

Ormiston Sudbury Academy

End of Term Newsletter



Issue 4

December 2024

Dear Parents and Carers

I hope you enjoy reading this newsletter and being reminded of some of the highlights of this term. It has been a very positive term, with many students gaining rewards and recognition for their efforts and attendance through achievement points, certificates and awards. In fact, the average number of achievement points achieved is 178! All students have now had a new look progress report, produced via the 'Go4Schools' system. I hope that you are finding the new system user friendly and informative. I welcome any feedback about this and about any other ways we communicate with you.

Our Open Evening was very well attended, and I am very pleased that the number of year 6 students applying for OSA as their first choice is the highest we have recorded.

Many of you will have taken the opportunity to see the plans for the new school during the pre-planning meeting at the end of November. We are very pleased with the design for our new accommodation. We are now waiting for the planners' decision.

Last week I had the privilege of watching the Christmas concert. It was a wonderful occasion, with a huge amount of talent joyfully shared. Parents/carers, friends, staff get to see the students excel on these occasions. These showcase events are great fun but are not the only chance students have to shine. During each week in school, I see impressive achievements in lessons, in sport and in student leadership and contribution to their community. Every day talent is nurtured and encouraged by our hardworking and committed staff. It is great to be part of the OSA community which is daily demonstrating its commitment to our values of ambition, respect and endeavour and values the talents and aspiration of each individual.

I wish you all a very happy Christmas, full of peace, hope and joy.

Mrs S Morris

Academy Awards Evening 2024





Our Annual Awards Evening took place on Thursday 14th November. The event was really well attended by students, past and present, with their families to celebrate their success across the academy. Our guest speaker, ex-student Lewis Sharman, gave an insight to university and a career as a paramedic which was fascinating. It was wonderful to be able to celebrate their collective achievements and accolades and to catch up with our most recent alumni (pictured above). There was a lovely atmosphere of community, family and success, well done to all!

Mrs E Price

Young Carer Jingle and Mingle

On Thursday 12th December, some of our Young Carers took part in a 'Jingle and Mingle' meet up in the Wellbeing Suite. This was the first opportunity for our Year 7 students to meet with other Young Carers in school, and we provided a bit of a mini-Christmas party atmosphere with music, making Christmas crackers, decorating gingerbread men and Christmas cards, tackling a Christmas themed jigsaw puzzle, playing cards and then a bit of competitive spirit with some table football matches. There were also some doughnut treats, sweets given as a prize for best dressed gingerbread man, and then everyone had the opportunity to take their goodies home with them. This was just a small acknowledgement as our way of saying 'thank you' to those in school who we know have a significant caring responsibility for someone in their household. We hope that it gave all the students a chance to have some fun and down time while making new, supportive friendships. Our next meeting will be in the spring term and there are already plans for it to be Easter themed.



Mrs C Hingston



Mingalaba – Year 9 French

Our Year 9 students were very fortunate to have an opportunity to attend a talk from Steve Eadon from Mingalaba. Steve talked to the students about his journey from being in school and not really being interested in languages, to how he ended up working for Arsenal FC for 11 years, using languages to travel the world and work with high

profile players (there was plenty of name dropping and ribbing of the Tottenham players amongst the year group!) A group of 30 students were then given the opportunity to attend a workshop, where through the process of 'fun learning activities' (games) they learnt and practiced new vocabulary, which then allowed them to translate a match day report at the end of the session. The year 9's thoroughly enjoyed the session, and this has been quite a talking point since. Although he highlighted many of the possibilities that students could go onto if they keep up their language learning, within the football / sporting industry, he also talked about how languages can support their career prospects in general.

Mrs L Brundle

Mathematical Futures – Essex University Trip

Fourteen representatives of our academy attended a further maths educational experience at the University of Essex, Colchester this term. They had the fantastic opportunity to dive into and explore the role that maths could have as part of their future further education.

