



Please find a video summary - [here](#).

Date: 10th July 2026

RE: Preparations for 2026

Dear Oakbank School Community,

First and foremost, I would like to extend a sincere thank you for your continued, unwavering support. As we navigate the busy final weeks of the term, our school community remains absolutely dedicated to our core values of working hard and being kind. I am incredibly proud to report that the standards across our school remain exceptionally high, teaching and learning continues to improve and the building works continue, which is a true testament to the brilliant partnership between our staff, our students, and you the wider community. As ever we continue to develop and make every second count inside and outside the classroom as we navigate the excitement of the upcoming holidays which are much deserved by all.

Celebrating Assessment Week (Years 7–9)

A huge congratulations to our Year 7, Year 8, and Year 9 students who have officially completed their assessment week. They approached their exams with fantastic focus and determination. It was fantastic to give them a chance to demonstrate just how much they have learned during the year. We look forward to sharing the results with you in our Academic Review Evening on the 16th July. Our upcoming reports will highlight exactly what has gone well this year, alongside tailored teacher guidance on areas where we can improve. Our ultimate goal is to ensure every single student has the tools and feedback they need to continue climbing to the top of their own personal mountains.

Our Year 10s equally have had a mock result assembly and have started our period 0 and period 6 provision. They have made a fantastic start and we are looking forward to their Academic Review evening on the 14th July which will be a great way to bring around the end of term and rewards week.

Staffing and Curriculum News

We are thrilled to share some wonderful news regarding our teaching team and curriculum for the upcoming academic year. We have successfully appointed a brilliant new PE teacher Miss Biles teacher and a dynamic new Spanish teacher Miss Litwin, both of whom will be starting with us this September as well as a new TA Dr Simokava who started with us on the 1st July. This coincides with an exciting curriculum shift, as we begin to phase in Spanish as a replacement for French. We are delighted to bring this vibrant language to our students and expand their global horizons.

Oakbank School, Hyde End Lane, Ryeish Green, Reading, RG7 1ER

T: 01189 883616 | E: contact@oakbankschool.co.uk | W: www.oakbankschool.co.uk

Oakbank School is proud to be part of the Greenshaw Learning Trust, which is a charitable company limited by guarantee registered in England and Wales. Company number 7633694.
Registered office: Greenshaw Learning Trust, ORU Sutton, Throwley Way, Sutton, Surrey SM1 4AF.



Teaching and Learning Spotlight: "Turn and Talk"

You may hear your child mentioning a new way they are interacting during lessons. We have recently introduced a powerful learning technique across the school called "Turn and Talk." It is a strategy where the teacher poses a question and immediately prompts students to turn to a partner to discuss it. Instead of just one student raising their hand to answer a question, "Turn and Talk" ensures that 100% of students are actively thinking, processing the material, and practicing their communication skills at the exact same time. It builds confidence, deepens understanding, and makes our classrooms more interactive and inclusive. We look forward to this developing for the remainder of the term and next year.

Thank you once again for everything you do to support our school community. We wish you all a wonderful and restful weekend.

Mr R Gerrard

Headteacher

Staffing updates

Once again, we are excited to welcome 2 new members of staff joining us in September. Miss Biles in PE and Miss Litwin, our new science teacher. We are extremely excited with these additions to our staff and can't wait to start in September. As stated this will lead to a curriculum shift where students will now study Spanish and transfer their love of languages from French.

It is also important to let you know of some staff departures. We would like to extend a huge thank you to the following staff who have played their role in the rapid turnaround of the school and helped the school to get to the position it is currently in. This has been a great effort by the staff, students and community and will leave us in a position to continue to improve and develop. We wish all the best to Mrs Burkett, Mrs Hebert, Ms Tsirakis, Mrs Parikh and Miss McLoughlin who will be leaving us at the end of term, with their final day on the 22nd July and Mr Samuel who will be leaving the school in October 2026.

Oakbank School, Hyde End Lane, Ryeish Green, Reading, RG7 1ER

T: 01189 883616 | E: contact@oakbankschool.co.uk | W: www.oakbankschool.co.uk

Oakbank School is proud to be part of the Greenshaw Learning Trust, which is a charitable company limited by guarantee registered in England and Wales. Company number 7633694.
Registered office: Greenshaw Learning Trust, ORU Sutton, Throwley Way, Sutton, Surrey SM1 4AF.



Safeguarding Update

As we approach the summer holidays, we would like to thank our families for their continued support in helping us keep our students safe, happy and well throughout the year. While we hope everyone enjoys a well-earned break, safeguarding doesn't stop when the school gates close.

Keeping Children Safe Over the Summer

The summer holidays often mean children and young people have greater independence, spend more time online and are out with friends for longer periods. We encourage parents and carers to continue having regular conversations about staying safe, both online and in the community.

