Oakbank School

Date: 18th September

RE:Welcome back

Welcome to the new school year! We have absolutely loved opening our doors again, to new and returning students alike, for what has been an action-packed first 2 weeks back, celebrating and setting the foundations to continue to build on last year and Oakbank Schools best ever results at GCSE. We had a wonderful visit from Baroness Barran on the 16th September who was amazed by just how safe , calm and happy the environment is and the consistency in our classrooms.

.

We were lucky to have 1 day with just our Year 7 and 11 students on Friday 4th, which seems a long time ago. All year groups, especially the Year 7's have made a fantastic start to the year. It was a pleasure to spend some time getting to know each of our new Year 7s, see the two year groups side by side, modelling our values of hard work and kindness, and getting stuck into inductions and lessons in the first week. We know that for Year 7s in particular it's a big change from primary schools, so it's important to us to take the time to teach them what our routines look like, how to behave and how to manage the school day - they have done such a great job. We can't wait to continue the team ethos for our Year 7's at our fully funded 3 day residential at Ufton court next week.

Since Monday, excitingly, students have also been learning how to complete their self-quizzing homeworks across all years. As you may be aware, this year all students from Years 7 to 11 will quiz themselves each evening on ten pieces of core knowledge, things they really have to know to be successful in lessons. All students were taught how to do this effectively, using look, cover, write, check, and we have been really impressed by the response from the students so far. One student said to me this week 'I am actually looking forward to homework so it will help me in lessons'. This is exactly what we're aiming for and we're so thankful for the support from home at the homework evening and can't wait to get started on Monday.

In teaching and learning this week and throughout our INSET days all our fantastic staff at Oakbank School have been receiving training on our core routines and a key aspiration to get 100% of students thinking about the right thing 100% of the time. This will mean lessons are tightly structured around students having the chance to routinely recall knowledge, concentrate on new concepts, and apply that learning to challenging tasks. This has culminated in some fantastic lessons over the last two weeks.

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.

Oakbank School

A big thank you to everyone at home who has supported in ensuring students were September ready, with perfect uniforms and all their equipment. Our continued thanks for supporting students to get back into the routine of attending school every single day, attendance being the single biggest predictor of student academic progress. Your efforts at home are greatly appreciated and have been key in raising our overall attendance for all years by over 10% compared to this stage last year with over 250 students with 100% attendance.. We know that when students attend Oakbank School they succeed and our year 11 results have shown us just how great this school is and will be, with an average grade across all subjects of nearly a 6 for students who had 90% attendance last year. This shows that our core routines and teaching and learning is having the desired effect and will continue to improve.

Lastly the past two weeks have seen students vote on the brand new House system that we will be introducing. This is an opportunity to engage and make the school even more fun and exciting and you can find out more about this in the newsletter and for correspondence.

Have a wonderful weekend.

Mr R Gerrard
Headteacher

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.

Oakbank School

Dates and Events

Monday 21st - enrichment Begins

Monday 21st - year 7 Ufton Court trip

Monday 21st - Homework begins

Thursday 24th - Open evening

Thursday 1st October - Geography Field trip

Friday 9th October - student voice

13th October - year 11 information evening

Friday 23rd October - Inset day

Find out more about events on our website https://www.oakbankschool.co.uk/

Attendance Matters at Oakbank

It has been an incredibly positive start to the new academic year, and I would like to thank our students, parents and carers for the fantastic support you have shown for our attendance strategy.

Win September, Win the Year

This term, we launched our **"Win September, Win the Year"** campaign, encouraging every student to make the strongest possible start to the academic year.

Why? Because attendance in September really does matter.

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.

National research shows that attendance patterns established in the first few weeks of term are often the strongest predictor of attendance for the rest of the academic year. Students who miss school early in September are significantly more likely to become persistently absent later in the year.

At Oakbank, we want every child to develop positive habits from day one, giving them the very best opportunity to succeed both academically and personally.

An Outstanding Start

We are delighted to report that, at the time of writing, **just over 80% of Oakbank students have achieved 100% attendance** this academic year thus far.

This is a fantastic achievement and reflects the commitment shown by our students and the support provided by families each and every morning. Thank you for helping us give our young people the best possible start.

