



The Oaks News - February 2023

Welcome to The Oaks News February 2023 edition. Our half termly newsletter is to celebrate and share what's going on in school, and ensure that our parent community are fully informed about school life, upcoming events and activities. We love to hear about all the amazing things our community are involved in, if you have any stories to share please get in touch

In the news this month



In this months edition:

- **Headteachers Update**
- **The Importance of Literacy**
- **Young Enterprise**
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Headteachers Update



Dear Parents

The Oaks continues to go from strength to strength. Latest government figures show us to be the highest performing non-faith school in the town of Crewe in terms of progress at GCSE. We will continue to build on the firm foundations we are establishing. We continue to develop the site and we will be making significant improvements to the hall and key classrooms over the coming months.

We will focus on examination success for Year 11 and a range of support is being made available to Year 11 students, including additional support classes, mentoring support, and examination skills workshops. Additionally, we have had lots of outside speakers talking about post-Year 11 options including some really interesting sessions on a range of apprenticeship options with external guests. We are keen to see former students talk about their successes and we are very grateful to former student, Natasha Worth, who is supporting the school with additional study opportunities for students. Students are also involved in a Young Enterprise group and are planning a Dragons Den style competition.

Can I take this opportunity to thank you, as ever, for your ongoing commitment in working with us to support our students and your children in attending school regularly and on time, in smart uniform and ready to learn.

Peter Kingdom

The Importance of Literacy



Reading with your child

Reading to and with your child regularly – ideally every evening for at least fifteen minutes - can make a dramatic difference to a child's achievement within school. A report from the Oxford University Press highlights the importance of parents reading with their children thus: “Children who read outside of class are 13 times more likely to read above the expected level for their age.” Furthermore, pupils who spend time reading outside of school achieve better grades at GCSE and are more confident with the demands of college, university and the world of work.

The report also offers six tips for reading with your child at home:

1. Make time to read to your child for fifteen minutes a day.
2. Choose a variety of fictional and non-fictional books to read.
3. Take turns reading with your child.
4. Talk about the book- stop at several points in the story and ask your child what he/she thinks will happen next.
5. Pay attention to the language and encourage your child to use a dictionary or the internet to check the definition of words they may not understand.
6. Enjoy reading!

All pupils in Years 7 and 8 have extra time on their timetable for reading lessons. The school would very much appreciate your support in ensuring that your child is engaging with reading at home. Please make time in the evening for your child to read a suitable book with you.

The following websites allow you to access FREE audiobooks:

<https://librivox.org/>

<https://www.overdrive.com/>

<https://etc.usf.edu/lit2go/>

<https://www.storynory.com/>

<http://www.loyalbooks.com/>

<https://freeclassicaudiobooks.com/>

<https://www.openculture.com/freeaudiobooks>

<https://www.digitalbook.io/>

Thank you for your support.

Academic Literacy Interventions

As a school we have introduced Accelerated Reader to our Year 7's and Year 8's. It is an exciting reading programme used nationally to encourage students to read while also challenging them to improve their comprehension skills and read challenging books. Students take a reading test which gives each student a guide to the level of book they should be reading. They then read the book, and once finished take a quiz on what happened in the story; if they pass they gain points which at The Oaks Academy means prizes! To support your child to meet their reading goals you can ask them what they are currently reading and talk about what has happened in the story so far, you can also encourage them to come to The Oaks Learning Resource Centre regularly to borrow books at the right level for them.

We have also introduced Lexia for all Year 7 and Year 8. Lexia is a software programme which is proven to improve students literacy levels. It works on areas such as word meaning and grammar. When students first use the software they are assessed for their level, and then the programme automatically adapts to be at the right level of challenge. This means that students in the same class will be seeing different questions depending on their own personal ability. This ensures that each student is allowed to progress at their own pace, and their progression is monitored. All students in Year 7 and Year 8 are expected to complete at least 30 minutes a week using Lexia; once a fortnight students will have time to complete this during Form time. Students are welcome to complete the rest during break, lunch or after school in the LRC or from home. Please encourage your child to do at least ??? minutes per week at home as this will really support their literacy levels.

We are also pleased to let you know that The Oaks now have their own e-library! Students will be able to access and borrow e-books from home onto to read on any electronic device using their school log-in information. The link is below; happy reading!