Some simple ways to help keep your child safe this summer include:

- Knowing where your child is, who they are with and when they are expected home.
- Encouraging regular check-ins if they are meeting friends.
- Talking openly about peer pressure, risky behaviours and making safe choices.
- Reminding young people to trust their instincts and seek help from a trusted adult if something doesn't feel right.
- Monitoring online activity and discussing safe use of social media, gaming and messaging apps.

A few simple conversations can make a significant difference in helping young people stay safe and make positive decisions.

Explore Our New Online Safety Hub

We are pleased to launch the new Online Safety Hub on the Oakbank School website, providing parents and carers with a wealth of up-to-date guidance, advice and resources to help keep children safe online. The hub includes information on social media, gaming, online scams, cyberbullying, parental controls, age ratings and many other current online safety topics. It also contains practical advice on starting positive conversations about online safety at home.

We encourage all families to take a look over the summer and make use of the resources available.

Visit our Online Safety Hub here:

[Oakbank School Online Safety Hub](#)

Free Summer Activities for Young People

Oakbank School, Hyde End Lane, Ryeish Green, Reading, RG7 1ER

T: 01189 883616 | E: contact@oakbankschool.co.uk | W: www.oakbankschool.co.uk

Oakbank School is proud to be part of the Greenshaw Learning Trust, which is a charitable company limited by guarantee registered in England and Wales. Company number 7633694.
Registered office: Greenshaw Learning Trust, ORU Sutton, Throwley Way, Sutton, Surrey SM1 4AF.



Keeping young people engaged in positive activities over the summer is a great way to support their wellbeing, confidence and resilience. We are pleased to share two free opportunities available locally through N3W Angle.

 Free Summer Boxing Camp (Ages 11–18)

A fantastic opportunity for young people to develop new skills, build confidence and stay active in a safe and supportive environment.

- Years 7–8 and Girls: 11:00am–1:00pm
- Years 9–13: 1:00pm–3:00pm
- Location: South Reading
- Dates: Selected dates between 29 July and 31 August

Female coaches will be available during the morning sessions, and girls are especially encouraged to attend.

Book here:

<https://n3w-angle.classforkids.io/>

 Free HAF Summer Sports Camps (Ages 7–16)

Available for children eligible for Free School Meals, these camps include:

- Football
- Boxing
- Multi-sports
- Arts and crafts
- A healthy meal and snacks each day

Locations and dates:

- North Reading: 4–6 August
- West Reading: 11–13 August (including specialist football coaching from I2G Football Coaching)
- East Reading: 18–20 August

Time: 10:00am–2:00pm

Book here:

<https://app.holidayactivities.com/parent/providers/n3w-angle>

Oakbank School, Hyde End Lane, Ryeish Green, Reading, RG7 1ER

T: 01189 883616 | E: contact@oakbankschool.co.uk | W: www.oakbankschool.co.uk



We're Here to Help

Although school is closed over the summer, safeguarding remains everyone's responsibility. If you have concerns about a child during the holidays and believe they are at immediate risk of harm, please contact the police by dialling 999. For non-emergency safeguarding concerns, you should contact your local children's services team.

SEND

SEND Coffee Morning, Monday 13th July, 9:30-10:30am

If you would like to attend this coffee morning, to hear the latest updates on the work of the SEND department, and how research is driving our approach to SEND provision and interventions at Oakbank, [please sign up here](#). This is open to all parents.

Pupil Passport Reviews, 8th, 9th & 17th July

This week we started the process of reviewing pupil passports at Oakbank through individual parent meetings which were bookable via MCAS. Around $\frac{1}{3}$ of Oakbank students have a pupil passport, a document which includes information about any SEN, their specific needs, and how teachers can support them further in lessons. If you missed the opportunity to review your child's pupil passport this time around, these reviews will be conducted three times a year.

A key area which we have improved on our pupil passports is around what our universal provision means for pupils. Our universal offer at Oakbank is disruption free learning and high quality teaching. This high quality teaching includes strategies like modeling, chunking, and clear routines, and questioning and development tools like mini whiteboards, cold calling, turn & talk, and drafting. These strategies, and others, that we use in the classroom every day have significant benefits for SEND children in developing their learning and increasing engagement. This is by design; our teaching & learning strategy starts with: **what benefits SEND students benefits all students**.

Contact Reminder

If you have a concern or any questions regarding SEND provision at Oakbank, please contact sen@oakbankschool.co.uk. We aim to respond to all queries within 2 working days.

Year 10 Results, Wednesday 8th July

Oakbank School, Hyde End Lane, Ryeish Green, Reading, RG7 1ER

T: 01189 883616 | E: contact@oakbankschool.co.uk | W: www.oakbankschool.co.uk

Oakbank School is proud to be part of the Greenshaw Learning Trust, which is a charitable company limited by guarantee registered in England and Wales. Company number 7633694.
Registered office: Greenshaw Learning Trust, ORU Sutton, Throwley Way, Sutton, Surrey SM1 4AF.



