



In this issue

Ofsted Outcome **P.2/3**

iPad Winner **P.4/5**

Christmas Card Competition **P.6/7**

Best Book Award **P.8/9**

Sports Round-Up **P.10**

BRIGHT FM Search for a Christmas Choir

Oakmeeds has been short listed in the Bright FM Search for a Christmas Choir and is one of just five schools to get through.

Voting is taking place from now until midday on Friday 13th November <http://brightfm.net/search-for-a-christmas-choir/>

A word from the Headteacher

Dear Parents/Carers,

You should have heard already that we are very pleased to have shown Ofsted that we are no longer in need of Special Measures as a result of the inspection last Wednesday and Thursday. This was the outcome we have been waiting for since the inspection at the end of January 2014, see further information on page 2.

On Monday 9th I attended the Oakmeeds Association AGM. The OA is a very supportive organisation and raises money to help support the College. They desperately need new members to help out at events and with their fund raising activities. If you can help out in any way please see the information included later in this latest newsletter.

On Wednesday 11th the whole school observed the two minute silence together on the playground. The photograph included later on shows this. We had some visitors from the University of Brighton Academy Trust who were here for a meeting and they were extremely impressed by the way the students conducted themselves and took part perfectly. The word used was "Impeccable"! I was very proud of the way the students engaged with our collective participation.

Today we have been joining in with the BBC Children in Need Day and students have been raising money for this very worthwhile charity.

Our cycle of parent's consultation evenings is now starting and over the next few weeks there will opportunities for many parents to come and discuss matters with teachers and tutors.

At some of these events before the end of term there will be representatives from the University of Brighton Academies Trust available for you to meet and address any questions that you may have about our conversion to an academy. The date for the conversion has been put back by the DFE due to logistical issues and it is now 1st April 2016 rather than 1st February. This means that when the students return after the Easter break we will be known as Oakmeeds Academy.

I look forward to seeing many of you between now and the end of term.

Yours sincerely,

Colin Taylor
Headteacher



Ofsted Outcome

What is Breakfast Club?

It is free to all Year 7-9 students and takes place from 7.55am – 8.15pm Monday to Friday at Cafe Oakmeeds.

Students get a choice of:

- hot drink (hot chocolate/decaf tea/decaf coffee)
- water or squash
- rolls with jam/marmalade/marmite/cream cheese
- cereal (Coco Pops/Rice Crispies/Weetabix/Cornflakes

and home-made porridge

- Fruit (satsuma/banana/apple)

Not only can students start the day with a good breakfast, they can also meet their friends for a sociable start to the day.



Oakmeeds Community College is no longer judged to require Special Measures following the Ofsted inspection this week. This decision took place with immediate effect. The full inspection report will be available soon but until then no more information can be provided. Normally the time scale for a school to have special measures removed from the date of the report being published is two years. This has been achieved in only 18 months at Oakmeeds through the determination of the College leaders, staff and students. In time our aim is for Oakmeeds to be judged Outstanding.

Headteacher Colin Taylor comments "I am delighted to be able to provide this

great news. I am proud to be the Headteacher of the College and lead the team of dedicated staff. Throughout this challenging period since January 2014 we have focussed on the key issues and made the changes required to improve. I offer my sincere thanks for the contribution staff have made to this success and their commitment to continuing the improvement of the College and providing the best education possible for the students. The inspection team were very complimentary again about the student body at the College and I also thank the students for the part they play on a daily basis in helping improve Oakmeeds as a community. Finally, I would also like to thank

governors and parents for their continued support, encouragement and commitment."

Chair of Governors, David Fry comments "On behalf of the Governing Body I wish to thank everyone involved for the enormous effort which has been put in since the beginning of 2014 which has resulted in Oakmeeds coming out of Special Measures yesterday. This could not have been achieved without their dedication and support during what have been difficult and stressful times for all of us. The College is well on track for our ultimate aim of "Outstanding". Well done!"

