

# Newsletter

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**Date: 21st September 2018**

Despite the wet and windy weather this week we have been very busy at Oakfield Lodge.

Our year 10 and 11 students are all starting their work based learning, with many of them having interviews this week for their work experience placements. As a school, we are fully committed to ensuring that all students have the opportunity to have work experience as part of their ongoing curriculum. It is great to see our students taking their first steps into the world of work and we wish them well.

This week, students have been embracing our new behaviour system in lessons. It has been a pleasure to hear so many students being proud of themselves when they have 'got a 4' in their lessons this week. All of their lessons points contribute to their short and long term rewards as well as to the success of their house. Please help us by encouraging your child to keep up the good work!

I was delighted to be able to take some students to the Love Music Trust on Friday. Myself and Ms Key thoroughly enjoyed watching our students getting to grips with musical instruments that they were interested in playing. Music is an integral part of a full and rich curriculum and we are so pleased to be able to offer music lessons in conjunction with Love Music Trust. If your child is keen to learn an instrument please contact your child's form tutor in the first instance. I am hoping that the Oakfield Lodge band is a real possibility in the future!

As you will be aware our Management Committee has been in place since March and are a driving force in the improvement of the school. We currently have vacancies for parent governors on the committee. We would welcome any expressions of interests from parents who feel they would like to support the school as a governor. If you would like to know more about becoming a governor please feel free to contact me at school.

As always, please do not hesitate to contact me at any time if you have any questions or suggestions.

Have a lovely weekend.

Miss Bailey

## **What's Coming Up!**

**Key Dates and events:**

26 <sup>th</sup> September – European day of languages
27 <sup>th</sup> September – Full management committee meeting
28 <sup>th</sup> September – INSET day school closed to students
1 <sup>st</sup> October – Start of Black History Month
5 <sup>th</sup> October – World teachers day

**Lunch menu:**

Monday	<b>Hot Dogs</b>
Tuesday	<b>Fish, chips and peas</b>
Wednesday	<b>Roast dinner</b>
Thursday	<b>Subs and salad</b>
Friday	<b>Jacket potato</b>

**Attendance:**

Whole School	58.4%
8RD	93.3%
9KC	60%
9DK	57.5%
10PI	50%
10NC	62%
11NR	70%
Tuition	49.2%

National average for pupil referral units is 67%

## **Parental engagement**

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself. My name is Kate Carter, and I have recently joined the Oakfield Lodge Team, having worked in secondary education for the last 18 years. During the last 10 years of this employment I introduced and developed a support group for students and parents/carers/friends/family; the group sessions involved both in-house activities, information sharing, and practical 'hands on' workshops to support the most vulnerable of learners, and those who care for them. In addition, I also ensured that we had regular 'specialist' input from external agencies including Art Therapists, Cheshire East Autism Team (CEAT), and programmes that involved accreditation through joint enterprises with the Premier League, and support and guidance relating to SEND from the local authority, CEIAS, and our local MP who was happy to hold annual MP's Question Time for the group.

One of my lead responsibilities at Oakfield Lodge is the introduction and development of our Parental Engagement Programme, and I very much look forward to seeing you, at school, when we start to roll out this programme over the coming weeks.

I will write to you again shortly with a termly calendar of activities and events, and will also ensure that this is published, for your information, on our school website.

In the meantime, should you wish to contact me about the Programme, or have any specific ideas/ activities you would like me to arrange to support you and your child/children, please do not hesitate to contact me at the school [kcarter@oakfieldlodge.cheshire.sch.uk](mailto:kcarter@oakfieldlodge.cheshire.sch.uk).

## **Travel to school**

Whilst most of our students are transported to school without issue, unfortunately I have been informed this week of some concerns from our taxi drivers. Students' behaviour whilst being transported to and from school is closely monitored and poor behaviour will be challenged. The new Local Authority travel policy makes it very clear that if behaviour is unacceptable, transport to school can be stopped. If this was to happen, the responsibility of getting a student to school lies firmly with parents. If your child travels to school by taxi please talk to them about the importance of good behaviour and compliance whilst travelling. Students must be safe at all times when travelling and follow the instructions of the taxi driver. If you have any concerns about transport please let us know at school.

## **Smoking**

Oakfield Lodge School operates as a no smoking site. Students are not permitted to smoke on site. Any student found smoking will have their name placed in the smoking book. If a student's name appears in the smoking book on three occasions over a week then they will be issued with a one-day sanction. Whilst I appreciate that this sanction may be inconvenient for parents, I ask for your support in ensuring that our students make healthy and safe choices. I am very worried that some of our students have such a high dependency on nicotine at such a young age, as a school we have a responsibility to address this. If we feel that, your child requires additional support for smoking cessation we will contact you and offer a referral to the school nurse service. Please support us in talking to your child about the dangers of smoking and ensure that they are not in possession of smoking materials when they leave for school each morning.

## **Celebrations**

I know that we are now three weeks into term but I just wanted to congratulate three of our learners who have returned to new mainstream schools this term. We are delighted that they have settled into their new schools so well and we look forward to seeing them grow in confidence and hopefully come back to see us and share their experiences of being back in mainstream. We are very proud of you and wish you all the luck in the world!