

Oak-Tree NEWSLETTER

Autumn 2018



Issue 7

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Principal's Message

I am always amazed when I look back at a term by how much we manage to fit into such a relatively short space of time. The Autumn Term was no different with a range of events, performances, trips, competitions and experiences for pupils at each of the schools.

Of course, the highlights of the Autumn Term normally revolve around the Christmas productions, dinners, pantos (oh yes they do!) and festivities. For me, others include another excellent Oak-Tree Camp for our Year 3 pupils earlier in the term and the various inter-school competitions for our younger children that saw some excellent teamwork.

I hope you will enjoy reading through to get a flavour of the many opportunities open to our pupils to enhance their education.

Looking forward, the four Parents' Associations are currently working hard to organise another Oak-Tree Summer Ball. This will be held on Saturday 18 May in the large marquee at Chigwell Hall (Met Police Club), and promises to be another excellent evening for parents and friends of the four Oak-Tree schools. Tickets will be on sale next week so do look out for the forms.

I hope you have a good Spring Term.

Matthew Hagger

Matthew Hagger

LK's Very First Performance at Oaklands

Lower Kindergarten had an exciting event last term, as it was their first opportunity to perform to an audience. They enjoyed showing their parents what they have been doing in music with the help of their furry friend 'Rat-a-tat'. Songs included 'Incy Wincy Spider', 'Baa Baa Black Sheep' and 'Twinkle,

Twinkle Little Star'.

All of the children were on their very best behaviour and performed confidently and energetically.



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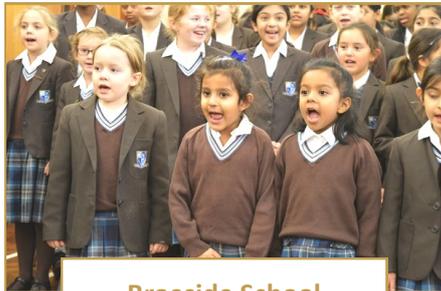
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Christmas Carol Services

Braeside

Pupils from Year 1 to 11 entertained a large crowd of friends and family at St James United Reform Church. The children sang a number of group songs, with the soloists and instrumental musicians helping to bring the pieces together. The audience was particularly impressed when the Seniors sang in both Spanish and Latin.



Braeside School

Coopersale Hall

Coopersale Hall's Carol Service took place at St John's Church in Epping. The service was led by Reverend Lee Batson who commended the children for their wonderful singing. 'The Magic

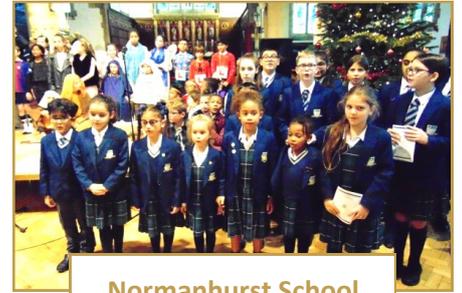
Christmas Jigsaw' followed the Nativity story with some fun twists, accompanied by a number of hymns including 'O Little Town of Bethlehem' and 'O Come All Ye Faithful'.



Coopersale Hall School

Normanhurst

St Peter and St Paul's Parish Church In Chingford was filled for the Normanhurst Carol Service. The Juniors did a fantastic job of retelling the Nativity story, while the rest of the pupils performed some lovely songs, hymns and festive readings. This year the service had a special addition, as the staff formed their own choir and gave a lovely rendition of 'Do You Hear What I Hear?'.



Normanhurst School

Oaklands

Children from Years 1 to 6 gathered at St Mary's Church in Loughton on Wednesday 5 December. Families were treated to a performance of the Nativity Story, complete with a variety of songs, carols and Bible readings. KS1 gave a lively rendition of 'You Can't Dodge the Census', while KS2 sang 'Who Would Imagine A King?' beautifully.



