



Oakhurst Grange School

PREPARATORY SCHOOL FOR BOYS & GIRLS

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HEADMASTER: MR. ALEX GEAR B.Ed

8th July 2016

Dear Parents

I am pleased to report that the Academic Year 2015 to 2016 has shown that the school continues to thrive. We are pleased to be able to have full use of our new Multi Use Games facility. This will enable us to develop our delivery of sporting activities even more extensively.

I would like to thank our PFOG Team and would like to extend a very special thank you to Mrs Bassett who is standing down as PFOG Secretary. Mrs Bassett has worked tirelessly to ensure that the administration of the PFOG activities has worked with commendable efficiency. Mrs Blake, the outgoing Chair and her team have achieved miracles in the last few years and the list of events that they have organised for the children and parents is extensive from the Summer Ball and Summer Fayre to discos and tea parties, camping weekends and cinema nights to name but a few. The School Council has received £150 each year for purchases that they have decided upon and we have all benefitted from the Trim Trail, Diving Blocks, Drum Kit and the two outdoor Table Tennis Tables. The brand new Treehouse and Rope Bridge is further proof of the excellent work and fundraising undertaken by Mrs Blake and her team.

At this time we say farewell to Mrs Soltau, Mrs Wilson, Mrs Kemp and Mr Vincent. Children and parents in the Early Years and Years 1 and 2 will I am sure want to say a very special thank you to Mrs Soltau for the massive support that she has given to this part of the school.

More recently Mrs Wilson has streamlined most effectively the delivery of our support programme in her role as the SEND Co-Ordinator. Parents, staff and pupils alike have all benefitted from her input and professional delivery in this role. As an Art Teacher, Mrs Wilson has raised the bar, year after year, and the work that the children have produced is simply breath-taking. We regularly have National Award winning Artists and Photographers, thanks to Mrs Wilson's brilliant teaching. The display work around the school is exemplary.

Mrs Kemp is one of those rare Teachers who touches the lives of children and families in a very personal and individual way. Her gentle approach to the teaching of English is highly effective. Her personal development of the Book Club and the School Library has added real value to the reading habit across the entire school. Her work with children and their creative writing is quite literally of the highest order. Mrs Kemp is a consummate professional.

Mr Vincent has helped to radically improve the IT infrastructure across the entire school and has led us into the current digital age most effectively. As a Maths Teacher he is inspirational and I have to say that as a Historian his talent shines through and many of our children would regard History as their favourite subject and point of interest, thanks to him. As my Deputy, he has helped in the development of the School and has helped lead the staff with numerous curriculum initiatives and helped us to maintain high standards. Mr Vincent has given a huge amount of his time in supporting the sporting endeavours of the school, residential trips and the forest schools initiative.



Mighty oaks from little acorns grow

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This year there have been two residential trips, one for Year 5 to Hampshire on their Bushcraft Days and Year 6 took their usual Kingswood trip to the Isle of Wight. In addition there have been thirty four educational day visits shared between all of the classes across the school, to include theatre trips, visits to religious centres, the Houses of Parliament and places of geographical interest.

