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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 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.

English

English at Oathall is taught by a team of specialist teachers supported by a dedicated teaching assistant. Students achieve very good outcomes year on year. The faculty aims to equip students to be critical readers, convincing writers and articulate speakers. They do this through a dynamic, varied and demanding curriculum alongside an active programme of enrichment activities such as public speaking, our KS3 reading award scheme, after school classes, competitions, author visits and school trips.

The faculty works closely together on all aspects of teaching and learning, and lesson planning is a collaborative and constantly evolving process. The faculty is very well resourced with thorough schemes of work in place for all years. Independence is very much at the centre of learning within the faculty and differentiation is clearly embedded in lessons.

The English Faculty are all accommodated in one area of the college centred around our vibrant library and Learning Resource Centre. All the classrooms have interactive white boards and access to mobile technology. Students at Oathall are keen readers, something that is demonstrated by their engagement with the accelerated reader programme and the school wide, daily “drop everything and read” initiative.

Leadership in the faculty is strong. In September there will be the newly appointed Head of Faculty, two Deputy Heads of Faculty and an Enrichment Leader within the faculty. All leaders in the faculty are also members of one of our whole school leadership groups which meet regularly throughout the year to inform whole school development and improvement. All members of the faculty are well supported and also challenged 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. The broad and varied professional learning opportunities provided at Oathall ensure that all staff can meet their identified learning needs.