

# Ormiston Sudbury Academy

## End of Term Newsletter

Dear Parents/Carers

Welcome to the last newsletter of this academic year. Since September, we have achieved a great deal as a school. We have received awards for the quality of our work in supporting students with SEN, providing impactful Social, Moral, Spiritual and Cultural education and also delivering sport in school. Another source of pride is that our attendance figure has been consistently higher than both Suffolk and National figures all year. I'd like to thank parents for their support with this. In response to feedback from the Ofsted questionnaire back in September, we have created many new opportunities for parents/carers to meet with staff and also with governors. These events have been appreciated by those who have attended. Throughout the year, we have been supporting our year 11 students with extra revision and review sessions to help them prepare for their exams. This newsletter contains information about some of the many events students have enjoyed this year and tells of other successes. Behind the scenes, the staff have been training together, sharing expertise in teaching and learning. We are ambitious for the success of your young people and will continue to develop our curriculum, its assessment and delivery over the next year.

I am looking forward to celebrating some great exam results with the year 11 students in the summer and then welcoming our new year 7 on September 3<sup>rd</sup>. It has been good to meet many parents/carers during my first year in post. I hope you have a wonderful summer.

Mrs. Morris

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### Transition Days

It was really lovely to welcome our next cohort of Year 6 up to Ormiston Sudbury Academy for transition days on the 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> of July. Students had the opportunity to meet their tutor groups and tutor, while also getting to experience a number of different lessons, from orienteering tasks in Maths, making windmills in DT, testing acids in Science, cooking Quesadillas in Food, taking part in Dance and Drama lessons as well as lots of other activities. Thursday also saw students participate in the transition sports festival, with a special mention to 7APN as the overall champions - ones to look out for during sports days of the future! We are really proud of the year 6 students for throwing themselves into everything while here at the academy and are looking forward to welcoming all the students back in September!

Mrs Moulton-Day



## Year 10 - Work Experience

The first week in July saw most of our Year 10 cohort go out on work experience for the week. We had a great response from many local businesses willing to support our young people gain valuable work-related skills by introducing them to the workplace in a vast range of sectors including early years education, health and social care, engineering, hospitality and landscape gardening. We had students with placement in London at Bloomberg, Nuffield Health in Chelmsford and Tecniq in Witham, along with local business Hevey, Ardmore Vets and Stephen Walters. We also had students working in local primary schools, the Library, Sudbury Town Council and Stoke by Nayland resort. Careers Adviser Miss Boreham said "This is the first time that we have run work experience for the whole year, for a fairly long time. The support we have had from local businesses and organisations has been great and we have received so much positive feedback on how well our students conducted themselves and how professional they were in the workplace. Hopefully we can build on this year's work experience and get more organisations on board with offering placements for next year. It really can make a huge difference to a young person's life, and we have had students offered opportunities such as apprenticeships and part time work in the future". Huge thanks goes out to Mrs Boreham for all the work she has put in this year to secure placements for our students.



## SMSC Gold Award

We are delighted to have been awarded the "Young Citizens GOLD National SMSC Quality Mark" recently. This is a reflection and recognition of the work undertaken at the academy, day in day out, with regard to our Social, Moral, Spiritual and Cultural development. SMSC sits at the heart of education and enables children and young people to make appropriate choices as they encounter complex and changing circumstances in our modern society. When addressed well, SMSC development has the potential to:

- Raise aspirations
- Develop empathy
- Deepen spirituality
- Connect young people with their communities
- Create opportunities for pupils to learn and practice human virtues
- Instill values such as compassion, hope, faith and forgiveness
- Develop values that challenge individuals beyond the material world.

At Ormiston Sudbury Academy we have many opportunities within the curriculum, and extra-curricular, for students to develop socially, morally, spiritually and culturally. For example, our Wellbeing Ambassadors, Faculty Ambassadors, Student Leadership Council, Sports Leaders, Arts Council, Duke of Edinburgh Award, Residential trips, Theatre trips, guest speakers, our PSHE programme, Team events, competitions, Charity work, social action, the list goes on! The verifier stated that it was "a pleasure to meet our wonderful students who are a credit to the academy. They spoke confidently about how happy and safe they feel in the academy community. The academy is committed to embed the best practice, through staff training, parental support and Governance."

Mrs E Price





## THE OAT MATHOLYMPICS CHALLENGE 2023



### OAT Maths Olympics

We had several year 9 students take part in the regional Ormiston Academies Trust (OAT) Maths Olympics. This involved 2 rounds of tough competition, with students decoding messages, answering challenging mathematical questions and creating their own codes to hide their own messages, all whilst solving a murder mystery with famous mathematicians in history. Our

students came **joint first** out of 20 OAT schools. In the final, our students had to create their own presentation about a mathematician of their choice and face off against 4 other schools. Our students won £100 for the school from their efforts. A MASSIVE congratulations to them, they all worked incredibly hard and made our school proud!

