

Ormiston Sudbury Academy

End of Term Newsletter



Ormiston
Sudbury
Academy

Issue 5

April 2025

Dear Parents and Carers

It has been lovely to have some warm and dry weather for the run up to the Easter Holidays. Light evenings and sunny days lift everyone's spirits. We've had many uplifting events and pieces of news during this past term such as the amazing school show, several charity weeks, some incredible work by our Sports Leaders and the triumph of our band in the regional final of Ormiston's Got Talent.

We've been delighted to learn that the number of year 6 students transferring to us in September is significantly higher this year. A very significant positive step for us is that planning permission for the new school and sports centre has been granted. Work on the new sports centre is scheduled to begin just before the end of the summer term, after the GCSE exam season. We will have full use of our existing sports centre during the build (as will the hirers who use it out of hours) but the gymnasium that is next to the auditorium will not be available to us.

Some more immediate important changes are happening with staffing. After Easter Mr. Letort joins us as a teacher of French. There will be some timetable changes to add more French back in for students who have had a limited experience of the language to date. Mr. Starkey is relinquishing his role as Head of Year and Miss Norman is taking his place. He will be continuing to teach Geography, of course. Finally, Mr. Stokes is leaving us for a promotion. Mr. Stokes has served the OSA community for 21 years and we will miss him very much. Mr. Howkins and Mrs Price will take on elements of his current role and we have a new member of the senior team - Mr. Robin - joining us after May half term.

I hope you enjoy the newsletter and have a wonderful Easter holiday. Students return to school on Wednesday 23rd April.

Regards

Mrs. Morris



Whole Academy Production – School of Rock

Ormiston Sudbury Academy's production of *School of Rock* proved to be an extraordinary celebration of talent, teamwork, and the power of music. With nearly 100 students involved both onstage and behind the scenes, and over 1,300 people watching the performance, at 5 performances, it was nothing short of spectacular. It was a show that captured the rebellious spirit and heart of the beloved musical, while also showcasing the immense dedication and hard work of our young performers. Directed by Mr. Napier, who himself began his journey in performing arts at the Academy 16 years ago, this production was deeply personal. In his letter to the audience, Mr. Napier shared how returning as director felt like coming full circle. He spoke of the same excitement and passion that once inspired him, now alive and thriving in the cast. This was clear in the production, with every song, every dance, and every scene full of energy, and it was clear that the performers had poured their hearts into their roles, with Ben Gourlay at the helm as Dewey!



The students not only acted and sang, but also played live music on stage, adding a dynamic and authentic element to the show. The musicianship, especially from the young actors portraying Dewey Finn's band, was impressive, highlighting the incredible range of skills these students have! Our musical director Miss Conway-Jarrett, worked tirelessly with the soloists and full cast to teach them all the songs, and the choreography, masterminded by Mrs. Barry, was both fun and precise, with the dance numbers adding an extra layer of energy to the performance. Behind the scenes, the backstage crew, made up of students and led by Miss Galbraith was exceptional,

ensuring that the show ran smoothly despite the many challenges of live theatre. Special mention must also go to Mr. Cox for his work on the stunning set design and lighting operation, which was made even more remarkable by the technical expertise provided by St Edmundsbury Theatre Services.

In his director's letter, Mr. Napier expressed profound pride in his cast, and rightly so. The dedication shown by every performer was evident throughout the show. *School of Rock* isn't just a story about rock 'n roll rebellion - it's about finding your voice and working together as a team. And this cast embodied that spirit flawlessly. As Mr. Napier so perfectly put it, "Theatre is about more than just learning lines and choreography; it's about teamwork, resilience, and the belief that together, you can create something extraordinary." That was certainly the case here. The culmination of months of rehearsals, countless hours of practice, and overcoming challenges was visible in the final performance. Mr. Napier's closing words in his letter, quoting Dewey Finn, capture the feelings of the whole performing arts faculty perfectly: "If I were their parents, I'd be so proud... I am proud." It's a show that not only showcased the students' incredible talents, but also underscored the importance of the arts in shaping young minds. Well done to everyone involved – and thank you to all the staff, students and parents who contributed and helped in any way! *School of Rock* was a smash hit that will be remembered for years to come!

The Performing Arts Faculty



The Royal Air Force – R.A.F. STEM Careers Visit

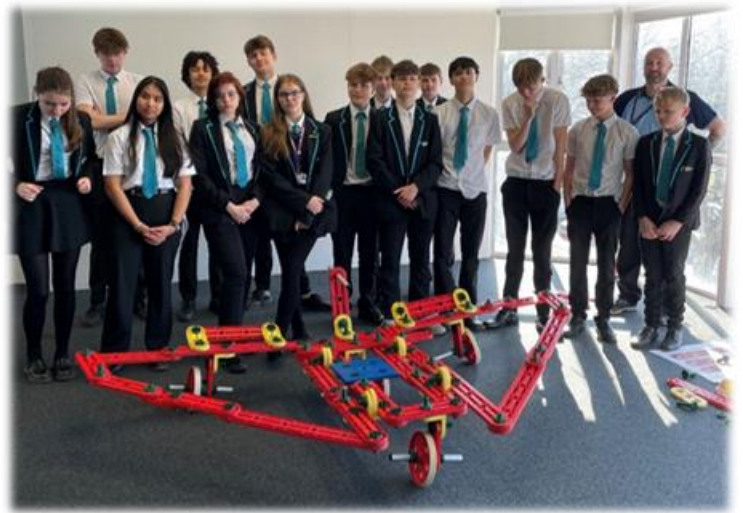
Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) has ever been a frontier along which scientists and engineers tread daringly close to the future - always round the next corner but never quite in sight. Introducing young minds to these subjects is key for Great Britain's successful future if we are to maintain and build upon our achievements in research and development, design and manufacture, and the continued forward-thinking practices leading to world-class innovations.

