



Everyone matters, every day counts

# Newsletter

Number 5

19 January 2018

Dear Parents/ Carers,

Over the Christmas holidays the premises team were very busy at Oak Grove College. A classroom was refurbished and converted into a new therapy room with a new hoist system, redecorated and set out so we have more space for physio programmes to take place in college. Alongside this a replacement hoist system was put into one of the hygiene rooms and lots of redecoration happened around the buildings. The funds for these came from a donation from a trust and also from the Friends of Oak Grove College.

Just before the break we were given the good news that a £25,000 grant had been awarded to us to upgrade the catering classroom and we are now working on our plans for this.

We are hoping to have other grant applications come through this term. It seems such a shame that we have to spend so much time making grant applications and fundraising.

I hope all families read the recent letter sent home re the disparities in special school funding across the country. It is important that families feel they are able to approach their local MPs to advocate for them for proper funding for schools. It is also important that as many families as possible support us in our fundraising efforts.

This term we have had three new therapists start work: Jo Wilkes, Linnie Chapman and Laura Bagwell. These three will support the existing therapists across OGC, Palatine and Herons Dale. We have also had three new teachers join the college: Fran who will cover the maternity leave of Nicki Rugman, Adrian who joins the sixth form and outdoor team, and Albert who joins the Koa team.

May I remind families to please ensure that students who should have medication before school ensure that their sons/daughters take this, and that medication is not sent in to college unless it is fully labelled and we have completed, signed pink forms.

We have a number of events this half term that support families and students: parents evening for KS3 students on 25 January, running alongside options evening for year 9s, which is vital to consider future routes; parents evening on 7 February for KS4/5 students (both of these evenings are where you can meet with class and subject staff); and transition evening on 27 February where information about life at 16 or 19 can be found out.

I hope 2018 has started well for you and I look forward to working with you all to make sure this year is a success for students and the college.

Phillip Potter  
Headteacher



## Dates for the diary

Thursday 25th January	Key Stage 3 parents evening, including year 9 options evening 6-8pm
Wednesday 7th February	Parent drop in café 10:30am-12pm
Wednesday 7th February	Key Stage 4 & 5 Parents evening 6-8pm
Monday 12th— Friday 16th February	Half-Term
Monday 19th February	College re-opens to students
Tuesday 27th February	Year 11/ 6th Form Transition Evening 6:00pm-7:30pm
Wednesday 14th-15th March	School production 6pm-10pm
Thursday 16th March	FOGC event 6pm-9pm
Thursday 29th March	End of term
Friday 30th March-Friday 13th April	Easter holidays
Monday 16th April	INSET DAY—No children in college
Tuesday 17th April	Term begins. College re-opens to students

**INSET DAYS**  
**No children in college**  
Monday 16th April



## Cedar Garage raise funds for Oak Grove College

**Cedar Garage** based in Tarring Road and Littlehampton Road - 01903 248967 will give **Oak Grove College 10% of any labour charges on any work** (except MOT test and Tyres)

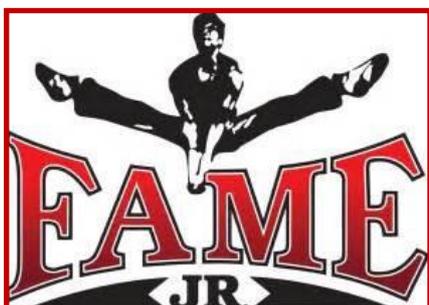


If your vehicle needs a service or any work please bear this in mind. The garage is situated in Littlehampton Road and Tarring Road, Worthing and is close to the train station and bus stops, and also has courtesy cars available.

Thank you for your support.

## Fame! Connaught Theatre 14th & 15th March 2018

Our next school production will be *Fame! Fame Jr.* is the bittersweet, but ultimately inspiring, story of a diverse group of students who commit to four years of gruelling artistic and academic work. With humour and insight, the show explores the issues that confront many young people today.



"Remember, remember, remember..."



## OGC Students Get a Taste of College Life

Lee Marshall, from Northbrook College has written to tell us how well our Year 10 students have been doing whilst studying at Northbrook College.



*"We have completed 4 travel training trips altogether; 2 trips to Worthing town centre both using different numbered buses (number 5 and number 1); one trip to Goring by Sea using bus number 700 and one trip to Durrington to visit our West Durrington campus. We used two buses for this trip (number 5 and number 10). So far I am very impressed with the students; they have all shown good awareness regarding behaviour needed when out traveling. Road safety is also good but some are still following others, I am confident with more practice this will improve. A majority of students are still anxious about talking to the bus driver and asking appropriate questions. General bus behaviour is acceptable, although students sometimes forget about other passengers, especially when giving up seats to elderly or disabled people, but again this will improve over the duration of the course.*

*Sport and fitness is going very well with all students engaging fully with all activities, especially circuit training and the gym sessions. All students have learnt how to operate and use the gym equipment in the correct and safe way. All have identified small fitness targets that they would like to work towards.*

