

9th February 2007

NEWSLETTER NO. 5

Dear Parents,

First of all, I wanted to start with some good news. You may have looked at the Government Annual Performance Tables which appeared in both the national and local newspapers. These tables show that in nearly every category Oakwood Park has performed really well. This year the Government has included English and Mathematics when counting the number of 5 or more GCSEs (A* - C) that pupils obtain. We obtained 99% last summer. The Government also has a measure called Contextual Value Added which takes into account a number of factors before measuring the progress that pupils make between Key Stage 2 and Key Stage 4. Our score was 1009.4 which means that on average our pupils last summer were achieving more than their Key Stage 2 results would have suggested. Of course performance tables or league tables as they are commonly known do need to come with a health warning. They are only really a snapshot of a school and do not reflect the value a school can add through extra-curricular activities for example. I am confident that Oakwood Park gives its students a high quality education in all respects.

We must of course not be complacent. We are now in the process of writing a Development Plan for the next three years of the school. It is crucial that we set out the areas that need developing. Broadly speaking the areas already identified are grouped into the following areas:

1. Securing better resources for the school to include a building programme.
2. A continued focus on academic achievement.
3. Developing the Student Voice through a School Council.
4. Developing the expertise of all of our teaching and support staff.
5. Working in partnership with local schools.
6. Developing our specialist status.

I am always delighted to hear from parents on how we might develop the school. You will find attached a parent survey asking for your views on the curriculum we currently offer and how it might be developed. Please return this to the School Office.

The new Senior Students of the school have been appointed after a long process of application and interviews. I am delighted to announce that the Head Boy is James Kailanathan, Head Girl is Maria Goodhew, Deputy Head Boys, Tom Ashby and Ashok Stally Chudasama and Deputy Head Girl is Megan Perry.

The Senior Prefect team is also now in place and the students are:

Scarlett Hall, Samantha Ischt-Lipscombe, Benjamin Crawford, Jack Houghton, Matthew Henwood.

Prefect in charge of KPI - James Cuerden

Prefect in charge of multi-media - Lee Woodger

Prefect in charge of Year 12 Prefects - James Carmillet.

Many congratulations to these students for their achievement and good luck in their new roles.

As part of the Sixth Form fundraising there will be a Charity Auction held in school on Friday 9th March at 7.30pm. More information will follow but please put this date in your diaries. If any parent would like to donate an item for this auction please contact the Sixth Form Office.

The school is once again collecting Sainsbury Vouchers for Schools. Please send any vouchers you may have in with your son or daughter.

And finally, Oakwood Park Grammar School has for many years participated in the Graduate Teacher Programme in co-operation with Canterbury Christ Church University. We have seven placements available from September 2007 in English, Music, Design Technology, Maths, PE, Religious Studies and Science. If you know of anyone who has a degree in one of the above subjects and is interested in training to become a teacher, please contact the school for more information about the Scheme.

Yours sincerely,

K.W. Moody
Headteacher