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Oathall Community College

School statement

“Oathall is committed to promoting respect, aspiration, achievement and enjoyment in a supportive environment.”

Our values

- Self respect
- Respect for others
- Aspiring to excellence
- Personal challenge and achievement
- Enjoyment of learning
- Being safe and healthy
- Contributing to our community
- Oathall – A college for everyone.

Oathall is a mixed comprehensive community college with 1000 students located in the heart of Mid-Sussex. We are situated on the boundaries of the town of Haywards Heath and the village of Lindfield. We are a strategic partner in the local Teaching School alliance and we work closely with the other schools in our federation of secondary schools.

Learning is at the heart of all we do and the college has clearly stated teaching and learning expectations for all members of the college which are captured as the Oathall 8. Students achieve impressive results that continue to improve year on year. The most recent Ofsted inspection in March 2018 graded the school as continuing to be good and, although pleased with this, Oathall is not a complacent school and has an improvement plan sharply focused on producing outstanding outcomes in all areas. The comprehensive programme of continuing professional learning ensures that each member of the Oathall team can fulfil their entitlement to a bespoke package of training that is underpinned by the appraisal system.

The college has a full spectrum of specialist accommodation catering for all subjects. We are understandably proud of our recently opened (2018) Maths and Science Block which has seen every aspect of the building refurbished and now offers state of the art facilities for students and staff. Subjects that require specialist learning spaces have access to them; be it the flood lit 3G artificial turf pitch in PE, the drama studio, the 3D printer in engineering, the Mac suite in music or the purpose built dance studio in performing arts.

Sets of Chromebooks are available for use in lessons so that students can take full advantage of our Google for Education provision. Classrooms across the college are well equipped and a rolling programme of building and maintenance development ensures that learning environments are kept up to date.

We are nationally and locally renowned for our outstanding school farm. We are delighted to have such a valuable and unusual educational facility. The farm enhances student learning and development in unique and creative ways and enables a range of courses and extra-curricular activities to take place that are distinctive to Oathall.

The Performance Faculty

The Performance Faculty incorporates Dance, Physical Education, Drama and Music. Outstanding results are achieved in each subject year on year. Strong teaching is a feature across the faculty and thorough, well-resourced schemes are in place for all year groups to support teaching and learning. Learning is enriched by a comprehensive extra-curricular programme that includes trips, clubs, performances and competitive fixtures. A specialist teaching assistant provides support both in and out of lessons.

All students follow a Drama curriculum in years 7, 8 and 9 which covers a broad range of topics and theatrical skills. There is scope for these to be enhanced and developed by the successful candidate. GCSE Drama proves to be a popular and successful option year on year with students demonstrating their dedication to the subject through hard work and additional hours spent independently perfecting their pieces. Lessons are taught in our purpose built drama studio and other specialist spaces. There are numerous opportunities to work with other staff from across the faculty to promote student performance.

Whole school productions take place in a school hall that benefits from a comprehensive set of sound and lighting equipment. Staff from across the faculty and indeed the whole school become involved in productions and take on a variety of responsibilities. Productions aim to encompass the students' performance skills in drama, dance and music reflecting the disciplines developed within the Performance Faculty.

Leadership in the faculty is strong. There is a Head of Faculty, Deputy Head of Faculty and an Enrichment Leader. All members of the faculty are well supported and also encouraged to develop their teaching so that all students achieve their very best. Appraisal is central to this process with individuals fully involved in identifying their objectives and considering their professional learning needs. Newly Qualified Teachers follow an extensive induction programme that rapidly builds upon the skills developed during their training. The broad and varied professional learning opportunities provided at Oathall ensure that all staff can meet their identified learning needs.