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A word from the Headteacher

Dear Parents/Carers,

At the end of a shorter week this is another issue of the newsletter which is full of students' successes and reports on opportunities that are provided for Oakmeeds students. I hope it reinforces for you the wide range of experiences that we provide or take advantage of and that enhance the education we provide and broaden the students' horizons. Our U15 girls cricket team enjoyed a good victory against Hurstpierpoint College yesterday, which will give them further confidence as they head to Lord's next week. It is also particularly pleasing to see the impact that one of our newest regular activities, the Film Club, is having and the recognition from the organising body, Into Film, for Jack Cooper and the quality of his review. I offer my congratulations to him and all the other students who have done well, either on an individual or team basis and thank them for the time they give to help Oakmeeds put into action our motto of "Succeeding Together".

On Wednesday the first meeting was held with West Sussex representatives and University of Brighton representatives as the formal work starts on the process required to convert Oakmeeds to academy status from January 2016. Site based issues were identified as the biggest hurdles to overcome given the complexity of the Oakmeeds/Woodlands Meed/London Meed campus, but there was nothing that was seen to be impossible to

resolve. Work will now progress and I will keep you informed of developments.

Finally, I also recently met with representatives of the body that manages the Air Training Corps Squadron (Number 2529) based on our site. The old nursery building has now been fully taken over by the ATC and re-furbished. Two further huts are to be added in the near future, significantly improving their accommodation. They are always looking for new members and if your son or daughter is interested in taking advantage of what they offer for young people they would be very welcome. The telephone number for them is 01444 871050.

Yours sincerely,

Colin Taylor
Headteacher



Celebrating Sporting Success



On Thursday 30 April Oakmeeds held its Sports Dinner, an annual event to celebrate sporting success. This was a fabulous evening with 130 students attending and a host of prizes, tournaments and quizzes to take part in, as well as great food!

Students took part an elimination competition, which left a select few to take part in an indoor javelin competition! The night culminated with awards for each year group.

The winners were:

Newcomer of the Year (Year 7)

- Charlie Freeman
- Sophie Hooper

Player of Year (Year 8)

- Joe Smith
- Miranda Pierpoint

Player of Year (Year 9)

- Jack Cooper
- Isabelle Deamer

Sports Leader

- Lottie Palmer-Brown

Team of the Year

- U15 Girls Indoor Cricket Team

Year 11 Sports Personality

- 1st – Michael Mallin
- 2nd – Emma Bamford
- 3rd – Lauren Awcock

The PE Department said: "We wish to thank all who attended and who made this a truly special event to celebrate our successes."

A big thank you also goes to all the staff and students involved with the evening!



Year 8 Football team in Mid Sussex Schools Cup Victory



Congratulations to our Year 8 boys who played some fantastic football to win the final of the Mid Sussex Schools Cup on Friday 1 May at Downlands School.

Oakmeeds made a tremendous start carving out several chances in the first few minutes, one of which Charlie Broad calmly converted to make it 1-0. Midway through the half Jack Smith won a penalty after some tenacious and determined play. The normally sure footed George Mercer stepped up but unfortunately put the ball over the bar, an opportunity spurned. Slowly but surely Downlands were getting back into the game, albeit without ever really troubling Joe Ridley in goal.

The second half started at a

frenetic pace. Charlie Broad had a shot that hit the bar and then within a minute Downlands scored at the other end 1-1. Within a minute of the re-start Charlie Broad tried a speculative shot that squirmed under the Downlands keeper 2-1. Downlands response was immediate and they too had a long range shot that beat the keeper 2-2 - the crowd (100+) were going nuts!

With the game level the Oakmeeds team had to find 'another level'. Joe Smith was doing a great job in the middle of the park trying to string things together and Marshal Smith was always a threat down the right hand side, but it was Charlie Broad again that popped up in the right place and finished his scoring chance with aplomb to make the

score 3-2. With 15 minutes remaining the Oakmeeds defence had to withstand numerous Downlands attacks, but the defence marshalled by Captain Ben Hicks could not be beaten. It was Oakmeeds that scored again with Charlie Broad notching his 4th goal in a virtuoso performance to seal the victory 4-2.

