



NEWSLETTER

November 2019

Item	Page
Headmistress's Message	1
Kindergarten Phonics.....	1
Trip to Trampoline Park	2
Investigating the Gunpowder Plot.....	2
Colchester Zoo Trip.....	3
Reading Buddies	4
European Day of Languages Assembly	4
Year 6 Evacuee Visit.....	4
Year 1 Polar Craft.....	5
Floating Classroom Trip	5
Ex-Pupil Makes Return Visit.....	5
Junior Reading Challenge	6
Museum of London Trip	6
Visits to The Spinney.....	7
Junior Science	8
Imperial War Museum Trip	9
Study Skills at Belgique	9
News from the Art & Design Department .	9
ISA Regional Art Competition	11
ISA National Art Competition 2019	11
A very Expensive Poison	12
Black History Month Visitors	12
News from the Science Lab	13
New Scientist Live Exhibition	14
House Music Competition	14
Charity Committee News.....	15
GCSE Presentation Evening 2019.....	16
The Buzz.....	16
Oak-Tree Fireworks	16
Half Term Trip to Madrid	17
Natural History Museum Trips	18
Social Networking.....	18
Normanhurst Sports Report	19
NSPA	22

Headmistress's Message

This is a bumper edition of the newsletter because we have been extremely busy in school. Not only has there been a huge number of educational trips, but we have also celebrated Black History Month and Languages Day and welcomed a number of visiting speakers into school to inspire and challenge the pupils.

There is a detailed Sports Report showing just how many sporting opportunities our pupils have to represent the school. The annual PGL netball weekend was a resounding success again.

As we begin to plan the biennial ski trip, the report on the half term trip to Madrid in this issue shows what an enriching experience it was for the sixty pupils who took part. We are proud that they were such great ambassadors for the school.

The news from the Science and Art departments indicate that there has been much hard work and progress in the classroom as well. And in headline news, the Art department which had a number of successes in the Regional ISA Art competition also won a first and second place in the National ISA Art competition that was judged just last Friday.

I hope you enjoy the read, which includes an update from the NSPA.

With my best wishes

Mrs Claire Osborn
Headmistress

Kindergarten Phonics

In Lower Kindergarten the children have been focussing on learning their letters and sounds. We do this in a fun and interactive way which is yielding positive results. The children are already demonstrating that they are very quickly recognising their letters and linking them to the relevant sounds.

Here is Ezriella playing a letters and sounds matching game alongside her peers.





NEWSLETTER

Trip to Trampoline Park

On Wednesday 6 November, the Early Years children had a very active trip to Jump In trampoline park in Enfield, to support their learning topic, 'Up, up and away'. They thoroughly enjoyed the different activities they could do at the trampoline park such as dodgeball, balancing and climbing as well as jumping of course!

The trip was also a great opportunity for the children to hone their gross motor skills.

We are so proud of how well the children behaved; they were excellent ambassadors for the school. Well done, everyone!

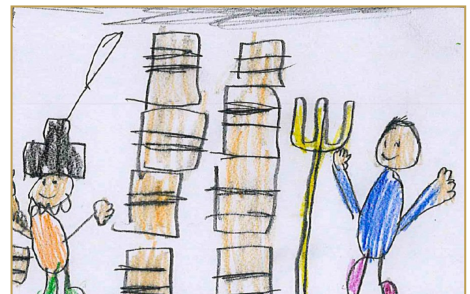


Investigating the Gunpowder Plot

Before the half term break, Year 2 pupils were learning about Guy Fawkes and the Gunpowder Plot. Both classes became newspaper reporters for the day and were given the opportunity to visit a make-belief cellar under the Houses of Parliament that stored the gunpowder. They had to investigate the scene to see if they could work out who the culprit was. The children found many pieces of evidence that linked the plot to Guy Fawkes, including a birth certificate, his hat and a lit match. The children then used their investigation to write a newspaper article all about the Gunpowder Plot.

On the fifth of November 1605, five friends were planning to kill the king because they were Catholics and King James I was a Protestant. Protestants and Catholics didn't get along. One of the friends Guy Fawkes wrote a letter to was Lord Monteagle but Lord Monteagle told the guards and the search was on. He was found with a match in his hand and 36 barrels of gunpowder. **Ethan, 2G**

Guy Fawkes was going to go to the Houses of Parliament on the fifth of November because the king was there and Guy Fawkes wanted to blow it up because King James the First was a Protestant and it was a special day for them. Guy Fawkes sent a warning letter to Lord Monteagle and it said not to go to the Houses of Parliament on the fifth of November. The letter said burn it after you read it but Lord Monteagle gave it to the guards and they found Guy Fawkes holding a match in his hand with the gunpowder. **Ronnie, 2G**





NEWSLETTER

Colchester Zoo Trip

On 9 October Year 1 enjoyed autumnal sunshine and all the animals out in their natural setting at Colchester Zoo. Caitlin demonstrated for us all the special features a penguin possesses by putting on flippers, webbed feet, goggles, a set of warm feathers and a waterproof layer. This showed us how penguins have adapted to their environment. All she needed was some fish! We did not know that penguins have an extra eye lid to help them to see and to protect their eyes under water. We were extremely impressed with these flightless birds who can swim underwater for twenty minutes whilst catching fish, flipping them round with their tongues and eating them, all under water. We got the chance to view them up close swimming, resting and having their lunch, and we also saw seals swimming all around us in the huge panoramic aquarium.



Next, a stop in the Kingdom of the Wild. A busy morning made everyone hungry but we left time to get on board the Lost Madagascan Express train. We spotted grey wolves and competed with them to see who made the best howls. We discovered that it is the shrimps flamingos eat that turn them pink, and the train also provided a premium vantage point to observe leaping lemurs. One lemur expertly peeled and ate a leek and one took a liking to Irina, leaping onto her coat.



