



Normanhurst School

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HEADMISTRESS

Mrs Jacqueline Job B.SC., NPQH

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1 February 2021

Dear Parents

Re: Headmistress's Letter

I wanted to begin by congratulating the Normanhurst pupils for their approach to the remote learning this term. It has been wonderful to see so many pupils really engaged in lessons, asking questions and responding with enthusiasm. Participation across the whole school has been excellent! This is a credit to pupils, parents and teachers alike, all of whom are trying their best to carry on during this challenging and difficult time. I thank parents for the many supportive messages you have sent to the staff and to the office. This constructive and considered feedback is always welcome.

Remote Learning Update

The Prime Minister announced on 27 January that school will remain closed after half-term, but will hopefully re-open on Monday 8 March. This means that remote learning will continue. We have therefore been reviewing our programme by talking to pupils and responding to comments from parents.

Seniors: we will be making some adjustments to the remote learning timetables, in particular for Seniors, so that pupils have more opportunities to discuss their work with their subject teachers and to be able to receive and respond to their marking and feedback. The aim is to ensure, as far as possible, that our pupils are secure in their learning this term, and can receive additional support if they need it.

As we continue with blended learning and build on the new routine, I thought it would be helpful to have some gentle reminders:

- Before joining the live Zooms, please ensure you are using your name. This helps staff admit the right pupils and only the Normanhurst community.
- Although it is lovely to meet pupils' pets from home, please could pets not be brought into live Zoom lessons, unless the teacher has already agreed this in advance. Although this is providing lots of entertainment, it can be very distracting.
- During lesson time pupils should be ready and prepared to engage in lessons, with any resources they need.
- Remember to submit all of your work either on Seesaw (Juniors) or Show My Homework (Seniors) so that your teachers can see how well you are doing, mark your work, and give you feedback.

ISA Art Competition 2020

It is wonderful to be able to share with you that we have had several 1st place winners, 2nd places and high commended places in the 2020 ISA Art Competition. Congratulations to the following pupils for their successes; we are incredibly proud of them:

- Reception Class- 2nd Prize for Collaborative Art
- Clementine Parrott – 1st Prize
- Rosa Hamilton – 1st Prize
- Alex Bagley – 1st Prize

- Roxanne Adlam – 1st Prize
- Joseph Hartwell-Niall – 2nd Prize
- Eva Cross – 1st Prize
- Elliot Dickinson – Highly commended
- Sam McDonald – Highly commended
- Mohammed Yusuf Khan – Highly commended

Headmistress Commendation

I also wanted to award my first Headmistress Commendation to Max Pye in year 11. I wanted to commend him for excellent citizenship. Before the Christmas holidays a lady fell over outside her home in Buckhurst Hill and Max stayed with her to ensure she received help. He called an ambulance waited for it to arrive and ensured the older lady was looked after. The niece of the lady contacted us to pass on her thanks and to say we should be incredibly proud of him. Congratulations Max, the Normanhurst community is incredibly proud of your efforts, response and your ability to think of others, this is the Normanhurst way!

Normanhurst Challenges

We have some exciting challenges to launch after half term. One will be the Rubix Cube Challenge, where we will be looking to find the quickest child across the school to solve the Rubix Cube, with a Normanhurst Rubix Cube Leader board. The other challenge will be the Normanhurst Basketball Challenge. We will be releasing details very soon. In the meantime please feel free to have a look <https://www.homecourt.ai/>

Reminders about Absences from School or Remote Learning

If your child is unwell and unable to attend school, either in person or online during the closure, please telephone the school office to report the absence to a member of the Office team or email absence@normanhurstschool.co.uk by 9am.

For Critical Workers' children: please do not send your child to school if they are unwell in any way. Children will be sent home if they display any signs of illness. Clearly no child should attend school if they display any symptoms of Coronavirus, or if they should be self-isolating.