*Peter Whiffen's cooking group have been making homemade pizzas, doughnuts and other pastries. Clearly it is very early days but we have no immediate worries with regards to kitchen safety and students' general basic cooking abilities. Over the next few months, more delicious food items will be made by them and by doing this we will hopefully see improvements in all areas. The students enjoy cooking and being in our larger production kitchens.*

*Both groups have adapted well to college life. They seem to be enjoying the experience, especially using our canteen, having a student ID card, being able to access our computer systems, using the gym and the kitchens. They also enjoy doing IT based tasks, like using Nearpod, Google classroom and Kahoot."*

## Oak Grove College New Age Kurling Tournament:

After a week of inter-house New Age Kurling competing, the winners from years 7, 8, 9, 10 and 11 entered the finals, which were held at lunchtime on Tuesday, 9th January. After a closely fought competition, the winning OGC pair were Dougie and Dominic. This pair will automatically go through to represent OGC at the *Sport Without Boundaries* games, which will be held at Angmering School in February.

There are still two places available for students to attend our New Age Kurling Club at Monday lunchtimes. Students are very welcome to come along and practise their skills.





Firstly, I hope you all had a good Christmas and New Year, and are feeling rested, even though it may have been full on for parents having the kids home for Christmas!!

I want to start this news item talking about the recent funding cuts that all schools have been faced with. Some of you may have seen Oak Grove mentioned on ITV Meridian News on Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> January, where Phillip Potter and I were interviewed about the effect the cuts are having on our children. If you missed the news item then you can still view the video on the ITV Meridian News website: <http://www.itv.com/news/meridian/2018-01-11/special-needs-schools-in-sussex-shortchanged/>

The Friends have worked extremely hard over the last few years to buy the "extras" for our students, but the deep cuts mean we are helping to fund some of the essential items that our children need to be safe at school eg hoists and classroom refurbishments. This is disheartening, but isn't likely to change very soon, so it's more important this year to raise even more funds.

I feel proud to report the "Friends" purchased the following items for school in 2017:

- \* £3,000 - To create a sensory garden - SLD & PMLD Students
- \* £8,000 - Immersive Room - All students
- \*£1,000 - Towards a hoist - PMLD
- \*£ 490 - A laptop - MLD & SLD

I was also successful in securing funding from HSBC and Rainbow Chest: \* £11,641 - Outdoor Science Classroom - MLD \* £ 1,250 - Eye Gaze - SLD & PMLD

However, we are only a group of 6 people. I am the only parent and the other members are all staff. This leads me to asking for your support even more this year with our fundraising events, so that OUR CHILDREN are not further disadvantaged. If anyone can help in any way with a coffee morning, sponsored event or work for a company that donates money to charity or operates a £ for £ scheme, please let us know. Can you join one of our meetings to bring new ideas? Our next committee meeting is on **Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> March, 4 -5pm**.

I would like to thank **Debbie Blake**, mum to Nathan who ran a coffee morning for us in December and raised £226, and **Angela Watt**, mum to Olivia ran an event through her business and raised £40. Thank you so much, your support is appreciated and the pennies mount up! The mufti day and cake sale raised £200 at the end of term and a further £200 was raised on the raffle.

The winners of our lottery have been **Diana Pacocha £96** and **Tony Cannon £16**. The lottery runs every week and "Friends" take 50% of the money and the other 50% is paid out to the person who has the number which matches the bonus ball. I will be collecting £20 before 3<sup>rd</sup> February from anyone who would like to continue or join us. It's a bit of fun, an easy way to support school and you could even win a little bit of money!

We had to cancel our quiz before Christmas, but we are joining forces with Palatine and will be holding a quiz on Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> March at Palatine School. Tickets £5 each, please join us if you can.

Please return the form below before 31<sup>st</sup> January.

✂ \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to join the lottery and enclose £20. I would like the following number \_\_\_\_\_

I would like \_\_\_\_\_ Quiz night tickets at £5 each.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Childs name & class \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Number \_\_\_\_\_

# DA VINCI NEWS

## Bailey the Dog

Students in Da Vinci have enjoyed meeting Bailey, a 10 year old chocolate Labrador, who's been coming in to school on Thursday and Friday afternoons.

Harrison (year 7) said: *"Bailey is calm and she helps me concentrate"*

Bailey is visiting Oak Grove College on a trial basis to monitor the impact on students' behaviour and engagement. So far, Bailey is loving coming to school even more than the students enjoy having her in maths lessons.

Ewan (year 11) said: *"Bailey is 10 out of 10 in maths"*.



# ANIMUS NEWS



## Therapy room

Over the Christmas holidays the therapy room has been redecorated and a new hoist has been put in. This is fantastic, and we would like to thank all the people who have contributed to the fundraising and to the premises team for all their hard work in making this possible.

## Space

As the days get lighter and hopefully the weather warmer, Animus are going on a journey into space! The students have already been exploring the vast universe through a range of experiences including cooking, sensory story and art.



## Switch work

Switch work is an integral part of our students' learning both in terms of communication, independence or developing cognition. Whether it be to operate lights, music or an electric whisk!



In class SRS, Jude and Ciara have been using head switches to activate the CD player and the disco light. Ciara has been using two switches, one for the CD player and one for the disco light, which allows her to choose which one she wants to switch on.

