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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 over 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 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 specialist art rooms with separate photography studio or the purpose built dance studio. 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.

The Art and Design Faculty

The Art and Design Faculty brings together all of the Design Technology subjects along with Art and Photography. Subjects are taught by specialist teachers and there are opportunities for teachers skilled in more than one discipline to teach across the faculty. All teaching takes place in specialist rooms that includes art rooms, a photography studio, workshops, an engineering suite and a fully fitted hospitality and catering room. The subjects are extremely well resourced with comprehensive schemes of work in place for all year groups. There is also a faculty staffroom that helps to create a supportive and collaborative working environment.

In art an atmosphere of enjoyment and trust pervades where students are encouraged to be both creative and ambitious. Students explore a wide range of media and gain inspiration from lots of different artists and designers in order to develop their own personal creative responses during their studies. Throughout our three-year Key Stage 3 students develop a broad range of skills including drawing, painting, mixed media techniques and 3 dimensional work. This provides them with the depth of experience needed to make informed decisions about their GCSE options.

Students are offered GCSEs in both art and photography. Students will express their own thoughts and ideas through drawing, painting, printmaking, sculpture, collage and ICT. Photography is studied in a purpose built photography studio with a full set of computers and use of digital SLR cameras. All of the Key Stage 4 courses culminate in a spectacular end of year Art and Design exhibition in the school hall for students, parents, governors and staff. Catering is provided by students taking the hospitality and catering course. Routinely Oathall students are selected to have their work displayed at the National Students' Art Exhibition at the Mall Galleries.

Leadership in the faculty is strong. A Head of Faculty, Deputy Head of Faculty and an Enrichment Leader work together 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.