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Brilliant Badminton

Year 7 student, Sam Hoodles, won the under 14's Junior Mid-Sussex County Championship Badminton Tournament last Saturday.

He was representing the Fast Step Academy Badminton players. A brilliant result - well done Sam!

Uniform Shop

The next Uniform Shop will be on SATURDAY 7 FEBRUARY from 10am – 12pm in D block. This shop is run by parent volunteers with all proceeds going back to the College.

You can also order uniform (if you know the size required) by emailing Oakmeeds.uniform@googlemail.com and items can be left at the College Reception for payment and collection.

A word from the Headteacher

Dear Parents/Carers,

There is much happening at the moment with regard to the future direction of the College.

Hopefully you will have received a letter recently inviting you to a meeting on 5th March 2015 at 7 p.m. in order to meet the potential sponsor of the College as it becomes an academy. Early next week you will each receive a brochure that explains in detail the proposal and gives the reasons why it is considered the best way forward for Oakmeeds. Please read and consider it carefully.

Additionally we are currently reviewing all our systems and procedures related to communication, both within the College and beyond. The website, newsletter, text messaging service, telephone and email messaging are all subject to the review. We are therefore seeking your views and opinions on the effectiveness of communication between the College, parents and the wider community through a survey monkey link that I hope you have all received. I would like to thank those of you who have already completed the survey for the time you have given us and would ask that those who have yet to respond do so as soon as possible. Responses are required before the end of Monday.

We are always open to parents positive

comments as to how we can continue to improve the College and raise standards in all areas of the work of the College. If you have any comments in addition to those you might make in relation to communication I would be very pleased to receive them via letter or email to office@oakmeeds.co.uk.

Finally, over the last few weeks we have been suffering from a higher than normal level of staff absence. We have tried to provide suitable replacement teachers but this has not always proved to be possible. We have also had issues with regard to absence and staffing levels in Cafe Oakmeeds. We have also tried to maintain the catering provision we would normally expect to provide but there may have been occasions recently where this has not been possible. We are sorry about this situation but hope the spate of illness we have had will be over soon and we can get back to normal.

I hope you enjoy this latest issue of the newsletter.

Yours sincerely,

Colin Taylor
Headteacher





The Year 9 boys fought hard for a well earned 4-3 win against The Weald school on Thursday, 29 January. After being behind twice in the first half they showed good resilience against a solid Weald team, but a fantastic strike from Harvey Ransome from 20 yards inspired the team to come back and overturn the deficit. With some good attacks down both wings two goals were created to lead The Weald 4-2. The Weald fought back and stole a goal with 5 minutes remaining but Oakmeeds defence stayed strong and held on for the win.

With many good performances it was a difficult choice for man of the match, so Mr Butcher opted for a player's player. Salomón Yawson Cucarella was the clear winner based on the players' votes. Well done Salomón!

The team were:
Daniel Bonnett, Ollie Bradford, Jack Cooper, Thomas Cooper, Ollie Marples, Luke Poulton, Harvey Ransome, Ollie Wilson, Louis Wood, Riley Wood, Jack Woodford, Salomón Yawson Cucarella.

Ella wins District Semi Final of Rotary Young Chef of the Year



Talented chef, Year 10 student, Ella Ward, won the District Semi Final of the Rotary Young Chef of the Year Competition on Saturday 24 January.

Following their success in the first stage of the competition at Oakmeeds, both Ella (first stage winner) and Scott Martin (first stage runner up) were invited to compete against 11 other students from schools across southern Sussex at The Weald school in Billingshurst. The

competitors had just 2 hours to prepare and present a 3 course meal for 2 people costing less than £15.

Ella's menu of Prosciutto and Gruyere cheese puffs served with tomato and rocket salad; Mozzarella Chicken wrapped in Parma ham, served with roasted potatoes, carrots and parsnips and Chocolate pudding served with orange mascarpone cream was beautifully executed and she gained the highest marks from the professional

judges.

Ella and four others now go through to the District Final at Brooklands College in Weybridge on Saturday 28 February.

We wish Ella all the very best for the end of the month. Thanks must also go to Burgess Hill Rotary Club who are sponsoring Ella in the competition.



