

Ormiston Sudbury Academy

End of Term Newsletter

Welcome to our Spring Term Newsletter. I don't know how this works, but Christmas seems a very long time ago but at the same time the first quarter of 2024 seems to have flown by.

Events

We have packed a lot in to this term. Some of the events and activities are described in this newsletter. Year 7 students ran a very successful Charity Week supporting the Foodbank and Year 11 are closing the term with theirs, supporting Cancer Research. Students have had many opportunities to see plays, years 7-10 have had a visiting band play a gig for them and there have been many sporting fixtures. We celebrated World Book Day with a range of competitions and there are Science Technology Engineering and Maths challenges running.

We've had a second set of Year 11 mock exams

and students have had feedback that tells them the areas that are their strengths and identifies what they need to work on to keep pushing their grades as high as they can be. From now on they will be intensely focused on revision, coursework completion and practical and written exams. We wish them all well.



Student voice

Students, staff and governors have also been looking at some proposed changes to our school logo. We want to hear the student voice as we want to capture visually what we as a school stand for and the values we share. Governors and staff are also considering some future uniform changes. At the moment this is a discussion and firm decisions have not been made. If changes are made, they will come in with a future year 7 cohort. **No current student will need to replace any items of uniform.** The only changes that **will** affect our current students (and incoming year 7) are the rules about school shoes (no branded shoes or trainers from September, including no Nike shoes) and the enforcement of our existing rule about trousers: that they should not be skintight.

Engagement

The year 9 options evening was very well attended and parents very much appreciated the opportunity to find out about GCSE options and chat to staff. It was good to be able to meet parents/carers at that evening and also visit the 'Meet the...' evenings that have continued this term. We have had some really constructive feedback from parents via these meetings and the governor meeting. Next term we are looking at the systems we use for communicating with parents/carers and for producing reports as we are considering how to improve these.

Learning

Teaching staff have had some high-quality professional training this term. Some of the staff team have been training as coaches and we are excited about rolling this programme out. The coaching programme supports teachers in engaging with research evidence and finding ideas about how they can take their classroom practice and craft to the next level. Schools are learning communities: it isn't only the students who learn, staff enjoy learning too. Having said that, we will enjoy having a break too in order to rest and recharge ready for the summer term.

With very best wishes for a happy Easter holiday.

Mrs. Morris

Careers Update from Miss Boreham

This term we were extremely proud to be awarded the 'Quality in Careers Standard' meaning that the careers education we provide to our students at OSA fully incorporates the 8 Gatsby Benchmarks. It is great to receive this recognition for our careers programme highlighting that our students are well supported in making well informed decisions on their future when they leave the Academy. We have also celebrated National Apprenticeship Week and National Careers Week with a range of speakers including the Army, West Suffolk College, The Aim Group and the NHS, taking about different careers and routes within these organisations.

Year 10 students visited the Employment and Careers Fair at Sudbury Arts Centre and our year 9 Students participated in our annual Speed Networking Event where we were joined by 20 employers from different sectors including banking, construction, energy and theatre. We are currently supporting our Year 10 students looking for a work experience placement in July so if you are an employer or work for an organisation who could support a student for a week please contact Miss Boreham on hboreham@ormistonsudbury.co.uk.



Duke of Edinburgh Residential to the Isle of Wight

In March a group of Year 9 students set off for the Isle of Wight to complete their Expedition on the Isle of Wight for the Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award. After getting up early, travelling in the mini-bus with Mr Howkins and a ferry ride, students arrived at the UK Sailing Association. Students had lunch, and then got into their wetsuits and ventured into the water under the instruction of UKSA instructor Ted.

In the evening students were then set the task of making something from clay to do with water for their evening activity. Some students made little islands, but the stand out was Archie's UKSA paddleboard, along with Jenn's squidward. Students then had a very competitive game of uno, with UKSA instructors Adem and Pabs getting involved too before it was time for bed. On day 2, after a full English breakfast,

students were given a treasure hunt by UKSA instructors Ella, Cat and Matt. They then developed their team working skills with several challenges: the first involving transporting a small ball through guttering and the second involved getting from one end of a length of tarmac to another by just using materials given to them and without touching the floor! In the afternoon they ventured into the water in wetsuits with instructors Adem, Pabs and Phoebe, working in teams to race each other across paddleboards, before learning how to set up a mast on a boat. In the evening students developed their knot tying skills with instructor Ella, then had some down time before lights out. On the Sunday students' worked in small groups and against the other OAT academies to build some rafts and then got back on the ferry for the long journey back to Sudbury. Thank you to Mrs Price for giving up her Sunday to come and pick us up from Southampton. And a huge thank you to Mr Palombo for joining me and the students on his first school trip. A huge thank you to William Allen; Operations Officer for D of E Suffolk for sourcing a huge part of the funding for students to take part.



