



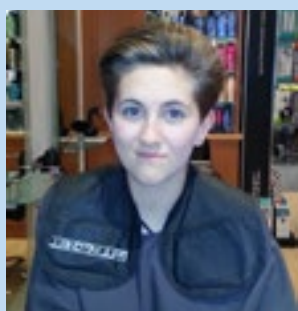
Hair cut for Charity

Ashleigh Baker, year 9 has recently donated her hair to the Little Princess Trust.

The trust provides real hair wigs to children throughout the UK that have lost their own hair through cancer treatment or other hair loss illnesses.

Not only did she donate four lots of 8" plaits but she has raised in excess of £600 to date.

If you would like to help Ashleigh raise further funds this is the just giving page: <https://www.justgiving.com/Paul-Baker35/>



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A word from the Headteacher

Dear Parents/Carers,

May I wish you all a belated Happy New Year. I hope 2016 will be a very positive and successful year for us all.

Thank you for your understanding and support with the action we are taking at the start of this term with regard to raising standards and expectations over the completion of homework and behaviour for learning; responses we have received from parents so far are very supportive and understanding. These are two key issues that we are addressing to help us move from the latest Ofsted judgement to Good or Outstanding. I appreciate that the action being taken may seem harsh and challenging in some cases but it will be of benefit to students in the long term.

This newsletter contains an update from activities at the very end of last term and the recent Young Musician of the Year event. This term will be another busy one with many sports fixtures, events and trips going on so future editions will hopefully have more content for you. If you have any suggestions as to other items or issues we could include in the newsletter we will be very happy to hear your suggestions.

One development that we are going to introduce soon is what is known in the education sector as BYOD – Bring Your Own Device. I will be sending a letter to all parents

next week explaining this so please look out for it via email or paper copy. The policy that supports it will be on the website and giving your children permission will entail reading this policy and agreeing to the content. A reply slip will be attached to my letter and this will need returning to the College. This is, in principle, allowing students to use their own electronic devices such as smart phones or tablet computers in lessons and other learning situations to enhance their experiences or outcomes under the control and direction of their teachers. We hope this will be a very positive development. The normal rules about the use of mobile phones within College will remain though.

I look forward to seeing many of you at forthcoming events.

Yours sincerely,

Colin Taylor
Headteacher



Young Musician of the Year



On Thursday 7th January Oakmeeds were delighted to host the Rotary Club's Young Musician of the Year' competition. Following on from its success last year the event was even bigger than the last and we were thrilled to invite competitors from Burgess Hill Girls, Downlands and St. Pauls. Each school was allowed 5 entrants and the standard and variety of performances delivered a thoroughly enjoyable evening showcasing a diverse array of musical talent.

Representing Oakmeeds were Eva Malyon, year 8, who performed two pieces on the piano; 'A Stormy Coast' and 'Indian Pony Ride'. The pieces were performed with confidence and a mature musical awareness of the contrasting styles. Steph Sinclair, year 10, performed 'Why do fools fall in love' and 'Titanium'. Her assertive vocal delivery captured the mood of the two pieces beautifully. Ben McLaren, year 11, performed 'Mind the Gap', a grade 8 drum examination piece. The piece featured a fantastically high level of technical demand which he performed with ease. Dan King, year 10, also performed on the drums. He played the well-known Kings of Leon track 'Use Somebody'. He performed with an air

of 'coolness' and showed a brilliant, controlled use of dynamic change and variation. Finally, Megan Harrild, year 10, performed Adele's 'Skyfall'. With its strong and powerful melody, Megan delivered a truly polished performance.

During the interval we were delighted to welcome back winners from last year. Saskia Dodds, who went on to represent Oakmeeds in the Southeast Area Final last year, performed 'I wish I was a punk rocker' and 'Radioactive'. Matt Willis, who last year won Best Contemporary Musician, returned with ex-pupils Kieron Holt, Peter Wickens, Steph Kerr and Sasha Delmage and rocked the audience with some well-known popular classics!

Mrs Frean would like to thank James Gartrell from Burgess Hill Rotary Club for arranging the event and for the wonderful photos. She would also like to thank all of the performers. They were fantastic ambassadors for the College. Everyone agreed that it was a brilliant event to have been a part of, and we are looking forward to the competition next year.

The Reindeer Dash Attendance Awards

Kindly sponsored by



On Thursday 17th December, the two winning tutor groups from the "Reindeer Dash" Attendance Competition which ran in December, were treated to a Christmas movie, popcorn, Pizza and garlic bread as their reward.

The two winning Tutor groups were Year 7 CMA (Ms Munanura) and Year 10 BDN (Mr Dickinson) – well done to both groups!

We would like to take this opportunity to thank Papa John's in Burgess Hill for very generously providing the pizza and garlic bread in support of student attendance, they were very gratefully received as you can see from the photographs below.



What does success mean to you?

During Post 16 Evening for Year 11 in September, Central Sussex College held a competition asking students "What does success mean to you?"

The winning entry was from Megan Collier with the comment:

"To me, success means doing something that you weren't able to do in the beginning, something you may not have even thought you could do, something that makes a difference to you or someone else."