Remembrance



Head Boy, Ed Poole and Head Girl, Jasmine Macleod, represented Oakmeeds on Sunday at the Royal British Legion (Burgess Hill Branch) Remembrance Day Parade and Service in St John's Church on Sunday 08 November.

A group of students from several year groups also joined Town Councillors, the Royal British Legion Colour Party, Town Council staff and other children from local schools for the march from the Help Point to the War Memorial on Wednesday 11 November commencing at 10.50 a.m. This was followed by a 2 minute silence at 11.00 a.m. after which there was a service to remember all the animals that served, suffered and died alongside the British, Commonwealth and Allied forces in the wars and conflicts of the 20th century.



COPYING

We are able to offer a photocopying service (colour, mono, booklets etc) at reasonable rates. Please contact our Resources Centre on 01444 241691.

HIRING Need a venue?

We have a large campus and a wide range of areas and facilities which are available for hire all year round. Just contact jmills@oakmeeds.co.uk for further information.

Primary pupil presented iPad mini

Oakmeeds
Association



Thank you to everyone who attended the AGM on Monday and pledged their support for another year.

We're always looking for new members so if you fancy getting involved, even if it's just to help out at one event a year, you will be most welcome. Please email pta@oakmeeds.co.uk for information.

There are limited spaces left for our Christmas Quiz at The Woolpack on 24th November so book your teams now to avoid disappointment - see the flyer following this newsletter.



Bill Goodwin, Director of Development at the University of Brighton Academies Trust and Colin Taylor, Headteacher at Oakmeeds Community College presented an iPad mini to year 6 student, Ryan Goss who attends Birchwood Grove Primary School in Burgess Hill. One of many children who took part in a fact finding activity at Oakmeeds' recent open evening, Ryan was the lucky winner of the prize.

The well attended open evening gave current year 6 students and their families the opportunity to meet students, staff and explore the college. One parent said: "The evening was brilliant, very informative and very hands on for the children looking around. The pupils representing the school were all so polite and enthusiastic."

Bill Goodwin said: "I was very pleased to represent the University of Brighton Academies Trust at the presentation at Birchwood Grove. It's very important to the university to build strong partnerships with its community and our relationship with primary schools matters very much to us. We thought an iPad mini would be a great prize for the successful pupil as it will encourage their learning in all sorts of innovative ways."

In early 2016 the college will become Oakmeeds Academy, sponsored by the University of Brighton Academies Trust (subject to ministerial approval). The University of Brighton Academies Trust consists of a team of education professionals focused exclusively on supporting and challenging Sussex schools to be the best they can be.

Chess Success

YEAR 11 FUNDRAISING



An Oakmeeds student team enjoyed success recently in a chess tournament.

The Sussex Junior Chess Academy Tournament was held on Friday 30th October. The event took place at Birchwood Grove School and five local schools participated.

The team were Ben Sansom, Thomas Midmer, Tom Rousell, Benjamin Sturgis, William Sturgis, Jude Harcourt and Jack Barnett. The boys won with a score of 18 points, just beating Downlands by 3 points.

We are delighted to report the success of the recent Year 11 student fundraising.

Orders received for the Christmas Tea Towels now amount to £1,432. Money raised will be divided equally between the Prom Fundraising and Cancer Research.

There are also enough orders to enable the production of the yearbook. If you wish to order a copy, please see the letter on our website.

<http://www.oakmeeds.w-sussex.sch.uk/Parents/Year-11-Letters/>

Christmas Card Competition

You may remember last year that we held a Christmas card competition.

The winner's artwork or photo was printed and used by the College as its card.

We will be running this competition again this year.

Who can enter?
Any Oakmeeds student.
One entry per student.

What format should be

used?
The entry should either be original artwork or a photograph.

Artwork must be on a template, which can be collected from Reception.

Photographs should be emailed to:
office@oakmeeds.co.uk.
They should be suitable for printing an A5 size card.
The email should include your name, year group and

tutor group.

Deadline for submission of entries?
Monday 16 November 2015

Judging will take place in November and the winner and runners up will be announced in assemblies. There will be prizes for the winner and two runners up.

