

16th September 2022

Newsletter No. 1

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you and your families had a pleasant summer. A very warm welcome to all our new Year 7, Year 12 and pupils who have joined in other year groups. We hope you have a long and happy association with the school.

On behalf of you all, I extend a very warm welcome to the following members of staff, who have joined the school at the start of the academic year:

Mathematics	Mrs K. Lee
Science	Mrs L. Cohen-Brown
Languages	Miss L. Trauscheid Mrs K-A Hall (covering maternity leave)
Geography	Ms K. Dickens Mr M. Mayes
Economics	Mr M. Lang
Music	Mrs E. Judges – Director of Music
Psychology	Although not a new member of staff, we are delighted that Ms J. Priest has returned to teach Psychology

We also welcome back Miss Goodhew, Miss Beeney and Miss Biddle from maternity leave.

In Student Development and Support, Miss M. Brophy, a former A Level student, joins us as a Student Development and Support Assistant for a year.

After the retirement of Mrs Wright, Mrs A. Appiah-Ologuro becomes our Examinations Manager.

We wish these colleagues a long and happy association with us.

We were delighted with our examination results this year which represent at both A Level and GCSE, our best-ever set of results. A wonderful achievement after two years of Covid and no exams.

At A Level 35% of grades were at A*/A and 64% were at A*/B. 19 students achieved all of their grades at A*/A and our four Oxbridge candidates successfully obtained their places.

At GCSE 51% of all grades were 9-7 and 54% of pupils gained five of their GCSE grades at 7 or higher. 11 pupils gained all of their 10 GCSE grades between the top grades of 7 to 9.

Many congratulations to all of our pupils and we wish them well as they embark on the next stage of their lives. My sincere thanks to parents for their support and of course to our teachers and support staff who have worked so hard on their behalf.

A new academic year brings a fresh start for all of us. In my assemblies to each year group, I have stressed this message and made clear that we have the same ambitions for our pupils in terms of these outstanding exam results. However, they won't happen without excellent standards of behaviour, work and attitude.

Curriculum:

As the new academic year continues to get off to a positive start you may be interested to learn what your child will be learning throughout the year. We continue to ensure that our curriculum plans are detailed on the school website and invite you to take a look. You can view the subjects we teach and their carefully selected and well-planned curriculums here: [Oakwood Park Grammar School - Curriculum Subjects \(opgs.org\)](http://Oakwood Park Grammar School - Curriculum Subjects (opgs.org))

We remind everyone again of the school's four fundamental pillars of behaviour:

- All members of the school community should be treated with kindness, respect and tolerance.
- All students are expected to respect other students' right to learn and teachers' right to teach.
- All members of the school community should strive for excellence and excellence will be celebrated.
- All members of the school community should respect the school environment.

It is important therefore that we stick to these in order that the school can function in its prime purpose, that of learning and high achievement.

Another reminder too about uniform. I have been very impressed by our pupils' smart appearance at the start of this year. We need to keep this going! Below I list the basic requirements of school uniform:

- OPGS School tie with house colours – this must be visible and show seven stripes. Students are not permitted to wear any other tie other than those awarded by the school.
- OPGS Blazer with school badge.
- Plain white shirt which must be tucked in at all times with top button done up.
- OPGS black v neck pullover.
- Plain black trousers ('jean style', 'super skinny' or 'chino style' trousers are not permitted).
- Black socks.
- Black shoes (trainer or trainer style are not permitted).
- Plain black belt (if worn). 'Designer' belts are not permitted.
- Earrings, ear studs and jewellery are not permitted, nor the piercing of any part of the body.
- Plain dark outdoor coat (no hoodies).
- Hair must be natural in colour and extreme hairstyles are not permitted. Long hair must be tied back. The Headteacher reserves the right to ask pupils with very long hair to have it cut back to a reasonable length. Students should not have anything lower than a grade 2 haircut.

In terms of contacting staff, the school's pastoral system is as follows. Usually it will be your son or daughter's Form Tutor:

	<u>Director of Study</u>	<u>Deputy Head</u>
Year 7	Mr Keeling-Jones	Mrs Lewell
Year 8	Mr Devonald	Mrs Craig
Year 9	Mr Smith	Mrs Craig
Year 10	Mrs Stamp	Ms Bevan
Year 11	Mrs Hillier	Ms Bevan

6th Form

Mr Ramkhalawon (Year 12)
Mrs Williams (Year 13)
Mr Mayes
Miss Biddle

Ms Hern – Director of 6th Form Study)

I have enjoyed meeting parents at the transition meetings for Years 9, 10 and 11. It is good to see so many parents in attendance.

Thank you to parents who have been keeping us updated on issues related to delays on public transport to school, particularly local bus services. Please continue to report to the school office repeated issues as we continually provide feedback to providers on behalf of our parents. Please also contact the service provider.

