

COMMUNITY

Welcome back to Oaklands College Community Newsletter.

We are pleased to present the latest version of Oaklands College’s quarterly Community Newsletter. This edition provides a comprehensive overview of the autumn term, highlighting key developments, achievements, and initiatives across the College, and includes updates on festive activities and events as we approach the Christmas season.

We would like to take this opportunity to wish all members of the Oaklands community a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Latest Updates



WATCH OUR NEW OPEN EVENT VIDEO HERE - FEATURING JIM LEWIS FROM YOUTH TALK

Our latest video from the St Albans open events is now available to watch. Hear from our staff, students, and visitors about their experiences, and listen to Jim Lewis as he discusses Youth Talk and how this new partnership with Oaklands College is supporting students and parents during the transition from school to college.



WELCOMING SCHOOLS TO OAKLANDS COLLEGE FOR INTERACTIVE EXPLORER EVENTS

Building on the momentum of our recent Open Days, Oaklands College continues to strengthen student recruitment through our School Explorer programme. Throughout November, we were delighted to welcome nearly 300 students and accompanying careers staff across both campuses.

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OAKLANDS COLLEGE HOSTS 10TH ANNIVERSARY SUSTFEST AT CONSTRUCTION CENTRE

Oaklands College proudly hosted the 10th Anniversary Sustainable St Albans Festival (SustFest) at the Construction Centre, celebrating a decade of community-led sustainability. Students played a central role, with Level 3 Fashion students presenting a sustainable fashion show using repurposed materials, and Travel, Tourism and Events students leading guided tours of the eco-friendly building.

[Read more](#)

OAKLANDS WOLVES PRO PLAYER AMY WEST BRINGS BASKETBALL EXCITEMENT TO LOCAL SCHOOLS

This term, students across St Albans and Welwyn Garden City had the chance to learn from professional basketball player Amy West of the Oaklands Wolves Super League team. As part of a programme connecting schools with local sport, Amy delivered high-energy coaching sessions designed to inspire and engage young people.

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SUSTAINABILITY & ESG AWARD AT THE HERTFORDSHIRE BUSINESS AWARDS 2025

Oaklands College is thrilled to announce that we have won the Sustainability & ESG Award at the biz4Biz Hertfordshire Business Awards 2025. This recognition is a significant achievement for our innovative and environmentally conscious Construction Centre, reflecting the dedication, collaboration, and forward-thinking vision that brought this project to life.

[Read more](#)

What's New on Campus



STABLES RESTAURANT RELAUNCH

We are pleased to announce that the Stables Restaurant has recently undergone a comprehensive refurbishment, made possible by a generous grant from the Savoy Education Trust. The newly updated space is now fully operational, showcasing a refreshed environment alongside our seasonal Christmas menu, prepared by our Hospitality and Catering students.

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BUILDERS FEDERATION TO BOOST JOB-READY SKILLS

Oaklands is proud to be partnering with the Home Builders Federation (HBF) as part of the Partner a College programme, a two-year national pilot funded by the Construction Industry Training Board (CITB) designed to strengthen collaboration between the home building industry and further education colleges across the UK.

[Read more](#)

Study Here



MAKE AN APPLICATION AND ENROL NOW

Looking to join a course at Oaklands this academic year? There's still time to secure your place on our school leaver courses. From business to creative arts, healthcare to engineering - we've got the perfect pathway for you.

[Click here for more information on applying for a course](#)



ADULT AND LEISURE COURSES

Our diverse range of leisure and other adult learning courses have something for everyone, including languages, cookery, floristry, pottery, photography, drawing, printmaking and much more.

[Click here to see what adult and leisure courses we offer](#)

WELWYN GARDEN CITY CAMPUS OPEN EVENTS - 3RD FEBRUARY

Our open events give you the perfect opportunity to visit our campuses to learn more

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[Book your place here](#)



ST ALBANS CAMPUS OPEN EVENTS - 5TH FEBRUARY

Take a look around our campus, speak to our tutors and students and learn more about life at Oaklands before you start your journey with us. Pre-register now to save time on the day, ensuring you make the most of your visit.