Mr Bloom

### Royal Shakespeare Company – Playmaking Festival

Our extremely talented students from Years 7, 8, and 9 recently showcased their incredible skills at the RSC Playmaking Festival, held at the Mercury Theatre in Colchester. They performed an abridged version of Shakespeare's "A Midsummer Night's Dream" alongside students from ten other schools, as part of the RSC Playmaking festival, which we host in collaboration with the RSC as the Lead Associate School in the area. Throughout the day, our students participated in various workshops led by professional actors and directors from the Royal Shakespeare Company. These sessions provided a unique and invaluable opportunity for our young thespians to hone their acting skills, learn new techniques, and gain insights into the world of professional theatre. The

students immersed themselves in the experience, demonstrating enthusiasm, creativity, and a remarkable level of talent. Their performance of "A Midsummer Night's Dream" was nothing short of fantastic. The hard work and dedication they put into their roles were evident, earning them praise from the audience and festival organizers alike. We are immensely proud of our students for their outstanding efforts and achievements at the festival. This experience has not only enhanced their appreciation for Shakespeare but has also boosted their confidence and fostered a deeper love for the performing arts. Bravo to all our young stars!

Mr Napier



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## Maths Faculty Updates:

### 'Advanced Maths' club:

On Thursdays after school, pupils looking to learn about mathematics not taught at school have been discovering topics such as graph theory, combinatorics, number theory and linear algebra. This club, run by Mr Want, will run next year and offer more topics for eager pupils to explore.

### St Gregory's Primary School transition activities:

In June the Maths faculty welcomed Year 5 pupils from St Gregory's primary school. They explored how computer games like Minecraft use mathematics to run the game. The visitors learned about random number generation and used this to create their own adventure map for a game of their choice. They were very enthusiastic and enjoyed seeing how the mathematics they have learned can lend itself to them being creative. We hope as a faculty to continue inviting feeder primary schools to sessions in the future.

Mr Want

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## Year 7 – First year update

Dear Parents/Careers of Year 7.

As Head of Year I am proud of the journey the year group have started at OSA. Tutor groups have built in confidence over the three terms, and I am looking forward to supporting the year group, as students continue their academic and extra-curricular achievements into Year 8. As we approach the end of the summer term, the Year 7 council have reflected on their first academic year, at OSA. Within their Year council role they have highlighted some of their success stories that have taken place in Year 7, which we hope you enjoy reading. Well done Year 7! Miss Webster

Year Council highlights: In year 7 we have enjoyed our weekly assemblies to find out who in the year group have achieved 'tutee of the week' or had recognition for an 'act of kindness award'. We have also had many Year 7 students achieve a 'Performer of the Week' certificate from selected teachers and Heads of Faculty. Many students have gained their bronze, silver or gold badges this academic year. These have been awarded in assembly with names read out by the Year council members. We have also helped our Head of Year organise our termly celebration assemblies where we say well done to students for many achievements each term. These include high attendance awards, Pastoral Manager, Head of Year and Senior Leadership awards. We have been rewarded for our termly reports with 'Well-Done termly breakfasts', with our Head of Year, to acknowledge year 7 hard work and attitude to outstanding learning and progress. Our parents/careers also received letters to acknowledge our hard work too.

As a Year group we have got involved in many extra-curricular activities and events at the academy. These have included taking part in the academy production of 'Shrek the Musical', entering Cross Country competitions, attending Science club and STEM club. We also had a great time on our Year 7 trip to Stratford-upon-Avon, to see the Royal Shakespeare company production of 'A Midsummer Night's Dream'. Year 7 got involved in the Music show case evening, some of us went on a trip to The Big Bang Fair in Birmingham, which increased year 7 interest in Science and we went on a trip to Colchester Castle for Humanities.

The Year council have had fun organising inter-tutor group competitions with our Christmas door competition won by KWI tutor group and our World Book Day, with an Anne Frank's diary inspired door competition. This





showed teamwork and creativity by AFR tutor group, who were the winners. We have also recently completed our first OSA sports day with ECX winning the trophy in year 7!

Our very first Year 7 Charity week at OSA raised awareness and donations for The Store House Foodbank charity, where we filled 4 shopping trolleys of donated food in exchange for a film ticket, plus we raised £173 in money donations from our lunchtime events. These included: guess the sweets in the jar, name the teddy and many year 7s made cakes and treats, including some very delicious chocolate doughnuts which went really quickly!

As the Year 7 Council we would like to finish our article with a few quotes.

