

Oak-Tree NEWSLETTER

Summer 2020



Issue 12

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Group Principal's Message

What a Summer Term that was!

This newsletter is normally packed with reports from our summer events. However, even though we were forced to cancel our usual sports days, productions, concerts, prize givings, fetes, trips and leaving events, this is still a bumper edition.

I have been immensely grateful for the resilience and 'can do' attitude shown by our staff and children since schools were forced to close on Friday 20 March. The capacity for change has been enormous as, with no notice, our staff have switched to a new way of teaching and the children have responded so well.

Thank you all for your positive

comments. As you will have read in my Corona epics, we have been navigating our way through uncharted waters and have worked hard to limit the disruption to the children's education.

You will be able to see here the strength of our school communities and the many opportunities that have still been available to the children. At the moment we are still expecting to return as close to normal as possible in September, but I will write again in few weeks' when we know more.

In the meantime, I hope you manage to get a break over the summer and I look forward to welcoming you back in a month's time.

Matthew Hager

Oaklands Live Lessons with BBC Ten Pieces

Year 5 were lucky enough to enjoy a private Zoom call from the BBC, where they got to 'meet' members of the BBC Ten Pieces orchestra and have a go at making some music themselves. The pupils had a lot of fun in the session, hearing some music played by the violinist just for them and joining him with some

drumming and vocal elements.

You can watch some highlights of the event [here](#).



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Changes within The Oak-Tree Group

From September 2020, we will be making some enhancements to the Oak-Tree Group structure and some changes to the leadership teams at Normanhurst and Coopersale Hall.

After being appointed Headmistress of Normanhurst in September 2010, and also Headmistress of Braeside from 2016 to 2019, Claire Osborn is leaving Normanhurst to take up her Group Education Principal role at Head Office full time from this September.

The role will give Mrs Osborn a wider responsibility for areas such as the education and staff development across the four schools. She will work with our Heads to develop the curricula and enhance the education through a variety of means.

We are pleased to announce Mrs Jacqueline Job as the next Headmistress of Normanhurst School.



Mrs Job is coming to us having spent five years as Deputy Head of North Bridge House Prep, a mixed 450-pupil school in Camden. Previously, she spent six years as Assistant Vice

Principal then Vice Principal of Rosedale College in Hayes and, before that, five years at The City of London Academy, the last four as Assistant Vice Principal. She is looking forward to starting at Normanhurst and has already spent much time in school getting to know the pupils, staff and parents.

After nearly 10 years as Headmistress of Coopersale Hall, Kaye Lovejoy retired at the end of this academic year. We are very grateful to Miss Lovejoy for all of her hard work and wish her every success and happiness in her retirement.

Miss Moreen Barnard has been appointed as the next Headmistress of Coopersale Hall School.

Miss Barnard is currently Head of School at Normanhurst, having previously been Head of Juniors since she joined us in 2014. Prior to starting with us, she spent nine years as a class teacher, teacher governor and enrichment coordinator at Uphall Primary School in Ilford. Miss Barnard is well placed to take Coopersale Hall into the future as she will have gained six years' home-grown experience and understands the independent sector well.



October Open Days 2020

Coopersale Hall School
Tuesday 6 October at 9:15am

Braeside School
Wednesday 7 October
Early Years and Juniors at
9:15am
Juniors and Seniors at 6pm

Normanhurst School
Thursday 8 October
Infants, Juniors and Seniors at
6pm
Friday 9 October
Early Years at 9:15am

Oaklands School
Thursday 8 October at 9:15am

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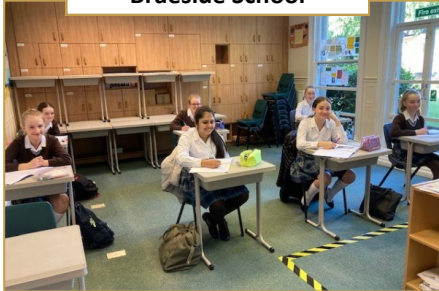


Returning to School

It was wonderful to see pupils start to return to school at the beginning of June. The classrooms were arranged to accommodate the pupils with social distancing in place. Pupils took all of the new social distance changes in their stride, such as classroom 'bubbles', one way systems and staggered break times, and enjoyed being back in lessons and back in the playground with their friends.