# MARVEL NEWS



## Marvel-lous!

Ashley has been nominated as our marvellous student. She always tries her best in all her lessons, and is incredibly supportive of her peers. Well done!



## **GOOD** Amazing Work



Gabriele has been nominated for her amazing work in English.

She has produced some great pieces and has tried really hard to improve her skills.

**WORK** Well done, Gabriele!

# KOA NEWS 6th Form



## 2018 - A Year in Pictures

In art class last term, Class RV were working on a 2018 Calendar. They have been looking at each month of the year and creating different pictures to correspond to them. For example:



April Showers

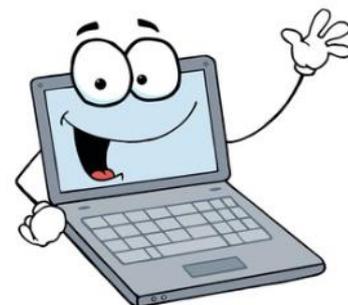


Fireworks in November.

# AVATAR NEWS

## Kurling competition winners!

Dominic and Dougie won the inter school Kurling competition last term and will go on to represent OGC at the KS3/4 local schools event at the end of January.



# AVATAR NEWS

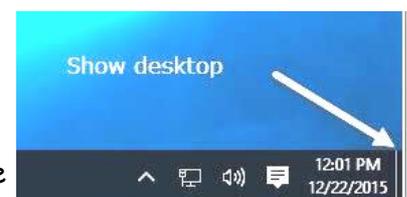


## IT Tip of the Month! by Jeremy Spurr

### Windows 10 Tip — Tidy your desktop

On the bottom-right corner of your screen, there's a secret desktop button. Look all the way to the bottom and right, to the side of the date and time. There you'll find a small thin line which is the secret button.

Click that and it will minimize all your open windows and clear your desktop. Click it again and your windows will be restored! An alternative method to clear your desktop, is to right-click on the taskbar and a pop-up menu gives you a variety of options for organising your windows.





## Design Technology- Avatar 7PH Set Designs

These are examples of set-designs created by some of the students in 7PH from Avatar



Nathan



Luca



William



Matthew



Bethany



Caiden

## 6TH FORM NEWS

### 6th Form Enterprise

Students in the 6th Form have been working collaboratively with The Sand Project on a range of entrepreneurial ventures. In the two weeks before Christmas, they concentrated on creating a second hand shop and a coffee shop. This has proven to be a success, with all students learning invaluable retail and hospitality skills, whilst building their confidence in a real life work setting.

The Sand Project and the 6th form students would like to thank all those who have supported them in raising money for what they hope will be the deposit for a lease on their very own shop!

We hope to have news soon on an ongoing location for the shops next term, so watch this space!! In the meantime, if you have any donations for the shop, they would be gratefully received.

If you would like to find out more about The Sand Project, you can visit their website:

[www.thesandproject.co.uk](http://www.thesandproject.co.uk)

Thank you once again for your continued support!



# 6TH FORM NEWS

## Enterprising Oak Grove

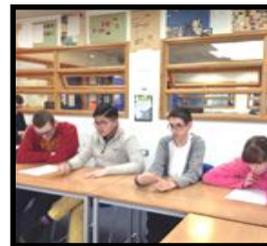
The students have all been working very hard on their different Enterprise projects. They ran various Christmas sales to raise money for themselves and towards the SAND project. They sold Christmas items, served drinks at the Carols evening and ran their second hand goods stall. When asked what they have enjoyed about Enterprise comments included:

*"I like learning how to use the till"*

*"I enjoyed serving real customers"*

*"Being part of a team, supporting each other and working hard"*

*"Counting the money"*



Thank you for all your support of these various projects. We are working closely with SAND to ensure that our young people will have access to similar learning experiences once they leave Oak Grove College.

This week the Crazy Smile Team Enterprise group were very pleased to meet their new business advisor, Mike Stephenson. Also, the WizHeroes ran their board meeting to review progress and they are now busy planning their new projects for 2018 which include:

\*Running a disco \*Organising a movie morning \*Setting up a mobile coffee delivery service

\*Organising more sales

They are also approaching nurseries to ask for donations of plug plants for the annual Plant Sale. If you have any contacts, advice or would like to get involved in our projects please do not hesitate to contact Carol or Laura in the Sixth form. [cnoble@oakgrovecollege.org.uk](mailto:cnoble@oakgrovecollege.org.uk)  
[lvallone@oakgrovecollege.org.uk](mailto:lvallone@oakgrovecollege.org.uk)

## KOA NEWS 6th Form



### Koa 6th Form

6KP have had a very busy start to the new term. This half term we will be doing our transition visits to Ferring Country Centre. Students are going to be accessing different elements of what they have on offer there. Some of the activities will include grooming the animals and working on the farm, to baking cakes and catering for the café. Students have also had the opportunity to talk to ex-students to see what they like best about Ferring.



6KP have also been busy setting up their enterprise project for this half term. They will be hosting a tuck-shop in the Rosie on Tuesdays from 10.15am - 11.45am. Students from across the school are more than welcome to come and purchase an item.