Students participated in three workshops which included the maths of Traceability which has applications for mapping networks and postal delivery services. Students also had the opportunity to work with peers from other attending schools on the Dragon Quiz, a fast-paced game with the need for creative and critical mathematical thinking – real challenge

which they rose to! The final workshop delved into the mathematical world of the fourth dimension – not ‘time’ in this case, as some physicists might convince us, but ‘geometry’, based purely on mathematical reasoning. Students also enjoyed a guided tour round the campus which took in the ‘must see’ sights of the lucky bronze university cat and the Paternoster library lift, which is one of only two in the UK.

Mr C Rayner

Here’s what a couple of our Year 10 students had to say about the experience:

“I thought the university was really good fun and some of the talks were really interesting. The workshops were also great, but the Dragon Quiz was my favourite – our team came second!”

Faye Richardson

“I think it was a really good trip, not only for exploring Maths in interesting applications, but also for seeing how Maths is applicable to Post-16 and career opportunities. I liked how it allowed us to see Maths from the perspective of professionals but also to have moments of independent, practical work. Having a schedule of workshops and a tour of the university was quite immersive, and I really enjoyed the final speaker and the audience interaction. My favourite workshop would have to be the one about the Fourth Dimension as it is a topic I find really interesting.”

Michaela Angeles

“I really enjoyed the trip today. I think my favourite part was the 4D lesson and the campus tour. We made tesseracts (4D cubes) out of paper which was fun and it was cool to see how they looked in a 3D space.”

Reuben Ryan



BAE Systems Roadshow

On Friday 15th November Years 7 and 8 were treated to the BAE Systems Roadshow, diving into the buzzing world of electricity. From static charge generated by the Van de Graaf, elevating Lola’s hair, to the handle turning expertise of Hasan, the world of STEM is a fascinating area for students to engage with and an essential part of their learning about careers and how Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths plays an integral part of our nation’s defence.

From potential difference to variable resistors, from amperes to voltage to electric current, students learnt about the exciting world of electricity and had a lot of fun doing it!

John Travolta made a brief and ‘electrifying’ appearance, whilst Mr

Palombo kept the lights running with his electrical-energy cycling prowess.

We look forward to welcoming them back next year. The Royal Navy and Royal Air Force have a wide range of career opportunities related to STEM – check these out on their websites!

Mr C Rayner

Careers Update

This term Year 11 students have had assemblies from most of the local post 16 providers and have since visited and applied to these institutions. Many have now secured a provisional place or have interviews booked in the coming weeks. Students have had the opportunity to meet with the Academy Career Advisor to discuss their next steps and are still welcome to do so, if you would like to make an appointment with your young person then please email Miss Boreham at hboreham@ormistonsudbury.co.uk.



Year 10 students went on a visit to the Suffolk Future Skills Fair at Suffolk New College to meet with local FE providers and business to find out about skills and employment. Work experience has been introduced to Year 10 and students are now actively looking for placements. We have students offered places at Waterstones, Suffolk Archaeology Centre, Stoke by Nayland Resort and several primary schools and nurseries. Christmas is a great opportunity to speak to relatives and friends and see if the organisations they work with might be able to offer a placement. In the new year we will start completing the paperwork and checks for placements.

Years 7-8 had a STEM event hosted by BAE

Systems, RAF and Royal Navy, mentioned above.

Years 9-11 have had career lessons delivered via and careers platform Unifrog, Year 9 will continue with their lessons in the new year. Please do encourage your young person to log onto the platform and explore the wide range of career resources available. Further information can be found on the Academy 'Career Guidance' webpages.

Coming up in the New Year we have: Year 7 visit to Sudbury Police Station, Year 10 Employability Day and Meet the Employer event, Year 9 Speed Networking event and Future Steps workshop.

Mrs H Boreham



Year 11 Charity Week

During Charity Week, Year 11 students organized a series of fun and engaging activities to raise money for 4YP (For Young People). They hosted a bake sale, offering a delicious selection of homemade treats, and sold "Kindness Candy Canes" to spread festive cheer and positivity. Additionally, students enjoyed a festive game of "Pin the Nose on the Reindeer," which brought lots of laughter and friendly competition. Thanks to the generosity and enthusiasm of everyone involved, the event was a great success, raising an impressive £380 for 4YP. We are incredibly proud of Year 11 for their hard work and dedication to making a positive impact!

