



Welcome from Paul Hemmings, Headteacher

Oakmoor is brand new, state of the art secondary school situated in a 22 acre tree lined site on the edge of the South Downs National Park.

We are a friendly, vibrant school with high standards and expectations. We pride ourselves on knowing every young person as an individual and challenging each of them to have the highest possible aspirations. The Oakmoor ethos is encapsulated by our motto: *Ambition, Courage, Excellence*.

We are a highly collegiate staff with high expectations of ourselves and each other surrounded by like-minded, high calibre colleagues, who strive to provide the best education possible for our students. It is an exciting time to be joining our brand new, vibrant school where all staff are valued and their contribution to the organisation as a whole is recognised.

Teachers are very well supported by an excellent professional support team at all levels who share our goal of every child achieving their very best whilst enjoying a rich and varied curriculum with plenty of opportunities to excel outside the classroom.

Our school has grown in the last few years from 450 to 860 students owing to increases in outcomes and popularity. We are firmly positioned as the first choice secondary school for families in our town and are oversubscribed. Our new buildings will accommodate up to 900 students and with larger pupil numbers coming through our partner primary schools, along with the regeneration of our town, we anticipate reaching this number in the next few years. As we approach 900 students we will begin the planning for further expansion in accordance with the town's regeneration programme to meet the growing needs of our community. The final phase of expansion will complete our buildings for 1200 students.

Students at Oakmoor display excellent behaviour in lessons and around the school. Teachers plan highly engaging lessons tailored to the needs of our students allowing high levels of progress to be enjoyed. Students benefit from a wealth of extra-curricular activities, including trips and visits to enrich their experience at our school.

Our Plan-Deliver-Assess focus means that we have stripped away unnecessary bureaucracy and meetings allowing teachers to spend time on the 3 most important parts of their role. Teachers have time to plan great lessons, enjoy delivering their lessons and assess progress efficiently to inform the next stage of their planning to meet student need.

Three years' ago, one of our staff-led school improvement groups, piloted a new approach to assessing the work of students in their classes to inform their planning, rather than providing detailed feedback to every child individually. The pilot was highly successful and is now our whole school approach to assessing and planning.

Every teacher has saved a significant amount of time by no longer making detailed notes in every child's book which was having a limited impact on student progress. Teachers now use this time to plan more precisely to address misconceptions and tailor learning to their classes.

Removing other time-consuming activities which prevent teachers from doing their job effectively has also led to considerable student enjoyment and progress which has consequently improved GCSE outcomes for our students. It also means great teachers stay at Oakmoor and we have created an exceptional teaching staff here.

Our professional support team are well regarded by teachers and students. The team is seen as critical to the success and continued development of the school. Every member of the team genuinely cares about our school, our students and our local community.

At Oakmoor we encourage staff to develop and many of our teaching and professional support team have been successful with internal promotion in recent years. This provides excellent continuity for the school and allows colleagues the opportunity to progress whilst remaining in the school they enjoy being part of.

We have cutting edge technology throughout the site and the latest specialist equipment for key areas such as science, technology and performing arts. Our main buildings surround a central court yard which includes covered areas for outside dining accessible from the dining hall and seating areas accessible from the learning resource centre for reading at break and lunch times.

There is an abundance of green spaces which include several sports pitches, an athletics track, a nurture garden and a forest school area for outside learning and activities. The whole site is bordered by mature trees providing a relaxing and inspirational backdrop to the learning environment.

We are a very successful school where high levels of respect and conduct prevail. Our success shows that when you couple high quality pastoral care with high standards and expectations, young people are able to flourish and to achieve their very best.

Visitors comment on our purposeful learning environment and our delightful students. To experience this for yourself I extend an invitation for you to visit our school and discuss the post with me in more detail. Vicky Ross, PA to the Headteacher, will be pleased to make arrangements for you and can be contacted at v.ross@oakmoor.hants.sch.uk or telephone (01420) 472132.

Mr P. Hemmings MA
Headteacher