Miss E Cooke; Duke of Edinburgh Manager

Shrek the Musical - Review by Josie, Leader of the Arts Council.

On the evenings of 12th-15th March 2024, the Auditorium was full of people eager to see the whole-school production of Shrek the Musical. The show was captivating, dynamic, and remarkable, showcasing the great talent held by the students and production team involved. I had high expectations before the performance, with the high standards of previous productions, and all were exceeded! The hard work and dedication of everyone was apparent throughout, establishing a professional atmosphere and showed the passion for the performing arts among students and staff!

Closely following the original plot, Callum (Year 11) took on the role of Shrek, who meets Donkey (Nathaniel, Year 8) whilst embarking on a quest from Lord Farquaad (Mitchell, Year 11) to rescue Princess Fiona (Edie, Year 11) from the Dragon (Ellie, Year 11). All principal roles delivered an outstanding portrayal of the characters and made them their own and did so perfectly, creating a very memorable performance. In every number, energy levels were incredibly high from all cast members, generating positivity on all who were watching.

The production was also technically excellent; with brilliant lighting, sound effects, and a beautifully crafted set. Precision and great attention to detail was displayed in every aspect of the performance, keeping the audience marveled by anything and everything in sight. I found myself reacting with the rest of the audience, who responded well to every show, displaying large smiles and an overall lifted mood. All audiences were reached, from pre-school children to elderly members of the community, all finding the performance engaging, and being able to place themselves within the story. Joy was spread through comedic lines, unusual characters, and the coming together of students from all years, joined by what they share a passion for – and they conveyed it with pride!

After watching this adaptation, I am amazed by the professional standard of all aspects and cannot wait to see next year's production. A massive well done to everyone involved – a truly wonderful show!

Josie – Leader of the Arts Council



Events and Opportunities

It has been another busy term both within and outside the classroom. Below are some of the exciting events and opportunities that our students and staff have been involved in.

- A Maths trip to the University of Essex to explore the mathematics of games.
- The final of our SHINE talent show, organised by our Arts Council, celebrating talent from across the academy. We were delighted that Lorenzo in Year 9 got selected by the Ormiston Trust to go forward to the Regional Final of Ormiston's Got Talent, for his Music Technology performance. Well done Lorenzo!
- A trip to the dry ski slopes for our students to prepare for the wonderfully exciting Ski Trip taking place this Easter.
- A trip to see 'Harry Potter and the Cursed Child' at the Palace Theatre in London's West End, after we managed to secure £10 tickets for both parts!
- Lots of fun had in STEM club, working on making our own robotic arms.
- A cross curricular trip for year 10 and 11 History and Performing Arts students to see 'Six The Musical' at the Vaudeville Theatre in London's West End.
- A trip for our Year 7 students to Stratford upon Avon to see the Royal Shakespeare Company's production of 'A Midsummer Night's Dream', as part of our Lead Associate School status with the RSC.
- A visit from the band 'The Mercians' who performed to our KS3 students and then discussed with them the importance of taking care of our mental health, being kind to others and maintaining a positive online footprint, as part of our PSHE curriculum offer.
- A trip for our Year 8 students to Stratford upon Avon to see the Royal Shakespeare Company's production of 'Romeo and Juliet'.
- A touring production of 'The Government Inspector' from the wonderful Splendid Productions. Outstanding professional theatre available to students in Years 9, 10 and 11 for just £6 a ticket!
- Our Languages Ambassadors have also been running an Italian Speaking club this term, to support those going on the ski trip with their basic Italian.

RSC Lead Associate School Update:

As part of our Lead Associate School status with the Royal Shakespeare Company there have been lots of fantastic events and opportunities for our students this term.