Braeside School



Our Early Years pupils all settled back into school life perfectly. Braeside Kindergarten was split into two bubbles, with each child receiving her own tray with different resources to use each day. Oaklands and Coopersale Hall's Kindergarten and Reception classes made the most of their outdoor space, taking some of their lessons out in the wonderful sunshine, and at Normanhurst the



Oaklands School



children enjoyed being back in the classroom learning, following the new rules excellently on cleaning any toys they played with.

We were pleased to have our Year 6s return to the schools, meaning that



Coopersale Hall School



Coopersale Hall and Oaklands Year 6 pupils could mark the end of their time with us with creative socially distanced gatherings on site. Year 6 pupils at Oaklands held their 'socially distanced Mini Fete' for the rest of the school and Year 6 pupils at Coopersale Hall enjoyed having their leaving photos taken on the field. Both were able to hold casual leavers assemblies for their families.



Normanhurst School



Sadly, we were unable to welcome everyone back full time under Government guidelines. Our Year 10s had 5 weeks' lessons on rotas and we were pleased to see Year 7, 8 and 9s returned for some scheduled 'face-to-face' meetings with their teachers. Younger children in Years 2, 3, 4 and 5 were also able to come back for several weeks.

We certainly look forward to welcoming everyone back in September!

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Charity Work

Throughout the year, all schools across the Oak-Tree Group normally take part in a range of charitable events. Despite not being at school, our pupils have impressed us with their fundraising efforts from home.

Back in the Spring Term, Braeside pupils created some wonderful artwork of Australian animals and wildlife. The artwork was auctioned off and a fantastic £678 was raised for the Wildlife Victoria Organisation in Australia.



Braeside School

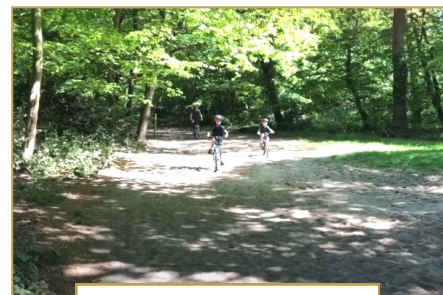
Stanley, one of our Coopersale Hall pupils completed a 26.2 mile indoor bike ride and raised £420 for his favourite charity, the Marine Conversation Society. He started at 10.20am and finished at 4.30pm, only stopping once for lunch! Nathan raised £200 through a seedling sale. He took orders for a variety of fruit

and vegetables he had planted back in January, along with some keyrings he had made. The funds he raised were split equally between the Woodland Trust and NHS forest, sponsoring 10 trees. Year 2 pupil, Milo, has been holding his own PE HIIT sessions after being inspired by Joe Wicks. He was sponsored for every workout he completed and raised £1,270 for NHS Charities Together.



Coopersale Hall School

Two Normanhurst pupils completed a 10k charity bike ride and raised £700 for NHS PPE. After growing her hair for months, Year 4 pupil Bahar was thrilled to be able to have it cut and donate 20cm of her hair to The Little Princess Trust, which helps make wigs for children and young people who have lost their hair through illness. Atilla completed a 26 round table tennis rally for the '2.6 challenge' to raise money for the Make a Wish Foundation.



Normanhurst School

During their last week at school, Year 6 pupils at Oaklands held a mini-fete. They were challenged to be entrepreneurs for the day and manage their own stalls. They came up with an array of fun activities for the rest of the school to take part in, such as Guess the Pet, Find the Treasure and How many Sweets in the Jar. The pupils raised £536.71 which will be donated to the NHS.

We are very proud of all our pupils and the interest they show in helping others.



Oaklands School

YouTube Channel

Visit our schools' YouTube Channels to see videos from some of the many events that take place through the year.

[Braeside School](#)
[Coopersale Hall School](#)
[Oaklands School](#)
[Normanhurst School](#)



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Coopersale Hall's Lockdown Poems

Whilst learning from home, Coopersale Hall pupils produced some really creative poems based around the current situation.

Year 3 pupil, Amelia, wrote a fantastic poem about working from home, called 'Zoom Time'.

Year 5 wrote poems summarising their year at school, and Year 4L wrote a collective poem about the lockdown. These poems can all be found on Coopersale Hall's website and social media, but here's one that caught our eye!

Zoom Time

The world has changed I'm stuck at home
Thanks to Zoom, I'm not alone!
Out the window the flowers are in bloom
No time to dilly dally I'll join the room!
I see my teacher and class mates too
I can't believe it; the time just flew!
It's not so bad I get to learn
Can't help myself I still just yearn
I feel happy but sometimes sad
Lots of emotions but mostly glad
Now that I'm learning through my computer
I sleep in later, as I'm no longer a commuter!