Cameron collects Awards for 100 hours volunteering



Year 10 Oakmeeds Community College student, Cameron Gregory, was presented with his well-deserved Young Leaders in Service Award on 27 January at Oakmeeds. Burgess Hill District Lion President, Chris Muschamp, was pleased to present Cameron with the award and £100 of Amazon vouchers as this is the Lions' 60th birthday year.

Cameron has completed a very impressive 100 hours volunteering at Burgess Hill Youth Club

and St Catherine's Hospice Shop.

Tony Parris from Lions said: "This remarkable young man is involved in helping his community and giving something back. He deserves to be very proud of his achievement."

The Young Leaders in Service Awards reward the very best young people between the ages of 11 and 18 with certificates signed by the Lions International President. Cameron

is only the sixth young person in West Sussex to receive this award.

Big Schools' Birdwatch

A group of Year 7 and 8 students came together to take part in the RSPB Big Schools' Birdwatch.

They spent some time after school making Birdcakes with Lard, Mealworms, Bird Seed and Raisins to encourage our feathered friends to visit. It was messy but fun!



Then on the morning of 26 January we set up a makeshift bird hide in one of the school minibuses and were ready with binoculars and charts. The pupils were delighted to have seen species such as Wood Pigeons, Pied Wagtails, Blackbirds, Great Tits and Gulls visiting the feeders.

The results were then sent to the RSPB and kept so that a comparison can be made after a further watch in a few weeks time.

College dates for your diary - full list at www.oakmeeds.co.uk

Thursday 26 February 2015
Year 9 Options Evening

Thursday 5 March 2015, 7pm
Meet the University of Brighton Academies Trust

Thursday 12 March 2015
Fashion Show

HALF TERM Monday 16 - Friday 20 February 2015

SPRING TERM ENDS Friday 27 March 2015

Safer Internet Day 2015 will be celebrated globally on Tuesday 10th February with the slogan 'Let's create a better internet together'.

As parents, knowing how to keep your children safe on line can seem a confusing and daunting prospect. The online space is getting ever more complicated. The below links all offer some support and ideas that you might find useful.

<http://keepup.virginmedia.com/switchedonfamilies>

<http://www.vodafone.com/content/parents.html>

<http://www.saferinternet.org/safer-internet-day>

Many thanks

PC Theresa Broad DB770
Neighbourhood Schools
Officer
Mid Sussex District NPT
Burgess Hill Police Station

Drummer of Distinction!

Congratulations to Year 9 student, Daniel King, who passed his Grade 5 Drum music exam with Distinction!

Burgess Hill Best Book Awards - Brilliant author visit



Launched this academic year, the Burgess Hill Best Book Awards (BHBBAs) are gathering pace with a great talk from author, Julia Lee, whose book 'The mysterious misadventures of Clemency Wigglesworth' is one of the six books shortlisted for the Awards.

Last Wednesday (28 January) students from Year 6 in the local primary schools and Year 7 at Oakmeeds came together to enjoy hearing from Julia Lee. LRC Manager, Mrs Barrett, said: "We started the event with the announcement of the winner of our competition to design the logo for the BHBBAs and the unveiling of our new book stickers. The competition winner was Year 7 Oakmeeds' student, Simon Wilson. Congratulations to Simon." Simon commented: "When I found I had won the competition I felt really excited. When I created

my design, I searched the Internet for good ideas and worked from there. I am very pleased that my design is now on all the books in the different schools in Burgess Hill."

Julia Lee then gave a fascinating talk about what made her become a writer and the books she has written to date, and answered lots of questions from the audience. She also signed copies of her award nominated book, as well as its sequel 'The Dangerous Discoveries of Gully Potchard', for the students." Year 7 Eva Malyon from Oakmeeds commented: "I thought that Julia Lee's visit was inspirational. I particularly enjoyed how she let us into her writer's life and gave us all the details of her writing experience. I also loved having the chance to interact with all the students who came from the primary

schools. I hope there will be another visit like this one!"

Commenting on her visit, Julia Lee said: "Thank-you to all the school groups and staff involved, for such a well-organised and enjoyable author event.

It was a pleasure to meet such enthusiastic readers - and writers - and feel that there is such a rich book culture in your schools. (Not always easy in present times.)

The questions and comments from students, both in the session and individually afterwards, were really thoughtful and interesting."

This was the second of three meetings with all the schools together. The third and final meeting - at which voting will take place - is due to be held on Thursday 19 March 2015.

