



Welcome to the summer edition of our Teaching and Learning bulletin. We focus this time on the work of the Performance Faculty which, as you will

know, brings together dance, drama, music and physical education under the leadership of Mrs MacTaggart. The pages that follow will give you some insight into the extraordinary range of activities undertaken by the students here at Oathall.

Following this, Mrs Gabrielides will introduce you to our new examination weeks and the programmes being put in place to support your son/daughter as we approach this important time in the school calendar. Information and dates can be found on pages 4 & 5 of this publication.

As always, I do hope that you find the bulletin informative.

Mr E Rodriguez, Headteacher



Performance Faculty - Dance, Drama, Music and Physical Education

The Performance Faculty is committed to ensuring that students learn actively and creatively whilst striving for excellence; this underpins teaching and learning across all of the Performance Faculty subjects - Dance, Drama, Music and PE. Our aim is to foster self-discipline, team-work and leadership in all of our students.

All of our highly trained teaching staff have a wide range of skills that look to further the learning of every student inside and outside the classroom. We offer a high quality extra-curricular programme which offers students the opportunity to participate in various aspects of performance whether that is representing Oathall in our sports teams, performing in our singing group, playing in the orchestra or Jazz Band, participating in drama productions or dancing in Rock Challenge.

Included in this Teaching and Learning newsletter is a comprehensive list of all of the extra-curricular performance faculty activities.

Dance - curriculum

In the Autumn of 2013 our new specialised Dance studio was opened. This now means that from September 2014 Dance will be offered to all key stage three classes.

Two specialist dance teachers visited the school in March to deliver some dance lessons and to support the teacher training workshops in March. The visiting dance

teachers commented on the wonderful dance facilities that we now have as well as the positivity and talent of our students.

Our current GCSE dance students are refining their choreography and will be presenting their work to the exam board moderators on 7th May.

Dance – extra curricular

Dance Time Festival

The KS3 Contemporary Dance Club participated in this annual event in March. The festival is held in professional theatres throughout the country and includes a combination of curricular, examination and extra-curricular work choreographed by teachers and students.

Oathall's dance club performed a piece called 'Safe and Sound' based on a quote from Abraham Lincoln 'Better to remain silent and be thought a fool than to speak out and remove all doubt'. The piece was choreographed by Mrs Avery and Ali Langner (year 11). The evening was so successful that we were chosen to perform

in the Celebration Evening on Friday 25th April at the Hawth, along with ten other schools from the whole of West Sussex.

Rock Challenge

Over 100 students from Oathall took part in the annual **Rock Challenge** dance competition at the Hawth in March. There were over 90 dancers and a large technical team of key stage 4 students who helped behind the scenes with staging, lighting, hair, make up and mixing the sound track. When the dance troupe took to the stage they dazzled the crowds with their original dance inspired by traditional fairy tales. Oathall won a number of awards including "costumes", "drama skills" and "concept".

Drama – curriculum

At key stage 3 there is a strong focus on developing a number of key skills including: use of voice, physicality, realistic acting and different styles of drama. Students are encouraged to develop subject specific vocabulary and use a range of drama devices to create sophisticated performances which





U15 Girls Cricket team winners of the Sussex Regional finals



Oathall Street Dance Boys performing in the Mid Sussex Dance Festival



Dancetime

communicate meaning to an audience. Topics have included: Selective Mutism, Life on an Island, Group Cohesion and Games and Imagination.

Drama GCSE students are working hard to refine coursework performances and revise for the written exam. Performance skills are intensively rehearsed and students are able to comment on their work and the intended meaning to an audience.

Drama – extra curricular

The school production is a successful and popular extra-curricular activity. This year’s production was “A Christmas Carol” by Charles Dickens. All year groups were able to audition for a part last summer and many students were involved either on stage or backstage.

The weekly Drama club allows students to have fun, refine their drama skills and prepare for the next school production. Gifted and talented drama students recently visited Central Sussex College to observe work beyond GCSE level.

Music – curriculum

Students in key stage 3 have been on a musical journey from Africa to the USA, over to North India and Jamaica and then returning to the UK. The students study a range of genres including: Reggae, the Blues, Indian Classical and Bhangra, Classical, Rock and pop music.

The focus is on developing practical music skills. All students will experience playing a range of instruments including singing, in

addition to learning musical theory, analysis, composition and improvisation.

The GCSE curriculum explores the skills developed at key stage 3 in greater depth. The GCSE students study a set work from the Baroque, Classical, Romantic, Modern and Contemporary periods as well as Indian Classical and African music.

