



Orchard Manor School News

OMS Bulletin

School Updates and Communications

13 January 2023



"You can't go back and change the beginning, but you can start where you are and change the ending." ... CS Lewis, English Writer

Hello everyone!

Welcome back and I hope you all had a super holiday and had a chance to recharge your batteries and relax for a while. It has been so nice seeing everyone in school again. For those of you already waiting to book a holiday for 2024, the school term dates have just been updated on the website. [Click here](#) if you would like to have a look.

We are very proud to announce that we have had our results from the recent Ofsted inspection for our Residential provision. We have maintained our overall outcome as GOOD, for the second year in a row, and our dedicated team are looking forward to building upon this. Well done everyone!



We are also pleased to say that our pupil attendance has been really improving over this school year. Last term was 91% which is above the national average for Special School. If we carry on like that, 2023 promises to be an excellent year!

Every day this week our year 11s have had mock GCSEs which they have approached with calmness and determination. They come to the Exam office every day and collect their personal invigilator, a little pot of sweets and a bottle of water then go to their exam room. Everything they need is there—pens, pencils and everything else including the very important digital clock. The concentration is almost tangible. I have to say, that all of our students have done their very best and I am sure that they are very pleased that today was their last exam (for a few weeks anyway!). They say that the best way to get good at something is to practice, practice, practice, so that is what they will be doing. Our students will face the “real” exams being totally prepared. Good luck to them all and well done!

You may have seen on our social media pages that we are looking for some new members of the team—particularly Teaching Assistants, and there will be further job opportunities coming later on this month. If you think you know anyone who would fit in with our school and its values and ethos, please share our [website](#) with them. Working here is a marvellous way to give back to the community, make lifelong friends, have a great life/work balance, and feel like you are doing something good in the world. Working with our young people is extremely rewarding—but then I'm biased!

Talking of new members, Karyn Buckle-Cooper has accepted the position of being our new EHCP Lead, so you will be seeing her name around and about and may meet her at meetings and other gatherings. We wish you well in your new position Karyn!

Last term we sent out a link to a survey for our parents to fill in. Disappointingly only 17 of you replied, but we have pulled together information from those answers. We have had some lovely comments including *'I honestly cannot tell you how grateful we are to orchard manor school my son has come so far since starting here'* and *"You can really sense how fantastic the staff are with guiding and supporting the young people and that resonates though the pupils and the school."* As well as items which we will be addressing in due course including: Devising more effective methods to secure parent feedback, enhanced opportunities for parents to see their children's work and learn about the progress they are making. We will publish the full report in due course. Equally if your child is demonstrating something that they have learned at school, we would love to hear from you and will share on our social media if you send a picture and a comment to mscarff@orchard-manor.org

As usual, all that is left for me to say is have a good weekend and we will see everyone on Monday.

Best wishes *Nicola Jones, Headteacher*