

Headteacher's UPDATE



OAK TREE
SCHOOL

June 2026

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Dear Parents and Carers,

I would like to begin by celebrating the many positive things that have taken place across the school this month. It has been a busy and rewarding period, with many opportunities for our students to grow, challenge themselves and shine.

Our KS4 students have now made their option choices, which is always an exciting milestone. We are particularly pleased to announce that from September we will be introducing a new qualification in Animal Care, replacing Horticulture. This is a fantastic development for our curriculum. We are equally excited to share that we will be welcoming new animals onto the school site. This will not be limited to KS4 students – all students across the school will have opportunities to engage with and support animal care, developing responsibility, empathy and practical skills.

This month also marked a very special moment in the school's journey, as our KS4 students took part in Oak Tree School's first ever residential trip. The students embraced a wide range of activities including rope climbing, team-building exercises, a catapult challenge and campfires, among many others. We were incredibly impressed by their determination, resilience and willingness to try new experiences. They overcame challenges and showed a growing level of independence that made us all extremely proud.



Following the residential, staff took part in a thorough reflection to ensure we capture what worked well and identify any improvements. These reflections will help us adapt and strengthen future residential experiences so that we continue to meet the needs of every student.

Last week, we also enjoyed a fantastic Sports Day across the school. Our Sports Leader, Beccy, supported by our Year 9 students, organised and delivered a vibrant and inclusive event. It was wonderful to see all students engaged in activities that provided the right level of challenge and enjoyment. We were also delighted to welcome so many of you who came along to support—your encouragement makes such a difference and contributes greatly to the sense of community we are building.

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As our school continues to grow, we are working closely with Local Authorities to ensure we meet the needs of the wider community. I would like to reassure you that this ongoing work will not impact the experience of our current students. Our priority remains providing high-quality education and support for all of the children in our care.

You will be aware that students have now been allocated their new classes for next year. To support this transition, we have provided information packs which include key details such as timetables and social stories. In addition, we are working to produce video introductions of class teams and environments where possible, helping students become familiar with their new settings and adults ahead of September, ensuring a smoother transition.

Looking ahead, one of my key priorities for next year is to ensure that parental voice is truly heard and acted upon. We are committed to strengthening our partnership with you and creating more opportunities for you to engage with school life. We plan to introduce more events where you can come into school and experience what your children do – this will include exhibitions, parades and cooking events. A full calendar of events for the next academic year will be available on the website before we break up for the summer.

THANK
YOU

Finally, as you are aware, Claire Willmott will be taking over as Headteacher during my absence. Claire has been working closely alongside me and fully understands the vision and direction of the school. I have every confidence in her leadership. If you have any specific questions or would like to share anything with her, please do get in touch and we will ensure a smooth continuation of communication and support.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support. It is a privilege to work alongside such a dedicated and caring community.

Abi Davis
Headteacher