Students are also enjoying our September rewards, including:

- A **100% in September** attendance badge for their blazer.
- An invitation to our exclusive inflatable rewards event.
- Two merits awarded for every day attended throughout September.

Attendance & Homework Evening

A huge thank you to everyone who attended our recent **Attendance & Homework Evening**.

It was wonderful to see so many families engaging with our vision for attendance, learning more about the support available, our expanded mental health offer, and how we can continue to work together to remove barriers to regular school attendance.

Strong partnerships between home and school are one of the most effective ways to ensure children attend regularly, achieve highly and enjoy school.

Every Day Counts

We know that genuine illness and exceptional circumstances do arise. However, wherever possible, we encourage every student to attend every day. Where there are instances were your child is too ill to attend school, please record this absence on MCAS before 8am daily.

Every lesson matters. Every day builds confidence, strengthens friendships and supports academic success.

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.

Thank you once again for your continued support as we work together to ensure every child has the opportunity to **Win September and Win the Year**.

What is MCAS?

MCAS is the system the school uses to provide you with easier access to instant information about all aspects of your child's: timetable, attendance, calendar and details. You also receive messages from the school through the app.

How to download and access MCAS:

1. Download the App:
- Android: https://play.google.com/store/apps?hl=en_GB&gl=US&pli=1
- Apple: https://www.apple.com/uk/app-store/

1. Login:
    - Your username is your registered email address with the school.
    - If you are a first-time user, enter your email address and select "Reset Password."
    - To access the MCAS Parent Portal via a web browser, please visit: https://www.mychildatschool.com/MCAS/MCSParentLogin

Events

Dame Barran Visit

Thank you and well done to all our incredible staff and students who showed the school for the special place it is during the visit of Dame Barran. She was so impressed with our school and with the safe, calm and happy environment. She also saw the fantastic learning taking place and the amazing work our staff and students are doing every single day 'I'm sure that when parents see the school, and the transformation in both its culture and buildings, they will feel much more confident about sending their children to be educated at Oakbank School'.

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.

Oakbank School





A Fantastic Start for Year 7

What a fantastic first two weeks our Year 7 students have had! They are now fully immersed in life at Oakbank and are quickly learning what it means to be an Oakbank Student.

They have been busy getting to know their teachers, finding their way around the school, making new friends and settling into lessons. They are already showing our values of Work Hard and Be Kind. In Tutor Time Reading, they are reading *Wonder* by R. J. Palacio, a story with a powerful message about kindness, acceptance and belonging.

We are really proud of the way Year 7 have embraced our routines and the growing responsibility they are showing – arriving on time, bringing the right equipment and looking after their RfL cards. These may seem like small things, but it is these everyday habits that make a big difference.

They have also enjoyed their first Fun Fridays and Friday Rewards and have been part of Oakbank School history by voting for their preferred House names.

Next up is their fully funded three-day residential at Ufton Court, where they will have the chance to challenge themselves, strengthen friendships and build that all-important sense of belonging to their new school community.

Well done, Year 7 – we are very proud of the start you have made. Keep working hard, being kind and making Oakbank School your school.

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.

Oakbank School





Upcoming: SEND Coffee Morning, Tuesday 22nd September, 9-10am

This will be an opportunity to hear from Katherine Reggler, the SENDCO, about the work of the SEND department, the power of Oakbank's universal provision in supporting SEND students, and our strategy for the next academic year. You would also be welcome to see the school in action during one of our tours. All are welcome, whether or not your child is currently on the SEND register, and we also encourage prospective parents to attend.

Please sign up via this form: https://forms.gle/TGN4uZmP4MRrqqXT7

Rewards , Fun Friday and House System

Fun Friday

We have started the year with two fantastic Fun Friday activities. Balloon keep up started the year with our Year 7 Cohort and Year 11's getting involved earning lots of prizes before the first full Fun Friday saw the ever popular Red Light Green Light return. It was fantastic to see our new Year 7's get involved in the different activities showcasing their competitiveness and eagerness to engage as well as the rest of our returning students who got involved whether that be supporting, officiating or joining in to earn prizes.

We look forward to a range of different activities across the coming weeks and hope to see all students get involved.

