



Oakfield School



Welcome to issue 8 of the Oakfield School newsletter. The first term of a school year is always an eventful one and this year has been no different. We've had lots of activities and events, with more to come in the lead up to Christmas

Award for Oakfield

Following a lengthy application process and a verification visit, Oakfield has been awarded an SMSC Quality Mark Award at Silver level. SMSC stands for Social, Moral, Spiritual and Cultural and is a part of everything we do here in school. The verification process involved a verifier meeting with staff, governors, parents and students. Here are some extracts from their report. *"We would particularly like to congratulate Jake for being such a great guide and showing Mr Rees around the school, and also to thank the other students who communicated so positively and appropriately."*

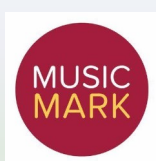
"It is clear from the relationships and the ethos observed throughout the school, that collectively you work very hard to create a culture of warmth and care, with high but realistic expectations that allows pupils to flourish."

School staff and the verifier have agreed upon 3 areas on which to work, in order to further develop and improve SMSC within school.



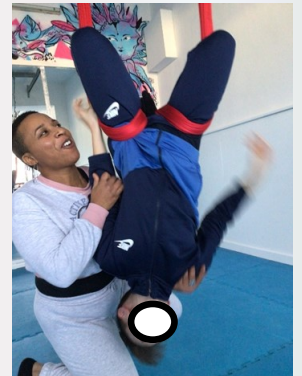
Music

School has, once again, been nominated for the Music Mark Award in recognition of providing a wide range of musical activities.



Aerial Yoga

The new Friday reward successfully is up and running, with two students attending weekly and learning lots of new tricks and spins.



White Ribbon Day

On 25th November we took part in White Ribbon Day. The day raises awareness of violence against women. Students undertook activities during tutor times and everyone was encouraged to wear a white ribbon in a show of support.



UK Parliament Week

As a part of UK parliament week, we held a whole school ballot and several short debates during hubs. The ballot involved voting for what is the most important thing, from a given list. Both staff and students voted water as being the most important.





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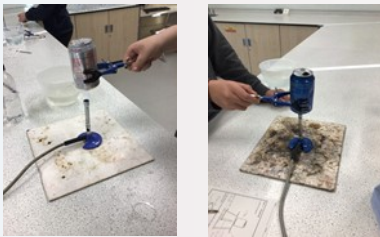
Duke of Edinburgh

Year 10 students undertaking the Duke of Edinburgh scheme have recently been helping to make a snake house at Tophill Low nature reserve. The students cut down trees and piled them up, along with a tank to keep grass snakes cosy.



Science

Students have had great fun using the science of air pressure to crush cans.



Covid

Government guidance update (Omicron variant)

1. Contact tracing and isolation

The current guidance on contact tracing and isolation remains in place. In addition to these, any suspected or confirmed close contacts of the Omicron variant will be asked to isolate for 10 days regardless of vaccination status or age.

2. Re introduction of Face coverings

Face coverings should be worn in communal areas in all settings by staff, visitors and pupils or students in year 7 and above, unless they are exempt. Pupils or students (in year 7 or above) should continue to wear face coverings on public and dedicated school transport, unless they are exempt.

January 2022- pupil return

Please be aware that we have had to make some changes to our start of term arrangements for January 2022. These are in response to the

Department for Education's recent request that all secondary school students receive two negative lateral flow tests for Covid-19 when returning to school (3-5 days apart). The tests are voluntary, however we strongly recommend families continue to support testing to prevent disruption once students return. All pupils will be tested unless you decide to opt out- this can be done by contacting the school before their planned return date. To accommodate the testing programme in school, and allow staff to carry on their usual start of term duties, we will need to operate a staggered start to term where certain year groups come into school for their lateral flow tests and return to education on a specific day. The year groups will start school as follows:

Year 7/8- Wednesday 5th January

Year 9/10- Thursday 6th January

Year 11- Friday 17th January

Year 9 Vaccinations

If you would like your child to receive the **Diphtheria/Tetanus/Polio & Meningitis ACWY** vaccine in school please follow this link to complete an online consent form;

<https://www.nhs.uk/tdipvacwy/information?Id=141037&Type=TDIPVACWY>

The vaccinations will take place at school on: **Tuesday 11th January 2022**. The link will close on **Friday 31st December 2021**.

Remembrance Day

On 11th November, students learned about Remembrance Day during tutor times. Staff and students in the CLC building created a fantastic display.





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Children In Need

On Friday 18th November we celebrated Children In Need day. Staff and students were invited to wear pyjamas or fancy dress to school and to make a small contribution to the charity. We raised £111 on the day.



One Kind Word Anti Bullying week

In November, students took part in One Kind Word: Anti Bullying Week. We held discussions around bullying and how it affects students. Students and staff in the CLC building created a wall display.



Residential hosted an Anti - Bullying Culture Evening as a part of Anti Bullying Week. This involved the students taking part in team building activities, a quiz and discussing what qualities they would look for in a friend. This was to help raise awareness about being kind to others and to consider how one's actions can impact on others. The students really engaged and participated in the evening, gaining lots of Epraise rewards for their efforts.

Football

This half term has seen several football matches against other schools. Our Key stage 3 students have played against Phoenix Academy, an SEN school in Grimsby, while our Key stage 4 students have played The Hub and Phoenix.

All the matches have been 5 a side format, with around 7 or 8 students from Oakfield involved in each match.

The games have proved to be a good incentive for students as participation in them depends on getting it right in school.



Christmas Cards

This year the students have, again, made Christmas cards for Berkeley House nursing home. We are looking forward to a time when we can once again visit the residents in person and sing carols for them. Staff collected money to buy flowers and plants for the residents.



Merry Christmas

We at Oakfield School would like to wish you all a very merry Christmas and a happy new year.