Support with any Technical Difficulties

From time to time there may be technical difficulties with Seesaw or Show my Homework. Junior parents: If you need to contact the school for any technical support, or experience any difficulties, please contact your class teacher or Miss Low Ten Que, the Head of Juniors. Miss Low Ten Que is available to support pupils and parents from the Juniors with the Seesaw platform and Education City. Her email address is: NLowTenQue@normanhurstschool.co.uk Senior pupils: Mrs Coates, the Assistant Head of Seniors, will assist with any Show My Homework enquires for the senior pupils and parents. This includes if you lose your log-in details or cannot access the site. Her email address is: GraceCoates@normanhurstschool.co.uk

Options Year 9

I would like to remind you that the videos from subject teachers are still available on the website and staff are available if parents and pupils would like to ask further questions about their option choices. Please could these forms be returned to the school office by 12 February 2021.

GCSEs for Year 11 and Year 10

The landscape of GCSEs is ever changing, and we have not yet received confirmation of the exact arrangements at this stage. There is currently a large consultation taking place. However, what we do know is that whatever assessments are made will happen as late as possible in the Summer term to allow pupils to demonstrate what they are capable of. Therefore, all Year 11 pupils will remain at school through June, unlike previous years where they commenced study leave in early May. This leads me to my key message, please continue to work hard in all subjects and ask for help if you do not understand any of the work covered. Your Normanhurst work ethic is not going unnoticed. Although most Year 10s are not sitting exams this year, it is important to remember all work counts. Please continue to work hard, focus and be determined.

Year 7 Parents Evening: Tuesday 2 February 2021

The Year 7 Parents Evening will go ahead virtually via Zoom appointments with your child's form tutor. Subject teachers are liaising with form tutors, so that tutors can give feedback to parents and pupils from all subjects. We appreciate that this is not the same as a face-to-face parents' evening with the individual teachers, but we hope it will provide an opportunity for you to have useful feedback about Year 7 so far. If you haven't already done so, please book your timeslot via the Parent Portal.

PSHE Parent Jigsaw Consultation

We will be hosting a parents' consultation session about the statutory Relationships Education curriculum. This will give us the opportunity to share the resources and explain how these aspects will be taught. These will take place via Zoom on:

Tuesday 2 February 5pm – Reception to Year 6 Parents

Monday 8 February 5pm – Year 7 to Year 11 Parents

If you haven't already received the link and would like to attend please contact the school office for details.

Mental Health Week Monday 1 February 2021

During this week pupils will have the option to participate in well-being activities in the afternoon. The timetable will run as normal, but pupils will have the option to try a series of challenges. Further details will be sent to you by Mrs Prior our Mental Health Lead.

These are incredibly challenging times, please remember we have Trained Mental Health Champions and Mental Health First Aiders available to support. We are also in the process of training a member of staff to be a Bereavement specialist. The group Mental Health booklet produced by Mrs Osborn also has some helpful tips and useful websites to seek further advice. Whatever your personal circumstances, we are here to help and support, this is the true spirit of the Normanhurst community.

Science Week 2021

We are in the process of planning Junior Science Week 2021. The theme for this year is, 'innovating for the future'. We are looking for a range of volunteers to talk to children and inspire them to think innovatively. If you have a career in Science, Technology, Engineering or Maths, and would like to volunteer please email Miss Collings at KCollings@normanhurst.co.uk.

Important Dates for the Spring Term

Tue 2 Feb	16:00 – 18:30	Y7 Virtual Parents' Consultation Meetings
	17:00 – 18:00	Rec-Y6 PSHE Parent Jigsaw Consultation
Mon 8 Feb	17:00 – 18:00	Y7-11 PSHE Parent Jigsaw Consultation
Mon 15 – Fri 19 Feb		Half Term
Fri 5 Mar	09:30 – 11:30	Virtual Open Day
Wed 10 Mar	09:30 – 12:00	13+ exams
Tue 16 Mar	16:00 – 18:30	KG-Y6 Parents' Evening
Wed 17 Mar	16:00 – 18:30	KG-Y6 Parents' Evening
Fri 26 Mar		End of Spring Term

As always, if you have any questions you would like to raise with the school, please contact your child's form teacher, a member of the Leadership Team or telephone the school office to arrange an appointment.

With kind regards

Yours sincerely



Jacqueline Job
Headmistress



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