



Please find a video summary - [here](#).

Date: 26th June 2026

RE: Chapters

Dear Oakbank School Community,

Every week in our school is important, but the last two weeks have been particularly significant, as well as extremely hot! The two weeks have seen a simultaneous crossover between the Year 11s final exams and Prom and the transition of each year group below to the next chapter of their journey at Oakbank School. Some of the most heart felt comments from the Year 11 cohort were a very real assessment of the year in which multiple students were keen to acknowledge that although at times they have found it hard, they fully appreciate that the school has been kind to their potential and they wish they could have experienced it for their entire Oakbank journey.

New Chapters: Year 10 Mock Exams, Transition Days & Renovations

Firstly, we celebrate a major beginning for our Year 10 students, who started their first round of mock exams on Tuesday 16th in the main hall. On Monday, students practiced the routine for sorting out their equipment, dropping off their bags, and entering the hall or relevant spaces so they knew exactly what to expect. This had been modelled so well by our departing Year 11s.

I had high hopes for how they would conduct themselves, but they have exceeded all expectations, even in some very challenging conditions. Students have been revising together on the benches at lunchtime and in working lunches. They've been bringing flashcards with them in the mornings and sharing details of their revision at home. Year 10 attendance this week has been the best it has been all year - and the best in the school - above national averages - showing just how much they value their education and this opportunity to demonstrate their progress, we are all so proud.

Their conduct in the exam rooms has been exemplary. A huge thank you must go to all the parents, carers, siblings, and friends supporting them at home. For our Year 10s, the mock exams symbolises the beginning of an intense but highly rewarding period that will culminate in their GCSE exams in one year's time. We are incredibly confident that they will thrive and we are excited to continue this journey together.

Preparations for another very important beginning are also ramping up. Whilst we recognise the key transitions for all of our Year groups here at Oakbank. This week, we welcomed our incoming Year 7 cohort for their first transition day. They were brilliantly

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supported by four of our fabulous current Year 7 student leaders. We really enjoyed meeting them and can't wait to welcome them back in September.

H Block renovations that will completely refurbish the roof and classrooms and include more toilets for students began on the 19th slightly ahead of schedule. This coincided with work starting on renovating P block and the second floor that has been unsafe and inaccessible. This will create 4 brand new large fully equipped classroom spaces on a first floor ready for the future growth of the school. Whilst this is exciting, the coordination and logistics required to do this has been immense. A huge thank you must go to staff and students who have adapted to classroom moves, routine changes and a very busy site even during lessons.

Inside the classroom, as part of our commitment to helping every student thrive, our teachers have been using an exciting learning strategy called "Draft Chance" during lessons. This approach provides students with a dedicated opportunity to draft, rehearse, and practice their ideas, either verbally or on mini-whiteboards and separate draft sections, before they complete their final independent work. The core goal of a "Draft Chance" is to build student confidence and intentionally embrace mistakes as a natural, valuable part of the learning journey. By keeping the stakes low and removing the fear of "getting it wrong," we encourage students to take creative risks and try out challenging concepts. Teachers then use these low-stakes drafts to spot common difficulties, celebrate how a piece of work improves through edits, and guide the entire class toward a deeper, more accurate understanding before they put pen to paper for their final version

Chapters Closing: Celebrating Years 11

Alongside these exciting chapters starting, we have also reached some very important endings. All of our Year 11 students have now officially finished their exams. What an incredible milestone that is! We hope that this year has been a significant step on their own personal mountains and we are so excited to see them on results day so they can continue their journey.

To mark the occasion, following the final Year 11 cohort exam, we hosted a shirt-signing event complete with ice cream to celebrate their hard work and time with us, whilst each year group gave them a fantastic and well deserved send off. We also had an amazing Prom which you can read about in the newsletter.

Thank you all for your continued support in making Oakbank School such a vibrant, dedicated, and supportive community.

