



The Oakwood Academy

newsletter



Spring 24

The half term break marks the mid-way point of the year and I think you will agree that it has flown by. Year 7 students are now very much part of the Oakwood family, Year 9 students are beginning their options process and Year 11 students have completed their mock exams and are now well and truly preparing for their final exams in May.

We have made a really big deal this year of praise and reward and ensuring our incredible students get the achievement points and recognition for simply being a positive Oakwood Student. We have also boosted our Curriculum Plus and enrichment calendar and it is great to see so many students participating in a variety of clubs, trips and activities outside of their lesson. We have been lucky enough to host many distinguished guests to work with selected students ranging from published authors to Premier League footballers plus a special visit from some Navy chefs to work with some of our Key Stage 4 Food students.

We have some exciting plans to further develop the great work we do in the Summer Term for all students so watch this space!

Thank you as always for your ongoing support,

Mr Gilbert

In this edition:

- Overview
- Year 11 Mock Review
- Behaviour Changes
- Year 9 Options
- Enrichment Activities
- Curriculum +
- New Staff
- Governing Body
- Attendance
- Sixth Form
- Activities at Oakwood
- Heads of House
- Key Dates

Mock Review and Next Steps Year 11

Year 11 students have had a busy few weeks sitting their mock exams. A huge well done to students for taking their exams seriously and for attending breakfast and lunchtime booster sessions each day. We hope that this practice run will prepare students for the real thing this summer. Teachers continue to provide a wide range of support; period 6 will resume in a slightly different format after half term as well as assertive mentoring sessions running up until April. Core subject period 6 sessions will run for half an hour on Mondays (English), Wednesdays (Maths) and Thursdays (Science).

Students will then be allocated an option subject period 6 to attend for half an hour after these sessions. We encourage all students to attend and make the most of the opportunities provided for them. In addition, we are running an Easter School revision programme for students to sign up to.

Year 11 students are attending regular assemblies to support them with exam preparation as well as topics related to wellbeing and next steps in terms of Post-16 options.

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Behaviour Changes - The Oakwood Best

We are making some adjustment to our rewards and behaviour procedures at school. After half term, your child is in with a chance to receive an Oakwood Best (5 points) Award per lesson for continually being an outstanding Oakwood student. If students earn two or more of these in one day, they will be entered into a separate draw for some in school prizes.

Our detention system runs as a same day process. For example, two behaviour points is a 15-minute detention, three behaviour points is a 30-minute detention. After half term, we are also introducing a same day 60-minute detention for four or more behaviour points. If students fail to attend a detention, that they are told about, it will increase in time for the following day. Parents will be notified by a Class Charts announcement.

To enhance our learning environment and classroom experience we are also introducing the following. The Oakwood BEST - where students have to sit up straight, be silent, put their pens down, face the teacher and ensure they are listening. In our classrooms we expect students to be silent unless they are allowed to talk (at the discretion of the teacher). Finally, in the final five minutes in each classroom, staff will be ensuring students tidy away, are in perfect uniform, that they know where to go to for their next lesson and also conduct a learning review.

Year 9 Options

Our Year 9 students have now started their GCSE Options process, choosing subjects they wish to focus on from the start of Year 10 in September. This week all Year 9 students took part in the Options assembly, finding out about the subjects on offer and how they will need to make their choices. There are lots of new subjects on offer, including Health and Social Care, Business Studies, Computer Science, Sports Studies, and Hospitality & Catering, alongside GCSE Music, Art, Drama, Design, Spanish, History, Geography, Religious Studies and Triple Science.

All students will choose three subjects to study from the start of Year 10, as well as continuing with the core subjects of English, Maths, Science, PE and RE. All of the details are explained in the Options booklet that students brought home last Friday, and there will be lots of other support and guidance available to help students choose their options, building up to the Option Evening for parents and students on Thursday 21st March at 6pm.

All the staff at Oakwood are really looking forward to working with Year 9 students on the next step of their journey into Key Stage 4 and beyond.

Enrichment Activities

Since September, we have introduced "TOA Enrichment". This is a chance for students in Years 7-10 to take part in activities which will allow them to develop a range of skills which will develop their confidence and move forward into gaining excellent results at Oakwood.