We got a close up encounter of the fierce komodo dragon slithering and looking for its next meal and we saw the vulture devouring its lunch. Mrs Taylor made sure she got to see her favourites – the tigers. We got a perfect view of three tiger cubs play fighting and enjoying a splash in their pool. They were splendid and drew gasps of admiration from all. This rounded off a perfect day, which is sure to be an absolute highlight for Year 1.

This is what some of the pupils said about the day out:

Enis: "My favourite part of Colchester Zoo was the tigers. The mummy was sleeping and the babies [cubs] were play fighting."

James: "My favourite part was seeing the penguins because they swim on their tummies!"

Caitlin: "The best part was the penguins because they waddle funny."

Irina: "My favourite part about the day was when a lemur jumped on my shoulder. His tail was black and white and he was big."

Kelly: "I liked the butterflies because they were beautiful. My favourite was purple, orange, yellow and red; he was a small baby one."





NEWSLETTER

Reading Buddies

This year we have launched the new reading buddies scheme in Key Stages 1 and 4. The scheme takes place on several mornings throughout the week, and pairs our avid Years 1 and 2 readers with their Year 10 'buddies' to read for a full half an hour before the day starts. We always aim to embed a love of reading in all of our children at an early age, and to develop confidence in reading for themselves. On top of this, we feel it is always a good idea to give our senior pupils roles of responsibility (and to get some reading in themselves!). The scheme will run all through the year.



European Day of Languages Assembly

"On 25 and 26 September, all Year 10 Languages pupils made a presentation about the European Day of Languages. There was a brilliantly illustrated video clip with an impressive soundtrack. There were very interesting questions and an enthusiastic crowd of Junior pupils on Wednesday, and Senior pupils on Thursday. Many people learnt new things and how to differentiate certain languages."

Hamza, 10D

"I had so much fun on 26 September being one of the Year 10 languages pupils that presented the 2019 European Day of Languages Assembly. The crowd was very enthusiastic and very knowledgeable. I think they learnt something new from our assembly. For example, did you know that there are between 6000 and 7000 languages in the world? The audience seemed to enjoy it and so did we!"

Paarth, 10D



Year 6 Evacuee Visit

Mr Brencher, who was three and a half years old during the World War II evacuation, visited us in order to share his story with our Year 6 pupils. He stayed with his foster family for six years, which was longer than he had spent with his parents! He was taken to Southampton by train and went to Oxford from there after his home was bombed. The pupils, who have been learning about the evacuation as part of their World War II topic, asked our visitor a lot of questions and made notes while he spoke to use later in their work.

Mr Brencher's story made us think a lot, and we used the information we recorded during his visit to create our own diary entries, which are on display in the Year 6 classroom.

Mr Brencher also brought some evacuee outfits for the Year 6 children to try on. His story made us think about how children were affected by the war, but he also told some funny anecdotes which showed that they were still able to laugh sometimes.





NEWSLETTER

Year 1 Polar Craft

To conclude our topic 'Penguins and Polar Bears' Year 1 had lots of fun making collages or polar scenes with 3D penguin and polar bears models.

On the penguin collages, we used different shades of blue and silver paper to make a South Pole background and then made penguins, which we placed on top. For the polar bears we used long pieces of cotton which we stretched and then glued. It was a perfect way to finish our topic.



Floating Classroom Trip

Year 2 enjoyed a wonderful experience aboard a floating classroom on London's waterways. This was a fun, imaginative and engaging learning experience that allowed Year 2 to explore the local area in a unique way while also learning about everyday materials on board!

The children learnt all about the uses of different materials and where those materials can be found, and even had the chance to make their own treasure chest out of different materials! The bright sunshine also helped to make this a wonderful day out, and it was an adventure that the children will remember for a long time! Francesco and Ethan said "Our favourite parts were going through the dark tunnel and creating our own treasure chests with foil!"

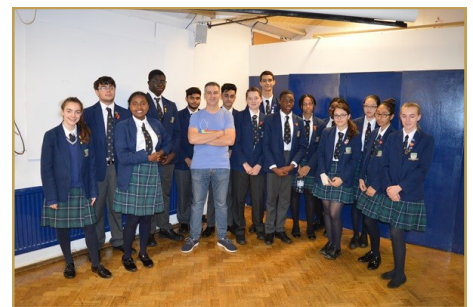


Ex-Pupil Makes Return Visit

On Thursday 8 November, we were delighted to welcome Daryll Jacobson, an ex-pupil who left us in 1989, to come in and talk to the children about his exciting job with Lucas Films in San Francisco. Daryll does some fascinating work with Lucas Films as part of the computing department - he is responsible for ensuring that all of the systems are working and in place in order to develop movies such as Star Wars and the Marvel franchise films.

After his wonderful talk with the seniors, Daryll went on a tour of the school, meeting classes individually and explaining just how much the school has changed since he was a pupil with us. Did you know that our ICT suites used to house the boys who boarded? The desktops were replaced with bunkbeds when he was here!

Daryll was also able to answer some of our pupils' pressing questions, from the technical ('What is the process of making a film?') to the more personal ('Which actors have you met and what are they like?'). We are hugely grateful to him for spending the morning with us - may the force be with him!





NEWSLETTER

Junior Reading Challenge

The Junior Reading Challenge, which was launched in September, got off to a flying start! So much so, in fact, that within days of launching we were able to give out the first benchmark certificates. Well done to Imogen and Matias from Year 5 who became the first pupils to receive both their bronze and silver certificates for passing the ten and twenty book benchmarks in their fifty books challenge.

Imogen and Matias must be helping to inspire their classmates, as Year 5 leads the way with the most pupils having achieved a benchmark certificate.

We are looking forward to seeing how many more certificates will be handed out throughout the year to celebrate the joy of reading. The book list, put together by the class teachers, is an exciting collection of books aiming to develop our pupils' vocabulary and critical thinking skills.



Museum of London Trip

How we got to the Museum of London On Thursday 10 October Year 5 and 6 left school at 10am to travel to the Museum of London. We walked to Chingford Station and then we took the overground train from Chingford to Liverpool Street. After that we took the underground train from Liverpool Street to St Paul's. And from there we walked on and eventually arrived at the Museum of London. After that we walked to the lunch room where we could all sit and have our lunch with our friends.

