



Normanhurst School

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HEADMISTRESS

Mrs Jacqueline Job B.SC., M.Ed., CMgr FCMI, NPQH

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2 December 2024

Dear Parents

Re: **December 2024 Headmistress's Letter**

This has been a busy term with the start of coffee mornings, Year 11 mock exams, Year 9 options evening, our first trip to Belgium, Oak-Tree Fireworks and community outreach visits to the Spinney Care Home. I cannot believe that the festive season is finally upon us, with activities and rehearsals for performances well on the way. There is plenty to celebrate and enjoy for all. Although this term has flown by so quickly there is still lots to look forward to.

Yearbooks

Work has already begun on the yearbooks for Year 6 and Year 11. We have many photos available at school, but we are aware that, as parents, you may also have some great school photos taken over the years. We have therefore set up a yearbook email address which allows parents to send in photos to be considered for the yearbooks. Please email yearbook@normanhurstschool.co.uk and put either Year 6 or Year 11 in the subject heading. The deadline for photos is Friday 17 January 2025.

Thursday Morning Career Talks

Year on year our pupils tell us how valuable they find the weekly career talks. We are incredibly grateful to our parents who volunteer and give up their time to inspire our pupils about the occupations available to them. Each year we add new parent talks and so we are keen to hear from parents from a variety of sectors and industries who would like to come into school during the Spring Term on Thursday mornings to offer a 20-25 minute talk to our pupils about their occupation and role, as well as the journey and motivation to work in these fields.

If you think you would be able to offer your expertise, please could you email Mr Botha, who is responsible for Careers Education, by Friday 6 December via email: Ebotha@normanhurstschool.co.uk.

Christmas Carol Service

We have been rehearsing Christmas songs for our Carol Service which is going to be a fantastic event, full of happiness and cheer. The service takes place at The Parish Church of St Peter and St Paul on Wednesday 11 December at 2.30pm. Parents are very welcome to join us to share in this festive celebration. EYFS and Junior pupils may be collected from the church at the end of the service. The senior pupils will walk back to school and be dismissed from there.

Last Day

The final day of term on Friday 13 December will be a non-uniform day when pupils will be able to wear something festive and bring in an item for the foodbank. Pupils can wear jeans, or something sensible for school, but we would like to see everyone wearing something festive.

Please note the dismissal times for the last day of term, after final celebrations and rewards assemblies:

- EYFS and Years 1, 2 and 3 at 11.30am
- Years 4, 5 and 6 at 11.40am
- Years 7, 8 and 9 at 11.50am
- Years 10 and 11 at 11.55am

Mock Exams

The Year 11 pupils have already begun to sit a full set of mock exams. This will enable pupils to see clearly how they are currently performing and how to build on these grades before the final exams in the summer. Pupils have been working extremely hard for their mocks and have also attended a programme of targeted school booster sessions, Half term sessions and made good use of lunch time quality improvement time.

We are looking forward to seeing this hard work reflected in their mock results.

Advance notice

I know that a number of families have enquired about key events that take place in the Spring and Summer term. I thought it would be helpful to share a few of these dates, but also please take a few minutes to look at the school online calendar.

- Year 10 will have their End of Year Exams – Tuesday 29 April- Tuesday 6 May 2025
- Year 7, 8, 9 Exams will take place from Monday 2 June – Friday 6 June 2025
- Year 10 Work Experience will take place from Monday 2 June – Friday 6 June 2025
- Moving Up Day & Year 7 Induction will take place on Wednesday 25 June 2025
- Sport Day Thursday will take place on 26 June 2025
- Summer BBQ will take place on Saturday 28 June 2025
- Speech Day Thursday will take place on 3 July 2025

Attendance and Punctuality

School attendance and punctuality is very important to ensuring that each child makes good or better progress. Please could I gently remind parents that appointments should be organised before or after the school day if possible. Valuable learning is lost when children are absent from school. This is also the case in the mornings, if pupils are late to school. Although this may on occasion be unavoidable, every effort should be made to attend school on time. The school gates open at 8.30am with breakfast club also available from 7.30am.

Snow and Wintry Weather

Our aim will always be to stay open in the wintry weather, even if the snow comes. In the unlikely case that we are unable to open, we will move to our online home learning programmes. On snow days, the maintenance teams will arrive on site early to clear paths and to ensure that pupils, staff and parents can make their way safely into the buildings.

We will always aim to update our website and email/text all parents and staff by 7am so that you will know our plans for the day ahead.