Mr N Bloom

Maths Faculty Update

Maths Club: On Thursdays after school pupils have had a chance in maths club to explore number theory, game theory and linear algebra. More mathematical topics will follow in the new year to give a stretch to our pupils who are enthusiastic about the subject.

Gt Waldingfield Outreach: Mr Want visited Great Waldingfield primary school in November to give a session on how computer games like Minecraft use random numbers to generate random worlds. The Year 5 class had a chance to generate a random adventure map only using a 6-sided die which chose what biomes would go where. They really enjoyed the session and wrote back their gratitude. We hope as a department to offer similar outreach sessions in the new year.

Mr N Want

Year 8 Update

What an amazing autumn term Year 8, with some of our community receiving many awards and recognition for their hard work. We will be celebrating the autumn term in our end of term celebration assembly this week. The year 8 community have amassed over 23,000 achievement points in this term alone. Well done everyone! I would also like to acknowledge the hard work from those students who have been working on their Challenge Tasks. The students involved have complete a series of challenges, to support their academic work, across all faculties. We look forward to seeing the work they continue to produce in Year 8. Well done to all the students who also took part in the autumn term celebration well done breakfasts, for their academic progress and positive attitude to learning. Year 8 worked hard to raise money and awareness for the local food bank charity. The Year council organised a film event in the auditorium and students bought a ticket by donating a food bank item. The year group also organised numerous lunchtime events to raise donations, awareness and money for the charity. The year group are excited to be supporting the local food bank charity again in June 2025. To complete 2024 we have our end of term celebration assembly, acknowledging a variety of achievements and rewards this autumn term for many year 8 students. Each tutor group has also been involved in our Year 8 'decorating a snowman' competition, for their inter-tutor group competition this term. Keep up the good work Year 8!

Miss K Webster



Pantomime Trip – Peter Pan at the Colchester Mercury

After a slightly chaotic and stressful start to the trip, with a missing coach, (!) the staff really pulled together and managed to transport our 45 x Year 7 students to Colchester, in a mix of staff cars and both minibuses! “Oh yes we did!”

On arrival at the Mercury our students quickly and quietly took their seats and then fully joined in with the fun of the Pantomime. There was lots of booing, hissing, jeering, cheering, shouting, singing and of course lots and lots of laughing throughout. The trip was a perfect end to the scheme of learning on the key features of Pantomime, that the students have been studying in Drama lessons this half term. Their final assessment pieces this week definitely reaped the benefits of seeing a performance in the distinctive style of Pantomime, in the flesh. What better way to learn about ‘Audience Interaction’ and ‘Exaggerated Performance Style’ than through seeing it modelled to you so perfectly by professionals. It was great to also see recent Alumni student Archie Kropidowski as one of the cast members. A great example of what our Year 7 students can aspire to!

Mr L Cox



The Globe

The 'Globe' Newsletter - Update from the Humanities Council

Welcome to the fourth edition of the Globe - the Humanities section of the academy newsletter. This edition we have various contributions from Humanities Ambassadors reviewing

the topics they have been learning as well as an article from our intrepid reporter Joshua Hauth on recent Remembrance Assemblies. In addition, our Head of Faculty, Mrs Franklin will present the Humanities performers of the week for this half term.

“In year 8 religious studies we are learning about different religious perspectives on the afterlife and what happens when we die. Hindus believe in reincarnation which is the cycle of birth, death and rebirth that is driven by the law of karma. Jews are ambiguous about what happens when we die. Most believe in the afterlife, but they come in different forms, some believe in reincarnation, and some believe in the world to come, like heaven. Many Christians believe that moral decisions that we make on earth determine whether we go to heaven or hell. Catholics believe that before we reach heaven, we must pass through purgatory a place where we must purify our sins.”

