



Oakbank School

Date: 6th March 2026

RE: Future events

Dear Oakbank School Community

I am writing to provide an update on some key events from this week and some to look forward to. We really want everything we do at Oakbank School to mean something and look forward to some really fantastic opportunities for the school community that will continue the rapid improvement we have seen since September 2025. The Headteacher and SENCO will also be attending Shinfield Pavilion on the 7th March at 10:30 for the community event hosted by Yuan Yang, the Member of Parliament for Earley and Woodley.

World Book Day

We had a fantastic World Book Day celebration this year, highlighted by a special visit from acclaimed author David Barker. Our Year 7 students and the School Book Club were treated to an inside look at *Pax and the Secret Swarm*, the high-stakes finale to his dystopian *London Falling* trilogy (also known as the PAX trilogy). It was a pleasure to also welcome students from our local primary schools into the library to share in this inspiring session.

Every student received a National Book Token, which can be exchanged for a free World Book Day book or used toward a purchase of their choice. Local shops in Berkshire currently accepting these tokens include: Waterstones (Reading - Broad Street and Oracle), WHSmith (Reading and Wokingham), Hungerford Bookshop, The Little Bookshop (Cookham), and major supermarkets.

Library Access & Year 10 Reading

The library remains a hub of activity and is open to all students every lunchtime except Thursdays. To manage capacity, students must remember to collect a Library Pass on the day they wish to visit. Our Year 10 students are currently diving into the newly published *The Light A Candle Society* by Ruth Hogan. We would like to extend a huge thank you to the publisher, Atlantic Books, who generously donated the copies for our Tutor Time Reading Programme (TTRP). Your support in making World Book Day a success is greatly appreciated!

Mr Rob 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

Investment in the School

Phase 1 of the £4 million investment from Greenshaw Learning Trust will commence on the 9th March 2026. This will be a £300,000 investment in new student toilets, new staff toilets, and some essential safeguarding including new fencing. The expected completion date will be after the Easter break. We can't wait to have hotel-standard toilets that we know will be respected and be of a standard that the school community deserves.

Prom

The Year 11 Prom will be held at the elegant Warbrook House on June 17, 2026, with access beginning at 4:00 PM. The venue package, priced at £45 per person, includes a welcome mocktail reception, a buffet, a dance floor, and a professional DJ. We are also looking to arrange extras like a photobooth, candy floss, and a pick-n-mix station within this budget and Oakbank School contributions. Attendance is performance-based: students must earn 200 prom points to secure an invite. Those in the top 50% will enter a raffle for one of three £50 vouchers, while top performers earning Prom Points will receive significant discounts.

Academic Review Evening (Y11)

This Easter we will be running another Holiday School for Y11 following the enormous success of the last Half Term school in which over 40 students participated. SLT will be present to support throughout; behaviour expectations will remain the same. Exact days and times will be shared with you when we know staff numbers. There is an ARE on the 24th March; please follow the link here to confirm your attendance for this important evening.

Rewards Week

On the week commencing the 23rd March, we will have our Gold, Silver, and Bronze awards for students who have worked incredibly hard to earn lots of Merits and Golden Tickets throughout the term. Our Gold Award will see students visit Clip 'n' Climb to go rock climbing, our Silver Award will see students enjoy an inflatable session, and our Bronze Award will see students have a cinema experience with popcorn and drinks provided. These are all fully funded rewards and very well deserved. Please check communications for letters detailing the awards and timings in the week before.

Those students who have had 100% attendance since the start of term will also be receiving brownies and a pizza party to celebrate their commitment and attendance.

Mr Rob 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

Meat Free Monday

As you may be aware, we are always developing new menus and the next menu at Oakbank School is likely to be mid-May and run until the Autumn. As part of that menu and the Trust-wide 'Let's Go Zero' initiative, we have reintroduced Meat Free Mondays. This initiative is a simple yet powerful commitment to reaching Net Zero. Agriculture, particularly livestock production, is a significant contributor to global greenhouse gas emissions. By making a small shift in our weekly menu, we can tangibly reduce our school's carbon footprint.

Yours faithfully,

Mr R Gerrard
Headteacher

Mr Rob 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