Mr Vincent said all the boys were fantastic and a credit to the school.

The victorious team were: Josh Akturk, Cameron Bates, Tommy Bowles, Martyn Box, Charlie Broad, Oliver Bryant, George Coleman-Titterton, Hamish Gartrell, Ben Hicks (Captain), George Mercer, Sam Philmore, Joe Ridley, Jack Smith, Joe Smith, Marshall Smith.

Alumni Update

Will Wood signs pro contract with Southampton

Congratulations to former Oakmeeds student, Will Wood, whose dream came true last week when he signed a professional contract with Southampton less than 24 hours after helping them win the the Under-21 Premier League Cup.

18 year old Will has been with the club since he was 11. In an interview with the Mid Sussex Times he said "It's amazing to get a contract with the club after being there since 11 years old and dreaming as a kid that one day this would happen."

He has this advice for anyone trying to make it as a professional. "Any youngster looking to make a career in football needs to work hard and never give up.

"No matter how tough it got I stayed focused and started getting noticed by the big clubs."

"Football is so important to a youngster's development, as is all sport. It gives discipline, fitness and social development. I've got so many good mates through my football."

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

Thursday 7 May 2015
Bideford Trip Parents' Meeting

Thursday 14 May 2015
Blackland Farm Year 7 Parents' Meeting

Thursday 14 May 2015

Year 8 Y half Newhaven Geography Trip

HALF TERM Monday 25 - Friday 29 May 2015

SUMMER TERM ENDS Tuesday 21 July 2015



On Saturday 2 May Jack Woodford (Year 9) was part of the Crawley Athletic Club's U13/U15 Team which scored an impressive, if unexpected, victory in their first Premier 2 fixture of the Youth Development League, Lower Age Group.

The event was held at the K2 sports facility in Crawley and the team were up against some of the strongest clubs in the South – Windsor, Bedford, Enfield, Herne Hill and Bracknell.

Jack competed in the Long Jump, where he won the B group and in the 100m where he ran a Personal Best of 12.4 seconds. He also ran in the 4 x 100m and the 4 x 300m team relays.

The highlight of the day was a new Club Record for the U15 Boys 4 x 300m relay team where Jack ran the first leg and the team ran to victory in a time of 2:43.2. The previous record was 2:44.4.

Critical Thinking Day at Hurst



Year 10 student, Edward Poole reports on a trip to Hurstpierpoint College.

On 30 April a group of 14 Year 10 students including myself went on a trip to Hurstpierpoint College, where we tried some of the different subjects on offer at the school.

Out of the five subjects we did three each and chose where we would like to go. First of all some others along with me went to try History where for the first part we were thinking about how we can uncover the past by being asked how we would find out about ourselves if we woke up one morning forgetting everything we knew about our lives. I still think it would be a good idea to just go back to sleep in that scenario to avoid panic! After our History trial we went to test Philosophy and to consider things and scenarios we may not have thought of before and how we would act in those scenarios, as well as the issues behind each action. The final subject I tried was Physics, where we looked

at comic book heroes and whether or not their powers were scientifically correct or if comic book writers were lying to us. In the end we found the Flash to be completely against science and Spiderman was partly correct according to the facts. Then again, in a comic it is what is unreal that makes them good! Other subjects to try were English, Languages and Maths. I myself did not try these, but from what I heard Maths was definitely a challenge and lots was to be learned from English. Overall we had an enjoyable day seeing how other people experience their education and it was enjoyable to try some new things we hadn't done before.

Ms Conrad, Gifted and Talented Co-ordinator at Oakmeeds, said: "Students were a credit to Oakmeeds and themselves. They were recognised for asking particularly pertinent and insightful questions and more than held their own against the other schools that were also at the event. It was also very interesting

to hear their views on private vs state education and the differences between them. A very valid point was made by one of our students who said, 'I'm doing well in school and achieving high grades - why would I pay to do the same somewhere else?' I was extremely proud to take our students on a trip like this and I am looking forward to more in the future!"

What an attitude! A good one!



24 students were invited to a Celebratory Lunch on 23 April 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 4).