Tori Bugg

“In year 8 Geography we learn about tropical diseases, biomes and desertification. In the topic biomes we learn about different habitats and desertification is when over-farming and cutting down too many trees transforms land into desert. In the topic tropical diseases we learn about Cholera, a water-borne disease that is found in countries that do not have clean water. WaterAid helps them by teaching them about the disease and how to stop it. Water Aid can also give people a water pump, so they don't have to drink dirty water. These are interesting topics because they give us facts about the world, the planet and different countries and what people have to do to help the biomes and the world population.”

Isla Stephens

“Religious Studies – Year 9; During Year 9 we have covered how equality is seen in the eyes of different religions, like how the Caste System in India is seen and how women are portrayed in Bible verses.”

Junior McKnight

“In year 8 History this term, we have learned about pre-colonial civilisations people in America, Africa, India, Australia that was our first unit it was very interesting to study. For our second unit we have been learning about the British Empire and the slave trade. In the 18 and 1900s the Empire contained many countries. Over time they all became independent. Then we learnt about the slave trade, where people from Africa became enslaved and force to work.”

Jake Barnard

“This term in Geography we have been learning about earthquakes, why they occur, what the government can do to protect people from them, and how they are designing improvements on the structure of buildings to prevent buildings in urban areas from causing destruction. However, we have also been looking at the 2004 tsunami which occurred on the 26th of December at 7:58. These affected countries in the Indian Ocean such as Madagascar and Thailand. Much like the earthquakes, we have been looking at how they are caused and what people in those places can do to prevent destruction and lower the number of deaths. For example, they could put sirens on the beaches to warn people before a tsunami so they have time to prepare, or have sea defences, although this could be an expensive method.”

Freya Scott and Willow Massey

“For the Remembrance Assembly Humanities about those in the armed forces who had passed in WW1 and WW2. The presentation concluded by describing the stories of soldiers who died whose names are inscribed on the Sudbury Memorial.”

Joshua Hauth Y9

PE Fixtures Update

It has been a really busy term for the PE department, with a huge number of trips and fixtures taking place. Here are just some of the best bits taken from our social media updates over the course of this term!

A spectacular performance from our U13 Girls football team. Drawn to play Ixworth in the Suffolk Cup, a very young team stepped up to the challenge. With 10 Yr7s and just 1 Yr8! They held their own for the first half against a full Yr8 team. A scrappy, but well worked goal from Ixworth put us behind in the 2nd half. Bliss Cockle fired in an absolute worldy to equalise towards the end of the game. Straight to penalties, with Katie, Ella and Bea scoring and Taylor pulling off a great save put them through to the next round! Looking forward to the next draw. Bring it on!! POM - Ella and Taylor. Well done all! A special well done too, to our Sports Leaders, Spencer, Ryan, Ryan and Ronnie for officiating the game very competently.

Under 15 girls took on County High in the first round of the West Suffolk cup. The girls started well, with a number of opportunities on goal, but none quite hitting the target. Aaliyah soon broke the deadlock, making it 1-0. Some strong defending and excellent goal keeping before half time, denied County any chances. The second half saw two quick goals for OSA, Paris and Lauren getting on the score sheet. The girls maintained their performance for the rest of the game, seeing it to the final whistle, 3-0!

The Yr7 girls football team had a great day of football at UEA Norwich, delivered by the Norwich City scholars. Lots of excellent moments; several great goals from Bea, two awesome goals from Olivia, constant assists from Katie and great support from the rest of the team. A really enjoyable day!

A good start to the U13 girls football season, away to Stowmarket. A very young team (10 Yr7s + 5 Yr8s) played a strong Yr8 side. They had a shaky start, going down 3-0 in the first 15 mins. Heads were held high and the girls battled to keep score stable for the remaining 75mins. Lots of really good performances, from such a young side. Bea, Olivia, Mia & Phina were really exciting to watch. Ella was outstanding, controlling the team and applying constant pressure. This team has lots of potential!