Mr R Gerrard

Headteacher

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Prom and Leavers

A Sunlit Night to Remember: Oakbank School Prom

We were delighted to host our outgoing Year 11 cohort at Warbrook House in Eversley for their Leavers Prom on Wednesday 17th June. Students arrived in style in a host of limos, sports cars, a 1950s style truck, and even holding onto the roll cage of a race car! It was wonderful to see so many families and students turn out to cheer on their children as they stepped out in their handsome suits and beautiful dresses; a celebration of the culmination of 5 years of secondary education.

After a year group photo on the steps of the estate, students were welcomed into a drinks reception in the walled garden, with views out over the gardens, lake, and the setting sun. Students posed for photos in the fairy lit gazebo, took in the atmosphere, and some learnt to navigate a grass lawn in very high heels!

Once inside, students were treated to a hot food buffet, soft drinks, donut walls - custom made by our very own DT department - and a heaving desserts table (thank you to Ms Asghar!). Funaholics Photobooth joined us for a third year and attendees spent lots of time posing with various props, hats and signs, with the option to take home unlimited specially designed printouts of their photobooth pics. There was also candy floss from Berkshire Fountains, a make your own pick n mix station, and excellent entertainment and cheers of victory provided by the England football team! Three unexpected delights of the evening were the cows on the field bordering the hotel, who must have been very surprised to have so many colourful visitors, a surprise rendition of Billy Jean by Abdullah Irfan, the winner of our 'Most Likely to Brighten Your Day' Award, and a croquet set which was used with great enjoyment and vigour (if not actually for any regulation games of croquet!)

We want to thank our students for their excellent behaviour at the event; it was wonderful to see you celebrate on the dancefloor and take in the momentous journey that you have been on. In addition to the staff already mentioned, Miss Reggler would like to thank the Geography department for their help decorating, Miss Smith for her help throughout the evening, Ms Bisoffi for the finance support, the senior leadership team for supervising the night, and Mrs Shaughnessy for weeks of planning, days of prom supply shopping, and hours of set up and set down on the day. The work begins on next year's event...

Leavers Celebrations

After the Physics Paper 2 exam on Monday 15th June, our students exchanged their blazers and ties for leavers shirts and ice creams. After shirt signing amongst the year group, we headed back into the school hall for one last time for a farewell from Mr Gerrard and a slideshow of pictures from across the last 5 years including their Year 6 Transition Day, celebrating International Women's Day in Year 7, a book fair in Year 8, the Ski Trip in Year 9, the Chesil Beach & Norway trips in Year 10, and so many

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wonderful moments from the past year - from rewards to new routines, boosters to breaktimes, Fun Fridays to lasting friendships.

And then it was out into the sunshine, where the whole school lined the walk to the gate, cheering and clapping all our Year 11s to celebrate the journey they have been on over the last 5 years, applaud the example of hard work and kindness they have set, and to help say goodbye. There were tears amongst the joy, but it was a very fitting send off for a year group that has consistently worked so hard, and has embodied Oakbank's values.

We wish the whole cohort the very best and look forward to celebrating with them one last time on Results Day. For those that ordered them, Year 11 **Leavers Hoodies** are now available to collect from reception. Reception is open every day from 8am to 4pm for collection.



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Results Day: Thursday 20th August

GCSE results will be available to collect from Oakbank from 9-11am on Thursday 20th August. In addition to providing that all important results envelope, we will be giving key information about appeals, certificate collection, and if we recommend that your child has their exam script(s) remarked. We will also collect information about your child's intended destination for post-16 education, employment or training.

If your child is unable to collect their results in person and would like to send someone else in their place, they - and it must be an email from the student, not a parent/carer - need to email exams@oakbankschool.co.uk with confirmation of who will be collecting their results. That person must then bring a photo ID when collecting the results.

If your child is unable to collect their results in person and would like to receive them via email, this also needs to be confirmed via an email to exams@oakbankschool.co.uk. These results will be sent by midday on Thursday 20th August but in person collections will be prioritised.

Safeguarding Update

At Oakbank School, safeguarding remains at the heart of everything we do. We are continually looking for ways to strengthen the support available to our students and build positive relationships with agencies that help keep our community safe.