All students have the opportunity to study a full range of instruments at the school including: flute, oboe, clarinet, saxophone, bassoon, violin, cello, double bass, drum kit, voice, piano, keyboard, trumpet and trombone.

Students are encouraged to bring their instruments to their music lessons so that they can play in our curriculum projects.

Associated Board of the Royal School of Music Grade 8

The highest grade that students take before proceeding to higher education is grade 8 and so it is very impressive that three students – Josh Freeman, Dominic Clark and John Moore recently passed their grade 8 exams with distinction. They have now moved on to build their repertoire or to begin study at diploma level which is equivalent to university level study and beyond.

Music – extra curricular

Orchestra, Jazz Band, Singing Group

Every week students can attend the Orchestra, Jazz Band or Singing Group. The students work hard and have lots of fun rehearsing for a number of performances.

Sussex Chorus

The choir really enjoyed performing with the Sussex Chorus, one of the largest choirs in the South East, under the baton on Neil Jenkins at Christmas time where the review commented on our “sensitive interpretation and performance”. We were delighted to be invited to perform again with the chorus this Christmas.

Greek Concert

The Choir, Greek Folk Band and Jazz Band recently performed at our Greek Concert – a musical extravaganza fusion of Greek, Latin, Swing, Calypso and Tango inspired numbers. Michael Hall, Bolnore primary and Harlands primary schools were all part of this amazing performance.

Jazz Band

The Jazz Band performed at the Civic Service Ceremony in March to an audience of Mayors representing the South of England and their guests. Our senior students played to a professional standard.

Musical events this term:

Zimbe

Rehearsals are currently underway for Zimbe – a Jazz-African Choral work. Our choir was lucky enough to work with the composer, Alexander L’Estrange, and we are looking forward to performing this work with a choir of over 500 singers at the Ardingly Arts Festival on 25th June 2014.

Oathall’s Summer Concert

Students from the college were winners of



the Mid Sussex Battle of the Bands and we look forward to hearing some of these students perform at Oathall's Summer Concert on Wednesday 9th July 2014.

Lindfield Arts Festival

We look forward to performing once again at the Lindfield Arts Festival with the virtuosic string group, *Ensemble Reza* led by the cellist Pavlos Carvalho along with our local primary schools. Our performance of "Where the Wild Things Are" was very well received last year, and this year we will be composing to themes of "Romeo and Juliet", inspired by both the Tchaikovsky and Prokofiev works.

PE - Curriculum

Key Stage 3

Key stage 3 students have been working to develop skills in a number of sports, for example: football, badminton, gymnastics, hockey, netball, basketball, and fitness. All key stage 3 students track their progress across the key stage, review their progress and set themselves targets for improvement.

Oathall's Sports Relief proved to be an energetic and fun day for key stage 3 students. Many students entered into the spirit of the fun run and sported some excellent outfits from sailors to rock stars!

Key Stage 4

At key stage 4 students continue to develop their practical skills in a wide range of sports. There are many leadership activities and opportunities including in Year 10 where students have spent the year in their 'leadership' lessons ensuring that they're

to deliver high quality sports sessions to our feeder primary schools this term. This course is part of Sports Leader UK and the Football Association.

PE – Extra curricular

A wide range of extra curricular clubs are run by the PE department. Many of these are enhanced by our astro pitch enabling school clubs and fixtures to go ahead in all weather conditions.

Hockey Club

The Hockey Club is proof of students who make full use of the astro turf, and come rain or shine, roughly seventy players train every Friday afternoon. Their hard work in training has paid off with both the U13s and U15s reaching the semi-finals of the County Cup competitions and the U15s finishing 3rd overall with a draw against Eastbourne College.

Ultimate Frisbee

Ultimate Frisbee runs twice a week. Tuesday lunch time for all years and Thursday lunch for squad development.

Basketball Club

Basketball Club meet at lunchtime and are doing really well, the U15s were runners up in the district tournament.

Girls' Rugby

Girls' rugby continues to grow, and the team are now ready to compete at regional level.

Girls' Cricket Team

This year has seen huge success again for the girls' cricket team, with the U15 team representing Sussex at the Regional Finals,

competition involving over twenty five independent and state schools. The girls have emerged victorious and they now go onto the national competition held at Lord's cricket ground.

Girls' Netball

The U15s are district league winners. Both the U12, U13 and U15 squads reached the semi-finals of the Sussex knock-out cup.

Boys' Football

Wednesday practice nights were well attended throughout the spring term by U14 and U15 players. The U14 team got through to the District Cup semi-final and were successful in winning the seven-a-side District Competition held at Oakmeeds School.

The Performance Faculty – final thoughts...