<https://oaksacademy.eplatform.co/>

Faye Crawford

LRC Manager and Literacy Support (EAL Lead)

Young Enterprise



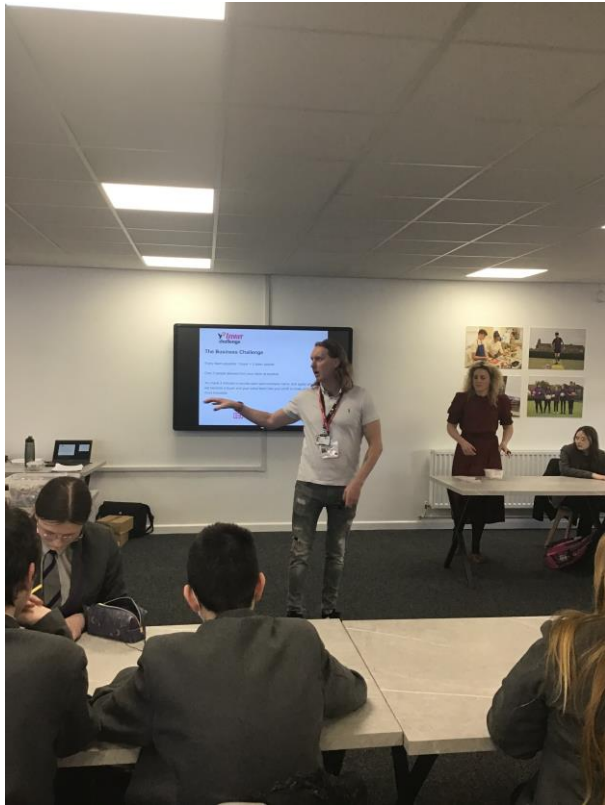
Enterprising Business students and Student Leaders are excited to be taking part in this year's Young Enterprise 10X Challenge. Across the country, young people aged 11-19 have four weeks to research, create, plan and run their own business with a £10 pledge. Students will gain first hand business experience that will enhance their confidence and enterprise skills.

The Challenge got off to a flying start last week with a launch event led local entrepreneurs. Students were challenged to work in teams to create unique products which were then pitched to the 'dragons'. Students developed their negotiation, teamworking, pitching, and sales skills during the session; and had lots of fun in the process!

They are currently busy planning and preparing to launch their businesses for the competition which takes place from 27th February to 24th March.

Sarah Bradley

Curriculum Lead for Business & IT





Culture for Learning



We are working hard to create the right culture for learning at our school, so that students are safe, happy and achieve their goals. The Oaks Academy is the best performing non-faith school in Crewe for GCSE Progress 8 in 2022, this is a record we want to maintain. We have launched a **new RESPECT policy** to emphasise the values, expectations, behaviours and attitudes we expect from all our students.

Respect

- We expect all members of staff, students, and visitors to be treated with respect.
- This means speaking politely (*including please and thank you*)
- Walking safely around the school and keeping to the left in corridors

- Following instructions first time.
- Allowing everyone to learn and feel safe.

Rewards

We want to continue to reward students who get this right day in and out. All staff are now logging positive points when students demonstrate the RESPECT values in their lessons and on corridors. These points can be tracked and monitored by staff, students and parents via the satchel one app. This is the same app that is used to track homework, and we would like to encourage all members of our community to use this to support individual progress. It's a great way to keep up to date with your child progress and support them in making good decisions. Positive points will be received at key interval and will contribute towards prizes at the end of each half term.

Attendance

- Students must arrive at school by 8.30am. The main school gate will open from 8.10am.
- Academic and future success starts with excellent attendance.
- Attendance at 97% means your child has up to 6 days absence from school.
- If your child is ill or absent for a reason, please phone or email the school office. It is essential we know where your child is at all times.
- If your child truants when in school, this is a safeguarding matter.

You will be informed and your child will make up their lost learning time in detention.

Punctuality

- Students must be on time to form and to all lessons.
- Late marks are recorded; students will make up lost time.
- Punctuality is a life skill and students need manage their time effectively.

Uniform and equipment

- Students must wear the correct uniform at all times; this includes school shoes, blazer and a tie. If you have a problem obtaining uniform, please let us know via phone or email.
- Coats must be taken off in the building.
- Jewellery, except for one set of small stud earrings, is not allowed.
- Students must bring the right equipment every day; pen, pencil etc
- Mobile phones must be switched off and out of sight while in school. If they are seen, staff will confiscate them and return them at the end of the day. You may be contacted about this.

