



**Date: Friday 27th March**

## **End of term newsletter - Mr Gerrard Headteacher**

Dear Oakbank School community,

As we reach the end of the Spring Term, it is the perfect moment to reflect on what has been a truly fantastic period of growth for Oakbank School. We are incredibly proud of how our students are scaling the heights of their own "personal mountains," aiming for the very best universities, professions and apprenticeships. Since September, we have laid down firm, positive foundations that embody our core commitment: Work Hard and Be Kind. The high standards and ambition shown by every young person here are what make us stand out as we continue our journey to becoming the number one school in Wokingham.

While our drive for continuous learning never stops, it is vital to pause and celebrate the milestones that made this term so special:

- **Community Spirit:** A personal highlight was our Year 11 ARE (Academic Review Evening) and Year 9 Choices. The positive energy shared was infectious, and our students were fantastic ambassadors.
- **Year 11 Excellence:** Our Year 11 students have been exemplary during their mock exams again and their attendance at half term school, working lunch and champions hour just highlights how much they care. They have shown the exceptional self-discipline and diligence required for success.

Mr Rob Gerrard, Headteacher

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## Looking Ahead to the Summer Term

The hard work certainly doesn't stop here. As we look forward to the Summer Term, we are excited to continue building on this momentum. We are dedicated to making Oakbank the number one choice for our local community, a school where there is no ceiling on achievement and where every student is supported to be their best self. Please be aware of the Inset dates on the 13th April where the school is closed to all and the 14th April where we invite Year 11 in only to make the strongest possible start to their final term. All years will be welcomed back on the 15th April. Thank you for your continued support and for being such an integral part of our success. We can't wait to see what we will achieve together in the coming months.



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# Oakbank School

## Merit Earners

At Oakbank School we expect students to work hard, we want them to be challenged and for the lessons to make students think about complex ideas and problems. We also like to visually reward and recognise the hard work that the students commit to with our rewards system. Massive well done to all these students as it shows the hard work and commitment you have to your education!

### Congratulations to our top merit earners of the term across the school

Name	Year	Score
Ayessa A	9	1168
Olivia C	9	1035
Noah N	8	989
Sophie L	11	988
Racheal O	11	962

### Congratulations to our top merit earners of the term in each year group

Name	Year	Score
Jack A	7	744
Noah N	8	989
Ayessa A	9	1168
Ryan A	10	650
Sophie L	11	988

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## Fun Friday and Rewards Report

On behalf of the Oakbank School community, I would like to extend a huge thank you to the students from Grazeley Primary and Shinfield St Mary's Primary who joined us for our Rewards Day. We had a fantastic time hosting, and it was a joy to see them having so much fun. Most importantly, I want to commend the students for their exceptional behaviour and politeness. They truly embodied the values we hold dear at Oakbank: Work hard and be kind.



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## Author Visit

Oakbank welcomed author David Barker as well as students from Lambs Lane and Alder Grove primaries for world book day. It was a great event enjoyed by all.



Fun Fridays have seen many exciting events where children get to play, have deliberate fun and enjoy being themselves.



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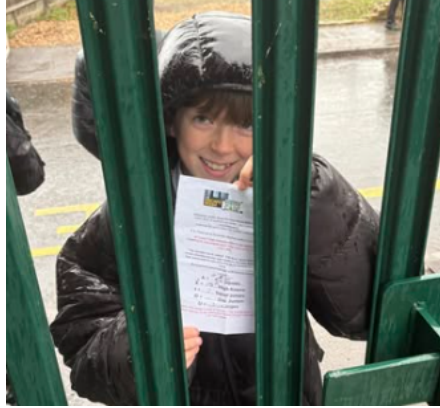
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Gold, Silver and Bronze Rewards were a huge success this term as well as Year 11 students receiving their Prom invites.



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## Attendance - Swap Shop and 100% attendance

**Congratulations to students who have 100% attendance all year.**

These students have received a goody bag filled with Oakbank stationary and merchandise, as well as some sweet treats!

If they can maintain their 100% status until the end of the summer term the school is planning a special reward just for those students. To celebrate not only their attendance but also recognise their commitment to the wider school community. It is students like these that will help to drive Oakbank school forward.

We know that the year 11's on this list will keep working hard and being kind so that they give themselves the best chance to go on to those colleges and Sixth Forms that they are striving for. Well done everyone on a great term!



Name	Year	Name	Year
Grace B	11	Daniel L	11
Eva B	8	James L	11
Olivia C	11	Valerie O	9
Keira G	8	Patrick PG	9
Luke G	10	Eila T	11

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## Behaviour and Values:

In life if you can be anything, be kind and if you can do anything for yourself, it is to work hard. This term we have seen students embody our values of work hard and be kind, across the school. Whether that has been in lessons or at enrichment, trying to climb their own personal mountain and be the best version of themselves or whether it has been helping others, picking up litter or holding a door open, our students have had a great term.

