

Overview

School statement

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

Our values

- **R**espect for others
- **E**njoyment of learning
- **P**articipating in our community
- **A**spiring to excellence
- **R**espect for ourselves
- **E**veryone's college: Oathall

Oathall is a mixed comprehensive community college with over 1300 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 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. Our *Every Lesson, Every Day* strategy sets out what we believe are the core features of exceptional lessons. Students study a broad curriculum for three years at Key Stage three and have a diverse choice of option subjects available to them for Key Stage four. They are well taught, work hard and achieve impressive results year on year. The most recent Ofsted inspection in September 2023 graded the school as continuing to be good and highlighted strengths in many areas. To build on this the school has thorough self-evaluation processes in place that form the basis of an ambitious College Development Plan. 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 accommodation catering for all subjects. Subjects that require specialist learning spaces and resources have access to them; be it the flood lit 3G artificial turf pitch in PE, the recently refurbished Science and Mathematics Block, the 3D

printer in engineering, the Mac suite in music or the purpose-built dance studio in performing arts. All classrooms are fitted with networked PCs and digital screens.

Oathall Farm

Since the second World War, Oathall has had a rural dimension – a connection with the land and the production of food. Hundreds of young people have learnt about managing livestock and have been taught about where their food comes from. Many have gone on to further their education and have built careers in agriculture, veterinary science and related industries and businesses.

The farm has been going through a period of change since 2023 and we have recognised that we need to employ someone with a specific focus on educational activities to work alongside the small farm team. The farm team consists of a senior farm technician, supported by 2 part time technicians and some student stock feeders. Their role is to primarily manage and develop the farm facilities and animals as well as supporting the delivery of technical aspects in lessons. The education and engagement officer would work closely with this team.

Animals

Our core aim for animals is that they should be easily handled by young people and that they can be managed on site in a relatively low cost, sustainable manner, all year round. We keep a range of different animals from traditional pigs, sheep and chickens to animals that can be nurtured and easily handled by young people such as guinea pigs, gerbils and even reptiles. These animals are used to deliver the animal care qualification as well as supporting students who are on adjusted timetables.

We manage our livestock ethically and only breed where the learning outcome is clear. We are always looking at ways to enhance and develop our livestock and animal holding.

Land and buildings

We have around 5 acres of fields and a number of agricultural buildings including a large barn. In addition, we have a big greenhouse and an outdoor growing space. Traditionally the farmland was managed purely for grazing but our aim is to restore and regenerate this land to provide natural habitats sympathetic to the local low weald landscape.

Enrichment and engagement

The college has always had a very active after school farm club. This runs on three days of the week and includes care of the animals as well as other farm and nature based activities.

Over the years the farm has actively engaged with the local community with school visits and community involvement. This element has decreased in recent years and we are keen to revive this aspect of the farm operation.

Sustainability

The farm and its resources provide a unique opportunity to educate young people about biodiversity, nature conservation and sustainability.

Funding

The farm is underpinned by additional funding from the DFE with a review of funding every three years.