



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

Date: 8th May 2026

RE: Continuing Improvements

Dear Oakbank School Community,

It has been another exciting and productive two weeks at Oakbank School where exam season has begun with French speaking. As we enter the written exam season for Year 11 on Monday, I want to assure you that every member of our staff is committed to helping our students succeed. We are here to support them as they climb their own personal mountains toward the best universities, careers, and apprenticeships of their choice. We have been so impressed with the whole cohort with their effort, maturity and hard work and we are excited about how well they will do.

To support our Year 11s during this period, we are providing a free breakfast at 7:30 am each morning. Staff will be available during this time for advice, reassurance, and last-minute tips. We will also post exam dates and times on social media in advance, and reminders the day before. Furthermore, we will hold a fully focused exam warm-up session before every paper to drive home key points and reminders. Please note that we look forward to continuing the breakfast club for students in Year 10 and below once the exams have concluded.

The physical environment of the school continues to improve thanks to the £4 million investment from Greenshaw Learning Trust. Recent additions, such as the parasoles to create a peaceful shaded area and picnic blankets, have been very well received by the students. The newest toilets are now finished and they look fantastic. They are exactly what the students deserve, and we know they will look after them and use them appropriately as they do with the rest of our school facilities. We are also continuing with some much needed roof repairs which, although are not glamorous, are absolutely necessary. There are several more projects that will continue through to September.

Inside the classrooms, our staff have been continuing to develop their skills for the 'You Do' phase of the lesson. This is the part of the lesson where students practise a skill independently while the teacher remains active. This is where the real magic of teaching happens through active observation. Rather than just watching, we look for specific things, such as the moment a student pauses or looks frustrated, so we can step in before they give up. By checking for patterns, if we notice several students making the same mistake, we can stop the class and clarify the point immediately. This ensures that no child stays stuck for long

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and builds their confidence because they know help is always circling whilst accepting the challenge to focus and try and solve problems themselves.

Attendance

At Oakbank School, we know that excellent attendance is one of the most important factors in helping students to achieve well, feel confident, and make the most of school life. Every lesson matters. Being in school consistently helps students build strong routines, keep up with learning, maintain friendships, and access the full range of opportunities and support available to them.

Even small amounts of absence can add up quickly and can make it harder for students to stay on track. It is difficult for anyone to engage with their favourite television shows on Netflix if they only watch episodes 3, 7 and 14. When students miss lessons, they are missing important elements of the planned, sequenced curriculum and thus this makes it more challenging to remain engaged in the lessons they attend. We want every child to benefit from lives of choice and opportunity, and excellent attendance is a key part of this.

We also recognise that children may sometimes feel a little under the weather. In cases of very minor illness, students should still come into school. Our staff will monitor them carefully, and if a student is truly too unwell to remain in school, we will contact home and arrange for them to be collected. There is no 48-hour rule for general minor illness; students should return to school as soon as they are well enough to do so.

If your child is absent, please report this via the MCAS app by 8.30am on each day of absence. There is no need to email or phone the school separately, as MCAS is our expected reporting method.

We understand that there may sometimes be barriers that make attendance more difficult such as friendship issues and difficulties with particular lessons or subjects. Please do not keep your child off school because of these concerns, as absence can often create further barriers to learning, confidence, and routine. Instead, please contact our attendance team using the attendance email address so that we can work with you and offer support where needed.

We are also excited to be continuing and developing a range of new and regular rewards to celebrate excellent and improving attendance. These include opportunities such as the swap shop, gift vouchers, and other incentives throughout the year. We want students to feel proud of their commitment and to recognise the positive impact that good attendance has on their progress and wellbeing.

Thank you for your continued support in helping all Oakbank students attend school regularly, achieve their best, and enjoy everything the school has to offer.

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Site improvements

Phase 1 is now complete with the toilets up and running for the students. We have also invested in some parasols for the students to enjoy some much needed shade as well as picnic blankets that can be borrowed in exchange for a Golden Ticket.



