



The Oakwood Academy

newsletter



Summer 24

Just like that, the year is complete, and what a great year it has been for The Oakwood Academy and the school community.

We have held a wealth of trips, visits and residential experiences, as well as great experience days such as the PRIDE day, the Arts Summer Showcase and the ever-popular school Sports Day!

We have celebrated success with many of our students through all of our rewards processes including our end of term attendance raffles, our commendation evenings, our Oakwood value led celebration weeks and prize draws and of course our reward trips and activities.

The OAKWOOD Student characteristics feature heavily in our everyday practise and conversations with students, and it is great to see them demonstrating them day in day out. We will continue to focus on these next year and will continue to use Class Charts to improve home-school communication will allow you to keep track on how your child is performing day in day out at Oakwood. It is important all parents access this.

We do hope that you have a safe, relaxing and enjoyable summer break and we look forward to having a full school again in September, when we will continue to strive for excellence for all of our students.

Thank you

Mr A Gilbert
Headteacher

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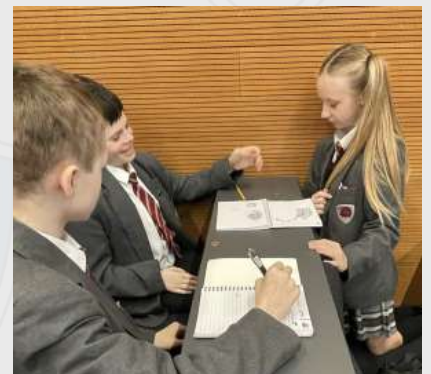
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National Numeracy Day

On Thursday 23rd May, thirteen Year 7 students went to University of Nottingham as part of National Numeracy day 2024. National Numeracy Day is all about celebrating numbers and encouraging people to improve their numerical skills, no matter what their current level may be.

The students started the day by being fascinated by the size of the campus as we struggled to find the meeting point. The boys in particular liked seeing the sporting facilities that the students have access to.

The day started with the students receiving a welcome talk by Dr Ria Symonds – who has been working at the University for the past 15 years. She spoke about using maths in engineering, science and, in particular, in the real world.



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Arrangements for the End of the Summer Term

I am writing to confirm the arrangements for the end of the summer term and the start of the next academic year.

The last day of school this term is Friday 26th July. We will have our traditional lunchtime finish for students on that day to enable us to say goodbye to those staff who are leaving the academy. All students will therefore be dismissed at 12.20pm on that day, however, free school meals will be available to those who are eligible as they leave the site.

The school re-opens to students on Monday 2nd September and, as usual, we will operate a staggered start for different year groups on that day to provide a smooth and orderly start to the new term. The relevant start times and instructions for each year group appear overleaf.

I have enclosed a copy of our recently published Communication Policy for you to review. Communication is one of the key areas that we have acknowledged in the past that we need to improve and the communication policy we have put in place aims to support this moving forward. It is important that as parents and carers you understand and adhere to this policy at all times.

In addition, I would like to remind you that our principle communication tool is Class Charts. It is imperative that you are fully functioning on Class Charts for September 2024 (Y7 parents will receive some information at the Common Transfer Evening and again in September about how to set this up). Any existing parents who need support with this please contact school at your earliest convenience so we can get you up and running. More information can also be found on our website by searching for Class Charts.

Finally, please can I also draw your attention to the information on the reverse of this letter regarding the school's uniform guidelines for the coming year. We have high expectations for all of our students and we expect all to follow our clear uniform policy. All students need to ensure that this is in place for September and beyond.

Finally, may I take this opportunity to thank you all for your fantastic support again this year and wish everyone a lovely, relaxing summer.

Arrangements for First Day Back

Arrangements for the first day of the new academic year for students –

Monday 2nd September 2024

Year 7: Arrive at 8.45am and go directly to the Bleacher Hall for an assembly.

Year 11: Arrive at 8.45am and go directly to Tutor Rooms.

Years 8, 9, 10: Arrive at 10.45am at breaktime. At the end of break (11.05am) students are to go directly to Tutor Rooms.

Uniform Expectations

All students at the Oakwood Academy, from Year 7 to Year 11, wear uniform.