Mrs Dorgan had the pleasure of presenting the prize of a £50 Amazon voucher to Megan in the Year 11 assembly on behalf of Central Sussex College.



Oakmeeds's Got Talent will take place on Thursday 21st January from 7.00 - 9.00pm. Rehearsals began on Wednesday 13th January from 3.00-5.00pm in the Drama Studio. Students are asked to sign up with Mrs Funnell in B block.

As there is likely to be great demand for seats (which are unreserved), we would recommend early purchase of tickets. Tickets are available for purchase on-line at £2.50 each; you may purchase multiple tickets by changing the number required. Alternatively you can pay by cheque (made payable to Oakmeeds Community College) to the A block post box. Please mark the envelope with the students name and 'Oakmeeds's Got Talent' and return by Monday 18th January after which tickets may be collected from Mrs Funnell. Tickets will also be available on the night.

Any money raised from the evening will go to Cancer Research and the Prom Committee. Soft drinks and snacks will be available to purchase.

We look forward to welcoming everyone to what promises to be an exciting evening.

Autumn Term Attendance Awards

For each full week your child attended College last term, their name was placed in the Christmas end of term draw. For those with 100% attendance, this resulted in them having their names in the draw fourteen times and every student had the opportunity to be in the draw at least once.

Thanks to the generosity of the Burgess Hill Business Parks Association, we were able to purchase a Kindle Paperwhite for each Year group as their main prize.

The lucky winners of the Kindle's were:-

Year 7 Harrison Wallond

Year 8 Lauren Cox

Year 9 Hannah Crouch

Year 10 Jack Woodford

Year 11 Stephanie Le Pape

Congratulations to the winners, and indeed all our students, for their efforts to keep their College attendance at a high level. The next end of term draw will take place just before the Easter break. The main prizes are yet to be decided - any ideas your child may have should be voiced to Mrs Bland, our Attendance Manager, or their Tutor.

Should any parents/carers know of any local business that might like to sponsor these upcoming awards, please do not hesitate to contact Mrs Bland, who would be only too pleased to discuss this with you.

Lauren Cox, Stephanie Le Pape and Jack Woodford with their Kindles.



Service Pupil Premium 2016

Mind Mission is back!

Thanks to all your donations, we are pleased to announce that the PTA have agreed to fund a Logic & Puzzles Activity day for all Year 7 students again this year. The Mind Mission event is provided by the Happy Puzzle Company and designed to be a fun day that allows mixed ability groups to work on an equal basis to develop their problem solving skills. We funded the event last year when it was a huge success with over 150 students participating and gaining valuable team working and communication skills.

It's your donations that fund these extra curricular activities so a big thank-you goes to everyone who supported us in 2015.

Uniform shop

The next uniform shop will be held on Saturday 6th February.

Get involved

If you are interested in joining the PTA or helping at any of the College events we support please come and see us at the Year 9 PCE on Thursday 28th January where we will be providing refreshments, or email us pta@oakmeedsassociation.org

This message is for the attention of Regular Forces Service parents based in England. If your child attends a state school, Academy or Free school in England and has been registered with the school as a Service pupil, the school will be granted a Service Pupil Premium of £300.

The Service Pupil Premium (SPP) is provided by the Department for Education to enable schools to offer additional, mainly pastoral, support during challenging times, which could include anything from a Service parent being away, being injured on active service to bereavement. Funds are paid directly to schools; with Head Teachers and school Governors deciding how the funds are used.

Schools with Service children in Reception to Year 11 classes are eligible to receive SPP, but only if your child's name appears on the school roll as being a Service child. The annual census takes place on 21 Jan 2016 and children must be registered with the school before this date. You are

encouraged to contact the school and make them aware your child is from a Service family. This information is not shared with other organisations and is protected on the National Pupil database.

For more information on eligibility, please see the links below:

<https://www.gov.uk/service-premium-information-for-schools>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/pupil-premium-2015-to-2016-allocations/pupil-premium-2015-to-2016-conditions-of-grant>

For any other queries regarding Service children contact the Directorate Children and Young People's educational advisory arm, Children's Education Advisory Service (CEAS) via the helpline: 01980 618244 or email: enquiries@ceas.uk.com

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

Thursday 28 January
Year 9 PCE

Thursday 11 February
Drama Production

Thursday 3 March
World Book Day

Thursday 10 March
Year 7 PCE

Monday 11 April
INSET day

Thursday 21 April
Year 8 PCE

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



Voice in a Million

The SSE Arena,
Wembley, 2nd March

Rehearsals are currently underway for this exciting event. If you are involved please ensure that you regularly check your school email address as Mrs Frean will email you with important information regarding rehearsals and the event itself.

All pupils have been given a 'Participants and Parents Guide' (a peach-coloured A5 booklet). It is important that all parents read this guide thoroughly as it will answer many questions that you may have about the event, including timings of the day for the actual event.

Further information can be found at www.voiceinamillion.com. Please feel free to contact Mrs Frean if you have any additional questions at hfrean@oakmeeds.co.uk.

THE BIGGEST SCHOOL SHOW IS BACK



OAKMEEDS'S

GOT

T★LENT

**Coming 21st January 2016!
7-9pm**

Get Your Act Together!

More Info Coming Soon!

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.