What we did at the museum After we ate our lunch we got into groups of 4 or 5. We had to find ancient artefacts like a treasure hunt. While we were looking for the artefacts we found out a lot of information on medieval times.

The workshop After we finished looking for the ancient artefacts we had a workshop on Vikings and Saxons. In our workshop we learnt mostly about Viking beliefs in gods and goddesses. We even got to hold Viking tools that they used in daily life. We also got to take part in a small play about the story of their gods and we all got to act one way or another. We all enjoyed being part of the play.

How we got back to Normanhurst School After the workshop we went to collect our bags from the lunch room. Then we walked to St Paul's underground station and took the underground train for two stops to go to Liverpool Street. After that we had to take the overground train from Liverpool Street to Chingford Station. When we arrived back to Chingford we had to walk back to Normanhurst School.

Highlights of the trip The classes enjoyed the workshop and finding out new information to boost our knowledge on the Medieval times. We all also enjoyed the black death video clip. The black death is an actual disease but the people in the Medieval times thought the black death was a demon that ate young children. We enjoyed seeing special artefacts and finding out lots of new information that we can use in the future.

By Evie and Kayce, Year 5





NEWSLETTER

Visits to The Spinney

Regular readers of the Newsletter will know that the School has for some time now cultivated links with local residential care home The Spinney. Our pupils often visit the residents to take part in special events or share musical performances, books or conversation.

On the morning of Monday 30 September a lucky group of children from Years 3 and 4 were invited to help the residents make scones! We put our best baking skills forward and made a delicious batch that were truly enjoyed by all. It was a fantastic opportunity for the children to show off their skills but also for us to get to know and learn more about the residents too. Extending our recent Harvest Festival celebrations, we ended the session by singing our own rendition of the Harvest Samba!

Here is what two of the pupils had to say about our visit.

"I liked going to The Spinney because I liked talking to Fredrick and him telling me his adventures from the war." **Aurora, Year 3**

"I enjoyed baking the scones and also talking to the residents about our weekends and their hobbies. I enjoyed singing the Harvest Samba to them too!" **Orson, Year 4**

Later on the same day, some of our Year 10 pupils had a lively afternoon out at The Spinney chatting with their elders, and discussing the all-important question: 'Jam or cream? What comes first on a scone?'

After much debate they all decided that jam was first, and so they began to assemble the (hopefully) biggest scone in all of East London! It was a wonderful afternoon, and certainly satisfied everybody's sweet tooth!

Then, on Friday 4 October, in honour of Poetry Week, a group of children from Years 1-6 visited The Spinney to share and perform some of their favourite poems. The children each did a wonderful job of reading their poems and took the opportunity to have a chat to the residents about poems and rhymes that held a fond memory to them. There were some familiar favourites that span across all of the generations!

At the end of the session we were treated to an amazing recital from 96 year old resident, Stan. He shared one of his favourite poems which he performed and recalled from memory. The children were very impressed and he even gave us some tips to improve our own performing skills!





NEWSLETTER

Junior Science

Before the half term Year 5's Science lessons focussed on Forces. In a lesson to investigate the different effects of Forces and how they can be measured, Year 5 learnt that to measure force we needed a 'Newton Meter'. Year 5 then used the Newton meters to measure the forces in the classroom. Here is what they have to say on the lesson:

Jasmine – "We learnt how to use Newton meters using things from the classroom. It was a fun lesson."

John – I enjoyed having a practical lesson and I learnt about Isaac Newton!

In a more recent Science lesson, Year 5 were testing the tensile strength of plastic bags from different supermarkets to find out the best bag to use. They all made a prediction for which bag would be the strongest and which bag would be the weakest. Each pair were testing the strength of a different type of bag and then they shared the results with the rest of the class at the end of the experiment.

Year 5 learnt lots of new vocabulary in this lesson including tensile strength, independent variable, dependent variable and fair test. The lesson was very noisy with all the weights crashing down on the tables as, sooner or later, the bags gave way!

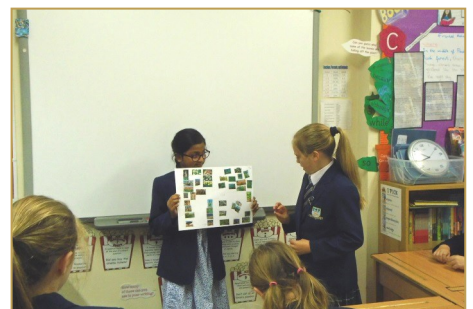
Eloise – "I learnt that the Marks and Spencer bag was the strongest bag and the least strongest bag was the local convenience store bag. We used 10g and 100g weights to test the strength."

Bobby – "I enjoyed experimenting with my class because I found it fun to find out that the local store bag had the least tensile strength and interesting that Marks and Spencer had the most."

While Year 5 have been focussing on Forces, Year 6 have been learning how to classify plants into groups such as fern, moss, conifer, flowering plant and algae in their Science lessons. They used their critical thinking skills in order to classify plants in different ways, and then, working in small groups, used their classifications to help them design a garden centre.

The garden centre layouts took into consideration factors such as the amount of light and water each plant needs, so that different classes of plants were put in different parts of the centre. Pupils also considered elements like open/closed roof and transparent/opaque windows, and plants were grouped together based on their needs.

The lesson was an excellent example of how we can turn our scientific learning into practical uses. Then pupils got to practise their presentation skills by showing their work to the class and explaining the rationale behind their designs.





NEWSLETTER

Imperial War Museum Trip

Pupils in Year 9 visited the Imperial War Museum ahead of Remembrance Day. They explored the events of the First and Second World War through the eyes of the British people and the Empire, both on the home front and the fighting fronts.

On display were over 1,300 objects from IWM's collections including weapons, uniforms, diaries, keepsakes, film and art. Within the interactive galleries, each object on display gave a voice to the people who created, used or cared for it, and revealed stories not only of destruction, suffering and loss, but also of endurance and innovation, duty and devotion, comradeship and love.