Remaining INSET Days

Friday 11th December

Monday 11th April

Friday 24th June



Last year's winning design by Jasmine Macleod, Year 11



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

Tuesday 24 November
Oakmeeds Association Quiz

Tuesday 24 November
Yr 11 Mocks (until Tuesday 8 December)

Thursday 26 November
Yr 7 PCE (Tutors only)

Thursday 3 December
Yr 10 PCE

Thursday 10 December
Yrs 7 & 8 Disco

Friday 11 December
INSET day

AUTUMN TERM Monday 7 September to
Friday 18 December 2015

HALF TERM Monday 26 to Friday 30 October
2015

SPRING TERM Monday 4 January to
Thursday 24th March 2016

HALF TERM Monday 15 to Friday 19 February
2016

SUMMER TERM Tuesday 12 April to Friday 22
July 2016

HALF TERM Monday 30 May to Friday 3 June
2016

University - the first steps

On the 4th November Burgess Hill Girls School held a university day: where there were talks about life at university, how to apply to university and how to choose the right one. The first speaker was Mike from the University of Bath, he talked to us about admissions to university; he explained how it was important to put the right things in your personal statement; information about yourself that stands out – not just a page of exam results; most importantly it must be true, as you may be asked to elaborate during an interview. He also spoke about the differences in courses between universities and the importance of investigating in full the course that you are applying for. The next speaker was Molly who is in her third year at Sussex University and is studying the History of Arts and English. Her speech was about general life at uni, she told us that there were two types of universities: campus based and city.

The final talk was from Alex, regarding the

admissions process for Cambridge and Oxford Universities. In Cambridge and Oxford the campus is split up into colleges. Each college acts like a home to you while you study there, but your lectures will still be in with the rest of the university. Alex explained the differences between what most universities look for in students and what “Oxbridge” looks for in an applicant.

At the end of the talk Mike set us interview questions from “Oxbridge” interviews to dispel the myths about scary questions. One of his questions was: “You work in a hospital where they are planning to close down one of the departments. You must make the decision of which one to get rid of, which one would you pick? This made us really think about our answers but also the reasons behind them.

Abbie Dorgan 10/YTR

Christmas Hamper Day

In the last newsletter we mentioned that this Christmas local organisations and churches are working together to provide and distribute Christmas hampers to people in need.

Oakmeeds will be participating in this activity and students will be given information about collecting within their year groups. A Christmas Hamper Box will be in the College Reception after half term.

We have decided to dedicate one day to the collection of hamper items which will be Wednesday 18th November. Students can take items to Mrs Funnell’s office. For visitors to the College there is a hamper box in our Reception. As a reminder, items that can be included are:

Milk (UHT)
Sugar (500g)
Tea bags/instant coffee

Fruit Juice (carton)
Soup (tinned)
Sage and onion stuffing
Tomatoes (tinned)
Vegetables (tinned)
Cereal
Savory rice
Pasta/spaghetti
Pasta sauces
Meat/meatballs (tinned)
Fish (tinned)
Fruit (tinned)
Custard (tinned)
Angel Delight
Jelly (packet)
Rice pudding
Biscuits/chocolate biscuits
Jam
Mince pies
Kids Christmas chocolates
Chocolate log



To celebrate ‘The
Year of the Sheep’

The competition is
free to enter for KS1
KS2 and KS3 and
there are three
categories

- * Create sheep art on a tile
- * Grow herbs & vegetables to be used in a lamb recipe
- * Design a poster showing a year in the life of a sheep

A prize will be
awarded to the winner
of each category for
KS1 KS2 & KS3

Entries will be
displayed during the
South of England
Show, Ardingly on
9th 10th & 11th June
2016

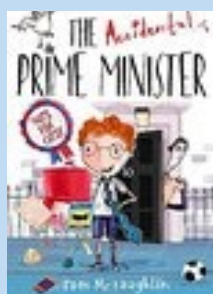
Entry forms via
info@seas.org.uk,
completed and
returned to
Debbie Wood
Education
Development
Executive
by post, e-mail
education@seas.org.uk
or fax 01444
892888
by 1.02.16

