



The Oaks Secondary School
Sixth Form
Prospectus

Welcome

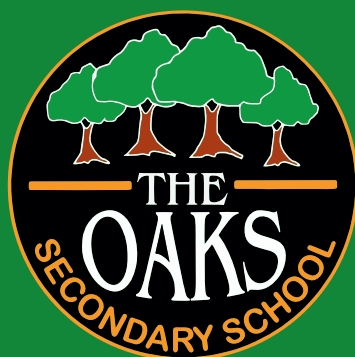
Thank you for your interest in
The Oaks Secondary School Sixth Form

We are a centre that provides specialist
education for young people between the
ages of 16 and 19 with Special Educational
Needs.

We hope you find the information in this
prospectus useful.

If you have any questions or queries,
please contact us at any time.

The Sixth Form Staff



The Oaks Secondary School
Sixth Form
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DL16 7DB

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www.theoaks.durham.sch.uk



Vision

Creating opportunities, developing independence and preparing students for adulthood.

Mission

All students will receive relevant experiences and age appropriate opportunities that will prepare them for life after Sixth Form; in a safe, creative and caring learning environment.

Aims

The aims of Further Education at The Oaks School are:

- *To meet the needs of every student through a collaborative approach where staff, students, parents/carers and other professionals contribute.
- *To develop and maintain skills and concepts appropriate to student's individual needs through a life skills based curriculum.
- *To develop a range of personal qualities including; initiative, confidence, reliability, adaptability, creativity, enthusiasm and independence.
- *To develop and maintain an understanding of moral, social and cultural issues enabling students to participate effectively in their environment.
- *To encourage students to make decisions, experience the consequences and use this information to inform their future actions.
- *To develop a sense of pride in what the students achieve and a feeling of being valued.
- *To develop the ability to make and maintain positive relationships.
- *To develop a means of appropriate and effective communication.

Code of Conduct

In accordance with the UN Convention on the Rights of Young People

All students have the right:

- To special care and education.
- To develop their personality and talents.
- To relax and participate in a range of activities.
- To be safe.
- To be able to give their opinion.
- To access information.
- To meet, make friends and join clubs.
- To privacy.

All students will respect:

- Staff and other students.
- Their own and other cultures.
- Their environment.
- Their own and other people's belongings.
- The community and it's members.





**What we learn at
The Oaks Sixth Form**

Accreditation

During the 3 years in Sixth Form, students will complete units towards a Northern Open College Network Diploma in Independent Living Skills, English and Maths skills or an Award, Certificate or Diploma in Personal Progress.

PSHCE

In PSHCE students will gain knowledge and understanding about themselves, others and the community to enable them to live effectively and manage their lives. PSHCE develops the qualities and attributes pupils need to thrive as individuals, family members and members of society.

Leisure and Recreation

In Leisure and Recreation, students have the opportunity to experience a range of activities related to sports and hobbies. Students are also able to visit the local leisure centre to take part in cardiovascular exercise and sport sessions. Students gain vital skills that enable them to make informed life choices relating to healthy lifestyles in the future.

Enterprise

In Enterprise, students will learn and focus on the 12 key enterprise qualities and generate a business plan for individual businesses throughout the year, focusing on key events. Through other activities, students also carry out a variety of tasks to run and develop the Acorn Café successfully; these will include creating menus, preparing food, serving customers and managing accounts. Students will have the opportunity to use computer aided design and manufacturing equipment to create personalised and quality items. Students also run the school tuckshop.

Out and About

In Out and About, students access the local environment. Students focus on specific facilities during each term to develop their independence, communication and confidence within the community.

A number of key skills will be practiced including using money, road safety, reading and recognising signs and symbols, appropriate behaviour and interacting with others when out in the community.

Some students will develop independent travel skills.





**Creating opportunities,
developing independence**

Key Skills

In Key Skills students will be encouraged to apply their English, Maths and ICT skills in a variety of real life, functional contexts. The students are split into ability based groups to enable them to take a full and active part in the sessions at a level appropriate to them. Examples of some of the units covered are: 'How can we Communicate?', 'The Media', 'Planning a Celebration' and 'Working with books and texts'. English, Maths and ICT are also taught throughout the curriculum within all other subjects.

Religious Education

In RE, students explore topics which support prior learning of religions to enable them to make life choices. They look at areas that affect them and their local community such as the environment, what makes them happy and diversity in Britain. They also learn to respect other faiths and cultures.