On Wednesday 8th July, Year 10 received their mock exams results in their first results assembly. This assembly mimics how they will receive their results following their November and February mocks in Year 11, and gives them a first experience of how it might feel to open the envelope in a year's time after their GCSEs.

For these mock exams, our goal is to give students the experience of sitting the exams in formal conditions, including any access arrangements, showing how it feels to have to sit still and in silence for anywhere up to 2 hours and 15 minutes (or even longer with extra time!) and to start developing the mindset for working hard for that length of time. This is something that in normal lessons we can't do because of time constraints - and there is nothing quite like the feeling of sitting at an exam desk.

We are really proud of how Year 10 conducted themselves in these exams. However your child has performed in these exams, if they tried their hardest, that is all we can ask and these results are just part of their journey to climb their personal mountains towards the best universities and careers of their choosing. Our teachers have already begun the process of reviewing the data to understand where there are key knowledge gaps and how best to support each student in achieving success.

In Year 11, while there is still content to learn in many subjects, it is important that students understand the role of revision in achieving their best possible results. From this week, we have been offering Champions Hour from 4-5pm, in addition to Working Lunch each day. Students are welcome to revise at these times, as well as completing homework, and they can access support from key teaching staff during each session.

Oakbank School, Hyde End Lane, Ryeish Green, Reading, RG7 1ER

T: 01189 883616 | E: contact@oakbankschool.co.uk | W: www.oakbankschool.co.uk

Oakbank School is proud to be part of the Greenshaw Learning Trust, which is a charitable company limited by guarantee registered in England and Wales. Company number 7633694.
Registered office: Greenshaw Learning Trust, ORU Sutton, Throwley Way, Sutton, Surrey SM1 4AF.



Fun Friday

Oakbank School, Hyde End Lane, Ryeish Green, Reading, RG7 1ER

T: 01189 883616 | E: contact@oakbankschool.co.uk | W: www.oakbankschool.co.uk

Oakbank School is proud to be part of the Greenshaw Learning Trust, which is a charitable company limited by guarantee registered in England and Wales. Company number 7633694.
Registered office: Greenshaw Learning Trust, ORU Sutton, Throwley Way, Sutton, Surrey SM1 4AF.

The last couple of weeks with the difficult weather conditions has seen a change of pace for Fun Friday but still the same amount of enjoyment! Students have been trying to guess the films using only emojis, where the adults showed their age and remembered some of the students weren't born for when the films came out. Students also took on some Maths challenges, in a relay style to win prizes. A DT parachute build to save an egg and the ever popular Red Light Green Light will finish off the year!



Recent Friday rewards have seen tutor groups across each year group earn sweets or Ice Lollies based on their attendance or most positive points. Students with Golden tickets have been rewarded each day and there will be lots more prizes on offer throughout reward week.

Behaviour Regulation: Developing Executive Skills in Your Child

Executive skills is a catch all term for the fundamental brain-based abilities that students need to keep organised, stay focused, control their impulses, and regulate their emotions. Next academic year, we will be launching an intervention designed to support and develop executive skills in selected students following a science based program developed by experts in learning, psychology and behaviour.

This program will be based on the book *Smart but Scattered Teens: The Executive Skills Program for Helping Teens Reach Their Potential*. Despite wanting to do the right thing, lots of teenagers can struggle with time management, staying organised, saying the right thing or risk taking behaviour. The book also includes some top tips for parents for supporting the development of these executive skills in their children. We would like to share these strategies in bite-sized chunks, so you can continue to support this development at home, if you find these techniques helpful.

Oakbank School, Hyde End Lane, Ryeish Green, Reading, RG7 1ER

T: 01189 883616 | E: contact@oakbankschool.co.uk | W: www.oakbankschool.co.uk



Identifying if Your Child Struggles with Executive Skills:

Some behaviours identify a skill weakness, rather than a lack of motivation. I might be really motivated to score a goal, but if I can't score a goal because I don't know how to kick a football, that would be a skill weakness. Have a look at the following statements; if you recognise any of the following examples as something your child does or is like, they probably struggle with executive skills:

- Either now or in primary school, have teachers commented about issues with organisation, time management, finishing work, needing reminders to stay on task?
- Since primary school, do you feel that your child's motivation has decreased or they are struggling to achieve their potential?
- Do you have to remind your child regularly about starting or finishing chores, getting up in the morning, remembering the time, or not forgetting something?
- Does your child often lose things?
- Does your child often choose to do something fun even if they have homework or tasks to do at home?
- Do you find yourself monitoring your child's social media use, TV watching, or texting?
- Does your child struggle to stay engaged with hobbies you know they are interested in?