Students impress at Firebreak Passout Parade



Three students from Oakmeeds joined others from schools throughout Mid Sussex on a course with the fire service at Haywards Heath Fire Station in January.

Callum Beer, Robert Pugh and Callum Wood took part in the West Sussex Fire & Rescue Service FireBreak course, designed to help young people aged between 12 and 14 who would benefit from a practical learning environment. The

graduation ceremony on 23 January saw the students present a drill of the skills they had learnt over the week's course to family and friends.

Students attended the course for five days, working with firefighters on a programme that combines classroom based activities and practical training. The young people were taught about a firefighter's role from fire safety through to casualty rescue. They also

learned emergency life support skills.

Well done to our students who worked hard during the week and made the most of the opportunity.

Year 7 Interform Basketball



Year 7 enjoyed a very successful interform basketball tournament this week, with nearly 50 students competing, both boys and girls.

Bonus points were awarded for teams that had more than 1 girl and/or had more than 6 players.

Each form group played every other team once (3 points for a win, 2 points for a draw, 1 point for a loss), the final league results were as follows:

- RFR= 19 points
- JHS= 17 points
- NLE= 15 points
- AJS & JCE= 12 points
- TAE= 9 points
- ABR= 7 points

Mr Butcher, PE Teacher, said "Well done to all that participated and particularly to our very helpful and competent sports leaders; Jack Woodford, Thomas Booth, Ed Schwyster and Michael Platt!"

We will be having an interform rowing competition after half term during registration time, details to follow. If there are any other sporting/active tournaments that students would like to take part in then they should contact Mr Butcher.



Year 9 Options Day

This week Year 9 have been looking at their Options for GCSE. To help them in this important decision they enjoyed a speed networking event and an Options Day at the College aimed at helping them make informed choices.



A Year 9 Options Evening for parents and students will take place on Thursday 26 February.



Speed-networking success!



How to help students make the best decision as to which GCSE subjects to choose? The innovative idea of speed-networking has proved a huge success!

This week Year 9 took part in a speed-networking event as part of their Careers guidance to help them make decisions about choosing their GCSE subjects.

Careers & Work Experience Co-ordinator, Mrs Dorgan, said "We were overwhelmed this year by the amount of volunteers giving up their time to help our students. 25 representatives from businesses and industries from as far as Gatwick and Lewes gave up their time to come to Oakmeeds and

be questioned about their jobs and to provide valuable information on GCSE requirements for particular careers.

The volunteers were extremely impressed with the behaviour of all the students in Year 9, who had put a lot of thought into the questions they would ask and made notes to use later in the day when looking at the options process and future careers."

"I just wanted to say a very big thank you for inviting me to today's event. I found it very rewarding indeed and as an ex-pupil, it also gave me an opportunity to give something back. The children were great

fun and the groups that interviewed me asked some good questions. Only one of the groups guessed where I work and what I do, after only asking half a dozen questions. I was very impressed!"

Both students and business representatives learnt a lot from the morning and many students have raised their aspirations for the future as a result!

"Well done to Linda Dorgan for Oakmeeds careers morning. Glad to have been involved again."

"Thanks for inviting me and for organising a great event. It was a pleasure to meet such lovely students"

Disclaimer - We accept no responsibility or liability with respect to any of the products, information, material or services offered or provided by other organisations listed in this newsletter, nor do we endorse any of those organisations or any of their products or services. Should you decide to contract with any of these organisations, the contract will be directly between you and the relevant organisation. We will have no contractual involvement, and will not be liable in contract or otherwise for any products, information, materials or services provided to you by any of these organisations.



OPEN DAY

In association with the Sussex Federation of Young Farmers' Clubs
Saturday 9th May 2015 10am-5pm



- Equine displays
- Forestry demonstrations
- Range of large and small animals
- Tractor/trailer rides
- Children's activities
- Craft & trade fair
- Woodland walks
- Farm displays
- Local food & refreshments
- Dog grooming
- Falconry
- Sheep shearing
- Wine tasting and wine sales
- Dog showing
- Plant sales
- Clay pigeon shooting
- Sport/outdoor activities/climbing wall
- Metalsmithing/jewellery
- Gun dogs and terrier racing
- Floristry displays & competition
- Horticulture & hard landscaping
- Game and fishery management

Courses and Careers Advice

£7.50 ADULT. £3 SENIORS
FREE ENTRY FOR UNDER 16s

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