[Book your place here](#)

Upcoming Events



JOIN OAKLANDS CONNECT, A NETWORKING EVENT FOR LOCAL BUSINESSES

A brand-new monthly employer networking event designed to bring local and regional businesses together to share ideas, spark collaboration, and explore workforce development opportunities.

[Book your tickets here](#)



OAKLANDS BASKETBALL CHRISTMAS SPECIAL - 13TH DECEMBER

Join us for a festive evening of basketball, hot chocolate and holiday fun as the Oaklands Wolves SLBW team take to the court for their final home game of the year! Enjoy a great night out featuring, Hot Drinks and Festive Food, Christmas Jumper Competition Music, family fun, and Charity gift donation point

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Book your tickets here



OAKLANDS ZOO CHRISTMAS OPENING - 14TH DECEMBER

Oaklands Zoo and Farm will once again be opening its gates to the public this Christmas season, offering a relaxed and family-friendly way to explore our teaching zoo and farm. Visitors are welcome to arrive at any time between 1:00pm and 4:00pm on their chosen date.

Book your tickets here

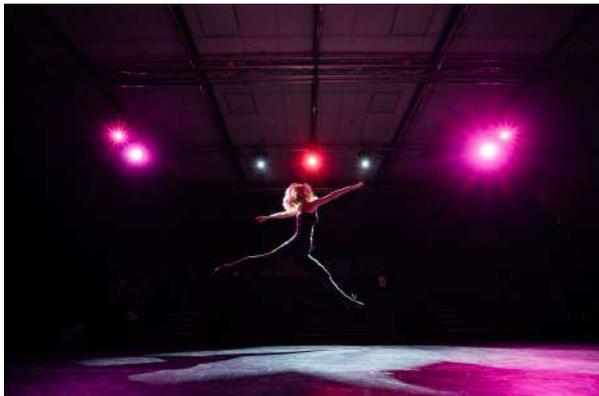


LAMBING WEEKEND - 9TH AND 10TH MAY 2026

Spring is the season of new life and what better way to celebrate than at our much-loved Lambing Weekend! Come and meet our new-born lambs, explore the farm and zoo, experience Bluey & Bingo live on stage, and enjoy a weekend packed with fun for the whole family

Book your tickets here

Community Noticeboard



UPCOMING SHOWS AT THE MYRIAD THEATRE

Oaklands College's Performing Arts students are bringing an exciting mix of productions to the Myriad Theatre this winter. From high-energy musical showcases to a classic Pantomime and a fresh take on a beloved period drama, there's something for everyone to enjoy. Seating is limited so book early to avoid disappointment.

Featured shows include: **Showstoppers**, **Sleeping Beauty**, **The Watsons**, **Bedroom Farce**, and **Anything Goes**.

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OAKLANDS WOLVES COMMUNITY BASKETBALL CLUB

Young athletes from Year 1 to Year 11 can train, grow, and compete with Oaklands Wolves' junior basketball programmes—featuring weekly Elevate sessions, skill development, and basketball camps.

[Read more](#)



OAKLANDS COLLEGE LAUNCHES NEW STUDENT LED CONSERVATION SOCIETY

Oaklands College is excited to announce the launch of a brand-new student and staff-led initiative, the Oaklands Wildlife Society (O.W.L.S). Created for those passionate about protecting the natural world, the society aims to raise awareness of environmental issues through educational activities, practical conservation work, and on-campus campaigns. Please email community@oaklands.ac.uk if you have any ideas that may support our O.W.L.S

[Read more](#)



ISABEL HOSPICE CHRISTMAS TREE COLLECTION AND RECYCLING

Isabel Hospice is running a Christmas tree collection and recycling service from 9–12 January, with a suggested £15 donation and simple doorstep pickup. All funds raised support their vital palliative and end-of-life care for local families.

[Book your tree collection here](#)

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THIS CHRISTMAS

Oaklands College is proud to support this year's Goods for Good Winter and Christmas Toy Appeal, helping to provide essential items and brand-new gifts to families facing hardship. Our Marketing Team recently took part in the Christmas Warehouse Packing Days in Watford, joining the Goods for Good team to sort and prepare donated items for distribution this winter. We will also be hosting a public collection point at the upcoming Wolves Basketball game. To find out more about how you can get involved in the appeal, please visit the link below.

[Read more](#)



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Our mailing address is: community@oaklands.ac.uk

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