Year 10 Access Arrangements

This term, we have begun the process for identifying Year 10 exam access arrangements. As with our Year 11s, the access arrangements testing was open to all students to ensure equity and fairness in the process. The initial online testing scores will be reviewed, with some students being identified for further testing with a specialised assessor on Friday 8th May. Students who have an existing diagnosis, or who have an EHCP, qualify for access arrangements differently and will not require further testing. The process won't end on 8th May - these assessments only identify students who may require a reader, scribe or extra time - and we will review teacher evidence, a student's normal way of working, the Year 10 mocks in June, and any concerns raised, to decide on the provision of other arrangements. If you have any questions about this process, please contact Miss Reggler on kreggler@oakbankschool.co.uk.

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SEND Staffing

We have recently appointed two new Teaching Assistants; Mr Williams, who has already started with the team, and Mrs Slark, who will begin after half term. Mrs Kittelsen has now left Oakbank; we thank her for her time with the school. The SEND team will continue to be supported by Mrs Vardy and Mr Ackland, GLT School Improvement Leads for SEND, and Miss Reggler begins her SENCO training in September.

Invigilator & Scribe Opportunity

We are seeking an additional invigilator and scribe to support our team in delivering the GCSE Exam series this summer. This would be someone with good availability during the mornings from 11th May to 15th June (apart from the week of half term). A minimum of GCSE English at Grade C/5 or above is required for the scribe role. A current DBS is desired but not essential. Both roles pay _____ per hour, and full training will be provided. This might be a great opportunity for an older child home from university, someone who works part time, or a retiree. For more information, or if you are interested in applying, please contact exams@oakbankschool.co.uk.

Year 11 Important information

Fun Friday Highlights: Community, Competition, and Classic Games

So far this half term, our **Fun Friday** activities have brought a fresh energy to the school week. Students dived into a nostalgic lineup of activities, including:

Mrs. Shaughnessy Says (a high-stakes twist on Simon Says)

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Duck, Duck, Goose



Guess Who?

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More Than Just Play

While the atmosphere was lighthearted, the impact was significant. We've seen students:

- Collaborate Naturally: Working together to strategise and succeed.
- Show Independence: Taking initiative and building confidence.
- Foster Staff Connections: There's nothing quite like the shared laughter (and competitive spirit) of students trying to beat their teachers!
- Nurturing Belonging: Fun Friday is a brilliant way for us to demonstrate how proud we are to be part of Oakbank School.

Looking Ahead

The feedback has been overwhelmingly positive. Due to popular demand, a "rematch" of **Duck, Duck, Goose** is already on the horizon. We are also excited to see our various departments step up to take ownership of future events, bringing their own unique flair to our Friday traditions.

Merits

Our Highest merit earners per year group this term

Year Group	Name	Total
7	Jack A	234
8	Noah N	305

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9	Olivia C	292
10	Beth S	160
11	Katie R	311

Our highest merit earners across the school this term

Year Group	Name	Total
11	Katie R	311
11	Oliva C	305
8	Noah N	305
11	Lacee W	297
9	Olivia C	292

Prom

As the countdown to the start of GCSE exams draws ever closer to 0, so too does the date of prom fast approach! Year 11 Prom will be taking place on Wednesday 17th June at Warbrook House. Arrivals will be from 6:30pm, with the fun firmly starting from 7pm. Prom tickets are now available to purchase via Bromcom on MCAS.

There are still plenty of chances to earn prom points, via Working Lunch, Champions' Hour, 100% attendance each week, and submitting completed past papers to teachers.



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ANNUAL GRANTS SCHEME 2026

CLOSING DATE FOR APPLICATIONS 03.07.26

WE WELCOME NEW COMMUNITY INITIATIVES

UP TO £5,000 FOR ORGANISATIONS & £150 YOUNG PEOPLE

29th April 2026
Launch at Annual Parish Meeting

The Shinfield Parish Council Annual Grants Scheme is now live and taking applications; from local organisations and community groups and young people who live in the parish, under 18.

Visit our website to find out more & for a copy of the application form.

www.shinfieldparish.gov.uk/your-parish-council-grants

<https://shinfieldparish.gov.uk/your-parish-council/grants>

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

- GCSE Exams, 7th May-15th June
- Year 10 Mocks, 16th-26th June
- Year 11 Prom, 17th June
- Academic Review Evening for Years 7-9, 14th July
- Academic Review Evening for Year 10, 16th July

Wishing you all a wonderful and restful weekend.

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