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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CHS House Quiz

On Tuesday 16 October Coopersale Hall held their first House Quiz. There were 7 rounds that included Maths, Music, Science, Literature, Sport, R.E., and a Geography and History picture round.

The House Captains and Vice Captains led their teams well and the staff were extremely impressed with the quality of the children's knowledge.



The winning House was Willow, scoring 65.6 out of a possible 80 marks. Well done!

In second place was Oak, scoring 58.5 points. Third was Chestnut with 58 points, and Beech scored 51 points.

Well done to all of the staff and children who helped make this an exciting and enjoyable event!



Charities Supported Last Term

- Children in Need
- Whitechapel Mission
- Macmillan Cancer Support
- Cancer Research UK
- NSPCC
- Remembrance Day
- United World Schools
- Save the Children
- Hestia Refuge
- Samaritan's Purse

Oak-Tree Athletics

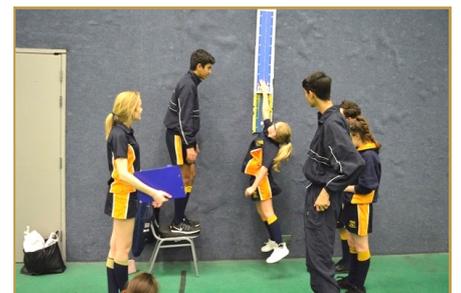
On Friday 30 November, the four Oak-Tree Schools came together at the Peter May Centre to take part in a Sports Hall Athletics Competition. Throughout the day a number of exciting events took place.

On one side of the hall there were track events with shuttle relays and

obstacle races, and on the other were the field events with activities such as standing long jump, chest push, vertical jump and speed bounce.

All of the pupils enjoyed competing and worked hard to score as many points for their school as possible.

The competition was very close and the results were as follows:



	1st	2nd	3rd	4th
Girls	Oaklands	Coopersale Hall	Normanhurst	Braeside
Boys	Normanhurst	Coopersale Hall	Oaklands	Braeside and Normanhurst

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Oak-Tree Spelling Bee



At the end of the Autumn Term an inter-school Oak-Tree Spelling Bee was held at Oaklands. Each school entered a pupil from each of Years 3, 4, 5 and 6. The pupils were called up in year groups and were challenged to write the spellings of a series of words relating to their age groups, with the spellings getting harder as the competition progressed.

The winners of the Spelling Bee were as follows:

1st – Coopersale Hall

Joint 2nd – Oaklands and Braeside

3rd – Normanhurst

Well done to our hard working competitors, all of whom worked well for their teams. Look out for the next inter-school Spelling Bee in the coming months...



Remembrance Day

Pupils from all four schools took part in a moving two minutes silence in November in order to remember the brave men and women who lost their lives in conflict during the wars.



Coopersale Hall School

Braeside Seniors held an assembly about Remembrance with speeches from Mr Hewitt and Mr Shields, while at the Juniors the Year 5 pupils led a moving assembly.

Some Coopersale Hall pupils were invited to be involved in Epping town's Remembrance Day parade to honour the 113 soldiers who came from Epping.

Normanhurst pupils took part in a range of Remembrance Day activities including a WW1 workshop. Year 5 wrote poems and 'letters home' from

Forthcoming Events	
Tues 15 Jan	BS E-Safety Training
Wed 16 Jan	OS E-Safety Training
Wed 23 Jan	CHS E-Safety Training
Tues 29 Jan	NS E-Safety Training
Tues 22 Jan	11+ Entrance Exam
Fri 25 Jan - Fri 1 Feb	BS & NS Young Artists Competition
Tues 5 Feb	Young Voices
Sun 17 - Sat 23 Feb	BS and NS Ski Trip to Axamer Lizum
Wed 27 Feb - Fri 1 Mar	NS School Drama Showcase
Wed 13 Mar	BS and NS 11+/13+ Entrance Exam



Normanhurst School

soldiers, while the Junior Art Club used collages to make poppies.

