



Oakhyrst Grange School

PREPARATORY SCHOOL FOR BOYS & GIRLS

STANSTEAD ROAD • CATERHAM • SURREY CR3 6AF • TEL: 01883 343344 • FAX: 01883 342021

HEADMASTER: MR. ALEX GEAR B.Ed

4th July 2025

Dear Parents

As the school year comes to an end I would like to say a special thank you to my Board of Governors, under the Chairmanship of Mrs Pauline Clark and our very successful PFOG team led by Mrs Vicky Smith for all that they do in supporting the school.

Mr Samuel Ryan will be leaving us after spending 1 year working with Year 3. He has been a very popular teacher in his short time with us and has earned the respect of pupils, staff and parents alike. Mr Ryan has also done a considerable amount to help us with our first proper steps into social media. He is going on from here to take a role in Uzbekistan and we are sure that he goes very well prepared and with our best of wishes. Miss Yasmine Allybacus, as you know, will be replacing Mr Ryan from September.

Mr Stephen Womersley, the other Scots person on the staff, will be leaving us after just over 3 years. He started working with Year 2 and moved into Year 6 afterwards. He is a very much-loved member of staff, not least for the huge amounts of work that he has done around the well-being on behalf of all pupils. Mr Womersley is moving to a more senior position and we all wish him every happiness and success for him and his family going forward. Miss Hayley Plant, as you know, will be replacing Mr Womersley from September.

Mrs Clare Barker, our SENDCo will be leaving us next half term October 2025, but will be with us for two days a week from September until then. The new SENDCo is Miss Lana Sumners who will be joining us from September on a full-time basis and she will be working closely with Mrs Barker in order to ensure a smooth transition into the role.

The Amazing Year 6 class went to visit the Apollo Theatre in London to see Wicked. Unfortunately, the wire broke and gravity was not defied. Our Year 5 class once again enjoyed a hugely successful Bushcraft Residential trip. Year 4 enjoyed their Bough Beech Reservoir visit. The Chamber Choir attended the Woldingham Junior Choir Festival. Those of us in Year 6 attended a Junior Citizen Child Safety Event at Lingfield Race Course. Our choir went to the Junior Choir Festival at Woldingham School and Year 5 went to the Fairfield Halls Expressive Arts Music Concert. The KG and Year 1 classes enjoyed their annual visit to the Polka Theatre to see the Pea and the Princess. The Year 3 and Year 4 classes each enjoyed exciting overnight residential trips at Runways End. I would like to thank Mrs Gorman, Miss Hopkins and Mr Ryan for accompanying these outings. A very enthusiastic Year 6 class went on their annual residential PGL trip to Windmill Hill near Eastbourne. The Year 2 children visited Gatton Park and the Year 4s visited the British Wildlife Centre near East Grinstead. The LKG had their usual visit from their furry and feather friends from the Animal Petting Farm. The KG and Year 1 classes had a fun time at Drusillas Zoo.

A number of Year 4 and Year 5 children went to Caterham School to compete in their annual Junior Globetrotting Geography Quiz. The Year 5 team won and everyone acquitted themselves extremely well. 4 pupils from Year 5 mathematicians attended the Royal Russell maths challenge and again performed incredibly well. 3 pupils from Year 5 attended the Epsom Speaking Competition and performed brilliantly.

In Sport, Our U9 boys and girls played in a total of four fixtures against Caterham Prep, Chinthurst, Reigate St Mary's and Essendene. Our U9 netballers had two fixtures against Aberdour and Cumnor House. In hockey our U8s and U9s played fixtures against Chinthurst and St David's. They also had mixed cricket