Best Book Award

LRC Top 10 Books

Here is the current top ten list of loans from the LRC:

The most popular being The Accidental Prime Minister - Tom McLaughlin



Dead Scared - Curtis Jobling

The Fault in our Stars - John Green

Boy in the Tower - Polly Ho-Yen

Ketchup Clouds - Annabel Pitcher

Diary of a Wimpy Kid: the Long Haul - Jeff Kinney

My Sister Lives on the Mantelpiece - Annabel Pitcher

Ratburger - David Walliams
The Recruit - Robert Muchamore

Us Minus Mum - Heather Butler

Tell us what you are reading? office@oakmeeds.co.uk

Forget the Carnegie Awards, the Blue Peter Book Awards and the Smarties Fiction Prize, the most coveted award currently for teenage authors is the 'Burgess Hill's Best Book Award'!!

Now in its second year, the BHBBA involves students from eight schools across the town working in partnership to decide the winning book from a shortlist of eight titles. This year's Oakmeeds group, which comprises fourteen avid readers from Year 7, is already hard at work reading, discussing and debating the latest contenders for the prestigious award. All of the authors have been informed and all have replied, saying how excited they are that their books have been

shortlisted.

Over the next few weeks, we will give you a sneak peek of the books we have chosen for this year's award, starting firstly with 'Us Minus Mum' by Heather Butler.



"This book took me on a rollercoaster of emotions, good and bad. George and Theo are faced with something any child would

dread – their mum has got cancer. Luckily they have lots of friends and family on hand to help out and look after them. A talent show is coming up and they are entering, doing an act with their dogs Goffo and Ivan. Will they win? Read on to find out what happens.

I recommend this book to both girls and boys from the age 11+ as the book needs to be understood properly to get the best out of it."

(Reviewed by Katie Read 7CBA)

Challenging Maths

The following pupils took in the UK senior mathematical challenge last week.

Thomas Jones, Bartek Wlodarski, Ethan Roberts, Timmy Hawes, Jack Brough (all year 11) and Robert Pugh (year 10).

The challenge is an annual event and is organised by the United Kingdom Mathematics Trust. The Senior Challenge is aimed at all 16-19 year olds studying mathematics. It is also suitable for students who may no longer be studying mathematics but have completed their GCSE (or equivalent). The challenge involves answering 25 multiple choice questions in 90 minutes and is sat in school under normal exam conditions.

The top 60% of students nationally receive a gold, silver or bronze certificate in the ratio 1:2:3 and each institution receives a Best in School certificate. Top

performing students are then invited to take part in follow on rounds and the very best can represent their country in the International Mathematical Olympiad. Around 1000 top scorers in the Senior Challenge are invited to take part in the British Mathematical Olympiad Round 1 and around 2000 are invited to take part in the Senior Kangaroo.