Across the term there have been 134,850 positive points given out, through lessons, enrichment, prom points, home learning and RFL card signatures. This has led to so many positive moments and interactions with students both in and out of the classroom and we cannot wait to see what the summer term brings.

### What "Work Hard" Looks Like:

It's not just about getting the highest grade. It's about:

- Staying with a difficult math problem even when it feels "tricky."
- Proofreading work before handing it in.
- Understanding that a mistake is just a "first attempt in learning."

### What "Be Kind" Looks Like:

It's about more than just being "nice." It's about:

- Noticing when a classmate is sitting alone and reaching out to them
- Listening when others speak without interrupting.
- Supporting other students.

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## Sports Fixtures

This term has seen our Year 7 boys and Year 11 boys represent the school in football fixtures.

After a slow start for the Year 7's in the first two games, performances and results improved even picking up their first win.. The team work and commitment was fantastic to see and we look forward to them representing the school in years to come.

At the other end of the school, our Year 11's welcomed other schools in what is to be their last games representing the school. Home wins, drama, comebacks and some fantastic football has seen the students showcase their ability and show what Oakbank is about.

The final week of the term also saw an in-house Year 10 vs Year 11 match, which followed suit of other Year 11 games. Action packed and full of excitement, the match saw the Year 10's pull back a 2 goal deficit before the experience of the Year 11's in the last few minutes saw them claim bragging rights with a 4-2 win.



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## Enrichment Clubs - Spring Term Review

This term has seen some enrichment clubs continue from the Autumn term with some new enrichment clubs starting up.

In the sporting world we have seen; Year 8 battle with Year 9 at dodgeball, Our This Girl Can club participate in Basketball, Badminton and Volleyball; Our Year 10 students develop their badminton skills and Year 11 students refine their table tennis skills. Our students have also been participating in football, which has seen Year 7 take on Year 8 twice weekly, as well as the older years coming together and enjoying a leisurely kick about.

Away from sport we have seen...

In Dungeons and Dragons the students have been continuing their quests within the world of Domnovia. Most recently they have started in the village of Zennor to help Joane Garrey, aka 'the blue canary', to uncover the 'scoop of the century'. But first, they need to work out how to get a boat to get to the island without upsetting the locals... unfortunately they were not terribly successful at not upsetting the locals and their heist to get hold of a boat resulted in several locals injured and in the water! They are currently mid-battle to release a water elemental from the evil necromancer. A couple have also had a go at creating their own adventures and will have their turn at running the game as Games Master next term.



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The Warhammer club were fortunate enough to be invited to visit the Warhammer store in Reading last week, where they not only got to see brilliant examples of how the models could be painted, they also learned to have a battle with them - luckily the students' space marines won the day. This final week of term they staged their own battles between the space marines and necrons they painted using the boards that were kindly donated by ex students and are being well used!



Book Club have held a book tasting for the Carnegie shortlist for writing and have each made a pledge of the book they will read over the Easter break. As well as having the physical books in the library, all of the Carnegie shortlists are available on our SORAapp, which has ebooks, audiobooks and magazines available for the students to read. All they need is their school log-in (year of entry, initial and surname) to access it.



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This term, the Art Club focused primarily on preparing works for the Royal Academy Young Artists' Summer Competition, to which we submitted nine entries. Students dedicated five weeks of consistent effort to complete these pieces. In recent weeks, they explored drawing through studies of still life, developing their understanding of proportion, shadow, and composition. Drawing is a key practice that strengthens observational skills and builds a strong artistic foundation. It also provides valuable preparation for students considering GCSE Art, helping them develop the techniques and confidence needed to take on the two year course.

Pictures below: one is an entry for the Royal Academy competition and the other is what we are currently doing (still life drawing of animal bones).



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# Oakbank School

## Staffing

We are delighted to welcome Phil McKane to our leadership team next term as Deputy Headteacher. Phil joins us from Brackenhale School; as a fellow member of the Greenshaw Learning Trust, he brings a deep understanding of our shared mission and a wealth of experience.

Also joining us after the Easter break are Gareth Williams and Rajni Narang, who will be taking up roles as teaching assistants. We are delighted to welcome them to the team and look forward to the valuable contribution they will make to our school community.

## Bromcom payments

We are pleased to announce that on Wednesday, 1st April, we will officially migrate our payment system from ParentPay to Bromcom. This change is part of our effort to streamline school communications and payments into one place. Further communication to follow next week.

Yours faithfully,

Mr R Gerrard  
Headteacher

Mr Rob Gerrard, Headteacher

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