House System

A house system is a powerful way to build community within a school, fostering a deeper sense of belonging that research suggests can improve attendance and engagement for students. For many pupils, their house provides identity, pride, and shared purpose. It encourages friendships across year groups, helping to reduce feelings of isolation and strengthening the wider school community. This week saw us launch the house system in assembly which we are introducing this academic year.

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.

Houses also create opportunities for healthy competition and recognition both in and beyond the classroom. Success in areas such as attendance, positive behaviour, and inter-house competitions allows every student to shine in different ways and to contribute to something bigger than themselves.All students and staff were informed of the options and have had the opportunity to vote for what they would like the houses, logos and colours to be. The choices, students and staff could vote on were, UK Peaks, Mountainous Animals and Famous Mountaineers.

Voting has taken place, and votes have been collated with the winning house by over 100 votes as Mountainous Animals. Therefore we are excited to announce our new houses are:

House 1: Bjorn- Red House.

Steady growth and thoughtful leadership.

House 2: Fenrir- Purple House.

Strength, Loyalty and Perseverance.

House 3: **Roc- Blue House**

Awe, Freedom, and the ability to rise above obstacles.

Ultimately, a house system is not just about competition, it is about community. It reinforces our school values of *Work Hard and Be Kind*, provides more opportunities to recognise and reward positive behaviour, and creates experiences and memories that will stay with students long after they leave Oakbank School. All students and staff will now be allocated into one of the three houses and there will be opportunities for students to apply for leadership roles within their house.









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	Eryk B	64
8	Jack A	97
9	Theo N	108
10	Olivia C	51
11	Shayaan A	60

Our highest merit earners across the school this **term**

Year Group	Name	Total
9	Theo N	108
8	Jack A	97
8	Marek O	84
9	Max P	84
8	Riley O	82

Careers and Future Pathways

Unifrog – Supporting Your Future

We are using **Unifrog** again this year to help all students think about their future and make informed choices at every stage of their Oakbank journey.

Students should log into Unifrog every week and complete the tasks and interactions that have been set for them. The platform will support Year 7 and 8 students in discovering their interests, skills and passions, help Year 9 with GCSE choices, support Year 10 with Work Experience placements, and help our older students explore and make informed post-16 choices.

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.

Oakbank School

Ms Korporowicz has already shared a number of Unifrog interactions, including information about upcoming college and sixth-form open evenings, apprenticeships and webinars. Students should check these regularly so they don't miss opportunities that could be important for their next steps.

Students have also received a **Future Skills Questionnaire** via their school email. This short questionnaire helps us understand students' current knowledge, skills and confidence around careers and their future. The results will help us make sure that the careers support and opportunities we provide are right for our students. **All students should check their school email and complete the questionnaire as soon as possible.**

Log in, explore and get involved – you never know which opportunity might spark an idea for your future!

Your faithfully,



Mr R Gerrard
Headteacher

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.

Oakbank School

OAKBANK SCHOOL
SAFEGUARDING SUPPORT
DURING SCHOOL CLOSURE

If you have a safeguarding concern over the holidays, please contact the appropriate service below.

IF A CHILD IS IN IMMEDIATE DANGER, ALWAYS CALL 999.
If you believe a child is at risk of harm, do not wait.

READING

Children's Single Point of Access (CSPA)
For concerns about a child during normal office hours (Mon–Fri, 9am–5pm)
- 0118 937 3641
- cspa@reading.gov.uk

Emergency Duty Service (Out of Hours)
For urgent safeguarding concerns outside of office hours
- 0118 937 3797
- eds@reading.gov.uk

Thames Valley Police
If a child is at risk or you need police assistance
- 999 (Emergency)
- 101 (Non-Emergency)
- www.thamesvalley.police.uk

NSPCC Helpline
Advice and support for any safeguarding concern
- 0808 800 5000
- help@nspcc.org.uk
- www.nspcc.org.uk

Childline
Help and support for children and young people
- 0800 1111
- www.childline.org.uk

WOKINGHAM

Wokingham Children's Services
For concerns about a child during normal office hours (Mon–Fri, 9am–5pm)
- 0118 908 8002
- children@wokingham.gov.uk