Mighty oaks from little acorns grow

EMAIL: HEAD@OAKHYRSTGRANGESCHOOL.CO.UK • SECRETARY@OAKHYRSTGRANGESCHOOL.CO.UK

WEB: WWW.OAKHYRSTGRANGESCHOOL.CO.UK • CHARITY NO: 1211120



fixtures against Chinthurst School. Our U9s boys and girls also competed at the ISA London South cross country championships and with Isabelle Loynes and Ophelia Waghorn progressing through to the National Finals. A brilliant achievement. Our U11 football team competed in two football tournaments, one at Caterham School and the other at Lingfield College for the ISA Regionals. They've also had fixtures against Essendene and Chinthurst. The girls team had a fixture against Reigate St Mary's. In netball our U11 girls played two fixtures against Aberdour and Cumnor House, as well as competing at the ISA Regional competition at Lingfield College and a Versatility tournament held at Aberdour school. The latter we came away with Bronze & Silver medals. Our U11 cross country runners competed in the London South Championships at Radnor House with Vivienne L winning the overall race for her respective age group. Alongside Isla G and Bonnie B, it meant we had 3 Year 6 girls finish in the top 10 and go on to represent London South at the National Finals in Leicester. Our U11 Girls team also won gold in the team event. Once again, the whole school took part in the inter-house cross country event, as well as hosting a new cross-country event for KS2 children across the Caterham area. We welcomed in 7 other local schools who all competed on our magnificent cross country course. Our U11 boys hockey teams competed in the ISA Hockey championships at the Lee Valley Stadium. The U11 boys & girls teams have also had four hockey fixtures against Chinthurst, Cumnor House and Copthorne School. Our U11 cricketers played a mixed fixture against Chinthurst School whilst our U10 team also got the opportunity against Essendene School. Our U10s team also attended an ISA Regional cricket competition at Rosemead School as well as a 6s event at Caterham School. The ISA London South Athletics Championships was held at the Excel Sports Hub in Walton and we had 17 competitors from Years 4 to 5. Alec W came 1st in the Year 5 boys 600m and 75m races, Bonnie B came 1st in the Year 5 girls 600m and Vortex throw, Rhian P came 2nd in the Year 4 Vortex Throw, and Sofia C came 3rd in the Year 5 girls long jump. Both of our Year 5 relay teams won their respective races, qualifying through to the National Finals. We were delighted to have 8 children in Year 5 represent London South at the National Finals at the Alexander stadium in Birmingham. They were; Alec W, Caiden H, Jaimin P, Charlie L-C, Sienna O, Bonnie B, Hetty J and Sofia C. Alec came away with a silver medal in the 600m race with many other athletes performing brilliantly along the way. This year, we also had the pleasure of welcoming Harlequins Rugby who delivered a taster session for pupils in Year 2-6. Following this, 10 girls in Year 5&6 had the privilege of playing a tag rugby tournament at the Harlequins home ground, The Stoop. They performed magnificently and went on to win all their matches. Mrs Evans and Mrs Cox have been busy arranging a programme for our swimmers. Years 3 to 6 had swimming galas against Royal Russell, Reigate St Mary's and Caterham school. All of the children competed in their individual class inter-house swimming competitions. The following children qualified for the ISA National Finals at the Olympic Pool in London, Amaaya P, Jude M, Sofia C, Freddie F and Alec W. Alec won gold in the Year 5 boys individual freestyle race, and Amaaya won gold in the Year 6 Medley relay.

Two teams made up of Amaaya P, Ilana N, Ania S, Jessica H, Daniel H, Ellie C, Isla Gand Vivienne Lin Year 6 took part in the It's a Fish out lifesaving competition for primary schools in Dorking. Amaaya P, Daniel H, Caiden H and Alec W competed in the Surrey Schools' Swimming Association Primary Schools Relay Gala at Guildford. They came away with a Bronze medal in the medley relay and came 4th in the freestyle relay, narrowly missing out on another bronze medal. They then competed in the South East Schools Divisional Relay Finals at Guildford Spectrum. This year we welcomed the parents from every year group to a PE lesson. All the parents dusted off their best sports kit and came prepared for lots of fun activities. After the hamstrings were loosened and their laces tied, parents were put to test in their hockey, cricket, athletics and football skills. It was such a lovely way of seeing parents & children competing together – even if it did get a little competitive! Thank you to everyone who got involved.

We have a very full programme of peripatetic Ballet, Modern Dance and LAMDA teaching. Our ballet dancers and there were 29 have all made excellent progress. A total of 33 pupils enjoyed Modern Dance lessons. In LAMDA we had some excellent results. All 53 children passed their examinations with distinctions.

It is good to be able to say that our usual calendar of Form Assemblies, Harvest Festival, Year 5 & 6 Remembrance Service, the Nativity Play, Carol Service and the Year 5 & 6 Easter Assembly were all as wonderful as ever.



On the music front we have had a full programme of class concerts and we are happy to report that they were all brilliant. This year 97 pupils have taken peripatetic music lessons in violin, viola, flute, fife, cello, piano, guitar, cornet, tenor horn, saxophone and singing. 45 ABRSM exams have already been taken this year and all the candidates were successful. We are awaiting the next round of results of ABRSM examinations, and a further 25 children have taken their exams.

A sincere congratulations, to everyone involved in the production of Beauty and the Beast. A special thank you to Mrs Debbie Stevens for her musical and artistic direction throughout the production and all those staff members and parents who have given so freely of their time and talent. And now for some new events to mention for this year. Mrs Dance organised a truly all wide ranging Careers Week of Events Mrs Flanders held two Art Shows for the older and younger pupils. Mrs Barker and Mrs Farrington staged our first Science Fair and Miss Hopkins organised a Pi day.

Now I turn to our Year 6 pupils and congratulate them each and every one on their success this year. They have all achieved suitable next school places. Between them the 16 students have been awarded a total combination of 29 Scholarships and Awards, and offers of Grammar School places. This Year 6 has enjoyed an amazing year and they have given freely of their time and abilities.

Yesterday, I enjoyed the most wonderful assembly that I have attended in my 47 years of teaching. The entire school presented individual performances outlining various aspects of my career and life in general. It goes without saying that Lyme Regis featured heavily. My wife and my son attended the assembly and it was with great pride that I was able to share this very special occasion with them. The children, your children, are amazing. I am so proud of each and every one of them.

A very special thank you to each and every parent in the school for all the kindness and support that you have shown me and my team during my time at Oakhyrst. After the assembly members of the PFOG team presented me with a whole host of wonderful presents. Thank you all so much for your generosity. It has left me (nearly) speechless.

As a 19 year old young man I will be taking my retirement at the end of August thank you. I will look back on my time at Oakhyrst with huge fondness and pride.

I would love everyone to enjoy a happy, and safe family summer holiday.

Yours sincerely

Mr Alex Gear
Headmaster