Welcoming Our New TVP Schools Officer

We are delighted to welcome PC William Manuel, our new Thames Valley Police Schools Officer, who will be working with Oakbank School throughout the year.



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PC Manuel supports secondary schools across Wokingham Borough and will become a familiar face around the school. From next week, students will be introduced to him during assemblies, and they will begin to see him regularly around the school site, particularly during breaktimes and lunchtimes, where he will spend time getting to know students in an informal and approachable way.

His role is to:

- Build positive relationships between young people and the police.
- Provide advice and support to students and staff.
- Deliver educational sessions on topics such as personal safety, crime awareness and understanding police investigations.
- Offer a trusted adult that students can speak to if they have concerns or simply need advice.

We appreciate that seeing a police officer in school may prompt questions from families. We would like to reassure parents and carers that there are no safety concerns prompting this initiative. The Schools Officer programme is part of Thames Valley Police's wider commitment to preventative policing, early intervention and positive engagement with young people. Having a visible, approachable officer in school helps students feel more confident seeking support and develops trust between young people and the police.

We look forward to PC Manuel becoming a valued member of the Oakbank community and know that his regular presence will further strengthen our safeguarding culture.

New Mental Health Partnership with BRIYM for 2026/27 Academic Year

We are delighted to announce a new partnership with **BRIYM (Building Resilience in Young Minds)**, an organisation of qualified therapists and experienced education professionals dedicated to supporting the mental health and wellbeing of children, young people and families.

From Term 1 in September, BRIYM will be working closely with Oakbank School to provide additional support for students and parents.



1:1 Student Resilience Programme

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Selected students will have the opportunity to take part in BRIYM's **1-to-1 Resilience Programme**, a personalised programme delivered over approximately **6–7 weeks**. Through weekly sessions, students will work with an experienced practitioner to develop emotional resilience, self-confidence and practical strategies for managing challenges both in school and beyond.

The programme focuses on building emotional strength, developing healthy coping strategies and promoting a positive growth mindset, equipping young people with lifelong skills to support both their wellbeing and academic success.

Parent Workshops

Supporting young people works best when schools and families work together. As part of this partnership, BRIYM will also deliver **six parent workshops throughout the academic year** (one per half term), hosted here at Oakbank School.

Topics will include:

- Understanding and managing anxiety in teenagers.
- Supporting healthy mobile phone and social media use.
- Helping young people manage change and transitions.
- Building resilience and emotional wellbeing.
- Practical strategies to support positive mental health at home.

These workshops will provide practical advice, evidence-based strategies and an opportunity for parents and carers to learn more about supporting their child's wellbeing. Further information and booking details will be shared ahead of each session.

We are excited to be working alongside BRIYM to further strengthen our wellbeing provision and ensure that both students and families have access to high-quality support when they need it most.

Reporting Concerns

As always, if you have any safeguarding concerns about a child, please contact the school by telephone or email, or use the "**I Want to Talk**" button on the Oakbank School website. No concern is ever too small, and by working together we can continue to ensure every child feels safe, supported and able to thrive.

SEND

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Communication Request

To support our SEND team - which includes the SENDCO, School Improvement Leads from GLT, and our growing Teaching Assistant team - if you have any questions or concerns regarding special educational needs and support at Oakbank, please email sen@oakbankschool.co.uk instead of emailing Miss Reggler directly. This will enable the faster triaging of your request or queries as this inbox is monitored by multiple staff and it will centralise all SEND requests. A reminder that we aim to respond to all queries within 2 working days.

Dyslexia Screeners

On Friday 26th June, we held dyslexia screeners for all students that had been referred by our teaching staff. Dyslexia is a neurodevelopmental learning difference that primarily affects reading, writing, and spelling. It is a lifelong condition where the brain processes written language and sounds differently, making it harder to decode words, but it does not affect a person's intelligence.

We are very pleased with the conduct of our students during these screeners, especially considering the heat. The SENDCO will be analysing the results and will be in touch with parents of those students who completed the screeners in early July to explain what the screener indicated. Dyslexia screening tools provide an initial indication of whether an individual shows traits associated with dyslexia but do not provide a formal diagnosis.