At Oaklands, the children were able to make poppies that were displayed outside the Year 6 classroom for everyone to see.

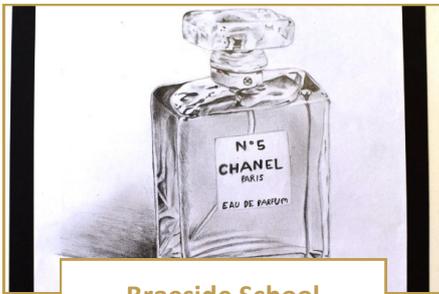
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ISA Art Competition

Every year the Independent Schools Association hosts a national Art Competition, and as usual there were many entries from Oak-Tree pupils. Across the schools we had some excellent results in many categories.



Braeside School

Braeside pupils from Year 5 to 11 entered work including weaving, Hunderwassers London, Greek vases, impressionist landscapes, abstract compositions, observational drawing, puppet making, mono-printing, self-portraits, model making, keep-sake

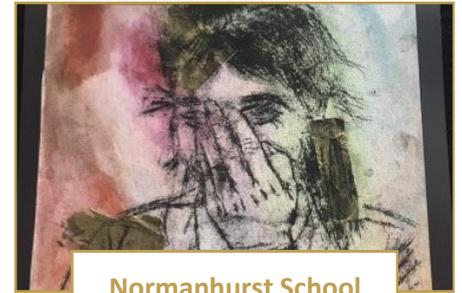
boxes, sketch-book work and plastic pollution.



Coopersale Hall School

Well done to our Coopersale Hall artists: Aadi who came first in the KS2 Textile category, Max who came third in the KS1 Art category and Lower Kindergarten Robins who took second and third place in the EYFS Group 3D Art category.

Congratulations to the Normanhurst pupils who won first prizes in the KS4 Photography, Group Textiles, Textiles (non-fashion), and Drawing and Fine Art categories.



Normanhurst School

From Oaklands, 'Cityscape' by the Art Club received Highly Commended. Congratulations to all of the Art Club members! The Art Club did particularly well as there were a lot of entries in this category.

Well done to all of our budding artists!



Oaklands School

Oaklands' French Pen Pals

Year 6 pupils from Oaklands have found a fun way to further their understanding of the French language and culture. Throughout the Autumn Term they have been writing to their French pen pals who attend a school in France.

Writing to their pen pals in French has been a motivational tool for the Year



6s and has helped them to learn the language and understand how their new friends spend their time in school.

At the end of term the children spent time creating some lovely cards in French, and they are expecting the replies any day now.

Quelle joie!

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Oak-Tree Happy Campers



The Year 3 children from all four Oak-Tree schools spent an exciting two days at the start of the Autumn Term on an adventure at the annual Oak-Tree Camp in the Oaklands fields.

The children took part in a number of activities including team-building exercises, games and learning to put up their own tents. After a hearty evening meal they even learned to wash up before the night games, camp fire stories and toasting marshmallows on the camp fires.



The children enjoyed meeting pupils from the other Oak-Tree schools and making new friends.

This was another hugely successful event and our thanks go to the 18 or so staff who camped out with the children on the Thursday night!



Braeside Pupils Step Back in Time



Pupils at both the Junior and Senior sites at Braeside took part in many exciting History-related activities last term.

The term started with dinosaurs invading the Year 3 classroom as the girls brought in their impressive summer projects. Year 4 became

archaeologists, looking carefully at various artefacts to work out who an Ancient Egyptian Pyramid may have belonged to. Year 5 started as Ancient Greek potters in one workshop, before travelling back in time to Ancient Rome in an interactive session run by the Epping Forest District Museum.

Pupils in Years 6, 7, and 8 went on a trip to Bletchley Park, the home of the Enigma machine and Codebreakers. They were able to experience the life and work of these amazing people and spent time together trying to break some codes of their own.