Normanhurst Virtual Music Concert

Summer Term would not be complete at Normanhurst School without summer concerts. As we did not want our families to miss out on the end of year musical finale, pupils held a virtual concert for all to enjoy!

Mrs Jones and the pupils worked extremely hard to put the concert together remotely. Pupils practiced their pieces at home and, with the help of technology, were all able to come together to perform a short concert showcasing their work.

You can watch the concert [here](#) - well done everybody!

Normanhurst School
Virtual Music Concert

Social Media



[braesidesch](#)
[coopersalesch](#)
[normanhurstschool](#)
[oaklandssch](#)



[@BraesideSch](#)
[@CoopersaleHSch](#)
[@NormanhurstSch](#)
[@OaklandsSch](#)



[Braeside School](#)
[Coopersale Hall School](#)
[Normanhurst School](#)
[Oaklands School](#)

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Incredible Artwork from Braeside

Pupils at Braeside have been producing some wonderful pieces of artwork during the last few months.



Amaarah in Year 11 painted this fantastic piece at home. Inspired by her favourite season, Spring, and her favourite holiday, Bali, she created the piece using a kitchen sponge, a make up brush and two falling apart paint brushes! She also drew an illustrative piece on how to wash your hands thoroughly.

Anoushka explored the idea of concealment for her Art coursework. She focused on climate change, pollution and the effects of war to create some fantastic artwork.



Freya worked with her family to recreate a famous work of art, replacing the balloons with a bouquet of flowers.



Year 9 explored basic drawing and mark making skills to prepare themselves for their GCSE studies. They filled their sketchbooks with detailed artwork, using texture, marks and colour theory to create form and three dimensional form.



After exploring the art of illusion and form, Years 5 and 6 created some of their own fantastic pieces of optical art.

Year 7 had fun producing some chocolate artwork inspired by American artist Jackson Pollock. The best part of the challenge was to eat their delicious creations afterwards!



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Epping Horticultural Society Potato Competition



At the start of the Spring term, some pupils from Coopersale Hall School took part in the Epping Horticultural Society Potato Competition in an attempt to grow the biggest potato!

The children enjoyed helping to fill the sacks with soil, put in the potato tuber, taking care not to knock off the white shoots, and gently place in the seeds. The plants would take several weeks to grow so they were very lucky to have Dave, one of Coopersale Hall's groundsmen, on hand to look after the plants by watering them and topping up the soil.



On their return to school the children were very excited to discover so many wonderful potato plants in their sacks. They were happy to compare the sizes and count how many they had managed to grow! They were very proud of their achievements - well done!



Normanhurst Awards

Congratulations to Normanhurst for being awarded the Teach Well School Gold Award and the School Games Recognition certificate.

The Teach Well award was presented for taking care of the physical and mental wellbeing of staff during the Coronavirus outbreak.

The School Games certificate was for

their ongoing commitment and achievement in the School Games Programme during the Autumn and Spring terms.



Oaklands KS2 Isolation Song

During their period of home learning, many pupils missed being at school and seeing their friends.

To try and spread a little cheer during this time the pupils, with the help of Mrs Rathbone, put together an

isolation song, which you can listen to [here](#).

The song is fantastic, well done everyone for all of your hard work!



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Oaklands Year 6 'Be a Teacher Week'



Year 6 thoroughly enjoyed 'Be a Teacher Week'. Pupils were given the opportunity to teach a lesson of their choice for thirty minutes, with the teachers acting as the students!

Many lessons were presented including PSHE, Science, PE, Art and learning how to animate using iPads.

Not only was this a fun-filled experience, but the children also learned much from each other and even discovered some amazing talents they did not know their friends had.



This was a perfect platform for the children to present their ideas, speak in front of a group and build their self-confidence as well as leadership skills.

This was useful learning experience the children will never forget. Well done Year 6!

Epping Forest Youth Council 2020

We are delighted to announce that three Braeside pupils have made it onto the Epping Forest Youth Council this year. A huge congratulations to Riya, Samantha, and Simran!

Due to the inability to hold the Youth Council elections as normal, Epping Forest District Council made the decision to continue the work of the

Youth Council without election and therefore the 29 eligible candidates have been invited to join.

Youth Council meetings and training are being held online and via social media which is all very new and exciting.

The Epping Forest Youth Council plays a very important role. Councillors represent the young people in the district and help to give them a voice in the community, working together to

change Epping Forest for the better.

We are looking forward to the year ahead!