“All tutor groups have come together. Tutees feel connected during competitions, and we have made some very good friendships. All trips and events have been a really nice way to bring teamwork to each tutor group and make good memories. We have all achieved great milestones together”.

“All our Tutor groups have produced amazing work, involved themselves in extracurricular clubs and events and try hard in their learning. We have made teachers, parents and carers proud of our successes in our first year at OSA”.

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### School Games Gold Award

We are delighted to announce that we have achieved the School Games Gold Award for the 2023/24 academic year. The School Games Mark is a Government-led award scheme launched in 2012, facilitated by the Youth Sport Trust to reward schools for their commitment to the development of competition across their school and into the community, and we are delighted to have been recognised for our success. This is indeed our sixth gold medal and comes off the back of finishing runner-up in Active Suffolk Awards 2023 for Active Secondary School of the Year category. We have continued to offer an extensive extra-curricular programme in a wide variety of sports and activities with a high volume of our students competing in local inter-school competitions. We are extremely proud of our students for their dedication to all aspects of school sport, including our sports leaders and officials who made our competitions possible, and for their work supporting local primary school competitions. As part of our application, we were asked to fulfil criteria in the areas of participation, competition, workforce and clubs, and we are pleased that the hard work of everyone at our school has been rewarded this year. A special thanks to: Miss Banthorpe, Mr Lyon, Mrs Moulton-Day, Mr Stokes and Mr Johnson for their continued hard work to support all of these events.

Mr S Dodd

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### Careers Update

It has been a busy term for Career activities, some of our Year 9 students got to attend a ‘Food and Farming Day’ at Hollow Tree Farm, which focused on different careers within the agriculture and food production sectors. Year 10 students visited Colchester Institute for a Post 16 information day to find out more about their Post 16 opportunities when they leave the Academy. We also had some of our Year 10’s attend a Climate Conference at Suffolk One College where they got to hear from organisations who are fighting against climate change and saving the planet, an introduction talk was given by wildlife expert Chris Packham who is an advocate for supporting initiatives to protect wildlife and preventing the destruction of its habitat.

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### Introducing our new logo

Shortly after Mrs Morris started as the new principal at OSA last year, staff indicated that they would be keen to revisit and refresh our aims and values. This began a process and a series of discussions that involved all staff, students and governors. Mrs Morris asked the school council two questions: 'What is the ideal OSA student like?' and 'How would you like the Academy to be described?' Their answers, along with comments gathered from



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were used to generate our new Aims and Values and our 'tagline': Ambition, Respect, Endeavour. Our thoughts about who we are as a school and what we value were sent to a graphic designer who produced a new school logo for us. She generated several different options which we shared with students and staff. The students could see how our values had been incorporated into different elements of the designs. Feedback was gathered from staff and students and our designer (who kindly gave her time for free) came up with a final version.

About the logo:

- The key represents unlocking of opportunities and knowledge.
- The triple 'Borromean' rings that form the key handle represent unity, togetherness and achieving success as a whole.
- The heron's wing shape incorporates a set of stairs symbolising ambition, growth, improvement and self-development.
- The curved neck of the heron adds an S shape to the logo for Sudbury and the head of the heron is in the style of a fountain pen nib, symbolising creativity, learning and the opportunity to write your own story.
- The heron itself links to the river and water meadows of Sudbury and also symbolises peace, patience and determination.

The students are delighted with how smart it looks and have enjoyed learning how elements of design can be imbued with so much meaning. The new logo will be phased in gradually. Over the summer, we will make interim changes to the signage, our school website, prospectus, letterheads, and social media channels. The students who start with us as year 7 in September 2025 will be the first to have the new badge on their blazers, ties and PE kit. We are not asking anyone who is a current student to buy any new uniform items; we will have a mixture of the two styles of uniform for a few years.

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### STEM Club

STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) club has started this year and with a BANG!!. Students ranging from year 7-10 present, have tried a variety of different activities whilst being present at the club. Students have experimented with; the Van der Graff generator, made fire hydrants (that have caused major chaos at the club!) created fireproof paper, tried out coding with Edison robots with Shane from BT giving them basic instructions, created a basic video game and many more things, including little competitions. The engagement of students and support throughout years has been admirable. Huge shout outs to Joseph, Charlie and Eliza for not only making great progress with their Youth STEM Award but regularly attending club on a Thursday afterschool. STEM has also expanded, getting students involved with the youth STEM award with students working hard towards getting their bronze awards. On top of this we also took students from year 7-8 to the Big Bang fair in Birmingham, where students were able to experience how widespread STEM is in the world and how it's helping to create a better future. We can't wait to see you all next year for some more fun in STEM club and on more STEM trips!