Pupils in Year 9 have been exploring the background of World War 1. As part of their homework they created

some authentic-looking recruitment posters and visited the local war memorial in the grounds of St John's Church to look at the wider impact of the war on the Buckhurst Hill community.

Our Year 9 and 10 Historians visited the Imperial War Museum at the end of November where they made a documentary that showed the many aspects of war.



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Magic in Wild Wood Club at Oaklands

Pupils from Oaklands have been making use of the extensive grounds by exploring the 'Wild Woods' in one of their after school clubs.

Woodpeckers Class enjoyed making hammocks and dens with a range of materials. They also took part in



activities such as threading twine and mark making on chalk logs to promote

their fine motor skills.

Children in Years 1 and 2 made some spooky potions in the woods, mixing natural materials with foam, bubbles and glitter and exploring the effects.

They also found their favourite sticks and turned them into magic wands before a special treat of hot chocolate and marshmallows!

House Music Competition



Almost all Normanhurst pupils from Reception to Year 11 took part in the highly anticipated House Music Competition on Monday 15 October. Both Houses worked very hard

rehearsing prior to the event and were eager to show the audience of friends and family what they could do.

The teams competed in a series of categories: Duet Performance, Ensemble Performance and a whole House Song.

Judges consisted of Mr Clair, Mrs Coates, Miss Barnard, Miss Stone 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.

There were some excellent performances from both teams, but after much deliberation from the judges it was announced that Connaught House was the overall winner.

Well done to all of the talented pupils!



Epping Forest Constituency Christmas Card Competition Winners

Congratulations to Freya in Year 5 at Braeside who was the winner of the Epping Forest Constituency Christmas Card Competition.

This year the theme was 'Big Ben at Christmas', and was open to children from all primary, junior and infant schools in Epping Forest.

Epping Forest MP, Dame Eleanor Laing, visited Braeside to present a prize to Freya as winner and also Inaaya in Year 5 as runner up.



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Oak-Tree Netball Tournament



Before half term girls in Year 5 and 6 from all four Oak-Tree Schools spent the morning at the Peter May Sports Centre competing against each other in the annual Oak-Tree Netball Tournament.

The teams played extremely well throughout the competition and were able to demonstrate successfully their knowledge of the game.

Overall the winner of the tournament was Coopersale Hall.

Well done to all of the girls!



Oak-Tree Football Tournament

Football teams from Oaklands, Normanhurst and Coopersale Hall came together in October on the outside astroturf pitches at the Peter May Sports Centre to compete in the annual Oak-Tree Football Tournament.



All teams played extremely well, working collaboratively to attack and defend. There were some excellent goals and many defensive tackles.

The matches were very competitive and all players should be proud of their achievements. Normanhurst were the overall winners.

Well done to all of the boys!

Open Day Dates

Braeside School - Buckhurst Hill

Seniors - Tuesday 5 March at 9.15am
Juniors - Wednesday 6 March at 9.15am

Coopersale Hall School - Epping

Tuesday 5 March at 9.15am

Normanhurst School - North Chingford

Friday 8 March at 9.15am

Oaklands School - Loughton

Thursday 7 March at 9.15am

If you need to contact the schools directly, then please use the numbers below:

Braeside School - 020 8504 1133

Coopersale Hall School - 01992 577133

Normanhurst School - 020 8529 4307

Oaklands School - 020 8508 3517

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Oak-Tree Schools' Festive Fun

The run up to Christmas is always a lovely time at the schools, with a huge range of events taking place for our pupils and their families.

With performances, pantomime visits organised by the Parents' Associations, visits from Santa, trips to local care homes, carol services, Christmas meals and classroom activities, this is a very busy time!

At Braeside, the younger pupils started off the festivities with an entertaining production of 'Babushka', a Russian Christmas story. The children enjoyed tucking into their Christmas meal and in Art the girls were tasked with creating a range of festive decorations using different techniques to display in the hall. On the last day of term, teachers and pupils wore their most extravagant Christmas jumpers while also bringing in a donation for the 'Save the Children' charity.