Great night of football with year 8 squad. They won the cluster event! Beat Samuel Ward Academy 2-0, drew with TGS 1-1 and beat Stour Valley 1-0. Understandably they were pretty pleased with themselves!

A fantastic time was had at the Royal Hospital School at the Cross Country County Championships! Every one of our students finished and 6 got through to the next round - more than ever before! Nik was our best performer, despite competing a year young! Special mention also to Iris from year 7 who also qualified! Well done to all!

More great results from the OSA netballers – this time from the unbeaten Yr9s. 2 matches, 2 wins. 19-0 v Ixworth and 10-7 v Mildenhall. A great team effort by all. POM - Zuzanna, controlled the centre court and dominated the attacking circle!

Another great night for the OSA netballers. This time round saw the Yr8s playing a bench ball tournament in place of a 'rained off' netball match. Won 3 out of 4 games, coming joint top!! Well done girls!

Mrs D Banthorpe, Mr S Dodd, Mr R Lyon, Mrs R Moulton Day and Mr P Stokes



Ormiston's Got Talent

Every year we enter OAT's got talent which is a talent competition run by the Ormiston Academies Trust, consisting of school, regional and national heats before the finals. Ordinarily, we would choose the acts to be sent to OAT during a talent show at lunch times, however

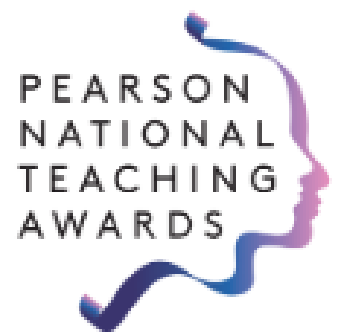
this year we are doing things slightly differently. We are asking that any student(s) wishing to enter the competition submit a film of their entry performance. The video should be between 2-3 minutes long and be sent to Mrs Barry via email to bbarry@ormistonsudbury.co.uk. The deadline for this is 8th January, so that they can be sent to OAT in time. So, get practicing over the Christmas holiday! Anyone is welcome to enter, whatever your talent.

Mrs B Barry

ORMISTON'S GOT TALENT

2025 Teaching Awards now open for nominations

Don't miss the opportunity to nominate a special teacher or member of support staff for the next Teaching Awards. The nominations are free and there are 16 categories to choose from, including individual, team and support staff awards. This is a great way to show someone you appreciate their outstanding work and commitment. Anyone can nominate a teacher for the awards at www.teachingawards.com! We're so proud of our staff and will of course be nominating them – however parental nominations are always lovely to receive too! Alternatively – if you don't want to nominate anyone, you could still send a FREE online thankyou card at www.thankateacher.co.uk



Exciting New Build Plans!

“At OSA only the best is good enough”

Plans for the redevelopment of Ormiston Sudbury Academy have been finalised and submitted to the District Council as a full planning application. The proposed redevelopment is intended to support us in achieving an improved environment that helps to support our vision.

The proposals involve the proposed demolition of the existing school buildings and the construction of a new main school building. Other aspects of the redevelopment include the formation of a Multi Use Games Area (MUGA), replacement sports block (available for visitor access outside of school hours), revised internal vehicular and pedestrian circulation routes (to include more onsite parking for staff and visitors), areas of recreational space, landscaping, drainage and parking areas.

The design of the proposed new building is set out at www.ormistonsudburyacademy.com This design is the culmination of partnership and consultation with the school.



Wellbeing Ambassadors trip to Catchpole Court Care Home

It was a real pleasure to attend Catchpole Court Care Home in Sudbury with the academy wellbeing ambassadors and members of the choir on Wednesday afternoon, to spread some Christmas cheer.

The choir sang a combination of beautiful hymns and solos. Whilst our ambassadors had spent time wrapping presents and writing cards for residents, many of whom do not have visitors and won't receive gifts. Our students were a credit to themselves, parents and the academy, they showed amazing kindness to the elderly residents spreading the real meaning of kindness.

Mrs M Newell



Merry
CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY
New Year

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.