

Dawlish Federation of Special Schools

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The Merge – Update 2

Dear Parents and Carers

Welcome to our second merger update. We are so excited to reveal that we now have a name!

The name for our New School will be **Orchard Manor School**.

Ideas from the pupils, staff and parents were shortlisted by the Governing Body and this week the new name was chosen at Mondays Governors meeting.

The next stages will involve designing a new logo and finalising the uniform for Orchard Manor School. Pupils and parents views have been gathered and a decision will be reached shortly on the style and colour of our new uniform. The new uniform will then be priced and full details will be made available as soon as possible.

School Meals

Pupils will still benefit from the fantastic school meals freshly cooked by our wonderful kitchen team. The food will continue to be prepared in our existing kitchens on each site and will be served, just as they are currently. We will continue to offer free school meals to all of our pupils.

Reception and Admin

With effect from September our new school will have one centralised Administration Office and Reception which will be located at our lower school site (Oaklands Park main building). All visitors to Orchard Manor School will be directed to reception in this building.

Easter Work

During the holidays the pathway between the two sites is being resurfaced and lighting is being installed along the route. This will improve the quality of the link between the two sets of building and will enable all to move easily around our two sites.

A fibre optic link between the two sites is also being installed to support the joining of the two ICT systems and to provide high speed broadband across the new school.

Therapists

We currently benefit from two school counsellors who provide a valuable service to our pupils. Additionally we have our own Speech and Language Therapist and a therapist commissioned through Virgin Care for two days a week. We are also further developing our THRIVE Programme and have identified four staff to undertake training in preparation to support the pupils of our merged provision.

Residential Update

This week commencing the 26 March 2018 is the last week where the residential provision across both sites will be in its current form. When we come back after the Easter Holidays on the 16 April we will change from a 7 house provision to a 4 house provision under our new name of Orchard Manor Residence. The residential pupils have held goodbye parties this week for the staff who are leaving us and these will be followed up with our end of term special assemblies. There will be an article regarding the new residential provision in the local papers when we reopen on the first day back.

James Watson – Vice Principal Head of Care



I am the Deputy Principal Head of Care for the merged Residential Provision. I have been Head of Care at Oaklands for nearly 3 years now, taking the Residential Provision here from an “Inadequate” Ofsted judgement to “Good” at the latest inspection.

I have a sound knowledge of Residential Provision and Safeguarding having worked in Social Care for nearly 13 years where I was worked with some of the most vulnerable children. During this time I ran several children’s homes in the private sector with “Good” and “Outstanding” Ofsted judgements.

Mandy McVitty – Pastoral Support Worker



I am the Pastoral Support Worker at Oaklands Park School. I joined the school in April 2011 and became part of the staff team in what was the 52 week residential provision known as Woodland House.

Last year I took up the position of Pastoral Support Worker which I have embraced with enthusiasm and passion. My aim has been to forge a partnership and positive support network for parents, carers and families of our pupils.

My role involves overseeing all aspects of each and every pupils health and well-being, social, emotional and educational development. This will regularly involve working alongside other professionals and outside agencies in order to address and investigate concerns.

My role is diverse and I am here to offer support and guidance in many areas. With the forthcoming merger of the two schools I look forward to working alongside colleagues new and old and taking my role within the new school to even greater success.