Braeside School

The children at Coopersale Hall were very excited when Father Christmas made an appearance at the school, accompanied by two of his reindeer. Everyone got a chance to meet Santa before visiting the gift shop set up by FoCHS. Year 1 and 2 children wowed an audience of family and friends with their production of 'The Inn-Spectors' and the Early Years sang some lovely songs during their performance of 'A King is Born'. Year 2 helped get everyone in the Christmas spirit when they sang at the Epping Market.



Coopersale Hall School

Normanhurst Juniors enjoyed a fun-filled Christmas party during the last week of term when they received a present from Santa and his elf. The younger pupils entertained an audience of friends and family with their three performances of 'O Little Town of Normanhurst', with each child singing and performing beautifully. Early Years had a day's festive fun dressing up in their favourite costumes and were treated to an entertainer.



Normanhurst School

Reception children at Oaklands put on a show for their parents called 'Winter Wonderland', and Kindergarten entertained with the 'Christmas Toy Shop' performance. Both groups filled the hall with festive songs. The Year 3 choir sang beautifully at the 'Sing Christmas' event in Loughton and all pupils created a range of decorations that were displayed in the hall and around the school. Many of the children also got the chance to make their own Christingle, which they used in a special service.

Thank you to everyone who helped to make this such a special time for our children.



Oaklands School

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Braeside House Drama Competition



Everyone had an entertaining evening at the end of the Autumn Term at the annual House Drama Competition, which took place in Lopping Hall in Loughton.

After all of their rehearsals, the hall was packed with friends and family eager to see the girls perform.

Bronte performed a fun and lively version of 'St Trinian's', Fry performed an abridged version of 'A Christmas Carol', Mason did an excellent job of showcasing the play 'Check Please', and Nightingale finished the show with 'The Brothers Grimm Spectaculathon.'

The judges were Mr and Mrs Coates from Normanhurst School, and after a short interval they announced that the winners were as follows:

Best Actress:

Simran

Runner Up:

Nell

Most Promising Actress:

Freya & Macey

Best House Play (Alexis Glasser Cup):

Mason



UKB Land on Mars

In May 2018, Nasa launched 'InSight', a robotic lander sent to Mars. The lander carried a small chip that contained over 2 million names, one of which was 'Upper Kindergarten Baker' from Coopersale Hall.



The children enjoyed learning about space and were thrilled to learn that the 'InSight' craft landed safely 6 months later at the end of November having travelling at 6,200 miles per hour to reach Mars.

Coopersale Hall Reception Trip to Epping

Pupils in Reception Gowland and Reception Rooks enjoyed their recent trip to Epping High Street when they had the opportunity to take a tour of the shops and to talk to some of the shopkeepers about the different types of foods they sold.

At the final stop at the local bakery, the children were able to take back to school a scrumptious collection of cakes and buns that they enjoyed sharing.

The morning's visit helped consolidate the children's learning linked to their focus topic 'Foods and Festivals', and gave them a further understanding of

locally produced foods within their community.



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Outdoor Adventures at Harlow Outdoor Pursuits

Last term, pupils from both Coopersale Hall and Oaklands experienced adventure-packed days at the Harlow Outdoor Activity Centre. The pupils took part in a range of activities such as archery, canoeing, climbing and a high ropes course.



Coopersale Hall School

Many pupils were able to conquer

their fears and supported each other throughout the day.



Oaklands School

French Trip to the Opal Coast

Over the half term, 40 pupils from Years 7-11 from Normanhurst went to



the Opal Coast in France. Each day was packed with activities which included time in a local boulangerie making croissants, visiting an aquarium, watching sweets being made in a sweet factory, going to the military cemetery at Étapes, seeing the animals at a farm and much more.

The trip provided some excellent opportunities for the pupils to learn some new French vocabulary,



strengthen the knowledge that they already had of the language and learn more about the French culture.