During the lunch Mr Taylor and Ms Stanton were able to personally congratulate students on their consistent 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 was really pleased to see a Year 7 student, Megan Plank, invited to this event for the first time. Megan must

be very proud that she has been recognised as the student with the best attitude to learning in her year group. Mr Taylor and I were also able to use this opportunity to say a final 'Well Done' to Year 11 students, as they will be on study leave for the next event. Students who attended 3 out of the 5 of these celebratory events, throughout this academic year, will be invited to attend a larger celebratory meal at the end of the summer term in a local restaurant to recognise their fantastic attitude to learning."

The students were:

Year 7 – Megan Plank

Year 8 - Madeleine Burton,
Vishva Munasinghe

Year 9 - Jack Cooper,
Abbie Dorgan

Year 10 - Marjana Ahmed,
Jessica Champion, Justina Giles,
Fiona Goring,
Emily Goss, Rose Groom,
Timmy Hawes,
Thomas Jones, Edward Poole,
Nathan Speck,
Alex Wotton

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

Year 10 Need Your Help!

Year 10 would like to organise a bring and buy sale or raffle to raise money for Cancer Research UK, but they need your help!

Do you have any unwanted Christmas or birthday presents lurking in the back of a cupboard? Now is the time to have a spring clean in aid of a very good cause!

We welcome new donations and unwanted gifts (NO ALCOHOL PLEASE) for our fundraising effort. Items can be brought into College and left at Reception or dropped off at B14 between now and Friday 22 May.

Thank you for your support.

Girls in Technology

On Tuesday 21 April, a group of year 8 girls attended the first session of a five week course on technology. Students, Tara Malins and Maddy Burton, report.



On arrival at the stadium we were led up to an executive box overlooking the pitch. Our tour guide, Ciaran, gave us iPads to use to take photos and we went to the Harry Bloom lounge, where meetings take place. We then went to the lower west stand concourse, which sells food and drink on a match day and on to the top of the west stand, which is 3 tiers high. Ciaran told us about the technology used to keep the pitch in top condition, such as sprinklers that vanish into the ground. We continued on to the conference room, tunnel and home and away changing rooms. Finally ending our tour on the pitch. We returned to the executive box and made some Keynotes (just like Powerpoint but easier) about the technology at the stadium. When our minibus arrived to take us home all the girls had had a really good time.



Top Ten Review for Jack!

A film critic in the making

Year 9 Jack Cooper's review for Oakmeeds Film Club opener, Shaolin Soccer, has been recognised as one of the best ten film reviews from across the country submitted to the Into Film website.

As featured in Issue 49 of Oakmeeds' e-newsletter, Jack's detailed and knowledgeable review was chosen from the hundreds of reviews posted onto the Into Film website, from school film clubs across the UK.

Into Film support film clubs in schools across the country, providing films free of charge, acting as a forum for publishing reviews and organising special events to raise awareness of the enjoyment and impact of film as an educational tool. Lucy Whitehead, Into Film's Programme Coordinator, said that the judges "were very impressed with Jack's thoughtful, articulate and well-reasoned review. He shows a great knowledge and love for film and is able to sum up really effectively the best features of the film and

gives a great insight into it - which is exactly what a reader looks for in a review!"

Jack has also posted reviews of other films shown by Oakmeeds Film Club including Super 8, Be Kind Rewind and Son of Rambow and will be presented with a prize from Into Film.

Mr Sluman, who organises the club, praised Jack for his commitment and his obvious passion for film. "Jack has attended every session so far and I look forward to reading his reviews as he clearly knows his stuff! I hope that Jack's success will inspire more Oakmeeds students to join the club and to write reviews, perhaps basing them on Jack's high quality writing".

This season's films have focused on the concept of 'Films About Films', encouraging Oakmeeds students to develop their own film literacy by making their own films. Film Club runs every Thursday from 3pm. See Mr Sluman for more information.

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GUESS HOW MANY SWEETS IN THE JAR

Come and have a go on:
Friday 8th and Friday 15th May
In B/D Block Foyer.

30p = 1 Guess. 50p = 2 Guesses.

All profits go to:

DiABETES UK
CARE. CONNECT. CAMPAIGN.

