



Orchard Manor School News

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*“The motor-car went Poop-poop-poop, As it raced along the road. Who was it steered it into a pond?
Ingenious Mr. Toad!” — Kenneth Grahame, The Wind in the Willows*

Hello Everyone!

Welcome to July—Summer is definitely underway with all this fabulous weather we have been having. As we come into the last few weeks of term I suspect that many of you are thinking of our young people transitioning to their new classes, ready for next year. We will be gently moving our youngsters up to their new classes in the next couple of weeks, and to get to know their new teachers. They will have had little postcards with a photo and a little interesting information sent home too, so have a look out for them. If you have any questions, of course, you are always welcome to contact the school.

However, before all that begins, we have once again had a full two weeks since I last spoke to you. We had our Year 11 Prom last week, followed the next day with our celebratory presentation tea party for all our leavers. Both events were fantastic. All the students turned up looking incredibly smart and grown up. It seems like only yesterday they were little ones arriving here for the first time, and now they are grown up and ready to move on to their next steps. It's a bittersweet moment for all the staff—we are so proud of how far they have come, and more than a little sad that we have to say goodbye.

The Prom was a great success - we had a BBQ supper, cooked by the teachers, a disco, copious goodies to eat and drink, a photo booth (which was so much fun) and inflatable games on the lawn— all taking place amongst balloons, glitter, and black and gold bunting. I must say thank you to all the staff who pulled all this together when the other children had left - it was a masterpiece of organisation and collaboration. Our prom-goers arrived in various modes of extraordinary transport and were dressed to the nines. Everyone absolutely loved the evening from start to finish - which made the whole night a fantastic memory for this Year 11 cohort.

The Celebration Presentation Tea Party the next day was, as always, a tear jerker—for parents and staff! Our leavers came up, one by one, to an introduction and short speech from me, reminding them why we have enjoyed having them here, what fabulous young people they have grown up to be, and then present them with a folder of their achievements, a memory book of photos from the prom and a hoodie commemorating the class and year. When all the presentations had been made we stood out on the patio and enjoyed our scones, cream and jam. It was lovely.



We have also just finished a fantastic run of our whole school play *Wind in the Willows*. Lots of songs, narrating, speaking, special effects and so many fun things going on. The costumes were amazing, as was the standard of acting. As many of our parents know who got tickets, it really was really impressive and I was so proud of everyone. The rehearsals have been going on for months and we should say a big thank you to Flo, our wonderful Expressive Arts teacher and to the team of staff who worked with her to get the play on the stage, and of course the students who were ... AMAZING! Well done to everyone involved!

Our next big event will be the Summer Fete - Keep the date free! 11 July from 4:30 to 6:30pm and we will see you there! Right, I think that's it! All that's left to say is have a great week everyone!

Nicola Jones, Headteacher