Behaviour for learning

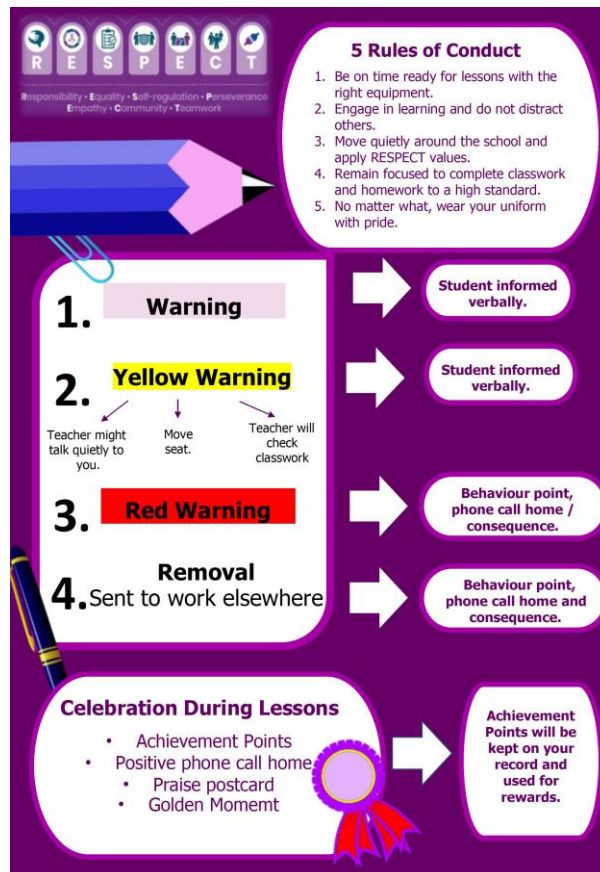
- In lessons, students must follow instructions, sit where they are told and only talk about their learning, to allow everyone to succeed.
- They must complete all work to the best of their ability.

Behaviour in the building

- In corridors, students must keep to the left and walk sensibly to lessons, taking the quickest route.
- Students can only use toilets during lessons if they have a pass / medical need.
- There are toilets for KS3 and KS4 – students should use the toilets for their year group.

Jason Newham

Deputy Headteacher Progress and Culture



Natasha Worth Tutoring Scholarship



In January we were delighted to welcome Alumni student Natasha Worth in to deliver an assembly with KS4 students. Natasha came to share her career journey since leaving this school plus present to our students an amazing opportunity. Natasha wants to support local students in reaching their potential by providing fully funded tutoring in the core subjects Maths, English and Science. As an ex student she has fond memories of the school and the teachers that supported her, and wants to support the school and students within to reach their potential.

All students who were interested in applying for this opportunity were asked to put together a letter of application which outlined why they think they would be a good candidate. Selected students were then shortlisted, and the final decision was made by Natasha and the Principal Director of Conexus Tuition Nancy Lake.

I am delighted to confirm that 3 Year 11 students were selected for this opportunity Eleanor B, Libby C and Ella T. All 3 students wrote such fantastic letters which shared their vision for their future and their determination to succeed. We would like to say how proud we are of all students who applied for this opportunity and wish all 3 girls who have now started with their tuition with Conexus Tuition on Monday evening great success.

Emily Abberley

Assistant Headteacher Community & Personal Development



Careers Education Information Advice and Guidance (CEIAG)



Pledge Explore

This year a select group of year 10 students are taking part in The Pledge Explore Programme. The Explore Programme is designed to inspire, guide and support students around the next steps in their career journey, through a series of exciting site visits to local employers and education providers. At the end of the programme, we aim for students to have a broader understanding of the opportunities available to them in the area and to have helped them identify and develop some of the key skills employers are looking for, as well as set some tangible goals for their next steps.

Our visits to date have taken us to Reaseheath College to view their courses on offer, and Radius Payment Solutions to look at the roles on offer on a large international company. Future trips will take us to Rookery Hall and YMCA.