Social Media:

For the benefit of parents and carers new to the school, we do use social media to share the exciting things which are taking place across the school. Please do follow us on Twitter, Facebook and Instagram. Search OPGS when on these platforms.

An exciting new role within the school this year is our Director of Digital Literacy. Our focus this term is on eSafety and screentime and we would appreciate some feedback from our parents so that we can shape the support we are offering. There is a survey for each year group - Parents of years 7, 9 and 10 have already been invited to participate, but if you have not had a chance to do this yet you will find the links below. We will also be surveying the students directly to help us identify the support we can offer in school.

- Year 7 - <https://bit.ly/opgs-esafety-22>
- Year 8 - <https://bit.ly/Y8eSafety22>
- Year 9 - <https://bit.ly/Y9eSafety22>
- Year 10 - <https://bit.ly/Y10eSafety22>
- Year 11 - <https://bit.ly/Y11eSafety>
- Sixth Form - <https://bit.ly/6eSafety>

To support you at home, we have also produced a guide to setting up parental controls, commonly used apps and associated issues such as accessing extreme material and screen addiction. This can be accessed here: <https://bit.ly/eSafetyGuide22>. Part of this discusses setting up family contracts regarding screentime and gaming, as mentioned at our parent information evenings. Getting your children invested in the process of setting acceptable limits for usage really is the best way to get them to buy into rules and involving the whole family in the process can provoke some worthwhile discussions.

Parents Association:

We are pleased to be holding a Year 7 Welcome barbecue on Friday 23rd September. Please remember to email if you are coming or can help. opgspace@gmail.com

We will be selling burgers, sausages, snacks, hot drinks, soft drinks and raffle tickets. Please bring some cash!

If anyone has anything suitable as a raffle prize, please let us know and kindly drop at reception - thank you.

All parents/carers are invited to our Annual General Meeting which will be held at school on Thursday 6th October 7pm at school. Refreshments will be provided. It is your chance to vote in the committee for the next year. We are looking for new members of the committee and volunteers to replace those who are moving on. We look forward to seeing you there.

Thank you for your support.
Jane (Chair of the OPGSPA)

In sport, the Under 14 Rugby v Gravesend Grammar – Lost 12-27 and the 1st XV Rugby (Training Match) v Marsh Academy – Lost 15 – 36.

With best wishes for a positive start to the new academic year.

Yours sincerely,



K.W. Moody
Headteacher

Diary Dates

Mon 19 th September	Bank Holiday for Queen Elizabeth II's funeral - School closed.
Tues 20 th September	Enrichment Day - details published separately. U14 Rugby v Norton Knatchbull GS - Home, 4.00pm KO (MKJ).
Weds 21 st September	Sixth Form STEM alumni lecture 1.50-3.00pm – LRC. 1st XI Football v Norton Knatchbull GS - Home, 2.00pm KO (SPS). 2nd XI Football v MGS - Away, 2.00pm KO (RDE).
Thurs 22 nd September	Year 9 Assembly – Hall 1.50pm. Year 7 & 12 photos – Small Hall p1-4 (MF). U13 Rugby v Norton Knatchbull GS - Away, 4.00pm KO (RMR). U13B Football (ESFA Cup) v Bexley GS - Home, 3.45pm KO (SPS).
Fri 23 rd September	Year 11 IAG Politics - LRC 1.50pm. Year 12 & 13 Briefing – Hall 1.50pm. U13 Football (ESFA Cup) v Malling School - Home, 3.45pm KO (RDE). PA Barbecue for new parents & students 6.30 - 8.30pm.
Tues 27 th September	Year 10 Assembly – Hall 1.50pm. Sixth Form Faculty Activity 1.50-2.20pm – LRC.
Weds 28 th September	Sixth Form HASS alumni lecture p5 – LRC. Sixth Form Charity cake sale – am break.
Thurs 29 th September	Year 11 Assembly – Hall 1.50pm. Sixth Form Faculty Activity 1.50-2.20pm – LRC.
Fri 30 th September	Year 12 & 13 Drama A Level workshop. Year 11 DofE preparation p5 (SV, RFR, PPR). Kooth Transition & Wellbeing Talk – Year 7. Year 11 IAG French - LRC 1.50pm. Year 12 & 13 Briefing – Hall 1.50pm.
Sat 1st & Sun 2nd October	Year 11 D of E expedition (SV, PPR, RFR)

**OAKWOOD
PARK
GRAMMAR
SCHOOL**

Open 11 + Days 2022

'An exceptional learning experience'

Outstanding 2022 outcomes -see website for more details

Saturday 8th October 9am - 12pm

Headteacher's Presentation at 10am & 11am

School Open Mornings 9am - 11:00am

Tuesday 11th October
Wednesday 12th October
Friday 14th October
Tuesday 18th October
Wednesday 19th October
no booking necessary

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