We played our usual round of netball, football, cricket, rounders and tennis matches throughout the year. Our U11 5-a-side football team won the ISA London South Tournament at Crystal Palace and came 7th overall in the ISA National Finals in Nottingham. Ethan Fitzgerald played for the U11 Surrey Schools Football Team. Adam Swan, Conrad Norman, Jasper Parsons all represented the ISA London South football team. Our U11 Hockey team entered the ISA National Finals at the Lea Valley Stadium at short notice and won the plate competition. In the ISA National Judo Championships, Joseph Fitzgerald, Edward Blake and Matthew Cripps won gold medals, William Fagan and Rose Burke won silver and Mathilde Gisselbrecht and Xavier Georgiades won bronze medals. In the ISA London South Swimming Championships our boys came third and our girls came sixth overall. At the ISA National Swimming Championships at the Olympic Pool, Oliver Dennis won a gold medal in the 50m backstroke and Jake O'Sullivan, Conrad Norman, Tate Pitchie-Cooper and Charlie Carter picked up a bronze medal in the freestyle relay. Harry Pettifor and Tom Parkman came fifth in their individual events. In the Small Schools Swimming Championships the Oakhyrst Grange team came second in the relay and won a silver medal. In the ISA London South Athletics Championships at Bromley we gained three first places including a relay, seven second places including relays and one third position. Our medal winners are Conrad Norman, Jake O'Sullivan, Ethan Fitzgerald, Samuel Gill, Erin O'Connor, Megan Swan, Jessica Hennessey and our Year 4 girls relay team of Clémentine Arnold, Elisabeth Ennis Sharp, Megan Tanner and Erin O'Connor. At the recent ISA National Athletics Championships Conrad Norman and Jessica Hennessey both won gold medals in their events and our Year 4 relay team were just pipped at the post and out of the medals. In the ISA London South Cross Country championships our teams performed incredibly well and the following children competed at the ISA National Championships in Rugby, in the U9 boys Samuel Gill, Declan Barrett, Harry Pettifor and Sebastian Parsons, in the U9 girls Estée Norman, Lea Gayral and Aspen Parry. In the U11 boys Conrad Norman and Kieran Barrett and in the U11 girls Rose Burke. A special congratulations to Conrad Norman who won the Surrey Cross Country Championships and came second in the ISA Nationals.

This year there are 92 children taking peripatetic music lessons in a variety of brass instruments, saxophone, clarinet, flute, cello, violin, piano, guitar, singing and theory per week. 46 children will have taken ABRSM examinations this year. So far those that have taken have all passed with many receiving merits and distinctions. Clémentine Arnold, Jessica Hennessey and Freya Hennessey all took their Grade 4 piano and received distinction.

At the annual Reigate and Redhill Music Festival 54 pupils entered solo categories. All of them were awarded merit, merit star, honours or outstanding certificates. To be honest we pretty much swept the board but I would like a specific mention for the Hornucopia Brass ensemble who won the cup, as did the Strummer Time Guitar ensemble and the violin ensemble. Our orchestra won honours a medal and the cup. In their own classes, medals and first places for Mathilde Gisselbrecht, Kate Ho, Clementine Arnold, Ethan Ho, Oliver Dennis, Jessica Hennessey, Freya and Jessica Hennessey together in the string duet.

An astonishing 39 children have taken LAMDA examinations this year under Mrs Alison Dawson's guidance, astonishing because they all received either merit or distinction.

Miss Louise this year entered 18 pupils for the Primary, Pre-Primary and Grade 1 in Dance Class Award. All the girls received merit.

Miss Georgie's Modern Dance Class comprises of 34 children.



A very special mention for Sophie Hobbs who this year was the South East Regional winner for the Young Letter Writer Competition sponsored by the Royal Mail. Sophie also won the ISA Horsey Junior Essay competition. Max Crosby was entered for the ISA creative writing award. Erin Lennox and Rose Burke went through to the second round of the BBC Radio 2 writing competition. Jessica Hennessey achieved a highly commended in the Reigate Grammar School writing competition and her work was published in an ensuing book.

At the recent ISA London South Art Competition, Sebastian Denning won his class in the KS1 sketchbook category and his work will be entered for the ISA National Competition later this year.

Our current Year 6 pupils who are to be highly congratulated on their academic successes this year. Each individual pupil has met their targets and there is a very impressive list of schools that have offered places, awards and scholarships to them. The full details were listed in the Prizegiving Programme and will be available on the website soon.

I would simply like to end by saying a personal thank you to my Governors, my staff, the Parent Body and of course all of the pupils of Oakhyrst Grange School. Together we make a formidable team and we should all be proud to be considered members of the Oakhyrst Grange family. Thank you.

I wish everyone a very happy and safe family summer holiday period.

Yours sincerely

Mr Alex Gear
Headmaster

Chairman of the ISA London South Region
Member of the ISA National Executive Committee
Chairman of the ISA National Education Committee

