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Meet the Sponsor feedback

Thank you to all those who attended the meeting on Thursday 5 March. It was a very informative evening and we are pleased that both staff and parents have now had the opportunity to meet our chosen sponsor, the University of Brighton Academies Trust.

If you were unable to attend and would like to see the presentation, please go to the Academy Status section of the Oakmeeds website.

Year 11 Fashion Show

The Year 11 Fashion Show last night was a fantastic event. Thanks to all the staff, parents and students who organised, helped at and supported the show. Full coverage in the next newsletter!

A word from the Headteacher

Dear Parents/Carers,

Firstly some comments regarding today. This Red Nose Day the College made the decision to support Comic Relief and raise money in ways other than a non-uniform day in order to maintain the focus for the whole College community on improving teaching and learning and exam results, especially with the remaining time left for Year 11. Students organised fundraising activities within year groups, including holding cake sales. Staff organised a cake sale during break-time in order that they could also contribute. Oakmeeds looks to have one non-uniform day a term and we have already had two this academic year. In addition fund-raising by students for a range of charities takes place on a regular, if not daily, basis. We fully believe in helping those less fortunate than ourselves and raising money to support others.

With regard to improving teaching and learning the latest Ofsted monitoring visit summary letter will be on the College and Ofsted websites very shortly. The latest report is again very positive, recognising the hard work that has gone in to making the required improvements and encouraging with clear evidence of good progress being made. Please take the time to read it once it is available.

I am currently reading a book on a highly topical subject in the world of education. It is entitled "Building Resilience: The 7 steps to

creating highly successful lives". It considers resilience as one of the keys to having a successful life. It defines resilience as the attitude of mind and ability to respond positively to setbacks and bounce back when things do not go as planned. It can make the difference between success and failure; it underpins achieving potential and making your dreams a reality; it is linked to employability skills and having the right attitudes that employers seek.

The key feature, and what we are increasingly endeavouring to develop in the students who attend Oakmeeds is the idea that when you learn to do things resilience is the key to overcoming the challenges involved in the learning process and the hours that are needed to practice and master the relevant skill or activity, whatever that may be. We would therefore appreciate your support in helping reinforce this message at home, especially when it comes to homework completion and revision in the run-up to exams, in particular with the current Year 11. The students need to be putting in the time at home to make sure they have fully learnt what has been done in College and in readiness for questions they will face in their exams this summer. They will not achieve to their potential without lots of hard work.

Yours sincerely,

Colin Taylor
Headteacher

U14 Chess Team Success in Butler Cup

Congratulations to Year 7 Oakmeeds' students, Thomas Midmer, Thomas Rousell, Thomas Lawrence, and Ben Sturgiss who are through to the next round of the Sussex Junior Chess Butler Cup following their resounding victory on 26 February. Sussex Junior Chess award the Butler Cup to the first placed school in the Under 14 section of its inter-school competitions.

The Oakmeeds team played in the first round of the Butler Cup tournament against 3 other schools - Windlesham House Preparatory School, Brighton College and Downlands. The tournament was hosted by Windlesham House, who made everyone very welcome. Each team of 4 played against the teams from the other schools. There were 3 rounds, enabling all the schools to play each other.

Oakmeeds score of 10 wins, one loss and one match unfinished resulted in a well-deserved win for our team.

Mrs Bonner said: "The team are all excellent chess players and beat some fierce opponents. Well done!"

Top Readers Rewarded



Years 7 and 8 have proved that reading is a popular pastime for Oakmeeds' students.

All students in Years 7 and 8 follow the Accelerated Reader Programme, which is designed to encourage and support reading for pleasure and comprehension skills. Students have a fortnightly timetabled reading lesson in the Learning Resource Centre (LRC) in which they read books at their individual levels. When they have read a book they take a quiz to check their comprehension.

For the Reading Awards, LRC Manager, Mrs Barrett, worked out how many 100% passes each student had on their book quizzes, at the correct Accelerated Reader level for them. The top 6 readers in each year group were awarded Amazon vouchers as prizes.