Next Generation Backstage

Four of our Year 10 students were recently selected to take part in the RSC's Next Generation: Backstage programme, the RSC's talent development programme which aims to train the next generation of theatre makers. The *Backstage* programme aims to recruit young people who might benefit from the opportunity to work alongside professionals from the Technical and Production teams to develop their skills in areas such as: Scenic Painting, Props, Costume, Lighting, Sound and Stage Management. This fantastic opportunity took the form of a residential visit to the RSC's base in Stratford-upon-Avon and included the opportunity to attend a performance of 'A Midsummer Night's Dream', as well as taking part in practical workshop sessions and rehearsals led by technicians and designers.



Shakespeare Curriculum Toolkit

Earlier this term, three of our Year 9 students were selected to take part in a film focused around the play 'Macbeth' created by Royal Shakespeare Company in anticipation of the launch of their new 'Shakespeare Curriculum'. They spent the day working with a professional director and film crew, creating content for this new online resource which will be launched in schools across the UK later this year. The producer and director of the film were so impressed by all those who took part that they actually re-filmed some of the content which had been recorded in another school the day before, because it was felt that our students would do a much better job! They have also asked if they can return to us term to involve some more of our students in another film they will be making focused around another of Shakespeare's plays. A 'preview' of the film which was created will be made public on the RSC website later this year... we look forward to sharing this with you, so you can see for yourself the excellent work created by our talented students!

Sporting Success

As always, lots of successes with our sports teams this term:

- Year 11s finished their school football journey with a competitive 3-2 victory against Stour Valley. A brace from Arda and a winning strike from Ben sealing the victory! A big thanks to AFC Sudbury for hosting.

- Year 8 girls football team were drawn against Stowupland in the County Cup semi-final. They were up against an experienced side and found themselves 1-0 down at half time. A super goal from Julia found them drawing 1-1 at full time. Confidence was rightly high with Isabella in goal, going into penalties. 2 great saves in the shoot-out from Issi left OSA with an overall 5-4 win and the Year 8s through to the final! Well done to all for an excellent team effort with POMs to Posey and Kelsie.

- Another win...this time for the boys. They went 3-0 up before conceding 3 goals in the second half. They went on to win on penalties with two excellent saves by Codi.

- The year 9 rugby team scored 15 tries in 4 games and won 3 out of 4 games playing some really exciting rugby. Jake, Hayden and Oliver provided the bedrock of support, constantly recycling possession to provide the ball for others to score the tries, though Oliver scored three himself too!

- Under 13s rugby team played really well and won 4 out of 5 games at a rugby tournament in Bury. Well done to all, particularly to Zak who made some impressive runs and Kai for some fantastic support play. Excellent debuts also for Oscar SD, Keane and Oscar T

- Year 9/10 handball team were extremely impressive in the first ever competitive match. Excellent performances all round which led to them beating a very good County High School team 13-8.



Parents' Evenings and Events

This term we have run the third and fourth of our 'Meet the...' evenings for parents/carers. The first was 'Meet the Assistant Principal for Behaviour' and the second was 'Meet the Governors.' It was great to chat with parents about the developments that are taking place here at OSA and getting your feedback. The governors found it really useful and will be repeating the event so that they can engage with even more parents, as the communication between parents and the academy is something that is really important to us. In addition to this there will also be a 'Meet the Assistant Principal for Teaching and Learning' event in the Summer Term, focussing on the Science of Learning, the developments we have made this year in the classroom and how you can best support your children with their learning at home.

Notices

Reminder: From September 2024, all students will be required to wear proper school shoes and trainers will be not allowed. No externally branded footwear will be allowed, even if they are all black. This means that students will no longer be able to wear the Nike trainers. We have received a huge amount of positive feedback from parents since this initial announcement in December and hope that these changes will support parents in saving money. Traditional school shoes typically cost £30-£45, which is significantly less than many branded trainers.

ATTENDANCE:

A crucial foundation stone of GCSE exam success is excellent attendance. Many students with 100% attendance were rewarded with 'skip the queue' passes at the end of term. Whilst our school attendance is above the national average, that national figure is low. Students with less than 95% attendance are likely to have gaps in their learning and understanding that will impact on their future success. Thank you for supporting good attendance and punctuality – key skills not just for school, but also for the world of work.