Students have partaken in a range of activities, including careers assemblies with MP Tom Randall, author Lisa Williamson and Estate Agent James Humphries Stone. Further to this, students have been taking part in writing workshops, helping collect an impressive 800 tins of food for the Food Bank drive and retelling the stories of residents at Eden Lodge care home in Nicky Raffety's Intergenerational Project.

Students will continue to partake in a range of events for the rest of the academic year, with a celebration evening being planned for Monday 15th July.



Curriculum Plus

Since September 2023, the Redhill Academy Trust have introduced a new after school programme called Curriculum Plus. There is a huge drive for all the schools in the trust to get students involved in activities such as sports, drama, cooking and UNO club outside of learning time. Last term (September to December), we have had 587 students (78%) who have taken part in our Curriculum Plus programme.

We are extremely proud of our students using their time out of lessons to contribute and get involved. Please click on the following link where you can find all our [Curriculum Plus activities](#). We have some exciting news to share with all students next half term, when we announce our first Curriculum Plus Activities week.

New Staff Joiners

I would like to officially welcome some new staff to The Oakwood Academy family who have joined us at Christmas or are joining us soon.

Mr Tomas Borges - Maths Teacher and Tutor of V6

Mrs Tiffany Harrowing - Second in Maths and Tutor of V2

Mr Reagen Hadfield - Teacher of History and PRE - Joining from February Half Term

Miss Devon Rose Russell - Lead Practitioner of Maths - Joining from Easter

In addition we will be welcoming back Mrs Jenny Lloyd (Science) and Mrs Ashleigh Collins (English) from maternity leave.

Governing Body

We are in the process of forming a new full governing body. If anyone is interested in supporting the school as a governor or would like to know more about the role please get in touch through the 'contact us' form on the new school website.

Attendance Reminders

Here at Oakwood, we firmly believe every lesson counts. Regular attendance is essential in ensuring all Oakwood students achieve their full potential. At Oakwood, good attendance is regularly celebrated and rewarded through weekly, termly and annual rewards. We expect all students to attend punctually every day as long as they are fit and healthy enough to do so. A huge thank you to all the students, parents and staff who are working so hard to make sure every lesson at Oakwood counts. If your child is not able to come to school, please contact us as soon as possible by calling the attendance line: 0115 953 9323 or email: TOA-attendance@oakwoodacademy.org.uk

Redhill Academy Sixth Form News

Our Post 16 students hit the ground running in September and haven't looked back. With the biggest intake in year 12 since the centre opened, we now have 50 students on our campus studying a Level 3 Extended Diploma in both Sport and Health Social Care.

In October, all students were given the opportunity to take their one day Emergency First Aid Certificate and CPR training as part of Restart a Heart a Day. Students learnt lifesaving skills and the confidence to use them. This was followed by an inspirational and moving presentation from Cardiac Risk in The Young and The Alex Reid Memorial Foundation. We hope that through fundraising we can support our young community by offering cardiac screening in the months to come.

We have been fortunate to have guest speakers from the NHS and the University Campus of Football Business who have inspired our students towards an in-depth interest in their future careers, helping them identify their own strengths and developmental needs and motivating them to realise their dreams.

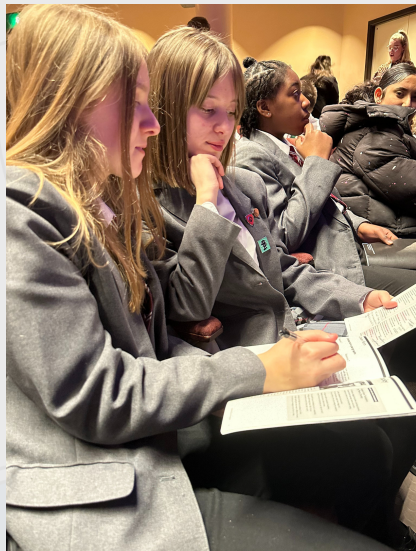
Theatre visits, university campus tours, football matches, mindfulness days, a Q & A with our local MP, visits from our alumni and work placements have also kept us busy and we are excited about further opportunities over the coming months.

Next academic year marks the launch of our new course T Level Education – Early Years which is perfect for anyone who wishes to work with young children in the future. At The Oakwood Academy, students are fortunate to be able to access a reserved place at the Redhill Academy Sixth Form. It is pleasing to report that over half of our current Year 11 students have applied to study there and we look forward to supporting their transition within the Redhill Trust.