Why Do Higher Temperatures Often Impact Neurodiverse People More?

Although the temperatures in this coming week should be cooler, this week we have delivered training to our staff on the impact of higher temperatures on neurodiverse people and understanding the why behind it. Please see a summary of that information below:

- Neurodiverse people often have **heightened sensory processing** when exposed to higher temperatures, making them more vulnerable to discomfort and stress. This stress can make emotional regulation even more challenging.
- For those that mask, masking takes a lot of energy. If the heat is also sapping at that energy, there is just less to go around, so a student's normal ways of coping may not work or they may not have the energy to keep up their mask.
- Some people, especially those on the autism spectrum, struggle with interoception - which is the body's ability to understand internal cues like hunger, thirst, or temperature. This can make it **harder to recognize signs of overheating or dehydration**, which can lead to further discomfort before realizing the need to cool down.
- Neurodiverse nervous systems tend to be more reactive. When experiencing high temperatures, the **body's stress response can be triggered more quickly**, leading to irritability, anxiety, or even a shutdown.

To support all our students, our universal provision is always based on a SEND friendly approach. High quality teaching is the most important thing we can do to support SEND students, and using clear routines - like STAR Me, Show Me, mini-whiteboards,

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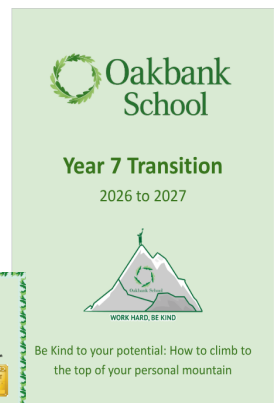
and our clear lesson structures - reduces the mental load on students, especially when there is less energy to go around.

Year 6 Transition Day and Primary School Outreach

At Oakbank, we believe that a successful transition begins long before students start in September. Our transition and outreach programme helps pupils feel confident, excited and ready for secondary school while strengthening our partnerships with local primary schools.

On Wednesday, 24th June, we were delighted to welcome our incoming Year 6 students for **Transition Day**. Although the day had to be shortened due to the extreme weather, students still enjoyed a fantastic introduction to life at Oakbank. Alongside English and Maths baseline assessments, they took part in a range of exciting activities including decorating biscuits in Hospitality and Catering, exploring sensory imagery in English, investigating chromatography and microscopes in Science, and Djembe drumming in Music.

Students also experienced two whole-school greetings, giving them a real insight into everyday life at Oakbank. Our brilliant Year 7 Transition Ambassadors welcomed everyone, answered questions and shared their own experiences of starting secondary school. Despite the heat, spirits remained high, with plenty of water available throughout the day and an ice lolly to finish! Each student also received an Oakbank booklet, a branded pen and a Certificate of Attendance.



As part of our **Primary School Outreach programme**, we also welcomed over 30 Year 6 students from **Alder Grove** for an Oakbank Insight Day. They joined our whole-school greetings and took part in Design Technology, PE and Music sessions designed to build on Key Stage 2 learning while introducing the exciting opportunities available in secondary school. These visits help to build confidence, reduce anxiety and ensure students feel familiar with Oakbank before they join us.

Our outreach also extends into the community. A group of Oakbank students recently returned to **Lambs Lane Primary School** to support Sports Day. Many were former pupils and were praised for their excellent manners, enthusiasm and leadership. Giving back to our partner primary schools not only inspires younger pupils but also helps our students develop confidence, responsibility and pride in representing Oakbank.

We are incredibly proud of all the students who have taken part in these events and look forward to welcoming our new Year 7 cohort in September.



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Building Works

As you may be aware, it has now been almost one year since Greenshaw Learning Trust took over Oakbank School. Since our arrival, one of our primary focuses has been investing a significant amount of capital into the school grounds to upgrade its facilities, improve safety, and bring the site up to the high standard that both our pupils and the local community deserve.

We are incredibly proud of what has been accomplished so far. Over the past twelve months, we have successfully completed:

- The full refurbishment of two toilet blocks
- Two complete roof replacements
- Extensive new perimeter fencing to secure the site boundaries.