We are very proud of the performances from our students on the sports field, in the concert halls and on the stage. Students are dedicated and supportive of each other and always try their very best to achieve the best they can. We have had a very busy and productive year. Well done to everyone who has made a contribution to our Performance Faculty.



Performance faculty extra - curricular Summer timetable

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
<p>PE</p> <p>Swimming Club Boys & girls - All years 1.10 - 1.40</p> <p>Badminton Boys & girls Years 8, 9 & 10 1.10 - 1.40</p>	<p>PE</p> <p>Year 7 Dance Club 1.10 - 1.40</p> <p>GCSE PE revision Room 82 - Mr Mills 1.10 - 1.40</p> <p>Junior Girls Rounders Years 7 & 8 3.15 - 4.20</p> <p>Senior Girls Rounders Years 9, 10 & 10 3.15 - 4.20</p> <p>Junior Boys Cricket Years 7, 8 & 9 3.15 - 4.20</p> <p>Drama</p> <p>Year 7 Drama club 3.15 - 4.30</p> <p>Music</p> <p>Jazz Band 1.10 - 1.40</p> <p>Orchestra 3.15 - 4.30</p>	<p>PE</p> <p>Basketball Club - all years 1.10 - 1.40</p> <p>Contemporary Dance Club 1.10 - 1.40</p> <p>Athletics Club - all welcome 3.15 - 4.20</p> <p>Drama</p> <p>GCSE Drama 3.15 - 4.30</p>	<p>PE</p> <p>Boys Football - all years 1.10 - 1.40</p> <p>KS3 Dance 1.10 - 1.40</p> <p>Girls Cricket Practice Years 7-10 3.15 - 4.30</p> <p>Senior Boys Cricket Years 9-11 3.15 - 4.30</p> <p>Music</p> <p>Singing Group 3.15 - 4.30</p>	<p>PE</p> <p>GCSE Dance revision 1.10 - 1.40</p> <p>Music</p> <p>GCSE Support group 3.15 - 4.30</p>

* PE - kit needed for all activities

This term we are pleased to introduce an exam week for each year group. The purpose of the exam week is to introduce a number of important skills: revision, exam techniques, exam protocols, managing personal time pressures and writing under exam conditions.

Year 7: 2nd June - 9th June
Year 8: 9th June - 13th June
Year 9: 19th May - 23rd May
Year 10: 23rd June - 27th June

Every subject area will hold an exam or assessment during exam week in their normal lesson. Most of these exams will occur in their normal classroom but there may be the occasional exam in the school hall.

Each faculty area has outlined below the topic / skills which require revision, the equipment that your child needs to bring and any additional information or resources required.

It is useful for your child to practise their revision techniques and you may want to support them in organising a revision timetable. Please consult our own school website which has a lot of information on revision. Follow the links under the Learning tab: "year 11 GCSE revision" and then "general revision guidance".

If you have any questions please contact your child's subject teacher for further information.

The results of the assessment of these exam weeks along with other assessment information will contribute towards a final working at grade which will be sent home on Friday 18th July.

Good luck to all of the students.

Mrs H Gabrielides, Deputy Head

Art / Design Technology

Years 7 to 9 Design Technology

Students will be tested on their general knowledge they have gained this year in DT. There will be a multiple choice paper which will cover all subject areas. This will be carried out during a normal lesson and teachers will give guidance for preparation. Topics covered will be:

- Materials used
- Processes learnt
- Health and Safety
- Technical names of equipment.

Year 10 will complete a written exam appropriate to the subject discipline.

Art

Years 7-9 will complete an observation study. Year 10 will complete a piece of work that will be graded and used for their GCSE coursework.

Dance

GCSE students in year 10 will be assessed on their study. They will be marked on technique and performance.

Drama

All key stage three students will complete a practical examination where they devise and perform a piece of theatre using the technique of mime. Students will write an evaluation of their performance analysing audience response, techniques used and where improvements can be made.

Students will be provided with a revision sheet detailing all they need to revise for their end of unit exam and a homework task will be set this term to further their understanding of devising and will focus on the skill of mime.

Year 7

Students have been focusing on how to develop a character.

Year 8

Students have been looking at different styles of theatre.

Year 9

Students have been focusing on creating, performing and responding and in particular, examining how to devise theatre for different audiences.

English

Year 10 English Language Exam:

Students will be taking half of a WJEC Paper 1 Reading Paper. This will involve reading one text and answering two questions. It is vital for students to revise over half term as students will be coming back to targeted revision lessons. Excellent revision resources are already available on the Learning year 11 revision exam section of the website and teachers will be preparing students for the exam.