Virtual Tours

We are very excited to announce that we have launched virtual tours of three of the Oak-Tree Group of schools so far.

The online tour gives a great insight into the grounds, rooms and facilities at each school. Take a look here:

[Braeside Virtual Tour](#)

[Coopersale Hall Virtual Tour](#)

[Oaklands Virtual Tour](#)

The Normanhurst virtual tour is still to come and will be arranged once the improvement works are completed at the end of the summer break, so watch this space!



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VE Day Celebrations

Although VE Day could not be commemorated as planned back in May this year, our pupils still made time for their own celebrations.



Some of our Braeside pupils made some delicious looking cakes, fantastic homemade bunting and very detailed posters.



Normanhurst pupils also had fun celebrating at home. Along with making cakes and bunting, pupils also sent in their research projects on rationing, unsung war heroes, and how VE Day is celebrated in different parts of Europe. Some even designed their own medals too.

Well done children!



Young Voices Virtual Choir

On Tuesday 2 June, Coopersale Hall had almost 50 pupils log in to a virtual Young Voices concert through Zoom. Our pupils joined thousands of other children from 34 countries across the globe to sing 'Power in Me' as one of the world's largest choirs at home.



Certificate of Participation



Congratulations, you have been a part of the worlds largest choir at home, joining 34 countries and thousands across the globe, to sing

Power in Me

to say a huge thank you to all the amazing teachers.

02 JUNE 2020

#PowerinMe #YVatHome #ThankYouTeachers youngvoices.co.uk

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Normanhurst Inter-House Photography Competition

The lockdown didn't stop Normanhurst from holding the annual inter-house school photography competition this year. Pupils, staff and parents were invited to interpret the themes of **Details**, **Contrast** and **My Imagination**. Once again, the quality and quantity of entries received were outstanding. The judges found it hard to pick the winners, but here are their chosen photos. Well done to everyone who participated!



Staff - Ms Marks



Parent - Mrs Frelander

DETAILS:

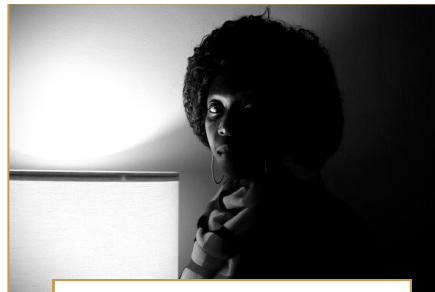


Winner- Joseph - Year 6



High Commended - Irina - Year 1

CONTRAST:



Winner - Roxy - Year 7



Highly Commended - Jan - Year 6

MY IMAGINATION:



Winner - Adam - Year 6



Highly Commended - Olivia - Year 6

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Race to Tokyo Challenge



At the beginning of the Summer Term, Mr Paine set all of the families at Oaklands the Race to Tokyo Challenge to keep them fit and active during the lockdown. Tokyo is an impressive 8,092 miles away from the school and we have enjoyed seeing the updates from our Oaklands families getting involved by walking, running, cycling and even roller skating!



Although we haven't quite made it to Tokyo yet, well over 3,000 miles had been covered by the end of week four meaning we finished in Kazakhstan, which is a fantastic achievement so far! Thank you to everyone who has been taking part, we have enjoyed seeing your lovely photos.



Coopersale Hall Year 6 Leaving Photos

To mark the end of their time at Coopersale Hall, our Year 6 pupils enjoyed coming into school dressed in the outfits of what they would like to be when they grow up. We had footballers, detectives, theatre directors and more.



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Coopersale Hall Musical Successes



A huge well done to all of the

Coopersale Hall pupils who continued to learn and practice their musical instruments from home.

Mr RS provided many online resources for the pupils to use, which meant pupils could carry on moving up through their 'Recorder Karate Belts' and piano grades.

We received a number of lovely videos of pupils playing their instruments, which you can see on [Coopersale Hall's YouTube Channel](#).

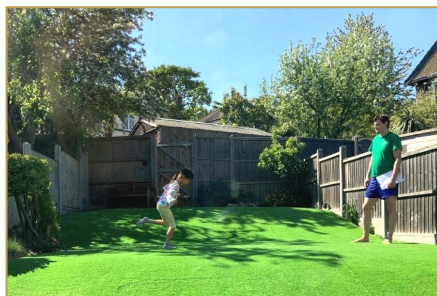
Well done to the talented musicians and thank you to the parents for supporting them at home.