The wearing of a uniform makes an important contribution to the tone and reputation of the academy. We like students to come here looking smart and business-like and ready to work. Students without the correct uniform will be offered substitute items in order for them to remain in lessons.

Blazer: Grey school blazer with school logo and House colour pin badge.

Trousers: Official black school trousers branded with the school logo.

Skirt: Official tartan school skirt.

Shirt: Plain white with a collar and top button appropriate for use with a school tie. Soft collared sports shirts are not acceptable

School Tie: All students in Years 7 to 11 are required to wear a clip-on school tie. School ties need to be in immaculate condition.

Jumper: Only the official school jumper may be worn. The school jumper is an optional uniform item but advisable during the colder months of the year.

Socks/Tights: Plain black.

Shoes: Plain black polishable shoes. The wearing of fashion shoes, particularly those without backs or with high/stiletto heels is not permitted.

School Coat: Students should wear plain water-resistant coats or jackets.

Jewellery: Jewellery can be a safety hazard; it gets lost easily. Students may wear one pair of small studs in the lower earlobe.

Hairstyles: We expect hair styles to be neat and tidy and not extreme in any way.

Headwear: Headwear of any kind is banned inside the school buildings except that which is worn for religious reasons and which must be plain black.

Make-Up/ Nail Varnish: Make-Up, false nails and nail varnish are not allowed.

PE Kit: Academy PE top with Academy logo. Black bottoms should also be worn (leggings must not be see-through and preferably made of sports material). Shorts must be mid-thigh length or longer. All items can be purchased from our uniform suppliers. Plain black sports socks. Footwear should include appropriate trainers for indoor and outdoor activities, football boots are required for some activities.

Equipment: Students should have a suitable bag for school large enough to carry A4 sized documents. Students should have a full range of stationery.

Duke of Edinburgh - Silver Award Qualifying Expedition 26-28/04/24

Ten of our students successfully completed the qualifying expedition for their silver Duke of Edinburgh award at the weekend, which involved camping in the Peak District for two nights and walking 40km over three days. They also had to navigate their own way across open countryside, pitch their own tents, cook their dinner and breakfast and carry with them anything they used so that they were totally self-sufficient.

Despite two very cold nights and torrential rain on the Sunday morning, they all got on with the job in hand without complaint and kept each other's spirits up. Everyone stayed on track and showed great teamwork in camp. Their assessor was very impressed with them and said "every student was a credit to the Academy over the weekend". They worked really hard both in preparing for and over the course of the expedition and should be proud of themselves and the skills they have demonstrated. There was also lots of fun and laughter along the way! What an accomplishment. Well done all of you!



Redhill Trust Games

On Wednesday 19th June 2024, thirty Key Stage 3 students took part in the Redhill Trust Games, held at Tupton School. There were four events taking place: tug of war, rounders, rowing and quad athletics, where all students did exceptionally well. The day was filled with amazing events that were run by Year 9 sports leaders. All the students represented the Academy extremely well, showing teamwork, resilience and motivation. Well done to everyone that took part!

History Battlefields Trip

On the 14th June, twenty one Year 10 students departed on a four-day trip to the World War Battlefields sites of France and Belgium. The purpose of the trip was to enrich students experience and understanding of medicine on the Western Front, studied as part of the History GCSE course. The students were given the opportunity to visit many sites over the weekend at both the Somme and Ypres battlefields. Students visited commonwealth war graves, memorials to the missing, the site where tanks and poisonous gas were used for the first time and walked in preserved World War One trenches, to mention but a few.

Students also visited a bunker that had been used as a Dressing Station as part of the chain of evacuation of the wounded, it was at this place where the famous poem 'In Flanders Field' was penned. Students were privileged to hear many stories of the heroic soldiers, of whom too many lost their lives and understand the conditions and suffering they faced.

The Sunday evening finished with students attending the Last Post ceremony at the Menin Gate, a respectful tradition held nearly every night since the end of World War One, a truly once in a lifetime experience. The students of Oakwood were polite, engaged and respectful, understanding the significance of the places they visited and were a credit to the Academy, representing themselves and the school exceptionally well.



