



Normanhurst School

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HEADMISTRESS

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

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6 January 2025

Dear Parents

Re: **January 2025 Headmistress's Letter**

Happy New Year to all our families; may I wish you all a happy, healthy, safe and prosperous 2025. I hope you had a peaceful break, and found time to enjoy being with your families. I would like to thank you for the lovely Christmas greetings received at the end of term.

Looking forward, we have organised a purposeful and positive term with Parents' Evenings, Year 11 Mocks, 11+ Assessments, STEAM Fortnight and Open Day in March.

Parents' Evenings

Parents' Evenings will take place in the hall with your child's subject teachers. I look forward to welcoming you into school for these meetings, when you will be able to discuss your son or daughter's progress and achievements so far this year. We use an online booking system for the appointment slots and parents will receive a notification email from the school office when these are available to book.

The dates before half-term are as follows:

- Year 10: Tuesday 14 January 2025
- Year 11: Tuesday 21 January 2025
- Year 8: Tuesday 28 January 2025
- Year 7: Tuesday 4 February 2025

Please ensure you arrive in time for your first appointment as there is no scope to change appointment times during the evening. In the seniors it is very important that your child attends with you and are part of the feedback. The teachers will discuss your child's learning and progress. Teachers will want to celebrate what is going well, and also to identify areas for your child to focus on as they move forward in their learning this year.

School Attendance

This is just a gentle reminder that it is really important that pupils come to school. Of course, sometimes children may be ill or have the occasional appointment, but this does not include unauthorised holidays during term time. All parents should be aware there has been a significant change in authorising absence from school. Like all schools across England and Wales, we have to monitor and track pupils' attendance. The most recent guidance from the DfE stresses the importance of pupil's attendance and that if pupils have 15 days absence in any school year, the school has to report this to the local authority, in our case, the London Borough of Waltham Forest. It is important to understand that all schools are required to do this and applications for additional holiday in term will be unauthorised.

11+ Entrance Exams

This year the 11+ entrance exams are scheduled to take place on Tuesday 14 January in the United Reformed Church Hall. We have a large number of applicants for the 11+ exam and I am looking forward to meeting and interviewing all of the prospective pupils this term. Current Year 6 pupils should come to school as normal on the day and they will be taken over to the church for the exam.

Year 9 Options Choices

At this time of the year, Year 9 students are beginning to consider their option subjects. At Normanhurst we start off the process with a parent meeting alongside an options fair. We believe this gives the school a chance to explain how the options are organised at Normanhurst and it also provides a valuable opportunity for pupils and parents a look at the courses, ask questions and discuss the subject assessment format. This evening is followed by a Year 9 Parents Evening and in school option mentor meetings. We believe this allows pupils enough thinking time to decide on their future subjects. This all happens prior to Mr Clair and I formulating the option blocks, around the pupils' choices. To support our careers education provision in school, Year 9 are invited to career talks starting from next term. Pupils hear from parents and industry professionals and delve into a variety of occupations. Option discussion continues through the term to ensure pupils are happy with their choices, before confirming them.

Option sheets should be returned to the school office by Friday 17 January 2025. If you have questions regarding the process, please do not hesitate to contact a member of the senior leadership team. Similarly, subject staff are available to answer any questions regarding the subjects and course content.

Career Talks

Thank you to the parents who have volunteered their time to come into school and talk to the senior pupils about their occupations. We have a few more spaces available for February and March. If you think you may be able to help, please contact Mr Botha via email ebotha@normanhurstschool.co.uk

NSPCC Junior Workshops

As part of our commitment towards safeguarding our pupils, we will be running a series of workshops supported by the NSPCC for Years 1-6. The 'Talk PANTS' resource, which includes an assembly, is about keeping children safe from abuse. Like the Green Cross Code, it takes a potentially tricky subject and discusses it in an engaging and age appropriate way.

The parent guide to the workshop is available via the link: [https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/support-for-parents/pants-underwear-rule/?gclid=EA1aIQobChMlrPLr-7CLigMVkpjQBh0NwghCEAAAYASAAEgIMDPD_BwE&gclid=EA1aIQobChMlrPLr-7CLigMVkpjQBh0NwghCEAAAYASAAEgIMDPD_BwE](https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/support-for-parents/pants-underwear-rule/?gclid=EA1aIQobChMlrPLr-7CLigMVkpjQBh0NwghCEAAAYASAAEgIMDPD_BwE&gclid=EA1aIQobChMlrPLr-7CLigMVkpjQBh0NwghCEAAAYASAAEgIMDPD_BwE&gclid=EA1aIQobChMlrPLr-7CLigMVkpjQBh0NwghCEAAAYASAAEgIMDPD_BwE) If you have any questions regarding the assembly, please contact Miss Stone.

Speech Day and Prize Giving

An advance date for your diaries: The Annual Speech Day and Prize Giving will take place on Thursday 3 July at the Parish Church of St Peter and St Paul. Speech Day and Prize Giving is for pupils across the entire school. Please do add this special date to your diaries, as all pupils must attend and all parents are welcome to join us.

Advance Notice for Special Events

I have had a number of requests for dates in advance for annual school events. Please make a note of these dates below, further details will be shared closer to the time.

- Annual School Production: Into the Woods Thursday 20 and Friday 21 March 2025
- Sports Day: Thursday 26 June 2025
- Whole School Summer Barbeque: Saturday 28 June 2025
- Speech Day and Prize Giving: Thursday 3 July 2025
- Year 11 Prom: Monday 7 July 2025
- Year 6 Graduation: Tuesday 8 July 2025

Class Assemblies

This term we hope to be able to invite junior parents into school to watch our class assemblies. Parents will be able to come into the school hall from 8.30am. Assemblies will start at 8.40am and will be finished by 9.00am. I do hope you are able to attend and celebrate the hard work of the pupils and their class. The times are as follows:

- Year 1 Friday 24 January 2025
- Year 2 Wednesday 29 January 2025
- Year 3 Friday 31 January 2025
- Year 4 Wednesday 12 February 2025
- Year 5 Wednesday 26 February 2025
- Year 6 Friday 28 February 2025

Important Dates for the half-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&11GCSE Drama trip Stranger Things, Phoenix Theatre
Tue 4 Feb	16:00 – 18:30	Y7 Parents' Evening
Wed 5 Feb	12:30 – 21:30	Y5 and 6 Young Voices at the O2
Thu 6 Feb	09:00 – 15:40	Y11 GCSE FSC Geography Fieldtrip High Beach
Thu 13 Feb	09:10 – 15:30	Y10&11 GCSE Art/Graphics trip V&A Museum
Fri 14 Feb – Tue 4 Mar		Y11 Mock Exams

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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