National Apprenticeship Week - 6.2.23

Last week was National Apprenticeship week. To raise the profile of apprenticeships students has form tutor led sessions and assemblies from local employers and The Cheshire & Warrington Pledge. To support personalised pathways years 9-11 students were able to opt in to a career theme of their choice and we were delighted to have local employers join us for the assemblies to talk about their job roles and apprenticeships on offer.

Our Wednesday the assembly was themed around the NHS, which is one of the largest employers in our local area. Students were presented with a range of roles that they could apply for apprenticeships in and the different levels of apprenticeship that they can apply for.

Thursday's assembly was themed around Construction and were delighted to welcome in 4 different organisations, Arriva Trains, ISG, Qualkem and Linx Construction. It was great to hear about the diverse roles that are on offer and the many opportunities that they can lead to both locally and internationally.

Friday's assembly was on the theme of Business. One of the largest employers in our area, Likewise, were invited in to share their apprenticeships that they offer. Students were able to hear from one of their staff who had herself taken this route in her career, and they were given great advice on how to make their application stand out from the crowd.

Across all the assemblies' students listened well and showed a real interest in learning from our local labour market. It was a great success and something we will look to develop more in the future.

Cheshire College South & West

Cheshire College South and West, we have been seeing an increase in requests for individual and small-group campus tours, to have a look around the campus and the facilities, and also to ask any questions regarding the course, the College, and their provisions. Therefore, they would like to invite any pupils that would like a campus tour during the upcoming half term, they are running tours on;

CCSW Crewe, Wednesday, February 23rd from 1 pm until 2 pm.

If you would like to come on a campus tour during these times, they have linked a Microsoft Form below.

If you have any questions, email the school team at schools@ccsw.ac.uk.

<https://forms.microsoft.com/e/RANB9vJMsr>

Upcoming Career Events next half term

Selected Year 8 HS2 Engineering Day

Year 9 CV Masterclass

Year 10 Interview masterclass

Year 9 First Aid Workshop

Selected Year 10 Girls in Bentley Day

Careers Week - Week beginning 6.3.23

Year 7-8 will have embedded in to their in to their PSICHE lessons visitors from local employers who will share their experiences of the world of work.

Year 9 students will have their introduction to creating a CV in readiness for year 10 when they are expected to create one in PSICHE.

Year 10 students will have an interview masterclass and sit their mock interviews on 7.3.23, this will be a great opportunity for them to experience in preparation for college and employment what sitting a real interview is like.

Year 11 will have a special assembly on developing a LinkedIn personal profile in readiness for job applications.

KS3 Drop Down careers day - 30.3.23

Year 7-9 students will be off timetable for the day having different workshops with local employers plus practical team building exercises which support employability skills.

Emily Abberley

Assistant Headteacher Community & Personal Development





Year 7 in the news



As we approach half term I would like to express my pride for the whole of year 7, their behaviour and conduct and punctuality has been amazing. Therefore, I would like to celebrate their achievements with a trip later in the year so watch this space.

All of the year 7 students have worked incredibly hard and have reached great academic heights in all subjects and in particular in English, Maths and in Art which is so pleasing to hear. This term we have been lucky enough to have had visitors in school delivering programmes on using appropriate language and in understanding how actions in person and on social media have consequences, the local vicar kindly paid us a visit to raise awareness of kindness to all and most recently careers and apprenticeship programme was delivered across all year groups and was a great success with all students engaging well.

The last week of term started with a Celebration assembly and this is where I have had the honour of awarding students for their achievements with sweets and gift vouchers and certificates, awards were given for:

Winner of the 100% attendance draw - Chelsea

Winner of the Attitude Towards Learning draw - Phoebe S

Winner of the Pastoral Recognition draw - Derek

Golden Ticket winner: Lea H

Platinum Ticket winner: Kurtis B

Subject Stars: Mia C, Emily G & Hilary C

Please ask your children about this and have a lovely restful week off and I look forward to seeing all the students back in one week's time

Nicola Hamilton

Year 7 Pastoral Lead

Year 8 in the news



At the end of my first half term as the head of year 8 I would like to say thank you to so many students who make great decisions every day and are working hard to secure their future. There are so many students that I could mention for their dedication and commitment to learning this half term. A massive well done to those who have embraced the new satchel one behaviour points. In the last 2 weeks there has been over 1000 positive points added which is a real achievement. Well done Year 8.

