



Normanthurst School

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HEADMISTRESS

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5 February 2025

Dear Parents

Re: February 2025 Headmistress's Letter

This term has been full of rich and diverse learning experiences and it has been a pleasure to observe pupils really engaging in lessons, asking questions and responding with enthusiasm. I wanted to begin by congratulating the Normanthurst pupils for their approach to learning and conduct, but in particular the pupils who have represented the school in the North London Table Tennis Competition and subsequently, the ISA National Table Tennis Competition, in Nottingham. This year we have had superb results and our players fought hard, showing immense talent, determination, and passion to bring home the ISA National Table Tennis Gold and Silver Medals in the singles! Congratulations to Sinan in Year 7 for coming 1st, Ewan in Year 8 for coming 2nd and Zakariya and Aiden in Year 8 for being placed 5th and 6th.

All of the students went on to compete in the Double's Table Tennis competition. We are pleased to announce that our students Sinan and Ewan secured the bronze medal in the Cup competition. Congratulations again to all staff and students involved.

11+ Exams

Once again it has been a pleasure to meet so many excellent 11+ candidates this year who have applied to join Normanthurst in September. Following their examinations, I am meeting each of them individually for an interview and having the opportunity to talk to them about our school. The offers for places will be sent out on Wednesday 12 February and this includes the scholarship offers. Some of our internal Year 6 pupils have also applied for scholarships and I shall be interviewing them over the coming days.

Coffee Mornings

Thank you to all the parents who have been able to attend the coffee mornings or have emailed feedback, which is invaluable. I know we have all found this a worthwhile experience and we have enjoyed meeting parents during this cycle of coffee mornings. Please remember that our doors are always open and we welcome feedback.

NSPA Junior Disco

This year we see the return of our Junior Disco for Kindergarten to Year 6 on Friday 7 February from 5-6.30pm. This continues to be a popular event and we hope that the pupils will enjoy it. A poster with all the details from the NSPA has already been sent and tickets are available from the school office and from the NSPA in the mornings at drop off time.

Parents' Evenings

I know we share the pleasure in discussing your child's progress at Parents' Evening. These will continue into February, where meaningful feedback makes these meetings purposeful and very much valued. As they continue, it is helpful to ask families to arrive on time for your first appointment, as there is no scope to change appointment times on the evening. In the seniors it is very important that your children attend with you and are part of the feedback in the meetings. Teachers will discuss your child's learning and progress. They will want to celebrate what is going well, and will want to identify areas for your children to focus on as they move forward in their learning this year.

Drop-in Morning for Parents in Early Years and Juniors

We would like to invite parents from the Early Years to Year 6 into school on Tuesday 25 March to attend a 'drop-in' morning. Parents are guided by their children into the classroom from 8.30am, where they will show you the work they have been doing. A bell will ring 5 minutes before the end of the event, to allow pupils to prepare for the formal start of the day.

STEAM Week 2025

This year's STEAM week takes place from Monday 17 to Friday 21 March. We will be building on the successful week we held last year, as we celebrate science, technology, engineering, art and maths. We are looking for a range of volunteers to talk to pupils and inspire them to think innovatively about these subjects. If you have a career in any of those areas, and would like to volunteer, please email Mr Clair pclair@normanhurstschool.co.uk or Miss Stone vstone@normanhurstschool.co.uk.

Safer Internet Day on Tuesday 11 February

Normanhurst pupils will be celebrating Safer Internet Day on Tuesday 11 February. In class, pupils will be discussing the main principles of staying safe online and the challenges they face growing up with social media as part of their lives.

I would also like to draw your attention to the CEOP website, the link is [Get advice \(thinkuknow.co.uk\)](https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk). This website has lots of helpful advice and a video for parents on a number of topics, but predominately about staying safe online.

Year 11 GCSE Mocks and Summer Examinations

Year 11 pupils will complete their second set of Mock examinations from Monday 10 February to Friday 14 March. The timetable has already been shared with pupils and parents. I am pleased to see pupils responding well by attending and engaging in the new booster timetable. These exams will take place in lesson time in the United Reformed Church and other rooms in school. In between exams, pupils will have lessons and be supported to revise.

It is extremely important that if your child is in school, they attend the relevant school boosters for their subjects. These happen on a weekly basis. If your child has additional tuition, this should not be arranged when your children is expected to attend the school boosters.

During the Easter holidays we will also be hosting our Easter Academy from Monday 7 April to Thursday 17 April as the pupils move closer towards their examinations. Pupils do not have to be in uniform during these days. They must sign in and out as they enter and leave the building. I hope Year 11 make good use of these opportunities to enhance their revision. Details of this timetable will be sent to parents shortly.

Important Dates

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 – 15:45	Y11 GCSE Geography FSC Fieldtrip High Beach
	08:40 – 09:00	Y4 Class Assembly to Parents
Fri 7 Feb	17:00 – 18:30	LK-Y6 Disco
Mon 10 Feb – Tue 14 Mar		Y11 Mock GCSE Examinations
Wed 12 Feb	09:15 – 13:45	Y7 Bank of England Maths Trip
Thu 13 Feb	09:10 – 15:30	Y10&11 GCSE Art/Graphics Trip V&A Museum
Mon 17 – Fri 21 Feb		Half Term
Tue 25 Feb	11:10 – 15:30	Y8 Printmaking Workshop at William Morris Gallery
Wed 26 Feb	08:40 – 09:00	Y5 Class Assembly to Parents
Fri 28 Feb	08:40 – 09:00	Y6 Class Assembly to Parents
	09:30 – 15:30	Y9 Imperial War Museum

Wed 5 Mar	09:15 – 11:15	Open Morning
Wed 12 Mar		13+ Exams
Mon 17 Mar	16:00 – 18:30	Rec-Y6 Parents Evening
Tue 18 Mar	16:00 – 18:30	Rec-Y6 Parents Evening
Thu 20 Mar	19:00 – 20:30	School Production Show at Redbridge Drama Centre
Fri 21 Mar	19:00 – 20:30	School Production Show at Redbridge Drama Centre
Tue 25 Mar	08:30 – 09:00	KG-Y6 Drop In Morning
Fri 28 Mar		Last Day of Term

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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