



DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES:

- Friday, 4th April 2008—School closes for Easter break at 1.00pm
- Monday, 21st April 2008—School open to students and parents at 8.30am
- Year 8 Reports will be issued on April 24th 2008
- Monday, 28th April 2008—Year 10 Exam week begins
- Monday, 5th May 2008—Bank Holiday Monday, School Closed
- Tuesday, 6th May 2008—SATs week begins.
- Friday, 23rd May 2008 from 3.00pm — Book Fair and Family Reading session in Oakgrove School Library
- Friday, 23rd May 2008—School closes at 3.00pm for the half-term break
- Monday, 2nd June 2008—School open to students and parents at 8.30am

OAKGROVE SCHOOL

Excellence, Innovation, Respect

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Dear Parents/Carers,

It has been a very interesting term! You will all have been aware of the intense media speculation about whether or not Phase 3 of Oakgrove School would actually be completed, the Finish Oakgrove campaign successfully led by parent, Dr. Bob Ranger, and the intensive lobbying of local councilors and the local authority by both myself and Governors.

To receive guarantees that that the buildings would be completed on time has been an enormous relief and the last few weeks have been spent interviewing building companies and contrac-

tors to ensure that promises are lived up to!

Parents will also be aware that capital funding is only one part of the school's financing, however, and I have been in extensive negotiations over the last six months to ensure an adequate revenue settlement for the school. We are appointing 14 additional teaching staff for the school and a whole range of associate staff.

On another note, we have been visited by our fair share of celebrities this term, including Fearne Cotton, Scary Guy and a regular sup-



porter and advocate for Oakgrove School, Mark Lancaster, MP—more information about these visits can be found inside.

My very best wishes for the Easter break.

Yours sincerely,

Peter Barnes
Headteacher

Mark Lancaster, MP

Mark Lancaster MP came into Oakgrove school on Friday, 14th March to speak to 130 GCSE Humanities students regarding being an MP and how Parliament works. In February the students visited the Houses of Parliament. Unfortunately due to commitments with his Development work in Malawi, Mark could not be in Parliament himself at the time of our visits (although he did kindly send a representative on his behalf!).

Mark gave an interesting and informative talk on a variety of aspects of his work as an MP, including the campaigning and voting systems, how much you get paid, local issues (such as the Government funding for new schools, including Phase 3 of Oakgrove!) and his work in Malawi. The students asked Mark many questions and also answered his questions from their knowledge of politics as well as current news reports about the expenditure claims for MP's



Eco Representatives

Harri Morris and Amber Spain, two of Oakgrove School's Eco Representatives, attended a recent funding interview panel for the MK Youth Bank.

Five Eco Representatives; Jess Rankin, Harri Morris, Amber Spain, Julia Bloomfield and Ryan Labrum Hill, assisted by Miss Gardner, wrote a bid to transform two of the student garden areas into a 'Sculpture Garden' and a 'Vegetable Patch'. They were successful in their presentation to the funding panel and consequently the group have been awarded £10,000 to create these two gardens.



The work for these gardens has already started and Harri and Amber are helping Miss Gardner sort out the arrangements prior to the

Shuffle Days when both will be created. This will happen thanks to the kind help of Mr Leadbetter, Mr Tett, Ms Carel and Mr Clow, as well as two external sculptors, Iron Will, and Seven Barclaycard. The sculptors will help make the central sculpture for the Sculpture Garden which is based on a winning tree design by Year 10 student, Lynsey Dorn. Many design features that will be incorporated into the gardens have been taken from previous student designs from Shuffle Days dating back to 2006.

Both gardens will be started during the Shuffle Days on April 2nd and 3rd 2008. If any parents know

anything about veggie patches/allotments and would like to help volunteer in a future Gardening Club after the Easter holidays, then please contact Miss Gardner directly.



The vegetable patch plot to be developed on the

Year 8 Shuffle Day on Wednesday, 2nd April 2008 and the sculpture garden plot to be developed on the Year 10 Shuffle Day on Thursday, 3rd April 2008.

Other Gardens in the Concourses.

The other gardens in the concourses are to be landscaped by the MK Architecture landscape team – the first two gardens to be developed by them will be those nearest the dining hall. The Landscape Designer, Julie Skinner, has taken many of the students ideas and themes from our first ever Shuffle Day back in 2006. It is great that the students' ideas will be seen in the planting/designs. These will include planting of small hedges in an OS shape for Oakgrove School (originally designed by Max Crocombe and Jeffrey Schlupp now in Year 10) and another garden will have recycled materials such as mosaics from recycled glass, and students hand prints placed in bright colour embossed resin (originally designed by Emily Garrett and Jessica Trim now in Year 9).

See the landscape designer ideas in the blue print (kindest thanks to Julie Skinner for allowing us to share these designs).