Activities at The Oakwood Academy

Our academy promotes activities that widen our students' experiences beyond the classroom. This includes opportunities to participate in sport clubs, the performing arts, trips out, cultural experiences and character-building challenges.



Heads of House - Top Achievers



Animus House - Mr Brooke : 53115 House Points (First place)

Animus had the highest attendance of all four houses with 91.4%, this is a great effort especially from the 84 students who achieved 97-100% this half term. We are now currently only 0.2% behind Robus for whole year attendance, the closest we have been in previous years is around 2%. Let's keep it up and be in everyday to show we are the best House. In addition, we are currently first in the House competitions, having won it for the last two years, please get involved and enter competitions where you have talent and contribute positively to the House.

Finally, well done to all that received recognition in our achievement assembly especially the five students who are in the top 15 of the whole school for achievement points (1st Sapphire Bartley, 3rd Rachel Osunsanya, 6th Ayomikun Osunsanya, 9th Thomas Wheat, 11th Paige Clarke and 12th Florence McCrone). A massive congratulations again to all Animus students.



Certus House - Mrs Cooke : 49362 House Points (Second place)

Certus students have had a great half term, well done! Some of the students who have really stood out for their contribution to House and school include: Isla O'Neill, Charlotte Lancashire, Caitlin Leach, Paige Attenborough, Oliver Barratt and Olivia Flynn. These students have an overwhelming number of achievement points and are shining examples of what an Oakwood student should be.



Robus House - Mr Blundell : 48181 House Points (Third place)

This has been my first half term as Head of Robus House, and it has been a real pleasure getting to know Robus students at The Oakwood Academy. Including many students to commendation tutor time on Friday's where students who have stood out that week have been invited for a hot chocolate and snacks. Top students in each Year this term have been Daisy Folorunso, Kehinde Ojo, Shray Yuwa-Bullimore, Benedict Okafor and Shantiece Morris. Well done to R4 for being the Robus tutor group of the half term.

Remember, Robus students are Respectful, Optimistic, Brave, United and Successful.
Keep working hard!



Virtus House - Mrs Pettifor : 46613 House Points (Fourth place)

Virtus have had an amazing start to this academic year. We have the lowest number of negative points and our behaviour is excellent around the school. I so often receive emails and messages about Virtus students being polite to staff and kind to peers. We do however need to keep working on our attendance as it makes such a huge difference to student outcomes at the end of Year 11.

Well done to all the students receiving rewards and certificates in the achievement assemblies. A massive shout out to Oscar Starzomski (Y7), Jack Siddons (Y7), Muhammed Ceesay (Y8), Myla Hunter (Y8), Kayden Dackiw (Y7), De'Elle Roberts-Brunt (Y10) and Reka Kasza (Y10) and Silas Patrick (Y10) who have all achieved over 100 positive points this half term alone. Well done team Virtus.

Upcoming Key Dates



- Friday 9th February - break up for half term
 - Monday 19th February - all students return to school
 - Thursday 29th February - Year 11 Parents Evening
 - Wednesday 13th March - Year 9 Parents Evening
 - Thursday 21st March - Year 9 Options Evening
 - Thursday 28th March - break up for Easter
 - Thursday 2nd and Wednesday 3rd April - Year 11 Easter Revision
 - Monday 15th April - all students return to school
 - Thursday 18th April - Year 7 Parents' Evening
 - Wednesday 1st May - Year 11 Commendation Evening
 - Thursday 2nd May - Start of formal GCSE Examination period (Year 11)
 - Monday 6th May - May Day - school closed to all students
 - Tuesday 14th May - Year 8 Parents Evening
 - Thursday 27th May - Provisional leaving day for Year 11 students
 - Monday 1st July - **INSET day - school closed to all students (please note this is a changed date)**
 - Monday 1st July - Start of Year 10 Work Experience (three days)
 - Wednesday 3rd July - Year 6 Common Transfer Day/ Evening
 - W/C Monday 8th July - House Commendation Evenings (Monday-Thursday)
 - Friday 12th July - Year 11 Prom (invite only)
 - Thursday 18th July - Year 10 Parents' Evening
 - Friday 26th July - Break up for Summer
 - Monday 2nd September - all students return to school (times TBC)
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