We are now preparing to enter the next major phase of our improvement programme. To make the most of the upcoming summer break and minimise day-to-day disruption to the neighbourhood, you will see a temporary increase in activity on site over the summer. Our upcoming works include:

- Two additional roof replacements
- The full refurbishment of two entire school blocks
- Improvements to the pedestrian entrance on Hyde End Lane to ensure pupils can enter and egress the site safely
- The demolition of one derelict block to ensure the entire site is secure and safe. (**Important Notice:** Please see the reverse side of this letter for the official statutory notice.

Director of Children's Services Visit

We were delighted to welcome Emma Cockerell, Director of Children's Services, to our school on a very hot Friday recently—right in the middle of our classroom moves and "Fun Friday" activities! We are incredibly grateful for her recognition of just how positive and vibrant our school feels. She had wonderful things to say about our students following her chats with them during lessons and social times and was very happy with the feedback on just how calm and safe the school feels to students and how much learning goes on. Having this high-level support is fantastic as we continue our rapid journey to becoming the school of choice and the very best school in Wokingham.

Oakbank

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Fun Friday

Recent Fun Friday events have seen us re-visit Duck, Duck, Goose but with a French twist; Canard, Canard, Oie. Students and staff were happy to get involved, and the engagement and enthusiasm from all was a joy to behold. We have also done a What's in the box; where students and staff put their hands in ten random boxes, to try and work out what the different foods were. Students who successfully named all 10 were delighted to take home some sweets despite having dipped their hand in an array of foods.

As we come towards the end of the year we still have a few different games lined up for students and staff to get involved in.

Rewards Week

Rewards week will kick off with Oakbank School's Festival of Sport

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Students will participate in a range of activities across the day trying to earn as many merits as possible.

Our end of term rewards will see students who have qualified for different rewards be celebrated across the penultimate week.

Rewards Week - See below the planned schedule for Rewards Week. More information to follow in greater detail.

Thursday 16th July

- Period 1- Year 7 and 8 World Cup Tournament
- Period 2- Year 9 and 10 World Cup Tournament
- Period 3- Y7 and 8 vs Staff Rounders
- Period 4- Year 9 vs Staff Rounders
- Period 5- Year 10 vs Staff Rounders

Gold Reward - Friday 17th July

- Period 1- Students Depart at 10am
- Period 2 to Period 4- Lagoona Park
- Period 5- Gold Quiz and Food

Silver Reward- Monday 20th July

- Period 1- Year 9 Inflatables
- Period 2- Year 7 Inflatables

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Period 3 and Period 4- Primary School Inflatables

Period 5- Year 8 Inflatables

Period 6- Year 10 Inflatables

Bronze Reward- Tuesday 21st July

Period 1 & Period 2- KS3 Cinema

Period 3 & Period 4- KS4 Cinema

Period 5- Bronze Just Dance (Optional)

Attendance Reward- Wednesday 22nd July

Period 1- 100% Attendance Year to Date Breakfast

Period 2- 100% Attendance Term to Date Quiz and Food.

Merits

Our Highest merit earners per year group this term:

Year Group	Name	Total
7	Jack A	705
8	Noah N	970
9	Olivia C	907
10	Gigi K	466
11	Katie R	584

Our highest merit earners across the school this term

Year Group	Name	Total
8	Noah N	970
9	Olivia C	907

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8	Theo N	886
9	Ayessa A	824
8	Riley O	759

We have final 3 and a half weeks left , including:

- **Attendance Workshop Evening, 1st July**
- **GLT Athletics, 9th July**
- **SEND Coffee Morning: Oakbank's Research Led Approach, 9:30-10:30am, 13th July**
- **Academic Review Evening for Year 10, 14th July**
- **Oakbank Festival of Sport, 15th July**
- **Academic Review Evening for Years 7-9, 16th July**
- **Rewards Week for Gold, Silver & Bronze from 16th July onwards**
- **22nd July, Last day of term and 12.30 finish**

Wishing you all a wonderful final few weeks,

Mr R Gerrard
Headteacher

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