Leavers Day

It is a bitter-sweet time of the year when we finally say goodbye to all our Year 11s. We saw you when you first came to us on transition days and saw you progress to your GCSEs, and it's been one heck of a journey. To recognise the hard work you've done with your time at The Oakwood Academy, it was a day of celebration and memory.

We will miss you, Year 11! We hope that you all stay in touch and wish you the very best of luck for the future. See you all at the Prom!

Below you will see a selection of photographs of Leaver's Day.



Redhill Trust Handball Cup

On Wednesday 24th April, forty select students participated in the Redhill Trust Handball Cup at the University of Nottingham. We competed against nine other trust schools, where all students performed to the best of their ability. They showed fantastic sportsmanship across the day and all showed the perfect OAKWOOD student. We look forward to competing in the same tournament next year.



Year 9 Enrichment

Year 9 have been working with Nicky Rafferty and Eden Lodge Care Home in their "Intergenerational Project". For the last two months, Year 9 have been learning the stories of the residents at Eden Lodge Care Home, in readiness to retell those stories to them. The Year 9 students have worked on remembering the stories, retelling them with confidence and working at entertaining ways to present. On the 26th April, the students spent the afternoon at Eden Lodge and spoke to residents, had an afternoon tea and performed superbly. All students involved should be incredibly proud and were a credit to The Oakwood Academy.

2024 Amey Challenge Cup

On Wednesday 19th June, Charleigh, Sariah, Oliwia, Shray, Holly and Adaeze competed in the 2024 Amey Challenge Cup. The competition was in honour of International Women in Engineering Day and the purpose was to highlight roles in engineering for women. It was an 'apprentice' style challenge where the students had to each take on a specific role such as project manager, commercial manager and construction manager, whilst working collaboratively as a team to create a pitch for a bridge that was to be built in a local community.

The students had to work together to build a model of the bridge, create scale drawings, calculate the cost, establish a timeline for building and consider the environmental impact the project would have. The day culminated in the team presenting their idea to a room filled with industry experts, the four other competing schools as well as a panel of three judges. The girls all spoke exceptionally well in their presentations and did themselves and the school very proud. Following the judges' deliberations and scoring system, the Oakwood team tied for joint first.

The Redhill Trust Big Reading Quiz

Well done to all the students that took part in The Redhill Trust Big Reading Quiz, which took place on Friday 14th June.

Our students took part in a tutor quiz round, a house quiz round and a school quiz round before making it to the final quiz round at The Bolsover academy.

Our three students who made up our quiz team represented The Oakwood Academy and had to compete against the other nine secondary schools in The Redhill Trust. We did extremely well at the challenging reading quiz, which tested our students on, authors, storylines, book covers, characters and much more.

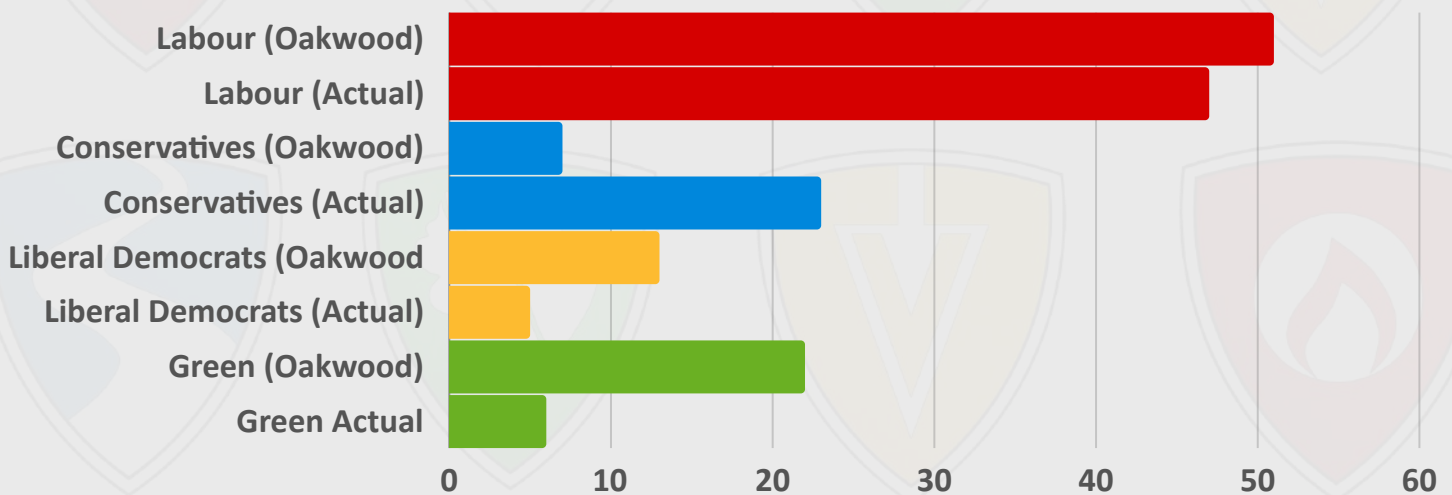
We were very lucky to have the author Lisa Williamson join us, as she put on some wonderful creative writing workshops for our students.