Our pupils worked hard to complete the worksheets provided for their tour and were afterwards guided through an exhibition on the Holocaust to support their learning in both History and Religious Studies.



Study Skills at Belgique

To celebrate a half term of hard work, and to plan for future success, Mrs Botha's Year 11 English group held a study skills session in Belgique. Over hot chocolate and biscuits, they discussed how to make best use of the two weeks half term break to study productively.

A number of strategies were put forward, from making revision schedules to spending time each day going through exam questions. The pupils now feel more equipped to prepare for the forthcoming mock exams.



News from the Art & Design Department

Year 8 Surface, Shape and Pattern Visual Research To start their study of abstract art Year 8 have explored their local environment. Their mission was to OBSERVE, COLLECT, ANALYSE, COMPARE. We looked for the details in the objects around to find patterns, shapes and colours. The pupils will be using their visual research to create abstract paintings, developing their skills in composition, acrylic painting techniques and colour interaction and their knowledge of abstract visual language.

Year 8 Colour Interaction - Channelling the Bauhaus! Year 8 are continuing to develop their understanding of colour theory to help with their paintings by using the lessons of the Bauhaus teacher and artist Josef Albers. Albers believed that we can only really understand colours when we see them next to each other and used collage to help his students when studying painting. Through experimenting with a range of collaged colour compositions, Year 8 were challenged to notice the subtle changes and effects colours have on each other. They will apply this knowledge when creating their abstract paintings inspired by the patterns and shapes in their local environment.



NEWSLETTER

News from the Art & Design Department continued

Year 9 Exhibition Bag Design Project For their textile construction design brief this term, Year 9 pupils have been developing their work to produce a bag that could be sold in the Barbican Gallery shop, inspired by the retrospective exhibition of Lee Krasner's artwork which was shown over the summer in the Barbican art gallery. Krasner, often only known as the wife of Jackson Pollock, was an instrumental artist in the American Abstract Expressionist movement. Pupils have been researching the Barbican Centre and its role within the community. Pupils have analysed and responded to the work of Lee Krasner to make their own expressionist collage drawings. They are using their experiments and research to inform their own designs. To support their knowledge of moving from 2D to 3D design the pupils have been experimenting with paper to help them cut an accurate pattern before they make their finished product.

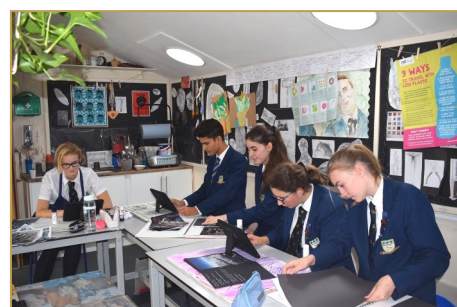


Year 10 Graphic Communications Artist Research Year 10 Graphics pupils have started to develop their research in response to their first GCSE design brief, 'Create Promotional Material for a New Album'. Pupils have explored the work of artists who have designed for bands in the past, including Andy Warhol's design for The Velvet Underground and Julian Opie's design for Blur. Pupils presented a written analysis as well as a visual response to the artists to help explore their work.



Year 10 also looked at Basquiat and tried to replicate his iconic style, using layers of paint and spray paint to create busy compositions of colour, image and text.

Year 11 Graphics - iPads! The Graphic Communications pupils have been developing their design ideas in response to their GCSE brief 'To Design and Make Packaging for a New Fragrance Inspired by Nature'. They have worked from a series of photographs they took, inspired by the theme of 'Urban vs Natural' environments, to create a series of lino and mono prints. The next stage in the development of their work was to use Photoshop on the school iPads. The pupils photographed and edited their work, they were able to very successfully include their chosen typography, change colour and apply a range of filters to transform their work into packaging imagery and poster campaign ideas. The pupils have all explored a wide range of working styles to produce high quality design work.



Art Club - Experimental Drawing techniques To kick start our Year 3 to Year 9 Art Club this year we have been experimenting with different techniques and methods to create a range of experimental drawing responses. The projects started, as always, with our still life. The group explored the importance of observation - looking REALLY closely at the lines, shapes and patterns of the objects that made up the still life to create pencil drawings showing tone, texture, shadow and highlights. We then played with colour when working in groups to create a hand-drawn collage response. This took us to portraits where we have looked at the proportions of the face and have started to make drawings, not with pencil or paper this time, but with coloured paper tape! The wide variety of individual work produced so far bodes well for yet another exciting term in Art Club!



NEWSLETTER

ISA Regional Art Competition

This year saw Normanhurst pupils gaining a range of first, second and highly commended places at the annual ISA regional Art competition. Our first place winners this year were Ella (Y11 2018/19) in the Textile category and Jasmine (Y8) in the Fashion and Accessories Category, with Lily (Y10) taking second place in this category. William (Y11) and Esta (Y8) were awarded highly commended in the 3D Sculpture category. The standard of the work, as always, was exceptionally high. I would like to say a huge thank you to all pupils who participated this year.

The national finals will take place in November, where the winners in the Digital and Animation categories will also be announced. Good luck to all involved!



Fashion and Accessories Category

1st Place: Jasmine

2nd Place: Lily



Textile Category

1st Place: Ella



3D Sculpture Category

Highly Commended:
Esta



3D Sculpture Category

Highly Commended:
William

ISA National Art Competition 2019

Following up from our success at the regional art competition last month we are delighted to have two pupils who have received awards at the national competition. Ella's printed textile piece (pictured above), which won first prize in the regional competition, was acknowledged with a second place prize. The work was inspired by Ella's research into the topic 'States of Change' where she focused her artworks on the impact of war on people.

Year 10 pupil Sam produced a stop motion animation 'When Nobody is Around' (pictured right) which was awarded the first place in the Animation category and was shown on the big screen to the delegates throughout the conference.