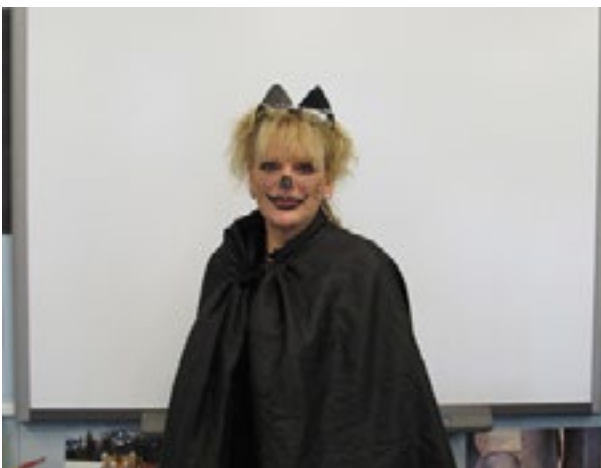
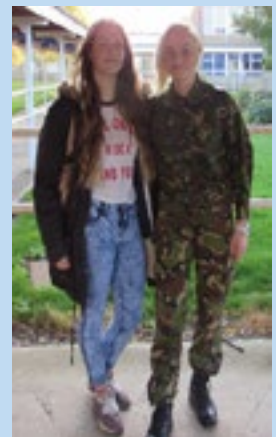
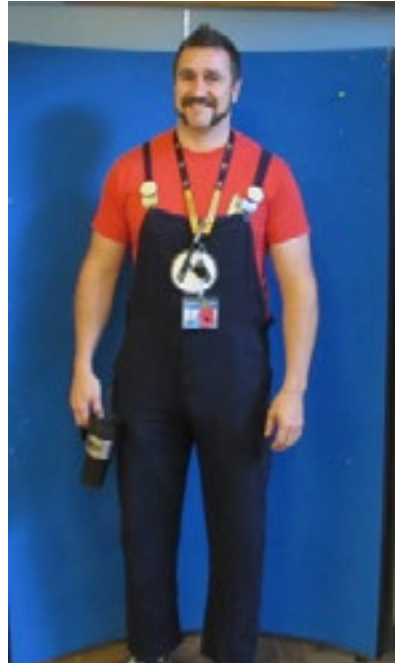
Below is one of the questions from this year's challenge.

When Louise had her first car, 50 litres of petrol cost £40. When she filled up the other day, she noticed that 40 litres of petrol cost £50.

By approximately what percentage has the cost of petrol increased over this time?

A 50% B 56% C 67% D 75% E 80%

Children in Need 2015



Sports Round-Up

Sports Diary

Tues 17th Nov -
Year 10 football v
Imberhorne (HOME)

Wed 18th Nov- Year 11
rugby v ST Pauls (HOME)

Thurs 19th Nov- Year 8
football v W.PARK (HOME)

Thurs 19th Nov - Year 9
rugby v St Pauls (HOME)

Fri 20th Nov - Year 11
rugby v Downlands (@
BHRC)

Tues 24th Nov- Year 9
Badminton Comp @
W.park

Wed 25th Nov- Year
10 rugby v Downlands
(AWAY)

Thurs 26th NOV- Year
9 Football v W.PARK
(HOME)

Disclaimer: Please note that these fixtures are subject to change with little notice. If your child is participating and you need to check arrangements, please contact the College Reception.

Monday 19th Oct

The U14 girls football team travelled to Eastbourne for a 1st round County Cup fixture. After a slow start Oakmeeds went on to dominate the game running out 5-1 winners. Star Player was Alisha Mainwaring for a hatrick!

Tuesday 20th Oct

The year 7 football team 2nd IX played against Imberhorne in a pulsating match. Oakmeeds came from behind no less than 3 times to finish the winners 4-3. Star Player was Ethan Taylor for the winning goal!

Wed 21st October

They year 9 rugby team played out a hard fought match against Oathall. In an attritional game both teams played with great commitment and enthusiasm. In the second half Oakmeeds slowly gained the advantage with some great running rugby, winning the game 17-5. Star Player was Ewan McLaren for strong running

Thursday 22nd Oct

The year 7 football team played against Holy Trinity School in a County Cup 2nd round match. Oakmeeds hung on in the first half thanks to some great goalkeeping by Alex Pilbeam. At 2-2 the game went into extra time and then penalties. In a dramatic shootout Oakmeeds ended up the victors 3-2. Star Player was Alex Pilbeam

Wed 4th November

A hardy team of Oakmeeds pupils went to the Jubilee Fields, Billingshurst for the Mid Sussex Schools Cross Country Championships. Everybody ran well but particularly commendable were Sophie Hooper (5th), Josh Akturk (10th) and Harry Heath (21st).

Wed 11th November

The year 9 Boys basketball team competed in a Mid Sussex Schools Basketball Tournament hosted by Oakmeeds. They drew the first game against Oathall and then ground out a win against The Weald. They saved their best game to last running out 16-4 winners against Sackville, making them the overall winners!. Star Player was Sam Philmore for cool shooting under pressure.

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