Vocational Education

In Vocational Education students explore a range of careers and vocational courses. Students also have the opportunity to visit local colleges for taster sessions.

Courses include:

Bricklaying, hair and beauty, joinery, painting and decorating plus a variety of other options.

Daily Living Skills

In Daily Living Skills students undertake learning based on their Personal Care and Domestic Skills.

In Personal Care students will learn how to look after their body and mind. They will gain an understanding that knowing their own personal needs, being fit, clean and well presented, leads to feeling confident and good about yourself. They will practise skills and understand the importance of daily routines.

In Domestic Skills students will take part in activities related to independent living and will complete activities such as ironing, changing bedding, hoovering and looking after and using electrical equipment.



Food Technology

In Food Technology students develop a range of skills to prepare a variety of meals and snacks independently. They learn how to shop for ingredients, store food correctly, read a recipe and use and prepare food using a range of techniques. They also develop understanding and awareness of food hygiene and health & safety in the kitchen.

Careers

In Careers students take part in learning activities which help them to think about, set goals and prepare for the future. They have the opportunities to explore their own aspirations for work or life after Sixth Form.

Drama and Dance

In Drama and Dance students explore focus, role play, movement and performance. They develop skills to express their feelings, thoughts and personalities through dancing and acting. All students are involved in a yearly Christmas performance and an annual end of year show.

Art

In Art, students have the opportunity to express their thoughts, feelings and personality through creative media in a variety of ways to meet their individual needs. Students are encouraged to express their opinions in a range of artistic genres and use these to influence their own art work.

Pet Care

The Sixth Form have a variety of small pets. Students develop skills to enable them to care for different types of pets effectively and safely.

Media/Current Affairs

In Current Affairs, students will be able to discuss and explore up to date news relating to a variety of topics. Media sessions help students develop their communication and ICT skills to produce a termly Sixth Form newsletter for parents and carers. They are able to explore a variety of media such as websites, TV and newspapers to enable them to keep up with current events in the local community and the world around them.

Rebound Therapy

Students access rebound therapy where appropriate. Trained staff use the Winstrada program to assess students and create an individual activity plan to meet their specific needs. The individual plan sets goals and challenges to develop muscle tone, movement, coordination, communication and confidence.

Hydrotherapy

Students access hydrotherapy where appropriate. Through a range of individual activities students develop muscle tone, movement, coordination, relaxation, water confidence and communication. Students work towards AQA units in this area.

Alan Blench Garden

Sixth Form students were instrumental in creating a safe environment for them to access in all weathers. The garden includes raised beds, seating, a sensory area, water feature and an outdoor classroom. It is also home to some of our pets. Students have the opportunity to grow, care for and harvest a variety of fruit and vegetables in the garden through Horticulture lessons. They use these in food preparation or sell to staff in school as part of their enterprise activities.

Culture and Creativity

In Culture and Creativity, students learn about other countries and their culture. Students take part in a range of activities related to culture, national days, celebrations, language, history, food, art and music.

Reading

In the Sixth Form students continue to learn to read and read to learn according to their individual ability. Where appropriate students use the accelerated reader programme and enjoy reading a range of books they are interested in. All students have the opportunity to enjoy a range of age appropriate texts including magazines, online stories and information sources. Students learn to recognise signs and symbols in the community, as well as using reading skills in real life situations.

Work Experience

Students will have the opportunity to take part in work related activities in a real life setting where appropriate.

Residential Visits

Students will have the opportunity to take part in a range of activities appropriate to their ability in and out of the school setting. Students will be able to develop independence, resilience, social skills and team building.



Social Events

Students have the opportunity to celebrate special occasions and achievements in and out of school. Examples of this are; the prom, leavers' assembly, Christmas performance and themed restaurant events. We encourage students, staff, governors, family and friends to attend as many events as possible.

Community Links

We encourage the students to be as actively involved in the community as possible. Examples of the links we have developed include visiting the local church, local colleges, cafes, shops, local businesses and local leisure centres.

Post 19 Provision and Transition

In the Sixth Form we offer students a wealth of opportunities to visit and learn about what is available to them for the next step of their life. We have links with local colleges, other education settings and social care providers. We offer a range of information and taster sessions. We also hold an annual careers event for students, parents and carers to attend.





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