The two gardens to be designed by MK Architecture landscape team thanks to Julie Skinner. Designs based on original student designs from



Fearne Cotton Visits Oakgrove School

On Friday, 14th March 2008, Fearne Cotton, Radio 1 presenter and TV celebrity, visited Oakgrove School to talk to students about supporting the World Vision '24 hour Famine.' Fearne had visited Chennai, formerly Madras, in India, and saw some of the development work that World Vision was doing with fundraised monies. The students watched an extract about the street children's life and support from World Vision, and then asked Fearne about her visit and what she had experienced. The students asked some great questions about the differences in quality of life for the children in Chennai and afterwards Fearne signed some autographs.

World Vision is a Christian relief development and advocacy organisation dedicated to working

with children, families and communities to overcome poverty and injustice. It is based at Fox Milne



and Oakgrove is its local school, so it was our pleasure to host Fearne Cotton and World Vision here.

Scary Guy Visits Oakgrove



Scary Guy –the internationally renowned anti-bullying figure—came to Oakgrove School on Monday, 10th March 2008. Thanks to Mr. Kerindi, Scary talked to a packed assembly hall of 330 students in Years 7, 8 and 9. His key focus and aim is to stamp out bullying and to simply not judge a book by its cover, thus avoiding prejudice.

The students were stunned to silence with Scary's larger than life presence and appearance, but they soon grasped his strong message and listened intently to his aim to stamp out bullying internationally. He got several of the students up to participate and talk with him to the audience and many of the students stayed behind to talk to him after the assembly to get autographs. It was a fascinating yet very different and inspiring motivational talk. To find out more about Scary guy visit: www.thescary1.com

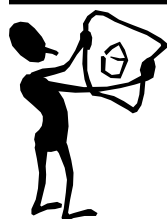
Fastest Story in Milton Keynes

It was with great pleasure that we welcomed author Mark Robson back to Oakgrove to work with a group of Year 9 gifted and talented students, to write a piece for the Fastest Story Written in Milton Keynes.

Mark started the story with a group of students from Hazeley School. The theme was bullying and the learning objective was to explore different ways of opening, structuring and ending narratives, to experiment with different narrative perspectives and to recognise layers of meaning in the writer's choice of words.

The story was then e-mailed to the Radcliffe School for the second instalment to be written. Mark was then joined at Oakgrove School by Mrs Ardley and Mrs Beales, the Librarians from the participating schools for lunch in our Library. Our students then worked with Mark to produce the ending of the story which is called 'The Key'. It was wonderful to observe the very lively session where ideas and language were explored and developed. The story, and Mark's excellent account of the day's events, can be read at www.markrobsonauthor.com - Fastest Story.

SRE evening for Yr 9 Parents



An informative evening for *parents* of Yr 9 students on

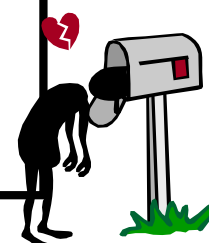
Sex and Relationships Education

- for the forthcoming Summer Term Values and Ethics topic, will be on

Thursday 24th April 2008.

Time: 7- 8.30pm in Oakgrove Assembly Hall

Guest speakers include: Parenting support, MK Local authority SRE consultant, PCT nurses, Brook, Connexions,



School Term Dates 2008-2009

Autumn Term

Monday, 1st September 2008 —	Inset Day
Tuesday, 2nd September 2008 —	Inset Day
Wednesday, 3rd September 2008—	School opens at 8.30am to Year 7's only.
Thursday, 4th September 2008—	School opens at 8.30am to Year 7's and Year 11's only.
Friday, 5th September 2008—	School opens at 8.30am to all Year Groups.
Friday, 24th October 2008—	School closes at 3.00pm for half-term break.
Monday, 3rd November 2008—	School opens at 8.30am.
Friday, 19th December 2008—	School closes at 1.00pm for Christmas break.

Spring Term

Monday, 5th January 2009—	School opens at 8.30am.
Friday, 13th February 2009—	School closes at 3.00pm for half-term.
Monday, 23rd February 2009—	School opens at 8.30am.
Friday, 3rd April 2009—	School closes at 1.00pm for the Easter break.

Summer Term

Monday, 20th April 2009—	School opens at 8.30am.
Friday, 22nd May 2009—	School closes at 3.00pm for half-term.
Monday, 1st June 2009—	School opens at 8.30am.



Additional INSET days still need to be scheduled.

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Congratulations to the following Students:

- Harri Morris and Amber Spain for obtaining £10,000 from the Youth Bank!
- Chris Card on achieving his LAMDA examination, Communication and Performance Award.
- Penny Monyemokethoe and Chelsie Browne, who have been selected for the Netball Training Development Programme for Milton Keynes.