



West Sussex County Council
OAKMEEDS COMMUNITY COLLEGE
Station Road, BURGESS HILL, West Sussex RH15 9EA

“Succeeding Together”

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INFORMATION ABOUT THE COLLEGE

Dear Applicant

Thank you for requesting further information about the College.

Oakmeeds is at the heart of the Burgess Hill community. It developed considerably in the first part of this century and the reputation of the College in the local community increased significantly as a result. However, Ofsted undertook an inspection of the College at the end of January 2014 and focused particularly on our GCSE achievements for 2013, which we knew were very disappointing. Consequently they were of the opinion that levels of student progress and achievement were inadequate at that time and the College required “special measures”. This was an extremely disappointing judgement as far as we were concerned.

Irrespective of this outcome there are many very positive features of the College and staff/student relationships are consistently good. Parents are extremely supportive and care and guidance for the students has always been a strength. The most positive aspect of the inspection, and subsequent visits, is that the behaviour and attitudes of students was, and remains good and the students have received much praise from inspectors and visitors.

In our continued developments and drive for improvements in standards we have faced a very interesting, challenging but exciting time since January 2014. As a result of the work that has been done and through the concerted efforts of the staff the College is now much improved and monitoring visits by HMI/Ofsted and the LA have noted the considerable developmental journey the College has been on over the last 16 months. HMI/Ofsted letters can be read on our website. Standards of achievement are considerably higher, students rates of progress increased and we are expecting the best ever GCSE results this summer. We are not complacent and are constantly seeking new ways of doing things and are open to innovation. We are determined to regain our previously “Good” judgement (June 2011) as soon as possible and our current expectation is that this will happen in September or October 2015.

Oakmeeds became a Business and Enterprise College in 2005 and we focussed on developing subject areas linked to the specialism until the requirement for specialism was removed by the current government. Consequently, links with the local business community are very strong and help us in many ways. The College has achieved a wide range of awards as a result of the commitment to the local community and the developments within the College to support our work as a genuine community college. The College is currently in the process of converting to a sponsored academy and joining the University of Brighton Academies Trust with a target date of 1st January 2016. We are very excited about the prospects of this change of status and the opportunities it will bring to improve and develop the College even further.

Teaching takes place in blocks that house specialist subject areas. Physical Education is taught in a fourth block that also houses the Hall and dining area. There is a separate Sports

Hall that is also used extensively outside College hours by members of the community. Teaching areas are well resourced with books and audio-visual equipment. Computers are widely available across the College.

Students arriving at the College in Year 7 are currently taught in groups set by ability. However a review of student grouping arrangements in KS3 is being undertaken at this time in readiness for changes to be made before September 2015 if agreement is reached.

The pastoral organisation and support offered to students has always been a defining element of the work of the College. Students are arranged in Year Groups which are managed by Heads of Year who continue to support the year group as they move through the College. The strategic oversight of the pastoral team lies with the Directors of KS3 and KS4, who co-ordinate the work of the Heads of Year in matters relating to monitoring achievement and reporting to parents. Their work is assisted by a team of support staff. The College feels confident that the needs of the students at Oakmeeds are well served by the pastoral organisation.

Students with learning difficulties or other problems are catered for through a programme of study prepared by the Directors of Inclusion and the Learning Development team. In most cases, learning support takes place in the classroom with the help of a support teacher or a Learning Support Assistant.

The College aims to provide all children with a broad and balanced curriculum that is maintained throughout their five years at Oakmeeds. A wide range of course choices exists for students in Years 10 and 11 to enable specific interest to be followed for known career plans. Each year, around 90% of Oakmeeds students enter Further Education establishments to follow academic or vocational courses. The College has strong links with the local Further Education Colleges that help to sustain the interest and motivation required to encourage students to continue with their education beyond the age of 16.

Exam Achievement 2014

The 2014 GCSE results were something to celebrate following the results of 2013 and the students were rewarded for their hard work and commitment.

One subject achieving notable success was English, with 72% of our students gaining A* - C grades in the subject. This was especially pleasing when compared against the national figure, which showed a 2% drop to 62% gaining a C or above.

Mathematics also achieved improved results this year boosting their results by 2%. This meant 65% of our students gained an A* - C in the subject.

Oakmeeds offers a wide choice of GCSE subjects and the College enjoyed some outstanding results across the curriculum:

- Biology GCSE - 92% of students achieved A* - C grades
- Chemistry GCSE - 92% of students gained A* - C grades
- Physics GCSE - 92% of students achieved A* - C grades
- Business Studies GCSE - 78% of students achieved A* - C grades
- Photography GCSE - 78% of students gained A* - C grades
- Statistics GCSE - 92% of students achieved A* - C grades

GCSE Results Summary

- 190 candidates in Year 11
- 55% of students gained 5 A* - C grades, including English and Maths
- 10 subjects were above the national average for the percentage of students receiving A*-C grades.

BTEC Results

The College recorded another good year for its BTEC students, with particular success in the Performing Arts. 73% of students gained the equivalent of A* - A grades in Performing Arts.

Cambridge Nationals Results

A number of our students also took Cambridge Nationals and 83% achieved the equivalent of a GCSE A* - C grade in Health & Social Care.

There is a wide range of extra-curricular activities, clubs and off-site visits in which students are encouraged to participate. The College has a strong sporting tradition and the range of high quality musical and dramatic activities is regarded highly in Mid-Sussex. Teachers who wish to involve students in extra-curricular activities are given every encouragement to provide the experiences that can complement the statutory curriculum. The College benefitted from the provision of a brand new state-of-the-art floodlit 3G All Weather Pitch in 2012.

Staff

The well-qualified staff at Oakmeeds is very supportive of the College and its future development. Everyone has an opportunity to contribute to the preparation of the annual College Improvement Plan which guides resource allocation.

Continuing Professional Development has a high profile at Oakmeeds and, in recent years, an extensive programme has provided support for staff alongside the ongoing developments of the National Curriculum. Newly Qualified Teachers have received support through an induction programme known to be highly valued by the teachers who joined Oakmeeds in recent years. Links with local universities mean that we have been used consistently for trainee teacher placements until this year. Most visitors have commented about the positive, caring and welcoming ethos of the College.

Relationships with parents are good and Oakmeeds Association, consisting of parents, teachers, and friends of the College, supports the College's aspirations in many ways.

The College is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people, and the successful applicant must provide satisfactory references and will be subject to an enhanced Disclosure & Barring Service check. Any appointment is also subject to a satisfactory Occupational Health Report and evidence of QTS status (for a teaching role) and other appropriate qualifications.

Please note that references will be requested at the time of interview in order to ensure that the most appropriate appointment is made.

HOW TO APPLY

Please submit a completed Application Form and Safer Recruiting Sheet to the College with a supporting letter of no more than two sides of A4 and your CV detailing your experience as appropriate to this role. Our Application Form and Safer Recruiting Sheet are available on our website. Alternatively paper copies can be requested from hr@oakmeeds.co.uk.

If you require further information or wish to discuss aspects of the recruitment process, please do not hesitate to contact the College on 01444 241691 or hr@oakmeeds.co.uk, and visit our website www.oakmeeds.co.uk/College-Info/Vacancies/

Thank you for your interest in the College.

Yours sincerely

C J Taylor
Headteacher