We are incredibly proud of our quiz team as they were a credit to The Oakwood Academy.

Elections at Oakwood

All of our students have been preparing for the upcoming national election as part of our 'Flexible Friday' element of tutor time. We have discussed and debated the history of elections in the UK, the eligibility criteria to vote and asked the question 'should the voting age be reduced to 16 years of age?'

On Thursday 4th July, all students voted for their choice of candidate for our constituency of Gedling, with results to be published the following day, allowing us to compare our results against the national outcome. The outcome is below.



Expressive Arts Summer Showcase

The Arts and Design faculty hosted an evening of entertainment to finish off the year, celebrating the work of many of our talented students. The Art and Design work from all Years were also displayed for staff, students and parents to enjoy. Students showed off their fantastic skills in a witty and entertaining drama performance and exhibited an array of talent in a variety of musical acts.



Sports Day

The Oakwood Academy recently held a Sports Day to mark the end of the school year. The event brought together staff and students in a display of friendly competition. Each House showcased their competitive spirit during the various races and games. In the afternoon students participated in a series of exciting and challenging events showcasing their athleticism and teamwork. These are always full of excitement and show the determination and dedication of all the children. Massive congratulations to everyone who entered one of these events. Thank you to everyone for your support throughout the day. The Sports Day Results are below:

- ★ First Place = Robus
- ★ Second Place = Animus
- ★ Third Place = Certus
- ★ Fourth Place = Virtus



Malaga

We were lucky enough to be invited on an educational, all expenses paid trip to Malaga Instituto along with other schools and students across Nottingham City. Every morning was filled with immersion in Spanish lessons with a member of the local Spanish community. Not only was this trip filled with educational experiences it was also full of opportunities and experiences that helped us gain an insight into Spanish cultures.

Our days were filled with activities such as boat trips, shopping trips, and walks that seemed to last forever. Some of us tried new foods: chicken nuggets, chips and cucumber washed down with pineapple juice. Mrs Watson truly loved the experience of gaining twelve daughters for the week and although she reminded us to put our sunscreen on she was left with burn lines on her own face from her glasses.

Overall we are so glad we stepped out of our comfort zone, made new friendships and took this opportunity.

Members of the 2024 Malaga Crew



Harry Potter Trip

In July, ninety students from The Oakwood Academy went to Warner Bros Studios in London to visit the Harry Potter film sets. The students and staff had a fantastic time and were all incredibly thrilled by the experience... You could say it was magical!

We began the trip with a group photograph before Oakwood students were given the chance to push open the doors into the Great Hall. They then explored the film sets, which included the Forbidden Forest, the Hogwarts Express, Diagon Alley and Privet Drive making every single students' eyes widen with awe. It was a superb experience and every student expressed how much they had enjoyed the trip. All students were an absolute credit to the Academy and we look forward to visiting the magical world of Harry Potter again very soon. Expelliarmus!



Heads of House - Top Achievers



Animus House - Mr Brooke : 83035 House Points (First place)

Animus have the highest attendance across all four houses which is a great achievement as it has never been achieved in my time at the school. In addition, we are on track to win the House competitions, having won it for the past two years.

I want to give a special mention to Sapphire Bartley who has maintained the highest amount of achievement points in the school for the majority of this year and is on her way to over 1000 before the end of this year.