The winners were:
Year 7 - Frances Jones, Paige Smith, Sophie Beard, Naomi Dobie, Alex Campion, Sam Szalkai.

Year 8 - Vishva Munasinghe, Emily Viljoen, Oliver Aldridge, Abi Jayan, Harry Ellarby, Jade Thomson.

Special congratulations to Frances Jones in year 7. She is the highest word reader across the two year groups, having read a total of 2,280,766 words to date! To find out more, we interviewed Frances about reading and her award.

Q: What type of books do you like to read?

A: I like mysteries best. Teri Terry is my favourite author.

Q: How many books do you read a week?

A: I usually read 2 books a week. I borrow them from the LRC at Oakmeeds and also read books from home. I read paperbacks rather than e-books.

Q: Have you always enjoyed reading?

A: I had a teacher in Year 4 who said the more you read the better your creative writing. All the class were encouraged to read more.

The Accelerated Reader scheme at Oakmeeds also helps, as I want to read more books to do the quizzes. I wouldn't read as much if it wasn't for the scheme.

Q: How do you feel when you get 100% on a book quiz?

A: I feel good, because it means I have fully read the book and got the most out of it.

Q: What do you love about reading?

A: I want to find out what happens in the story.

Q: What is your favourite book?

'The Fault in our Stars' by John Green. It makes you laugh and cry - an amazing book.

Q: How did you feel when you won a Reading Award and found out you were the highest word reader in years 7 and 8?

A: I was really happy. I read because I enjoy it, not to win awards, so it was a big surprise!

U15 girls cricket team through to County Final



Oakmeeds U15 girls cricket team played some impressive cricket to qualify for the County Finals of the Lady Taverners Indoor Cricket Tournament on Thursday 19 March. Their place was secured following 2 wins out of 3 games in the Semi Finals held at Oakmeeds on Monday 9 March.

The tournament started brilliantly with the Oakmeeds team claiming victory in their first game against Shoreham Academy, scoring an impressive 88-5 to Shoreham's 53-5. The competition was tough and their next match against Brighton College resulted in a win for Brighton,

75-5 to Oakmeeds' 61-5. Oakmeeds' fought back and in their final match beat Tanbridge House School, Oakmeeds' 82-3 against Tanbridge's 50-7. This meant we were through to the Final!

Ms Caroline Hugo, PE Teacher, supported the team at the Semi Final and said: "The girls played fantastically, demonstrating their exceptional team spirit and support for each other. This attitude enabled the girls to excel in the competition. Well done!"

The successful team were: Chloe Clarke-Walker, Izzy Deamer, Abbie Dorgan, Emily Goss, Abi Izzard, Jess

Knight, Lottie Palmer-Brown (Capt) and Ella Ward.

Congratulations to the team, their coach - Alec Hepburn, Ms Hugo and to all who help and support them!

We wish the team all the very best in the Final at the County Cricket Ground in Hove on Thursday from 1pm. If you have time on Thursday afternoon then please consider going to support the team. They have done really well to progress so far and I am sure they would appreciate support. They, and all other students that taste success at the College, are the embodiment of what resilience is all about.

Ella reaches Rotary Young Chef District Final



After winning two previous stages of the Rotary Young Chef competition, gifted chef, Ella Ward, competed in the District Final of the Rotary Young Chef of the Year Competition on Saturday 28 February at Brooklands College in Weybridge.

Year 10 student Ella and the other competitors had just 2 hours to prepare and present a 3 course meal for 2 people costing less than £15. Ella's menu was very accomplished, but unfortunately she didn't win through to the regional competition. The judges did, however, describe Ella as being the most organised chef in the competition.

Mr James Gartrell, Burgess Hill Rotary Club, said: "This was undoubtedly a great opportunity for Ella to take part in, and it was a very close competition. We hope to run the event again at Oakmeeds next year."

Congratulations to Ella on her fantastic achievement.

Our thanks go to Burgess Hill Rotary Club who sponsored this event in its first year at Oakmeeds.