School Uniform and Rule Reminders

We take great care to maintain high standards of uniform and presentation at school, and as the wintry weather is set to continue, I would like to remind you of the school's uniform expectations so that these can be resolved before the start of term in January:

- Pupils may wear a pair of plain gold or silver round stud earrings to school from Year 5 upwards only.
- Long hair should be tied back securely all day. Year 11 may wear their hair down, but it must be tied up for PE, Science, Drama and Art.
- Hair styles should be neat and tidy, not heavily styled, no quiffs, or cut-in designs.
- All school bags and sports bags in the seniors are to be plain navy or black. There are currently a few seniors with patterned bags with large logos on: this is not permitted.
- Pupils may not wear black trainers to school instead of their black polishable shoes
- Plain navy leggings must be worn with the PE skirt, not black.

All pupils should be wearing winter uniform. Juniors from Reception class upwards are expected to wear the regulation school coat purchased from the uniform shop.

- Seniors must wear either the school coat or a plain navy or black coat. Coats should not have design features and should be appropriate for school. All seniors hang up their coats in school and I suggest coats should be practical and not expensive. They should also be named.
- Cold weather accessories: in the juniors, the school woollen hat and scarf available from the uniform suppliers should be worn. In the seniors, a plain black or navy scarf or gloves are to be worn. No pupils should wear coloured or patterned hats, gloves or scarves. Please be aware that seniors will have non-uniform items confiscated and these will need to be collected from the school office.
- Boots are not a part of school uniform in any part of the school, including the Early Years classes, so please make sure that pupils have sturdy black school shoes throughout the winter. If it snows, pupils may wear boots to and from school, but will need to wear shoes on site and in the buildings.

We are very aware that when returning to school in the Spring Term, the weather may be colder. Pupils may wear a white thermal top underneath their school shirt if they feel the cold.

Staff Update

This term we say goodbye to Miss Ridge, Teacher of Science. Miss Ridge has contributed immensely to the Science department, as well as supporting D of E and running the crotchet club. We will miss her warmth, dedication and compassion for the pupils. We would like to thank her for her service to Normanhurst, as she leaves us to relocate back to Wales, to be near her family. Miss Awan joins the Science department in January and will also be the joint form tutor for 10JR, along with Mrs Jayaram. Miss Awan is an experienced Science teacher, teaching Science from Year 7- 13. She is very much looking forward to getting to know the pupils and meeting the parents as the term progresses.

I am also pleased to announce that Miss Sulzmann is expecting her first child, in March 2025. I hope to share with you very soon, who will be covering her maternity cover. In the meantime, we all wish Miss Sulzmann and her partner the best of luck.

NSPA

The NSPA have been fabulous once again in sponsoring so many excellent pupil experiences and valuable equipment for our pupils. This year the NSPA have:

- Provided bean bag chairs for the library
- Subsidised Yearbooks & Hoodies for Years 6 and 11, the Leavers' Prom and Year 6 Graduation Celebration
- Provided an annual Christmas gift for the pupils

We are incredibly grateful to the NSPA for their ongoing support.

Important Dates

Tues 3 Dec	16:00 – 18:30	Y9 Parents' Evening
Wed 4 Dec	07:00 – 15:45	Y8 Williams Racing Museum Oxfordshire
	09:30 – 10:30	KG-Rec Nativity to parents
	14:30 – 15:30	Y1-2 Nativity to parents
Thu 5 Dec		EYFS/Y5-9 Christmas Lunch
Fri 6 Dec		Y1-4/Y10-11 Christmas Lunch
Wed 11 Dec	14:30 – 15:30	Carol Service St Peter & St Paul Church
Fri 13 Dec	11:30 – 12:00	Last Day of Term
Tue 7 Jan		First Day of Spring Term

Tue 14 Jan	16:00 – 18:30	Y10 Parents' Evening
Thu 16 Jan	08:30 – 09:00	EYFS/Junior Drop-In morning
	09:00 – 15:45	Y10&11 GCSE Geography Fieldtrip (FSC) Olympic Park
Fri 17 Jan	08:45 – 09:45	Y7 - Y11 Coffee Morning
Tue 21 Jan	16:00 – 18:30	Y11 Parents' Evening
Tue 28 Jan	16:00 – 18:30	Y8 Parents' Evening
Fri 31 Jan	11:30 – 18:30	Y10&11 GCSE Drama trip Stranger Things, Phoenix Theatre
Tue 4 Feb	16:00 – 18:30	Y7 Parents' Evening

The Leadership Team, your child's form tutor or I are very happy to discuss any questions or concerns that may arise. Please do feel free to email or contact the school office if you would like to meet with us and discuss any issues.

With my very best wishes

Yours sincerely



Jacqueline Job
Headmistress



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