



Please find a video summary of the newsletter [here](#).

Date: 24th April 20206

RE: Welcome back

Dear Oakbank School Community

It has been a brilliant start to the Summer Term at Oakbank. Our staff training on Monday was highly productive, focusing on how we support students during lessons by effective planning and questioning to bring information from our long term memory into our working memory and how to get 100% of students thinking hard 100% of the time. It is incredibly important to us that teaching at Oakbank is the best it can be, which is why we take pride in being evidence-informed and this training is continued and reviewed each week with staff professional development.

Our lessons follow an 'I do, we do, you do' model. This ensures that after a teacher demonstrates a concept, they check for understanding before giving students 15-20 minutes of focused practice time. During this period, teachers circulate to provide 1-1 support and immediate feedback. I am very proud of the quality of teaching across our school; if you would like to see it for yourself, please feel free to book a "school in action" tour via our website. We are more than happy to give you a tour at any time of the day on any day of the week, we are confident you will be amazed at how kind, calm and focused the school is.

We are so happy to announce today the completion of Phase 1 of the £4 million investment from Greenshaw Learning Trust. The students and staff have continued as normal despite changes to rooming and routines and I thank everyone for their efforts in allowing the school to improve whilst maintaining high standards. The £300000 investment in new student toilets, new staff toilets and some essential safeguarding including new fencing. I look forward to updating you on future projects as they develop.

Mr Rob Gerrard, Headteacher

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Key Stage 4 Focus

It has been wonderful to see our Year 11 and 10 returning with such a strong work ethic and collaborative spirit. We had over 70% of Year 11 students attend our holiday school during the Easter break to benefit from extra time with their teacher, a huge thank you to the staff who made this possible. Year 10 are now starting to receive homework which we aim to roll out to all years in the near future.

With GCSE exams starting imminently, it is great to see our cohorts making the most of every minute, including working lunches and Champions' Hour. Our Year 11s are truly acting as leaders of the school and positive role models.

Year 9 students have also completed their Choices as they prepare to begin their Key Stage 4 journey and we are excited about letting students know about what they will be studying next year so they too can begin to climb the final stages of their mountain to the best universities, careers and apprenticeships of their choice. This was after a fantastic and well attended Year 9 Choices evening before half term, many thanks for all those that attended.



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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.



Enrichment and Opportunities

We also improved our enrichment Fayre this week and will be including some basketball clubs provided by the Reading Rockets for all years. Enrichment activities are vital for character development and building a sense of belonging, and we encourage all students to enrol.

Thank you to Mae Humphreys and Freddie Hughes who made us proud by being part of the panel and decision making on the new Art Installation from Arts4Wokingham in conjunction with Shinfield Parish Council. They have been key to the selection of a new piece to be displayed outside the School Green Centre in 2027.

We were also really proud of our Year 11 Geographers who completed their human Geography coursework in Reading on the 16th April. We received some great feedback and as ever the students were really well behaved and worked really hard.



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SEND

We were honoured to host a visit this week from our local MP [Yuan Yang MP](#) to discuss the government's proposed reforms to the SEND system. Our student panel spoke thoughtfully and articulately about their experiences of SEN support and several of our parents also came in to share their thoughts on the White Paper.



Fun Friday

It has been a fantastic start to **Fun Friday** for the summer term! As always, we encourage both students and staff to engage in "deliberate fun." We welcome any ideas that spark friendly competition and put smiles on everyone's faces. This term has seen Classic Games with a Twist: This week, the whole school joined in for a round of "Miss Shaunessy Says" (our take on the classic Simon Says). We are already looking forward to the Oakbank spin on Musical Chairs!

The Golden Tie: We've officially introduced the "Golden Tie" to celebrate our community and birthdays.

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We want to celebrate every staff member and student who has a birthday during the school term. We're spreading kindness through: Warm greetings, kind words and of course a free cake if you wear the Golden tie. .It has been so wonderful to hear staff and students being greeted with 'Happy Birthday' and a smile throughout the halls. We are confident this new tradition will really take off!"



MCAS

Oakbank School has transferred its management information system to Bromcom, in line with all Greenshaw schools.

What are the benefits of you using MCAS?

The system provides 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>

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Looking Ahead

We have a busy half term ahead at Oakbank, including:

- **GCSE Exams:** Starting next month.
- **Academic Review Evening:** For Years 10 and 7-9.
- **GLT Football Tournament:** Supporting our school athletes.
- Year 6 transition **Pizza evening**

Wishing you all a wonderful and restful weekend.

Mr R Gerrard
Headteacher

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