Year 10 English Literature Exam:

Students will be taking half of a WJEC Unit 1 Unseen Poetry Paper. This will involve reading two unseen poems and comparing them in an essay format. Students will already have an anthology of poetry and it would be helpful for them to revise their notes from the previous poetry controlled assessment. Further resources will also be

available on the Learning year 11 revision section of the website and teachers will also be preparing students for the exam.

Year 9:

Students will be taking a English Literature style exam to help them with the transition from year 9 to the GCSE Literature course. They will be studying "The Yellow Wallpaper". This text is actually available as a free download on the following link:

<http://web.archive.org/web/20081026180517/http://etext.lib.virginia.edu/toc/modeng/public/GilYell.html>

It would be useful for students to prepare for this text alongside the targeted lessons we have created for them. Students must take detailed notes in lessons as this is a challenging text and the first time they will be able to see the GCSE style of exam.

Year 8:

In the year 8 exam students will be asked to write a description. They will need to demonstrate a range of writing skills, including the accurate use of punctuation. To support students' learning, it would be useful for students to use the link below to help alongside the lessons we have created for them:

http://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/ks3/english/writing/explore_imagine_entertain/revision/1/

Year 7:

Students will be taking an exam that contains a reading section with questions that get progressively harder including the comparison of texts. There is also a writing section on the same subject. The skills needed have been covered through the year, teachers will be preparing exam skill lessons to develop this work. Students should ensure they continue to complete homework as this will also help them feel confident and prepared to do their best in this exam. The websites below will help develop their reading and writing skills.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/ks3/english/reading/>

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/ks3/english/writing/>

Geography

All students will be expected to revise for and complete a formal exam in geography. Prior to the exam each student will have a lesson on how to revise and they will be given appropriate revision materials. The content covered in the exams will reflect the topics covered this year.

Year 7 - Transport, rivers

Year 8 - Restless earth, population

Year 9 - Development issues, ecosystems

Year 10 - Coastal zone, restless earth

History

All students in year 10 will be expected to revise for and complete a formal exam in history. Students should use their exercise books and core text books to guide them in their revision. The content covered in the exam will reflect the topics covered this year and will therefore focus on the Cold War. Students in years 7-9 will be taking part in assessments in class relating to the topics they have recently been studying. History teachers will advise their students of the specific topics they need to revise.

Languages

All students will have a listening and a reading test during the exam weeks. The papers will be taken over two lessons and students will be awarded a GCSE grade (KS4) or a National Curriculum Level (KS3).

Students in Key Stage 4 (GCSE classes) will be given past papers at Foundation Tier. To revise for this, students should use their vocabulary booklets and/or revision guides. There are also examples of past papers on the exam board web-site: www.aqa.org.uk

Students in Key Stage 3 will be given tests on topics they have already studied this year. Class teachers will discuss revision techniques and content in more detail with their students, and further details will be posted on Homework Tracker. In order to revise, students should use their vocabulary booklets and the Vocab Express web-site.

Maths

All students will take a maths paper exam, and revise every topic they have covered in maths this academic year. All students should bring the right equipment in a clear pencil case, including a pen, pencil, ruler, protractor, pair of compasses, rubber and scientific calculator, all of which may be required in the exam.

Topics will given to students to revise a few weeks prior to the exam week. Revision could be completed using MyMaths, we will provide some after school revision sessions. Students will be notified of these in advance of the exam week.

Music

Students at key stage three will take a listening and theory test which focuses on this term's work.

Students will be provided with a revision sheet detailing all they need to revise for their end of unit exam and the homework task set this term will further their understanding of the history, context and musical devices typical of these related genres.

GCSE students in year 10 will complete a 50 minute listening, aural and theory of music test which covers all the set works studied this year. Detailed revision notes will be provided.

PE

Key stage three students will be coming to the end of a five week module of work in either athletics, tennis, rounders, striking and fielding or cricket. Students will be required to complete assessment practices on skills covered during this module and then demonstrate these skills in a game situation.

Year 10

GCSE PE students will complete a 50 minute theory examination that will test students on all aspects of the theory syllabus covered in year 10. Students will be advised by their teacher which aspects of the syllabus will be tested.

RE

All students will be expected to revise for and complete a formal exam in religious studies. Student should use their exercise books to guide them in their revision. The content covered in the exams will reflect the topics covered this year.

Year 7 - Ultimate Questions, Creation, Old Testament key characters & the life of Jesus
Year 8 - Hinduism and Christian themes
Year 9 - Judaism, Worship and Sikhism
Year 10 - GCSE topics covered this year

Science

All students will have a written test in one of their science lessons. Students should ensure they have the right equipment with them, including a calculator.