Executive skills are not just important at school, they can be a huge benefit in the workplace. You may not feel that your child struggles with executive skills now, but these are important skills to develop for the future. If you have identified executive skills as an area your child may need to develop, keep an eye out for future tips in the newsletter on how to support your child at home.

Rewards Week

Rewards week will see our students hit the water as our Gold Reward Students go to Lagoona Park, Bounce around as Silver Reward Students get to use the inflatables and relax in front of the big screen as our Bronze Reward Students get the Oakbank Cinema experience. Those students with 100% attendance this year will get a breakfast on the last day and those with 100% attendance this term will get a food and quiz party to celebrate the end of the year.

Friday 17th July - Gold Reward to Lagoona Park

Monday 20th July- Silver Reward: Inflatables

Tuesday 21st July- Bronze Reward: Cinema

Wednesday 22nd July- 100% attendance rewards.

Oakbank School, Hyde End Lane, Ryeish Green, Reading, RG7 1ER

T: 01189 883616 | E: contact@oakbankschool.co.uk | W: www.oakbankschool.co.uk

Oakbank School is proud to be part of the Greenshaw Learning Trust, which is a charitable company limited by guarantee registered in England and Wales. Company number 7633694.
Registered office: Greenshaw Learning Trust, ORU Sutton, Throwley Way, Sutton, Surrey SM1 4AF.



Merits

Our Highest merit earners per year group this term:

Year Group	Name	Total
7	Jack A	781
8	Noah N	1084
9	Olivia C	1072
10	Gigi K	522

Our highest merit earners across the school this term

Year Group	Name	Total
8	Noah N	1084
9	Olivia C	1072
8	Theo N	1053
9	Ayessa A	1037
8	Gabriela A	967

We have final week and a half left, including:

- **SEND Coffee Morning: Oakbank's Research Led Approach, 9:30-10:30am, 13th July**
- **Academic Review Evening for Year 10, 14th July**
- **Oakbank Festival of Sport, 15th July**
- **Academic Review Evening for Years 7-9, 16th July**
- **Rewards Week for Gold, Silver & Bronze from 16th July onwards**
- **22nd July, Last day of term and 12.30 finish**

Oakbank School, Hyde End Lane, Ryeish Green, Reading, RG7 1ER

T: 01189 883616 | E: contact@oakbankschool.co.uk | W: www.oakbankschool.co.uk

Oakbank School is proud to be part of the Greenshaw Learning Trust, which is a charitable company limited by guarantee registered in England and Wales. Company number 7633694.
Registered office: Greenshaw Learning Trust, ORU Sutton, Throwley Way, Sutton, Surrey SM1 4AF.



Free School Meals: Changes from September 2026

From September 2026, the government is expanding eligibility for Free School Meals to include more families receiving Universal Credit.

If your child currently receives free school meals, it is critical that you are registered on our online portal to ensure there is no interruption to their provision.

Whether your child decides to take these meals or not, the school may also receive additional funding for each eligible student. At a time when school budgets are very tight, this funding makes a real difference to the school – and all the funding is required to be spent on supporting disadvantaged students.

We have therefore invested in an online platform to make this process much simpler, and we would be very grateful if you could take two minutes to register.

What information do you need?

All that you will need is the following:

- Your own name and date of birth
- Contact details
- National Insurance Number (or National Asylum Seekers Number)
- Child's name and date of birth
- School your child is attending/will attend.

We would be very grateful if you could fill in your details on this [Greenshaw Learning Trust OFSM application form](#) (unless you have already registered), even if you believe you are not entitled to additional funding. The system re-checks details every week, and will automatically update our records if your status changes. **Please note that an application must be completed for each child you have in our school.**

My child currently receives a free school meal, do I need to reapply?

To ensure your child's meal provision continues without interruption, and if you have not registered using the above link, please do so as soon as possible.

Oakbank School, Hyde End Lane, Ryeish Green, Reading, RG7 1ER

T: 01189 883616 | E: contact@oakbankschool.co.uk | W: www.oakbankschool.co.uk

Oakbank School is proud to be part of the Greenshaw Learning Trust, which is a charitable company limited by guarantee registered in England and Wales. Company number 7633694.
Registered office: Greenshaw Learning Trust, ORU Sutton, Throwley Way, Sutton, Surrey SM1 4AF.



Wishing you all a wonderful final 2 weeks,

Mr R Gerrard
Headteacher

Oakbank School, Hyde End Lane, Ryeish Green, Reading, RG7 1ER

T: 01189 883616 | E: contact@oakbankschool.co.uk | W: www.oakbankschool.co.uk

Oakbank School is proud to be part of the Greenshaw Learning Trust, which is a charitable company limited by guarantee registered in England and Wales. Company number 7633694.
Registered office: Greenshaw Learning Trust, ORU Sutton, Throwley Way, Sutton, Surrey SM1 4AF.