Y7 Superstar – Lucianna Illet – Great effort in all lessons

Y8 Superstar – Molly Smith – Gets on with school life without a fuss

Y9 Superstar – Cormack Pheasey – Always polite and focussed on his learning

Y10 Superstar – Grace Butcher – Always achieving highly and focused on getting the best GCSE grades possible

A massive congratulations to all Animus students, you are playing your part to make Animus the best house in school.



Certus House - Mrs Cooke : 74964 House Points (Second place)

Certus have had an amazing year, well done! I am so proud of the hard work from all the students in the house. We are consistently achieving high numbers of achievement points each week and our efforts in the interhouse competitions have been awesome. Special mentions go to; Oliver Barratt, Brianna Kerry, Charlotte Lancashire, Eleanor McDonnell and Elsie Hingeley who are all in the top fifteen highest achieving students in the school. A great achievement. Also, a shout out to Jarian Rowe, Alfie Jones and Hannah Tuck who have shown to be some of the kindest students in Certus achieving over 30+ kind points this year. A huge congratulations to you all! Keep up the hard work!



Robus House - Mr Blundell : 74745 House Points (Third place)

As we come to the end of our 2023-2024 academic year, I'd like you to look back over the year and reflect, have you tried your hardest? Have you been kind and respectful? Have you been on time to all your lessons? Is there anything that you would like to do differently next year? When September comes it is your opportunity for a fresh start. Top students in each Year this term have been Chidera Okafor (Year7), Kehinde Ojo (Year 8) Laura Omesa (Year 9) and Neave Raven (Year 10). Well done to R4 for being the Robus tutor group of the half term closely contested by R2.

Remember, Robus students are Respectful, Optimistic, Brave, United and Successful.



Virtus House - Mrs Pettifor : 74516 House Points (Fourth place)

Well done this academic year Virtus - I am genuinely proud of you. We have the lowest number of negative points this academic year and our behaviour is excellent around the school. I regularly 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.

A huge well done to all the students receiving rewards and certificates in the end of year commendation evening. A massive shout out to Keira Henson (Y8) who has amassed an incredible 9 "Oakwood Best" awards in her lessons. Congratulations to Jack Siddons (Y7), Myla Hunter (Y8), Kayden Dackiw (Y7), and Reka Kasza (Y10) who have all achieved over 800 positive points this year - this averages out at a mind-blowing 4/5 housepoints a day. Finally a special commendation to Muhammed Ceesay who has won this year's "most improved student" award. Well done team Virtus.

Upcoming Key Dates

- Thursday 29th and Friday 30th August - Inset Days
- Monday 2nd September - all students return to school
- Thursday 26th September - Year 6 Open Evening
- Friday 27th September - Inset Day
- Monday 30th September - Year 9 Tutor Review (School closes at 2pm)
- Wednesday 9th October - Year 7 Welcome Evening
- Tuesday 15th October - Year 11 Tutor Review (School closes at 2pm)
- Friday 18th October - Break up for Half Term
- Monday 4th November - all students return to school
- Wednesday 27th November - Year 8 Tutor Review (School closes at 2pm)
- Monday 2nd December - Inset Day
- Friday 20th December - Break up for Christmas Holidays
- Monday 6th January - all students return to school



School Meals Price Increase

As a result of increasing costs of food and deliveries we are having to increase the cost of a meal deal from £2.30 to £2.75 a day from 2nd September 2024. The cost of individual items purchased, not as part of a meal deal, will also increase. Though this is unfortunate, we are confident that it still represents good value for money.

Changes to the School Day

Please note that from September 2024 the timings and the structure of the school day is changing to increase the time of the compulsory school day to 32.5 hours per week. This increase is to ensure we meet the Department of Education's new minimum expectations.

The times of the school day will be as follows:

- 8:40 - Warning bell signalling move to first lesson
- 8:45 - Period 1 starts
- 9:45 - Period 2
- 10:45 - Break
- 11:05 - Tutor time
- 11:30 - Period 3
- 12:30 - Lunch
- 1:10 - Period 4
- 2:10 - Period 5
- 3:10 - End of lessons for Years 7-11 - after school activities start
- 4:00 - Reception closes (3.30 on Fridays)
- 5:00 - Site closes