Looking to the Future



Even though the end of their time at school is still a little way off for our

pupils at Normanhurst and Braeside, preparation for Post 16 has already started for our Year 10 and 11s.



Pupils have been visited by staff from one of the local colleges and 'Aim Apprenticeships'. These talks have made sure that pupils are fully aware of the options available to them, and should help make their decisions a little easier.

Year 11 pupils have also been interviewed by Mrs Osborn to help further prepare them for life after school.

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Normanhurst Project Work

Children at Normanhurst have been working hard both in lesson time and at home to complete a range of projects.

Year 2 have been learning about recycling in Science and had a 'junk modelling' afternoon to discover what materials could be made into something new.

Year 3 were set a challenge to create their own version of Stonehenge, with the rule that it had to be bigger than an A3 sheet of paper. The results were impressive!



Year 4 did an excellent job creating projects for their Science topic of 'Living Things and their Habitats'. Each pupil got the chance to present their project while also learning some interesting facts about animals.

Over the October half term, Year 5 were challenged to create a diorama

of our solar system, and they went way beyond everyone's expectations. The children used a range of materials including polystyrene, paint, playdough, wire, felt tips, fabric, cardboard, string, stickers, glitter and even flashing lights.

Well done to all of the children!



Supporting Children in Need



Oaklands School

This year the children at Oaklands supported Children in Need by dressing up in their spottiest clothes and wearing their Pudsey ears, while also bringing in a donation for the charity.

Instead of dressing up, the Braeside pupils chose to take part in a 'Bring Your Bear to School Day'. Bears of many different shapes and sizes joined the girls in their classrooms for a day of learning and special bear-related activities. The children also brought in cakes for a cake sale, at which a very impressive total of £290.95 was raised.

The Children in Need charity raises money for disadvantaged children and young people in the UK, so all donations have gone to a very worthy cause.

Thank you to all of the pupils for their fundraising efforts - and also to the parents for all of the help!



Braeside School

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Harvest Festivals

Braeside children enjoyed showing off their dance moves to a range of songs including 'Big Red Combine Harvester' and 'Cauliflowers Fluffy' during their Harvest Festival at St James United Reformed Church.



Braeside School

Coopersale Hall's Early Years children performed a variety of songs to accompany a fun story about a giant turnip! Reverend Lee Batson spoke to children in Years 1 to 6 about the importance of Harvest after they had performed a variety of songs, poems and readings.



Coopersale Hall School

Normanhurst held its Harvest Festival on at Chingford United Reformed Church. The children enjoyed entertaining friends and family with songs such as 'Big Red Combine Harvester' and the ever popular 'Harvest Samba'.



Normanhurst School

Oaklands' Harvest Festival took place in the school hall with the stage overflowing with Harvest goods. Mr Tony Miller from the Whitechapel Mission visited the school to give an inspirational talk about his work at the mission.



Oaklands School

Thank you to everyone who donated for Harvest Festival. Each school sends donations to different charities, which include the Whitechapel Mission, the Manna Centre, Pelly Court and several others. Your generous donations will have made a noticeable difference to those receiving the goods.

Key Trips across the Group

- Queen's Court Nursing Home
- The British Museum
- Bletchley Park
- The Olympic Park
- Wagamama Spitalfields
- The Queen Elizabeth Hunting Lodge
- The Gunpowder Mills
- Lee Valley Hockey and Tennis Centre
- The Opal Coast
- Weald Country Park
- Thames River Cruise
- Colchester Zoo
- The Natural History Museum
- City of London Police Museum
- Local Libraries
- V&A Museum
- Barn Hoppitt Learning Site
- Mellows Care Home
- The Millfield Theatre
- Barleylands
- Stansted Mountfitchet Castle
- Harlow Outdoor Activity Centre
- Hatfield Forest
- Epping High Street
- Epping Forest District Museum
- Harlow Playhouse Theatre
- The Body World Exhibition
- The Imperial War Museum
- Kew Gardens
- The Royal Court Theatre
- Walton-on-the-Naze

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GCSE Celebrations



Normanhurst School

Once again, pupils at both Braeside and Normanhurst School celebrated an excellent set of GCSE results over the summer.

