

Headteacher's UPDATE



OAK TREE
SCHOOL

July 2026

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Dear Parents and Carers,

As I prepare for my maternity leave, this newsletter feels particularly special. It gives me an opportunity to reflect on what has been a successful year for Oak Tree School and to thank our families for the support, trust and partnership that have helped us achieve so much together.

A Year of Growth and Achievement

This year has been one of significant development across our school, with a continued focus on ensuring that our students receive the educational experience and opportunities that help them thrive.

One of our key achievements has been the development of a clearer and more effective assessment system. This has enabled us to better track and understand student progress, particularly in relation to EHCP targets, ensuring that learning and support are tailored to meet the individual needs of each child.

We have also made substantial developments to our Key Stage 4 curriculum and options offer. Through the introduction of stronger work-related learning opportunities and community connections, we are helping students develop the skills, confidence and experiences they need for adulthood and future employment.



Another area of success has been the increased access to a range of therapies across our school. These approaches are now more effectively embedded within our curriculum and wider provision, ensuring that therapeutic support is integrated into students' daily experiences and learning.

Our school environment has continued to evolve, with significant investment in our outdoor spaces from EYFS through to Secondary. We have created engaging learning environments that encourage exploration, communication and wellbeing. One of the most exciting additions has been the incorporation of animals into school life, which has already had a positive impact on student engagement, confidence and wellbeing.

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Enriching Opportunities for Our Students

We are committed to ensuring that our students have access to experiences that broaden their horizons, build independence and develop resilience.

This year we successfully introduced a residential trip for Year 9 students, providing invaluable opportunities for personal growth, teamwork and confidence-building.

We have also expanded leadership opportunities for our secondary students, enabling them to take greater responsibility and have a stronger voice within the school community.

Across our primary phase, Forest School has been successfully introduced, giving pupils regular opportunities to learn outdoors, develop practical skills and build confidence in a natural environment. In addition, we have established an effective girls' group across the school and a targeted boys' group within secondary.

These initiatives have provided valuable opportunities for students to develop social, emotional and personal skills while building positive relationships with their peers.



Many of these developments and the impact they are having were discussed during our recent Ofsted inspection. We look forward to sharing the report with you once it is published and available to families.

Looking Ahead

Over the last month, I have been working closely with Claire Willmot as part of a thorough handover process. Claire will be joining Oak Tree School as Interim Headteacher during my maternity leave.

Claire is currently the Headteacher at Cranbury College and brings a wealth of experience, passion and expertise. She is excited to continue implementing the vision we have established together, particularly around strengthening partnerships with parents and ensuring families are fully embedded in their child's school journey.

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Claire also shares our commitment to supporting students' next steps, especially within Key Stage 4, to ensure they are well prepared for adulthood, further education and employment.

There is much to look forward to at Oak Tree. We are planning to further develop our work-related learning offer, providing students with access to a wider range of practical activities, experiences and pathways that will support future employment opportunities and independence.

A Personal Thank You

I am incredibly proud of what we have achieved together as a school community. I recognise that there has been a period of adjustment and change, and I am delighted to see our culture becoming firmly established.

Our staff team are truly outstanding. Their dedication, expertise and commitment to understanding every student and doing what is best for them is evident every day.

I would like to personally thank all of our families for the support, encouragement and partnership you have shown throughout my time as Headteacher. Your involvement has been instrumental in helping build the strong foundations that will continue to support Oak Tree's future development.

THANK
YOU

Whilst I will be stepping away for a period of maternity leave, I do so knowing that the school is in very safe hands and has an exciting future ahead.

Thank you for being part of our journey. Please continue to work alongside the school team as we move forward and continue to realise our shared vision for every student at Oak Tree School.

I wish you all a wonderful summer break and look forward to seeing the continued success of Oak Tree when I return.

Best wishes

Abi
Abi Davis
Headteacher