When we return after the holidays I would like to see of the same commitment to learning. All students need to be fully equipped for their lessons and ensure that they follow the RESPECT rules. I would like to see more names added to our celebration assembly board, lets celebrate attendance, attitude to learning and commitment to extra curricular with a greater number of students. Well done to all those who won awards in our assembly this week.

Winner of the 100% attendance draw - Maisy T

Winner of the Attitude Towards Learning draw - Shenese T

Winner of the Pastoral Recognition draw - Rylan H

Subject Stars: Emilia K, Millie C, Maisy T, Emily G

Happy Holidays!

Tom Smith

Year 8 Pastoral Lead

Year 9 in the news



End of half term celebration assembly rewards:

Winner of the 100% attendance draw - Lucas D

Winner of the Attitude Towards Learning draw - Ky B

Winner of the Pastoral Recognition draw - Giulia P

Golden Ticket winner: Daniel B

Platinum Ticket winner: Kyle C

Subject Stars: Giulia P, Ellis J & Evie J

Head Teacher's breakfast:

On Friday the 3rd of February the following students attended a celebration breakfast for their academic progression and contribution to a positive school culture. Armando S, Daria A, Otylia S-D, Julia K-M, Nia H, Michelle V, Ben W, Eliza S, Nicola C. The 9 students that were present were a credit to the school and their families. During the breakfast Head Teacher Mr Kingdom visited with staff

from the Senior Leadership Team and students present set a really positive example for the rest of the year. We look forward to repeating this reward breakfast next term!

Satchel One:

As we transition onto the school system of Satchel One it is great to see students in the year group getting off to a great start in collecting positive points. At the time of writing Kyle C leads the way with 23 points, Courtney B close behind with 22 and Julia K-M is currently third with 20! Alfie R-G and Stephanie D round out the top 5 on 18 points each.

History Competition:

Congratulations to Filip C for coming in third place in Mr Jessup's History competition.

Aaron Tarpey

Year 9 Pastoral Lead

Year 10 in the news



As we approach the half way point for this academic year we ask that year 10 students reflect on their learning so far in their GCSEs. For many of the subjects that have coursework students are well underway towards achieving a large % of their final grade and on the whole most students have embraced the challenges that this has presented them. On Friday 17th we were delighted to welcome in to school 'Positively You' who are one of the UKs leading providers for educational workshops and resources. All year 10 students had a 2 hour session which was to support good study

habits effective revision. In the summer term our students will be expected to apply these skills to their first round of pre-public examinations.

It was a pleasure to end the final week of the half term with our celebration assembly and reward students for their attendance, attitude to learning and commitment to wider contributions. When we return after the half term break we ask that students consider their aspirations for the future and how the key to success lies in their daily achievements. I wish you all a happy half term break and look forward to seeing you all in the new half term

End of half term celebration assembly rewards:

Winner of the 100% attendance draw - Zakir S

Winner of the Attitude Towards Learning draw - Sami L

Winner of the Pastoral Recognition draw - Serena S

Subject Stars: Niyousha H, Jake R, Julia P

Myles Herbert-Jackson

Year 10 Pastoral Lead

Year 11 in the news



Firstly I would like to start by saying thank you to all the families who are supporting their children day in day with developing good study habits, embedding routines and structures and attending the

elevate up revision sessions after school. We know that these routines will support them in not only achieving their true potential but also lay the foundations for a successful future.

As we start the half term holidays I know that many staff are giving up their time over the holidays to put on extra sessions alongside those that offer the Saturday sessions. Please can I ask that you continue to support your child in attending these extra sessions which are designed to ensure that they are able to make the best progress possible. To support these session this week we welcomed 'Positively You' who are one of the UKs leading providers for educational workshops and resources. All year 11 students had a 2 hour session which was to support good study habits effective revision. Please ask you child about it and support them over the half term in embedding a revision timetable which enables them to out this i to practice.