We would like to say a big congratulations and thank you to both winning pupils and to all the amazing Normanhurst artists for their continued focus and dedication to working to produce unique and exciting artwork throughout the year.





NEWSLETTER

A Very Expensive Poison

On 4 October, our Years 10 and 11 GCSE Drama pupils visited the Old Vic Theatre in Waterloo to see the highly acclaimed play, 'A Very Expensive Poison', based on the book written by The Guardian journalist Luke Harding, adapted for stage by Lucy Prebble and directed by John Crowley.

Lucy Prebble's fascinating new play is about the murder of Alexander Litvinenko, an ex-FSB agent, on British soil. Prebble bases her play on fact, tells a complex story with great clarity and adopts a variety of techniques, including direct address, puppetry and song, to create a uniquely theatrical spectacle.

The pupils thoroughly enjoyed the performance and were fascinated at how such a serious tragedy was portrayed in a surreal way; dark humour is interspersed with reminders that this story is real and a life was taken.

This was a highly successful theatre visit as pupils gained lots of new ideas for their own GCSE work and felt inspired by the convincing acting.



Black History Month Visitors

Last month, to celebrate this year's Black History Month, Normanhurst School invited two aspiring Olympic 2020 athletes to come in to school to talk to pupils about their journey through sport and their inspirations. During the whole school assembly, we were joined by Melita Emanuel-Carr, a Team England basketball player and silver medallist in the Commonwealth Games, and Will Saunders, a member of the GB international basketball squad that played in both the EuroBasket Qualification and World Cup Qualification programmes.

Both guests discussed their journey as basketball players, and spoke about the impact on our society, lives and culture of other pioneering black athletes. Melita talked about how she chose the university that she did in Chicago to follow in the footsteps of the first British black basketball player who studied and played in America.

To continue the celebrations, the junior children were lucky enough to complete some fitness workshops with the athletes and become 'inspired through sport'. The children enjoyed having this opportunity to work with both Melita and Will, and to celebrate Black History Month in an active practical way.





NEWSLETTER

News from the Science Lab

Year 7: Introduction to Science As an introduction into Senior Science, Year 7 pupils spent their first weeks of term learning about hazards and safety in the laboratory. They were given the opportunity of using chemicals in various practical activities to learn about how to handle chemicals with varying degrees of hazard.

Year 7: Solids, Liquids and Gases Year 7 has continued with practical investigations looking at the properties of solids, liquids and gasses. In one lesson, pupils were given a range of objects and had to try and change the shape of an object to make it either fit in a space or pour. They then had to decide if the object was a solid, liquid or gas.

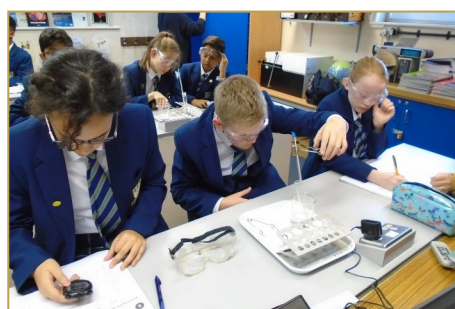
In another Year 7 lesson pupils were asked to observe the cooling of stearic acid. Having learnt that when a substance cools down and reaches a temperature below its melting point, it will change from a liquid to a solid, pupils were asked to consider what happens during this cooling process, and whether it is possible to find out the melting point of a substance by observing it as it cools. Year 7 thoroughly enjoy the hands-on approach to learning how a scientific enquiry is carried out.

Year 8: Learning about Polymers - Making Glue The Year 8 pupils learnt about different types of polymers while studying the Matter Unit last half term. To understand how the process of polymerisation works, they used skimmed, semi-skimmed or full fat milk, vinegar and calcium carbonate to make their glue. They then tested it by hanging increasing masses on two lollipop sticks that were glued together with their creations to see which glue worked best. Here is Leiya's account of the activity:

"In Science, my partner Esta and I made glue. We used full fat milk, added vinegar and heated it up using a bunsen burner. We then filtered the curds and added calcium carbonate to it until the acidic solution became neutral. We both enjoyed the activity although Esta was not very impressed by the appearance of the curds. I have enjoyed what we have been learning so far and I cannot wait to learn more!"

Year 10: Modelling Transpiration The Year 10 pupils made their own photometers to measure the rate of transpiration while studying about transport in plants. Here is Emily's account of what they did during the experiment:

"Transpiration is the rate of loss of water through stomata by the process of evaporation. A potometer measures the rate of transpiration by measuring the movement of water into a plant. In this activity, we set up a simple hand-made potometer. First, we inserted a pre-cut leafy shoot into a cardboard disc with a hole in the middle. We then sealed up the join with play dough so that no water molecules can evaporate and escape. We filled a plastic cup with water and marked the level it was at before attempting the experiment. Placing the leafy stem into the water, we quickly covered and sealed another plastic cup on it. We then placed it under a lamp for one hour. We realised how the water level decreased slightly-only by a couple of millimetres, so therefore left them by the window for a week to check the results. After a week, the results showed a total water loss of 5-10cm."





NEWSLETTER

News from the Science Lab continued

Year 10: Heart Dissection The Year 10s learnt about the anatomy of the heart by dissecting a lamb's heart to find the major vessels that enter and leave its four chambers. Here is Trinav's account of the class dissection:

"A few days back, our Science class dissected a lamb's heart. As a class we were very excited as, for some of us, it was the first time we would do so! We prepared for the dissection by studying about the functions of the heart and watched a video about how we were going to carry out the dissection. Some of us were quite scared to touch it, but when you get over that, the activity is rather fun. Since we were handling animal tissue, we wore gloves. The heart felt very slippery and was heavier than we expected. You could see some remaining blood and clots. Our first incision was parallel to the coronary artery that supplies the heart with nutrients and oxygen. We used a scalpel first and then scissors because the walls were very thick. We managed to see the chambers of the heart such as the right atrium and ventricle, which was quite fascinating. I learnt a lot about the heart and how to handle a dissection and I am sure it was a great practical for everyone."



