



# Orchard Park High School

'Inspiring Lives, Building Futures'

'Ready, Respectful, Safe'

Wednesday 25th September 2019 Issue No. 29



## Headteacher's Message

A warm welcome back to the new 2019/2020 Academic Year. I hope you enjoyed a restful Summer break and are ready for another exciting year at OPHS. A special welcome to the new Year 7 students and their families. I have been hugely impressed with Year 7 so far.

Thank you to all the students who offered their help on Open Evening last week. Students helped in departments and gave prospective parents tours of the building. The evening was a great success.

I am pleased to introduce our new staff to you. All staff have settled into their new roles brilliantly.

- Mr R Lewis- Second in Maths
- Ms E Brown- Lead Practitioner for English
- Ms V Kuratomic- Lead Teacher for Spanish
- Ms H Baatjies- Director of Business Studies
- Mr T Rapsey- Head of Art & Design
- Ms R Johnston- English Teacher
- Ms C Hamm- English Teacher
- Ms S Coupland- Geography Teacher
- Ms V Friday- Science Teacher
- Ms A Maryam- Art Teacher
- Mr C Amfro- Student Maths Teacher
- Mrs S Creffield- Data Assistant
- Mrs E Elliott- Office Manager

I hope these staff will enjoy a long and successful career at OPHS.

**Ms C Warnock, Headteacher**



## Uniform Update

Last week, I visited Hewitts for a meeting regarding outstanding uniform items and to assess stock levels on the shop floor.

I have been assured that the shop now has a full complement of all school bags and PE bags. Additionally, all PE items are in full stock, including socks.

Hewitt's have confirmed that from Saturday 28th September, parents can collect all uniform items. Therefore, from Monday 30th September all students should be in full school uniform, including school bags, PE bags, jumpers etc.

Once again I thank you for your patience in this matter. Hewitts has assured me that this situation will not be repeated now that they understand demand levels from parents.

**Ms C Warnock, Headteacher**

## Name it!

Please ensure that ALL items of your child's uniform are labelled with their FULL NAME. This includes PE kit and trainers.

There are many lost items in the Main School Office that cannot be returned to their owners.

**Office Team**



# The Talk of the Town!

As OPHS's positive progress and reputation continues to grow year on year, word has spread throughout the local community of the fantastic opportunities our school has to offer its students. Mrs Warnock, in her Headteacher's speech to parents, celebrated the rapid improvements and the impressive array of achievements from staff and students alike. The Head Girl & Head Boy's speeches really impressed parents with their insightful and reflective content as well as their professional and confident delivery.

This year was by far the busiest evening the school has ever seen and the school was a real hive of activity. One parent commented, "What a fantastic open evening. It will be difficult to find another school to put as first choice!", and another said, "I'm very impressed with the changes in the school."



Parents really appreciated the interesting and engaging activities in classrooms; from dissecting brains, explosions in psychology and science archaeological detectives in history, leaving parents intrigued.

But perhaps above all, it was the hundreds of tour guides and departmental helpers who stayed late who really shone for our school. All the parents were blown away by their excellent manners, confident communication and warm welcome they received from all our students, who really did the school proud.

Finally, this week we had open mornings which allowed our parents to come and see the school in action and put the claims that the school is improving to the test. Parents were able to see for themselves the excellent behaviour in and out of lessons as well as the high quality teaching.



OPHS continues to go from strength to strength!

**Mr L Hubbard, Assistant Headteacher**

# Safeguarding Information

Walking to school is an ideal way for children to learn more about their local area, to raise their fitness levels, to save money and to look after the environment. Regular walking can help to



reduce stress, control weight and bring energy and confidence. Walking to school can also help children to become more independent. Your child's personal safety should be top of the agenda, however, if they are travelling to school without adult supervision, how can you help your child to keep safe on the way to class?

## **Walk directly to school**

Ensure that your child understands the importance of walking directly to school, without stops or diversions.

## **Stranger danger**

Explain the principles of 'stranger danger' to your child. Make sure they know not to stop to talk to anyone on the way to school and to ignore any drivers who might slow down to speak to them. Tell them never to accept a ride from anyone unexpected.

## **Be aware of traffic safety**

Take care to tell your child to walk on the pavement, wherever possible. Remind them to stop, look and listen when crossing roads.

## **Walk with others**

If possible, encourage your child to walk to school with a friend who lives nearby.

## **Keep away from the kerb**

Teach your child to assert their place on the pavement. Explain to them that they should keep away from the kerb and that on no account should they allow other pedestrians to force them into the road.

## **Stay alert**

Explain to your child the importance of having your wits about you whilst walking. Advise your child not to talk on a mobile phone as they walk and to avoid listening to music too.