On Thursday we held our end of half term celebration assembly. it was a please to give out so many certificates and award vouchers to students for so many different reasons. Well done to all those who were nominated or selected for prizes

End of half term celebration assembly rewards:

Winner of the 100% attendance draw - Daniel I

Winner of the Attitude Towards Learning draw -

Winner of the Pastoral Recognition draw - Mary HS

Golden Ticket winner - Chloe O

Platinum Ticket winner - Mary HS

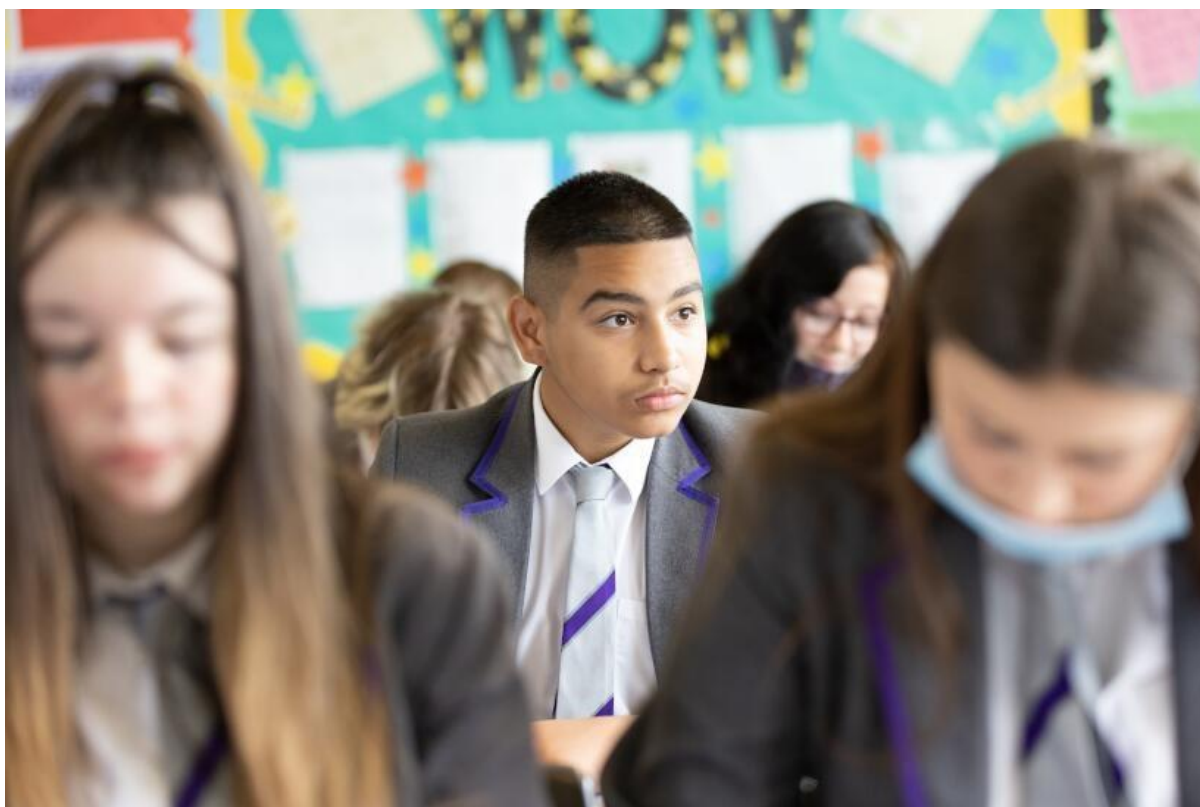
Subject Stars: Angel T, Leon B, Rafal B, Poppy P, Leo S, Mel J, Reece G

I hope you all have great break and I look forward to the next half term.

Nina Lockett

Year 11 Pastoral Lead

Dates for the Diary



Friday 17th February - school closes for half term

Monday 27th February - school reopens

Tuesday 7th March - Year 10 mock interview day

Thursday 23rd March - Year 9 Progress Evening

Thursday 23rd & Monday 27th March - 11c Photography exam

Friday 24th & Thursday 30th March - 11d Photography exam

Thursday 30th March - KS3 Drop Down Careers

Tuesday 28th & Wednesday 29th March - Year 11 Art Exam

Friday 31st March - Year 7-10 SAC Day, Year 11 Drop down day

Friday 31st March - School closes for Easter

Monday 17th April - school reopens

Contact Us



If you have any news or stories to share then please get in touch. We are always looking to expand our Alumni network, celebrate and share success. Please visit our new and updated website to keep up to date and follow us on social media.

www.theoaksacademy.co.uk

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[\(9\) The Oaks Academy | Facebook](#)

Instagram

[The Oaks Academy \(@theoaksacademycrewe\) • Instagram photos and videos](#)

Twitter

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