New Scientist Live Exhibition

Year 10 pupils had the opportunity to visit the New Scientist Live 2019 exhibition at the ExCeL centre in London. The exhibition has been advertised as the world's greatest science festival, offering interactive talks from scientists currently working in the industry, as well as fun activities for pupils to participate in.

Our pupils attended a talk from the famous astronaut Tim Peake, and were able to partake in a Q&A session with him. Other talks included topics related to engineering, the human body, the Earth and Space.



House Music Competition 2019

Before half term, children from Reception to Year 11 took part in the annual House Music Competition, a highly anticipated event in the school calendar. Both Warren and Connaught Houses had put a great deal of time and effort into rehearsals, which paid off on the day with some wonderful performances.

The Houses battled it out over a series of categories in front of a panel of judges and an audience of family and friends. This year there was a new 'a cappella' category to start off the competition, followed by both a Junior and Senior ensemble performance, and finally the House Song.

The judging panel consisted of Mrs Coates, Miss Barnard, Miss Stone, Mr Clair and Guest Judge, Michael Goodlet. Michael is a multi-instrumentalist who has worked on tracks with artists such as Ed Sheeran, Fuse ODG, Wyclef Jean and Sean Paul.

After much deliberation from the judges, it was announced that Connaught House was the overall winner! Well done!





NEWSLETTER

Charity Committee News

The 2019/20 Charity Committee has already been very busy this term. Headed by Year 11 pupils Aaminah and Bryony, the Committee has selected the following charities for the school to support in the coming year:

YOUNG MINDS
fighting for young people's mental health

Afasic
voice for life


Samaritan's Purse
INTERNATIONAL RELIEF

Young Minds: This charity aims to ensure that all young people get the best possible mental health support and have the resilience to overcome life's challenges.

Afasic: Afasic offers advice and information on speech, language and communication needs, including Developmental Language Disorder (DLD). It provides help and support to families facing problems in the area of speech and language.

Samaritan's Purse: Since 1970, Samaritan's Purse has helped meet needs of people who are victims of war, poverty, natural disasters, disease, and famine. Samaritan's Purse runs the Operation Christmas Child initiative, sending donated gift-filled shoeboxes to children in need around the world every Christmas.

Charity events this term started on Friday 27 September with the Macmillan cake sale. This year, for the first time, parents were invited to the sale for coffee and cake, and as this proved very successful, so we will continue with this format in the future. A grand total of £512.44 was raised through your generous donations.

Then it was the turn of our annual Harvest Festival at the United Reformed Church in Buxton Road. Our younger children presented a celebration of 'Food, Glorious Food' to parents, teachers and their peers. Your generous gifts were taken to the St Thomas of Canterbury Soup Run along with your donations of £125.80.

Before the half term break, we held a #HelloYellow day, on which pupils and staff were invited to wear something yellow in support of children's mental health. This was part of a nationwide event organised by our nominated charity Young Minds, and we managed to raise £138.10 for this worthy cause.

Then, in our first whole school assembly of this half term, we were joined by a representative of last year's nominated charity, Honeypot, who came to talk to the school about their work supporting young carers. Through our fundraising last year, we were able to hand over a cheque for £1300.

As this newsletter goes to print, shoeboxes for the Operation Christmas Child appeal are selling fast, and filled boxes are already coming in.

The Charity Committee has plans to hold a Christmas raffle before the end of term. There will be prizes galore and tickets will be £1 for a strip.

Many thanks to you all for your support and generosity.

Mrs Prior
Charities Coordinator





NEWSLETTER

GCSE Presentation Evening 2019

Normanhurst School was delighted to welcome back the class of 2019 to receive their GCSE certificates just before the half term. The evening was an opportunity to celebrate the great achievements made by pupils in the summer exams.

Two special awards were presented on the night to acknowledge and celebrate the hard work of the pupil who made the best progress throughout their time at Normanhurst and to the pupil who achieved the strongest results. Congratulations to Ella and Katy who won the Progress and Achievement prizes respectively.



In addition to the presentation, there was a fantastic range of music throughout the evening. Both Ilayda and Imogen performed impressive piano solos, Beth sang 'Heart of Stone', and there was a wonderful finale by the school orchestra.

At the end of the evening, pupils, families and staff had the opportunity to catch up on how past pupils had settled into their new places of study and reminisce on their time at Normanhurst.

The Buzz

As part of developing our prefect team this year, each prefect received a copy of 'The Buzz - A Practical Confidence Builder for Teenagers' (The Independent Thinking Series). Over the next few weeks the prefects will read the book in pairs and during their weekly meeting they will have discussions around their thoughts.

Young people consistently say they want the same three things from life: to be happy, to be confident and to be successful. The aim of this book is to show them how to achieve all of these through a fantastic and illuminating journey of self-discovery. Complex theories and approaches are clearly presented in an easy to understand form. David Hodgson presents a unique and highly effective method of realising potential and making the best choices for those considering higher education or wondering which career path would suit them.

We are excited about the skills and potential of our prefect team, and are looking forward to helping them develop in to even stronger leaders of the future.



Oak-Tree Fireworks

The Oak-Tree Parents' Association Fireworks Display went off with a bang on Sunday, with around 1000 people in attendance. There were numerous stalls and activities to keep the children entertained such as biscuit and mask decorating, lucky dip and hundreds of glowing toys. The hot mulled wine went down a treat with all the adults and the hot dogs and hot chocolate were loved by the children! Everyone also got to enjoy listening to some live music from the Normanhurst Band. The fireworks themselves were spectacular as always.

A huge thank you to the four Parents' Associations for arranging and running such a popular event, and thank you also to everyone who came to support!





NEWSLETTER

Half Term Trip to Madrid

The school's first football and cultural tour to Madrid, Spain, was a huge success. 60 pupils from Years 6-10 were given the opportunity to experience Spanish culture; while some chose to focus on football and to showcase their footballing skills, others on the cultural tour explored the sites of the historical capital and sampled the local cuisine.