Normanhurst Sports Report

It was fantastic to see Normanhurst pupils staying active during the period of home learning, with the PE Department setting them a series of challenges.

Years 1 and 2 had fun working with circuits at home, whilst Years 3-6 were given a home athletics project to complete. Pupils were also given a steps challenge, to see how far they



could go. Some continued to run a morning mile while others found new ways to keep themselves active.



Braeside LAMDA Results

Well done to all the Braeside pupils who received their LAMDA results back in May.

The exams were in a mixture of subjects and grades including 'Speaking in Public' and 'Speaking in Verse and Prose'. Overall there were 14 passes, 10 with Merit.

Special congratulations to Madeline, Humaira, Beatrice and Freya, who all passed with Distinction.

LAMDA exams are designed to help pupils develop the skills and confidence to be a success, aiding with attributes such as self-confidence and the ability to communicate clearly and present ideas.

These are all important life skills that will help our pupils in later life. They

offer pupils formal qualifications that will enhance any CV.

Well done to everyone who passed!



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Braeside End of Term Fun

For the last Friday of term, Junior pupils at Braeside enjoyed a picnic together in the playground whilst Year 6 were treated to a Tea Party. The catering team prepared a delicious



lunch of sandwiches, sausages, fruit and crisps with a special cupcake treat to finish for the picnic, and everybody had fun chatting together and listening to music.

Year 6 had a fun afternoon on the

field, signing shirts, listening to music and taking pictures, with an array of tasty treats to choose from.

It was a fantastic afternoon in the sunshine!



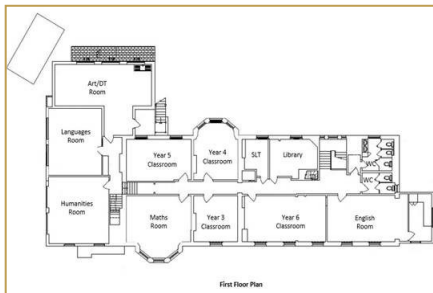
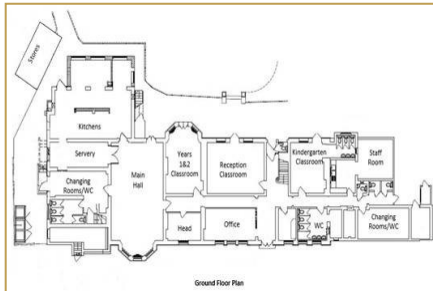
Braeside Renovations

As many will already know, from September 2020, Braeside will no longer be a split site school. All pupils from Early Years to Seniors will be taught at the Main Site on the High Road in Buckhurst Hill.

This is a very exciting development for Braeside's long-term future and is one that has taken an incredible amount of planning behind the scenes.

Work is already well underway to get the Main Site ready for the changes come September. A lot of building work and refurbishments are taking place throughout the summer which include rearranging classrooms, redesigning communal areas and resurfacing playgrounds to name a few of the challenges ahead.

The youngest children will be on the ground floor, closest to the outside play areas, and the grounds will be updated so that the older and younger



children have separate outside areas to play separately.

It was always the ambition of the previous Braeside owners to bring the school together to allow for more effective continuity and progression.

Although we have looked for opportunities since 2015 to do the same, it is only recently that we have felt the time is right to do so as part of a well-managed development plan.

We are very pleased that we will be taking the opportunity to bring the two halves of Braeside together into one all-through school.

In addition, we will be taking boys at Braeside from September 2021, starting in our Early Years and filtering through year after year. Very exciting times ahead!

Do follow [THIS LINK](#) for more information.



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Saying Goodbye to Our Leavers

The end of the Summer Term always marks an emotional time for our oldest pupils as they prepare to move on to the next stage of their education. Whilst we had to scale back this year's celebrations, our Year 6 children still managed to put on fantastic Leavers Assemblies for their proud families.

Coopersale Hall pupils performed a snippet from their Summer production 'Pirates of the Curry Bean' to their parents and families. They also sang



Oaklands School



an emotional final song and received their well deserved prizes and awards.

At their evening assembly under the oak tree in the main field, Oaklands pupils acted out two scenes from their production 'Robin and the Sherwood



Coopersale Hall School



Hoodies', and shared some of their memories from their time at the school.

Whilst we weren't able to say goodbye to our wonderful Year 11s at Braeside and Normanhurst in the way we would have liked this year, we would like to wish them the best of luck as they move on to the next stages of their education.



To all our leavers, we wish you the best of luck for the future - please do keep in touch!