Mr Palombo and Miss Cooke.

# The Globe

The 'Globe' Newsletter - Update from the Humanities Council  
Year 7 Geography and Religious Studies – by Jake James and Chloe Smith

Jake - In religious studies this term we have been making up our own islands and determining certain rules and planning weddings for two different religions and cultures. For the first half of the term, we were learning about Hindu culture and weddings. In geography we have been learning about Antarctica and economic growth.

Chloe - We started this year studying the creation story. After this we watched a series of videos where a different religion's spokesperson answered questions from a visiting alien! Since then, we have looked at how Christianity and Islam affect their followers' lives. In our final term we have studied the 'Island' where a crash landed group of passengers get to set their own rules in isolation.

Year 8 Religious Studies - by Lily May Hollinshead

This term in Religious Studies, year 8's have been learning about things such as: reincarnation, people's beliefs about it and real-life situations like the Barra Boy, what our personal morals are and how we should stick to them and the question of 'Does money buy happiness'. During the time that we have been learning about these, we have had many class discussions and opinions shared.

Year 8 Geography – by Freya Scott

This term, in year 8, geography, we have learnt about Factfulness (read the book by Hans Rosling) and created a quiz to show that we're wrong about the world. We have also learnt about the Middle East and what conflict has occurred there, and have investigated the relationships between climates and African biomes - this led to us looking at the Hadley cell and how it works.

Year 9 Geography – by Elsie Moores.

This term, we have mainly been focussing on tourist destinations and tourism. We have looked at statistics and plotted the countries on their level of popularity using the mapping skills we have been practicing. I really enjoy using maps for understanding specific topics in an interactive way. We looked at the costs and benefits of tourism as well as its sustainability. The most recent topic is the Ice Age, including studying glaciers, which I found very interesting.

Holocaust Survivor Visit - an article by Seb Skeats, Year 9

On Friday 5th July, Peter & Moira Hart came into OSA to talk about Peter's mother, Kitty Hart-Moxon's experience before, during and after the holocaust. He told us of her early life Bielsko, her time in the Lubiz ghetto, her experience in the Auschwitz death camp and about her life after the events of the holocaust: she dedicated it to teaching about the events and effects of the holocaust. Kitty Hart-Moxon was born in 1926 in Bielsko, Poland, where she lived her until the Nazi invasion in 1939. She and her family were forced into a ghetto, enduring severe deprivation and constant fear. In 1943, she was deported to Auschwitz-Birkenau, where she survived unimaginable horrors, including labour (in the scheisecomando and work in Kanda) and the constant threat of death. After World War II, Kitty moved to the United Kingdom, dedicating her life to Holocaust education through books, lectures, and documentaries. She has written influential works like "I Am Alive" and "Return to Auschwitz," and her efforts have been crucial in ensuring that future generations remember and learn from the past and to prevent such tragedy from ever happening again. It was an honour to listen to her story. It is especially important in today's climate to hear these stories, not only because people who experienced the holocaust firsthand are far and few between but also because of the current state of affairs happening in Ukraine and the Middle East.







### Year 11 Prom

We said goodbye to our wonderful Year 11 cohort this term. We are so proud of everything that they achieved this year and can't wait to see them again on results day. Their Prom was a fantastic way to send them off into the world and we've included some photos of how wonderful they looked on the night. Well done to our Prom King and Queen – Josh and Chloe!





## Year 9 Residential – Realise You Potential!

On Monday 15th July, 49 adventurous Year 9 students and 5 intrepid staff set off to Grosvenor Hall, Kent for the 'Realise YOUR Potential' residential. We were all excited, but nothing could prepare us for the excitement that awaited us.... Activities such as Jungle Vines, Leap of Faith, Abseiling and Zip Wiring were some of the treats in store! Everyone gave it their all, and although some of our students were scared of heights, it didn't stop them trying their best and having a go! Students had to work together on the problem-solving challenge, developing leadership skills and communication to beat the other team! Archery proved a new challenge for many; with accuracy and focus being the key skills to being the winner. For the 'gamers' amongst us - outdoor laser quest was a great team sport to bring out our competitive side! (Even the staff!) Our evenings were filled with more activities... the first night we competed against each other in an alternative mini Olympics, with races such as; space hopping, hula hooping, rolling like a pencil and balancing things on our backs! Our last evening was a Camp Fire complete with hot chocolate. We all took part in a 'Dance-Off' and laughed and danced all night. Year 9, you truly were an exceptional group of young people, with whom we are proud to have spent the last 3 days. The aim was for you to 'Realise YOUR Potential' and you absolutely smashed it!

"Team work really does make the dream work!"

Mrs Jacques



## **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.