On our first day in sunny Spain, the football section of the trip headed straight to the Valdebebas training ground, home to Real Madrid FC. Here, the boys and girls experienced a typical Real Madrid training session delivered by their very own coaches and had a Real Madrid photoshoot in the academy kit in preparation for their first two games against Spanish opposition. Unfortunately we narrowly lost both fixtures to our local opponents, but were still able to take away an enriching experience from the games.

The cultural pupils' experience of the city was amazing and the Spanish people were vibrant and kind. The pupils were able to immerse themselves in Spanish culture by visiting major attractions such as the Museo Nacional del Prado, Spain's foremost art museum, as well as the Royal Palace and El Retiro Park. There were also plenty of opportunities to sample traditional foods such as paella.

We all took a tour of the famous Santiago Bernabéu stadium, home to arguably the most successful football team in the world - Real Madrid! This was an unforgettable and incredible experience for the 60 pupils as well as teachers. We also got to see a Europa League match at the ground of La Liga club, Getafe.

The trip was rounded off with two amazing performances by the under 11 and 15 teams, avenging their earlier defeats with two worthy wins. We ended the trip on a high with a great day at the famous Parque Warner, a Warner Bros theme park, before setting off back to London

Mr Banks: "The pupils were fantastic on this trip. They absorbed and relished the Spanish culture and style of football openly, and were full of enthusiasm. The energy and maturity they exhibited meant they were great ambassadors for the school."





NEWSLETTER

Natural History Museum Trips

The Geography department took both Year 7 and Year 8 to the Natural History Museum before the half term break, to support their knowledge and understanding of the Geography and Science curricula.

The Year 7 trip was led by Mr Clair and Mr Evans and included a lecture from a senior staff member of the museum on the subject of Species and Environments. In an interactive show, pupils faced a grouping challenge, which included classifying themselves to find out where humans sit in the tree of life. They also had the opportunity to do the job of scientists by identifying a mystery specimen.



On their trip to the museum, Year 8 attended a lecture on the subject of the exciting world of volcanoes and earthquakes and their effects on society. Pupils and teachers investigated geological forces from deep within the Earth using interactive demonstrations. The group made a real earthquake and gained the skills and knowledge to save a town from catastrophe. The lecture highlighted the awesome power of our planet's natural forces and demonstrated the importance and challenge of natural disaster prediction.

Both year groups were fortunate enough to visit the Geology and Natural Earth sections of the museum where they were able to study interactive exhibits such as the earthquake simulator whilst completing the museum's own educational worksheets. However old or young you are, no visit to the Natural History Museum is complete without a short walk through the dinosaur exhibits and the new animatronic models. Overall, the pupils clearly enjoyed the trip and got a better understanding of the geographical and scientific processes of our planet.



Social Networking



Website

Go to the School Calendar page for upcoming events and our [News](#) page for all the latest news and lots more photographs.



App

Keep up to date with the latest news, calendar dates, and much more by downloading the new Norman Hurst School App.



Instagram

Follow us on Instagram for regular photo updates! Search for [normanhurstschool](#) to find us, then click follow!



Twitter

Follow us [@NormanhurstSch](#) on Twitter to get the latest updates.



Facebook is our newest form of Social Media. Like us on Facebook to get news, photos, events and updates posted straight to your newsfeed.



NEWSLETTER

Normanhurst Sports Report

Cross Country On the afternoon of Monday 30 September, some of the Year 2 pupils went to the Peter May Centre to take part in a cross country competition against other schools from the borough. The Normanhurst children all ran very well around the course and tried their best. Each race had over a hundred runners; Francesco came 6th in the boys race and Kehanique came 15th in the girls race. The children all had a great experience and we managed to get back to school before the rain came down.

PGL Netball trip This year we combined with Braeside to send the largest group ever to the PGL netball weekend, with 30 girls taking part. This weekend is mainly a netball tournament with the added benefit of being held at a PGL centre with free access to all of the activities on a 'queue and do' basis in between matches.

We had squads in three age groups: Y6/7/8, Y9/10 and Y11. There were teams there from all over London and the south east. 12 schools attended and the largest age group was the 9/10. Some schools had brought A, B and C teams.

Our most successful age group was the Y11 team who won 3rd place bronze medals. The 6/7/8 girls made the most progress over the weekend and they are all now accomplished netballers! The Y9/10 has some great results against some very strong opposition.

I would like to mention that the players all voted for a player from their squad who had the most impact in their matches.

Y6/7/8 voted for Mehrnaz Y8

Y9/10 voted for Nell Y10 (Braeside)

Y11 voted for Mia (Normanhurst) and Mackenzie (Braeside)

A big thank you to Mrs Botha and Miss Barrett for also attending and giving up their time to make the trip possible.

Y10 Netball vs Saint Nicholas School The Normanhurst team played some of their best netball of the season but struggled to find a consistent path into the scoring and St Nicholas edged ahead in the first quarter. Despite a few tactical changes the girls continued to find the final ball a challenge, keeping our final goal total to 8, while St Nicholas were strong and fast in attack and won the game with 22 goals. Paige was awarded 'Player of the Match' and gave another strong performance at centre. Well done to her, and to the whole team for their effort against such strong opposition.

U16 Netball vs Holy Family Catholic School **Nneka, Y10:** The girls played very well in this match and we won with a great score of 14-5. The girls defended and attacked very well and had great formation and rhythm leading to our success in the game. Well done girls!





NEWSLETTER

Normanhurst Sports Report continued

Y4 Netball Festival All the Y4 girls and a few Y3 girls visited Forest School along with 14 other local teams, to play some netball practice matches. The Festival aims to help them put their newly developed skills into practice.

Our girls really enjoyed the opportunity to play lots of games and the highlight of the afternoon was a win against Chigwell School, with Bella (Y4) scoring two goals. Well done!