If you have any concerns or would like further information. Please contact the Safeguarding Team via [admin@orchardparkhigh.net](mailto:admin@orchardparkhigh.net)

# Attendance Notice

## Medical Notice

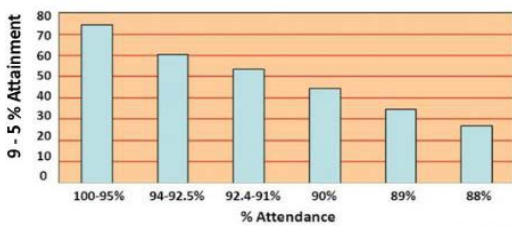
Does your child have any short or long term medical issues that require medication to be held in school? Has your child recently had a medical update that we should be aware of? If yes, we kindly remind parents/carers to notify the school by emailing: [studentabsence@orchardparkhigh.net](mailto:studentabsence@orchardparkhigh.net)

## Attendance Notice

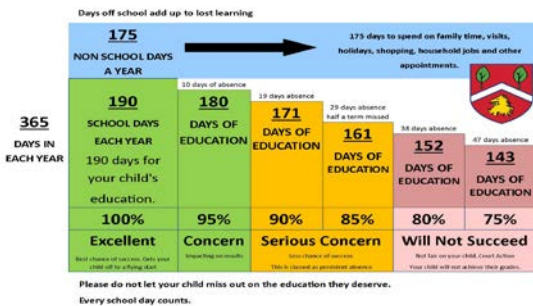
100 Club Attendance Challenge – Congratulations to all students who continue to achieve 100% attendance and punctuality this term. This term the Attendance Challenge will reward those students who remain on 100% attendance and punctuality at the end of the term with a Cinema rewards trip. Remember the real prize is that attendance is directly linked to attainment.

**Attendance and Attainment** - There is a direct link between attendance and attainment, put simply if you don't attend, you don't achieve. Across the country, this is particularly the case with students under 95% attendance. This results in a huge amount of lost learning time and as the chart below shows this makes it very difficult for students to achieve good outcomes. The graph below shows how drastically attendance affects attainment. The most important thing you can do to support your child's education is to ensure they come to school every day. Thank you to all students and families for supporting our drive towards excellent attendance and punctuality!

Chances of success at GCSE



**Absence** - Students who are absent from school for more than a day will have their progress significantly affected. If your son/daughter is unable to attend school as a result of illness, parents/carers are asked to contact the school on each day of absence before 8.30am via the school's main telephone number 020 8776 0220 or email [studentabsence@orchardparkhigh.net](mailto:studentabsence@orchardparkhigh.net)



**Absence of leave** – Absence of leave requests during term time will not be authorised, students are required to be in school every day.

**Medical Appointments**- We ask that parents/carers make any medical appointments for their child after school hours so that students do not miss any time off from school.

**Miss G Turner - Attendance Officer**

# Noticeboard

**HOME WORK CLUB**  
**MONDAYS**  
**15.10 – 16.00**  
**IT2**  
**Maths**

Orchard Park High School  
 "Inspiring Lives, Building Futures"

**Year 11 GCSE Success Fair**  
**Wednesday 2nd October 2019**  
**6pm start for Head Teacher talk**

*Stands will include:*

- \*Revision Apps
- \*Exam fitness
- \*Past Papers
- \*Managing Stress
- \*Healthy Eating
- \*Careers Guidance
- \*Extended Writing

## Just READ!

Below are some book recommendations for children in years 7 to 9. Please encourage your children to enjoy some of these great reads.



1. Watership Down- Richard Adams
2. The Hunger Games- Suzanne Collins
3. To Kill a Mockingbird- Harper Lee
4. The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time- Mark Haddon
5. Great Expectations- Charles Dickens
6. Framed- Frank Cottrell-Boyce
7. Private Peaceful- Michael Morpurgo
8. I Am Malala- Malala Yousafzai
9. Face- Benjamin Zephaniah
10. Paper Towns- John Green



### Facebook

For more news and updates, like Orchard Park High School on Facebook: @orchardparkhighschool



### Twitter

For more news and updates, follow Orchard Park High School on Twitter: @OrchardParkHigh



## Key Dates

### Parent/Carer key dates for the diary

#### Autumn Term: 2019-2020

##### Wednesday 2nd October

- Yr 11 GCSE Success Fair

##### Wednesday 9th October

- Yr 8 Information Evening

##### Wednesday 16th October

- Yr 7 Parents' Evening

##### Monday 21st October to Tuesday 29th October

- Autumn Half Term Holiday
- All students return to school on Wednesday 30th October

##### Wednesday 20th November

- Yr 10 Parents' Evening

##### Wednesday 4th December

- Yr 11 Parents' Evening

##### Friday 20th December

- End of Autumn Term

##### Monday 6th January

- Start of Spring Term

##### Monday 17th February to Friday 21st February

- Spring Half Term Holiday

##### Monday 6th April to Friday 17th April

- Easter Holiday

##### Monday 25th May to Friday 29th May

- Summer Half Term Holiday

##### Friday 17th July 2020

- End of Academic Year

#### Parents' Evening Booking System

Parents/Carers are reminded to book their Parents' Evening appointments via the link below:

<https://orchardparkhighschool.parenteveningsystem.co.uk>



We hope you enjoyed reading this copy of our newsletter. Updates between now and the next issue of the school newsletter will be posted on our school website:

[www.orchardparkhigh.co.uk/newsletters](http://www.orchardparkhigh.co.uk/newsletters)



Orchard Park High School  
Orchard Way  
Croydon  
Surrey CR0 7NJ

Telephone: 020 8776 0220

Email: [admin@orchardparkhigh.net](mailto:admin@orchardparkhigh.net)