At Normanhurst, 87% of grades achieved were at grade 4 or above,

with a quarter at grades 7-9. The pupils achieved particularly well in English and the creative and performing arts with 100% passes in English, Drama, Art, Graphic Design and Music. This included a number of grade 9 awards, as well as 100% passes in the triple sciences, Biology, Chemistry, Physics and French.

At Braeside, 95% of grades achieved were at grade 4 or above, with 47% of grades at grades 7-9. Once again the pupils achieved particularly well in Sciences and Maths with 100% passes in Maths and Biology, Chemistry and

Physics. Other subjects with 100% passes include Art, Drama, History and RS.

There were some excellent individual performances at both schools with a large number of pupils achieving a collection of excellent grades.



Braeside School

Positions of Responsibility

With the new school year comes new positions of responsibility. Every year, pupils have the opportunity to volunteer to become more involved in the life of the school, either by becoming a member of a School Council, Charity Committee, Green Team, Prefect Team or Head Boy and Girl. In many cases, in order to be chosen for these roles, the children have to showcase why they believe they will do well in the position, either by interview or presentation.

This year there were many worthy pupils all hoping to be chosen. At Normanhurst the Mayoress of

Waltham forest visited the school to announce the School Council elections for Reception to Year 11. Candidates had to give a presentation to their form group outlining how they would fulfil their role on the School Council.

The Juniors at Braeside held elections for positions in the School Council, Green Team and Prefect Team, while



Braeside School

Senior pupils elected their Form Representative and Charity Representative from a large selection of candidates.

Both Oaklands and Coopersale Hall pupils had the opportunity to become Head Boy or Head Girl in Year 6, with other responsibilities also available such as House Captains, Sports Captains, Prefects, School Council or Food Council Representatives, Librarians and more.

These opportunities help the children to develop their confidence and nurture their leadership.

Good luck to our school pupil leaders as your roles continue.

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Oak-Tree Schools Parents' Associations

Our Parents' Associations were very busy last term arranging a number of events for pupils, families and friends. The Parent's Associations are always looking for parents to get involved with fundraising or events. Please don't hesitate to get in touch with your committee if you would like to meet new families, contribute your ideas and work together to make a difference to your child's experience at school.

Braeside



For FOBS, the highlight of the Autumn Term was the successful Christmas Fayre on a festive Saturday lunchtime with a large number of families attending. There was a tasty BBQ outside, a visit from Santa and a large range of gift stalls, raffles, tombola stalls and lots more. FOBS also arranged a trip to the pantomime for the children as a Christmas treat, which they all thoroughly enjoyed.

Coopersale Hall



FoCHS organised a magical visit from Santa with two of his reindeer, which was a very exciting event for Coopersale Hall's pupils. All pupils had the chance to tell him what they wanted for Christmas! The annual Christmas gift shop gave the children an excellent way to get presents for their families, and everyone enjoyed their theatre trips and visit from the travelling pantomime.

Normanhurst



The NSPA's Rock and Roll Bingo night was hugely successful, with many families buying tickets to take part in the challenge and try some of the tasty chilli. Another highlight was the Winter Walk, with families enjoying a local Sunday stroll before returning to school for mulled wine and minced pies. The NSPA also helped contribute to a range of Christmas treats for the children.

Oaklands



The OPA arranged a number of treats for the pupils over the festive period. All children enjoyed either an exciting trip to the local pantomime or a visit from a travelling theatre group, and got the chance to dress up in their finery at the school disco. The beautifully decorated grotto and a visit to Santa caused much excitement, and Year 6 enjoyed their bowling trip and meal. The OPA also ran a successful Halloween Party and raised £516.33 at their Macmillan Coffee Morning.