Emergency Duty Service (Out of Hours)
For urgent safeguarding concerns outside of office hours
- 0118 908 8555
- eds@wokingham.gov.uk

Thames Valley Police
If a child is at risk or you need police assistance
- 999 (Emergency)
- 101 (Non-Emergency)
- www.thamesvalley.police.uk

NSPCC Helpline
Advice and support for any safeguarding concern
- 0808 800 5000
- help@nspcc.org.uk
- www.nspcc.org.uk

Childline
Help and support for children and young people
- 0800 1111
- www.childline.org.uk

CONTACT OAKBANK SCHOOL
If you would like to speak to a member of our Safeguarding Team, you can email us and we will respond as soon as possible when we return.

- safeguarding@oakbankschool.co.uk
- 0118 988 3616 (School office – messages monitored during holidays)

Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility.
Thank you for helping to keep children safe

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.

Oakbank School

READING & WOKINGHAM FOOD BANKS

Support for you and your family over the holidays



FREE FOOD AND SUPPORT WHEN YOU NEED IT

If you're finding things difficult, food banks in Reading and Wokingham are here to help.
You don't need a referral – just get in touch.

READING FOODBANK

READING FOOD BANK

Central Reading | Whitley | Southcote | Tilehurst

- 0118 957 8585
- info@reading.foodbank.org.uk
- reading.foodbank.org.uk

Open:
Mon – Fri: 10am – 3pm
Food parcels available by appointment.

WOKINGHAM FOODBANK

WOKINGHAM FOOD BANK

Serving Wokingham, Earley, Woodley and surrounding areas

- 07393 311550
- info@wokingham.foodbank.org.uk
- wokingham.foodbank.org.uk

Open:
Mon – Fri: 10am – 2pm
Food parcels available by appointment.

WHAT YOU CAN ACCESS

FOOD PARCELS
Nutritious food for you and your family.

ESSENTIALS
Toiletries and household items when available.

SUPPORT & SIGNPOSTING
We can help connect you to other local services and support.

ALL WELCOME
No one will be judged. We're here to help.

YOU DON'T HAVE TO FACE THIS ALONE. We're here to help over the holidays and beyond.

HOLIDAY PERIOD
Please get in touch if you need support.

TIPS BEFORE YOU visit

- Bring ID if you can (not essential)
- Let us know any dietary requirements
- Ask if you need support with collections
- Children are welcome

SCAN ME FOR MORE INFO

You've got enough on your plate. Let us help with this one.

Oakbank School

reading, Berkshire

SUPPORT FOR YOUNG CARERS

You care for others. We're here to care for you.



A **young carer** is someone under 18 who helps look after a family member or friend who is ill, disabled, has a mental health condition or misuses alcohol or drugs.

It's okay to ask for help. You deserve support too.

YOU ARE NOT ALONE

Lots of young people in Reading and across Berkshire are young carers too.

WE CAN HELP

We offer practical support, information and someone to talk to who understands.

YOU CAN

- Make new friends
- Take a break
- Build confidence
- Achieve your goals

WE'RE HERE FOR YOU

Whatever you're facing, we'll support you every step of the way.

Local support made for young carers in Reading and Berkshire

0118 937 3641
Mon–Fri, 9am–5pm

youngcarers@reading.gov.uk

reading.gov.uk/young-carers

Reading Young Carers Service
Civic Offices, Bridge Street, Reading, RG1 2LU

FIND OUT MORE

Scan me!

You look after others. We've got your back.

Oakbank School

Wokingham, Berkshire

You care.
We care.
We're here for you.

SUPPORT FOR YOUNG CARERS

You look after someone.
We're here to look out for you.



If you help look after a family member because of illness, disability, a mental health condition or addiction – **you are a young carer.**

We're here to help with:

- Someone who listens
- Wellbeing and advice
- Help with school and studies
- Fun activities and days out
- Opportunities and new experiences
- Support for you and your family

You're not alone.
We're here for you.

Get in touch today

0118 908 1471
(Young Carers Team, Wokingham Borough)

youngcarers@wokingham.gov.uk

www.wokingham.gov.uk/youngcarers

For young people aged 5–18 living in Wokingham Borough

Scan me to find out more!