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

Thursday 19 March 2015, 1pm onwards
U15 girls' cricket County Final

Thursday 19 March 2015, 5-8pm
Year 7 Parent Consultation Evening

Monday 23 March 2015, 4-6pm
Burgess Hill Sports Fair

Friday 27 March 2015
Ski Trip departs

SPRING TERM ENDS Friday 27 March 2015

SUMMER TERM BEGINS Tuesday 14 April 2015

Celebration of Achievement



21 students from Years 8-11 were invited to a Celebratory Lunch on 2 March with Mr Taylor and Ms Stanton. This special lunch recognises consistently high ATL (Attitude to Learning) scores recorded after the most recent Progress Point (Progress Point 3).

During the lunch Mr Taylor and Ms Stanton were able to personally congratulate students on their high level of effort made in all subjects. Those in the Platinum category also received certificates from Mr Taylor.

Ms Stanton "Once again it

is so pleasing to see over 20 students at this event and celebrate their hard work and commitment to their studies. I am especially pleased to have invited two Year 8 students, Madeleine Burton and Vishva Munasinghe. It is the first celebratory lunch that Year 8 students have been invited to and both students should very proud (along with all the other students who attended this event) of their very high ATL average scores. Students who attend 3 out of the 5 of these celebratory events, throughout the year, will be invited to attend a larger celebratory meal at the end

of the summer term in a local restaurant."

The students were:

Year 8 - Madeleine Burton, Vishva Munasinghe

Year 9 - Jack Cooper, Abbie Dorgan

Year 10 - Rose Groom, Fiona Goring, Marjana Ahmed, Joseph Cartin, Emily Goss, Timmy Hawes, Thomas Jones, Edward Poole, Nathan Speck, Alex Wotton

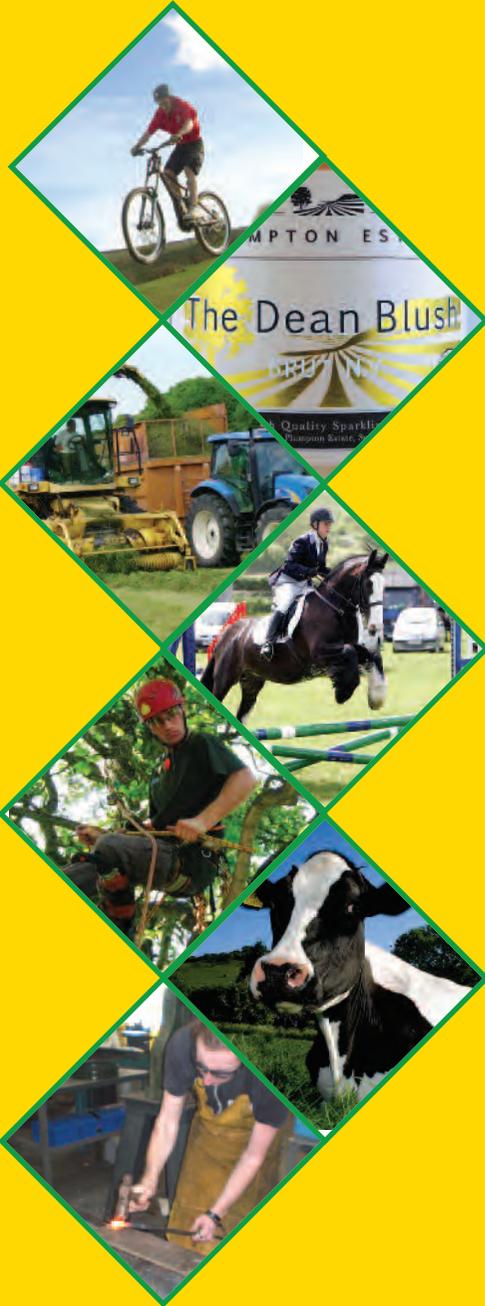
Year 11 - Jade Burnham, Jemma Carpenter, Chlöe Hunter, Lorelie Bishop, Rosie Bennet, Kieran Holt, Simon Wisniewski.

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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

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