIL: info@normanhurstschool.co.uk

See our website for all latest information including:

- Newsletters
- Headmistress's Letters
- Fees
- Entrance procedures and examinations
- GCSE Results
- Admissions policy
- Open days
- Staff list and how to contact us
- A wide range of weekly clubs and activities
- Parents' Association events and fundraising

Follow us on Social Media



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www.normanhurstsch.co.uk







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