



Appledore Gardens  
Lindfield  
Haywards Heath  
West Sussex  
RH16 2AQ  
Headteacher: Mr E Rodriguez MA BSc (Hons)

tel: 01444 414001  
email: [office@oathall.org](mailto:office@oathall.org)  
website: [www.oathall.org](http://www.oathall.org)

July 2024

Dear Parents

I write as we approach the end of another busy and successful term.

At Oathall we provide our students with many outstanding opportunities and experiences. Our enrichment programme has continued to grow and now offers an unparalleled range of activities. This was something highlighted by our visitors from OFSTED earlier in the year as part of the very positive feedback they gave following their inspection of the school.

Our extended learning days are now embedded in the school calendar and have allowed Oathall students greater opportunities to undertake a wide range of learning experiences. Most recently, these have been complemented by our enrichment days, benefitting students across all year groups.

Our autumn term culminated with our whole school production of We Will Rock You. Without doubt, this was one of the most ambitious productions we have attempted and what an amazing week of performances we saw from the extraordinarily large cast and crew. Our recent summer concert showcased performances of an exceptional standard. Our KS3 productions of Romeo Juliet closed, what has been, an outstanding year for performance in the school.

Our annual evening of celebration held last week was an extremely positive event. This was an opportunity to recognise progress and attainment, across all areas of the curriculum, in a student body who had worked so hard throughout the year; as well as celebrating their contribution to the school community.

We have seen a multitude of sporting successes, public speaking triumphs, enterprise events, enhancements in the student leadership programme, farm developments, baking competitions and numerous off-site excursions and foreign visits. Oathall's Games Day and our third annual Oathall Community Day are wonderful events to close the school year and really show our community at its very best.

As the term draws to a close, we say farewell to a number of staff who will be leaving Oathall; Mr Beckett, Miss Blunden, Miss Burge, Miss Lord, Mr Mills, Mr Schofield, Miss Tillard and Mrs Van Galen. Between them they have given many years of service and have demonstrated outstanding commitment to the young people in their care. I would also like to give special mention and thanks to Mr Blackholly, who although not leaving Oathall, is stepping back from his role leading Oathall's Farm unit. His hard work and dedication has ensured that countless students have benefitted from this unique facility.

## **End of term & start of term reminders**

The last day of this term is **Tuesday 23 July** and as is our usual practice, students will be dismissed early following a final assembly.

School will finish at approximately 12:30 hrs. School bus times will be altered to reflect this change. If your child uses a public bus service, please ensure you check the appropriate timetable for timings.

## **Autumn Term 2024**

The school will start on **Tuesday 3 September** for students in **Yr7 and Yr11 only**. Please note that the school day for **Yr11** will start at **9:40am**, they should go straight to their tutor bases. **Y7** should arrive at the main hall at **8.30am**. This will enable our new Yr7 students to settle in more easily on their first day.

From **Wednesday 4th September**, all year groups will return. They should go straight to their [tutor bases](#) by **8.40am**.

You can find details about all term dates and events on the [college website here](#), but I would like to highlight that Open Day takes place on the 19 September and the school will be closing early. There is an INSET day on 20 September and the school will be closed to all students on that day.

## **Attendance, Punctuality and Uniform**

The relationship between the school and families has never been more important as we strive to establish expectations and school routines with students. You will no doubt have read national media coverage about attendance patterns in schools and the rise in school absences. We will, of course, work with children and families to overcome any barriers to attendance and we are grateful for all your support in ensuring your child attends school regularly and punctually from September.

Thank you, in advance, for ensuring all students start the school year smartly dressed in their correctly worn uniform. Many of you may use the latter part of summer break to replace items of school uniform. Our latest guidance on [the college uniform](#) is available on the website and includes details of the school's new maroon PE t-shirt and the new, long sleeved quarter black top. Students will still be able to wear the old PE kit for lessons of course. Our main uniform suppliers can offer any further guidance you might need.

We would also like to remind you to ensure that your child brings the correct equipment in September, see our [Ready for Learning](#) sheet.

Finally, as my time as Headteacher of Oathall draws to a close, I would like to thank you for your continued support as part of the Oathall community. Oathall is a very special place to experience secondary education and I have been privileged to have led the school over the past 13 years. None of its successes would have been possible without the exceptional Oathall staff. I am continually humbled by their passion and commitment to provide the very best of learning experiences, support and guidance for the young people of Oathall school. My heartfelt thanks goes to each and every one of them and I would like to wish them the very best for the future and their well-earned summer break that is to come.

I am delighted that the governors have appointed Toby Houghton to be Oathall's new Headteacher and know that the school will continue to develop and flourish under his leadership.

May I close by wishing you all a very enjoyable summer break.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "E. Rodriguez". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped 'E' and a long, sweeping tail for the 'z'.

**Mr E Rodriguez**  
Headteacher