Y5 Netball Tournament There are not quite enough girls in Y5 to make a full netball team so Selina in Y4 stepped up to complete the team. The opposition was very tough and Normanhurst suffered a heavy defeat from St Aubyns in the first game. However, to their credit, they did not get disheartened and fought back strongly to give a good performance against WGPS and an even better one against Forest. The progress from the first match to the last was amazing and the girls are now looking forward to the Oak-Tree tournament in November. They are all invited to come to Netball Club on Wednesdays after school to keep up the practice.

LBWF Netball League Before half term, the senior girls' First VII netball team travelled to Highams Park School for their borough league match. They played very well and the final score was very low as both teams defended really effectively. Considering our team is a mixture of girls from Y9/10/11 and we compete in a league against big schools who are fielding full Y11 teams, our players perform really well in these circumstances. They played with such great determination and our defensive players were outstanding to keep the score so low. Goal Defence Mia was voted player of the match for the third week in a row!

U15 Schools FA Cup vs Kew House, Chiswick This was the school's first ever venture into the English Schools Cup as we made our way across London to Chiswick for this particular fixture. The boys performed admirably well, going 1-0 and 2-1 up before unfortunately losing in what was largely a closely fought game. The boys definitely learnt a lot from this fixture and will improve greatly as a result!

U13 Boys Football vs St Aubyns On 2 October we made the short trip to Woodford Green for U13 A and B teams football against St Aubyn's where many of the pupils involved would be representing the school for the first time! Our B's performed extremely well racing into a 3-1 lead before conceding two late goals meaning that their fixture ended in a 3-3 draw. The A team, made up mostly of Year 7 pupils imposed themselves strongly in this game, creating a lot of chances but were just unable to put the ball into the goal. They defended superbly well throughout and were undone by some moments of individual brilliance from the opposition as we were defeated 3-0. The boys have the return fixture in the second week back after half-term where they will be looking to bring home two victories as they continue to improve.





NEWSLETTER

Normanhurst Sports Report continued

U12 English Schools FA Cup vs Leighton Park, Reading On 4 October, a selection of Year 6 and Year 7 pupils made the long journey to Reading for the first round of the National Cup. The boys played extremely well and ran out 4-1 winners; it could have been many more except for some superb goalkeeping from the opposition keeper! The boys conducted themselves superbly and this win meant we were through to the last 32 schools countrywide and were drawn to play against St. John's Senior School from Enfield.

U11 Football vs St Aubyns Poor weather on the last Thursday before the half term break meant that this A team fixture was moved indoors and the B's played on astroturf away at St Aubyn's. The A's played four mini matches against St Aubyn's A and B teams, winning all four games and playing some excellent football in the process, with one superb free kick move being particularly pleasing! The B's found the going slightly tougher against more experienced opposition but persevered throughout and will take a lot from this game. Well done to all boys who played!



U12 English Schools FA Cup vs St John's, Enfield After our victory in the first round, we made the short trip to Enfield to play St John's Senior School on the first day after half term. We arrived in high spirits and looking forward to the challenge ahead. The game began at a frenetic pace with chances for both teams in the early minutes. Normanhurst had two superb chances to take the lead but were denied by some inspired goalkeeping from the opposition. After these missed chances, the flow of the game changed as the quality of St John's academy players, some of whom are at Arsenal, shone through. The boys who had attended the Madrid trip over half term had taken a lot from the trip and this was evident throughout the match as the team showed huge improvements from the first round fixture. Unfortunately on this occasion we were well beaten by a team who will no doubt go deep into the competition.

Y5&6 Tag Rugby After gaining a silver medal in this event last year, hopes were high as we made our way to Ive Farm in Leyton. We were unbeaten in the group stages, winning four and drawing one of our five games where we scored eleven tries, only conceding one! In the quarter finals we stepped up our game again winning 4-0 meaning we had qualified for the semi-finals. The semi-final was fiercely fought, with excellent defence shown by both teams. Normanhurst thought they had scored two tries but were denied by excellent last ditch defence from the opposition. The semi-final ended 1 try to 0 to the opposition but this was not be the end of our day as we now had a fight on in the bronze medal match where we again turned on the style and comfortably won by 2 tries to 0 meaning we had secured the bronze medal! All pupils involved showed great adaptability to what were an interesting set of rules to play with, and were great ambassadors for the school. Well done to all!!



Don't forget that there is a Junior Rugby Club on Mondays after school for boys in the junior school up until Christmas!



NEWSLETTER

Normanhurst School Parents' Association

Dear Parents

It was lovely to meet with some of you at the NSPA AGM on 30 September where the official committee members were confirmed. Martin Bisiker and Sinead Greenaway are now Co-Chair of the NSPA; Sue Macdonald will continue as Treasurer and Nicola Pitney Hall and Ali Delbourgo will share the Secretary role.



There were lots of ideas on how we can support and enhance our children's experience at school during the AGM and also at the last committee meeting on the 14 October. We were so pleased to see so many new parents at the meeting, brimming with new ideas! One thing that was discussed was whether the NSPA meetings should always be on the same day of the week. We are now going to arrange the committee meetings on other days of the week. Please refer to the school calendar to find out when the next meetings are scheduled. We will be so pleased to see you at the meetings.

One of our most popular events is taking place on the 15 November. We call it Bingo Mash up as we are combining the traditional bingo game with rock and roll bingo. It is a fun night with a fish and chips supper, a licensed bar to buy wines and beers and a raffle with amazing hamper prizes. It is a good way to socialise with parents and teachers, and the children have a great time playing with their friends in the playground! Tickets are available from the school office.

There will be another forest walk on Sunday morning on 8 December. As usual, we will meet in the school hall for the walk, and then return for mulled wine, hot chocolate and tasty Christmas eats. Details will follow soon.

Do also look out for information on our next Phil the Bag collection, which is planned for the 14 November. This is a great opportunity to clear out your wardrobes and bring unwanted clothes and textiles to be collected at the school, which raises funds for the school.

Please keep an eye out for all the new initiatives being arranged by the NSPA over the coming year.

We look forward to involving you in the work of the NSPA.

Best wishes

The NSPA Committee