This term, one of these adventures led Year 10 Engineering students into the world of the R.A.F. where students were challenged to communicate, design and build a kit-form model aircraft. This two-hour session highlighted the essential skills needed in communication across different European languages, a vital role in today's ever-developing international armed forces expertise.

Students gave an excellent account of themselves, completing a working model within the specified time and the applied communication constraints which went some way in simulating the language barriers faced by the R.A.F.

Students learned about the wide range of careers prospects with the R.A.F. and how teamwork was an essential factor for success. The sponsorship prospects available to post-16 students by the R.A.F. were also discussed and an impressive range of opportunities certainly sparked deeper thought as to where the students' futures may lie.

Mr C Rayner



Young Carer Catch-up event

Our termly Young Carer catch up was held on Thursday 27th March celebrating all things Easter including egg decorating, pin the tail on the bunny, a couple of quizzes and a sweet pong filled with Easter related goodies. The obligatory donuts also went down a treat despite it being only 9 o'clock in the morning. It was nice to also welcome some new faces to our catch up.



There was fierce competition in the sweet pong – lots of frustrated attempts but all won their pot of sweets in the end. Likewise pinning the tail on the bunny created a lot of controversy but Tom was crowned the overall winner – despite attempts to make him fail by spinning him around 15 times! It's lovely to see our Young Carers all get to spend some downtime together and have a fun start to their day. Extremely well deserved for all the hard work and responsibility they carry – thank you all.

Mrs C Hingston



Regional Final of the MathOlympic Competition

On Friday 14th February, four intrepid mathematicians represented Sudbury Ormiston Academy at the Regional Final (East) of the MathOlympic competition. MathOlympic is an annual competition organised by the Ormiston Academy Trust (OAT) and pits young mathematicians from Trust schools around the country against each other in an exciting online competition! Teams played for the chance to win



£500 to put towards a maths enrichment activity of the school's choice. Our team consisted of Daniel McSweeney, Amelia Lamb-Milward, Finley Pilgrim and Izzy Mills, and they represented Year 7 admirably! In typical techie style, the start of the competition had some technical glitches but once these were sorted, our team flew ahead and finished, in terms of maths points, second. This was a fantastic achievement and there were a few nail-biting moments that brought us to that point! Then there was an additional bonus round, which saw us overtaken and so we finished in a still very respectable 6th with 265 points. The overall winner was Ormiston Victory School.

Daniel McSweeney, Y7, said: "I really enjoyed competing in MathOlympics and was incredibly excited when I found out I was part of the team! I think that the team did very well and I was pleased that I worked out a few of the answers myself!"

Amelia Lamb-Milward, also Y7, agreed. Amelia said "I found it very involving and a fun way to learn maths with others!"

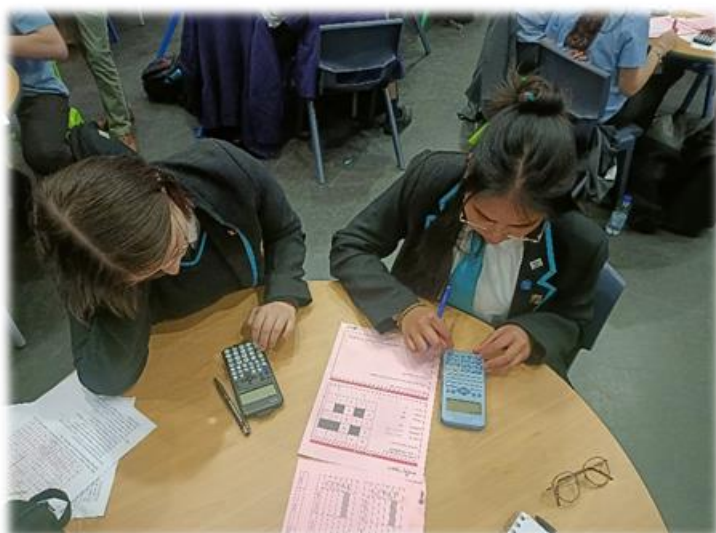
And a special thanks goes to Mr Mannion, who supervised the online event and who made sure those tricky tech gremlins were quickly overcome! We are looking forward to next year!

Mrs H Hemmings

Maths Feast

A group of four Year 10 students went to the Chantry Academy in Ipswich. They competed against other schools in a range of mathematical challenges such as a calculator relay and a puzzle on patching with squares. They worked well as a team and it was a great opportunity for some of our most able students.

Mr N Want



Holocaust Survivor Webcast

In January, HPA History students in years 9, 10 and 11 attended the Holocaust Educational Trust's annual survivor webcast. This year in particular was to commemorate the 80th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau.

This focused on Holocaust survivor Mala Tribich MBE and her and her family's story of growing up as a young child in Poland, and her experience and survival of this horrific time. Students were gripped by Mala's inspiring story and this highlighted to them how important survivor testimony is in learning about the Holocaust.

Miss C Norman



The Globe

The 'Globe' Newsletter - Update from the Humanities Council

Welcome to this edition of the Globe Humanities newsletter.

This edition we have various contributions from Humanities Ambassadors reviewing topics they've been learning.

In this half term, we have learnt about the industrial revolution and how that event in England's history has changed technology and how the world benefited from this change in machinery. First we learnt about how the roads, canals, and trains evolved from the 1750s to the 1900s. Then we learnt about the Peterloo massacre and how that changed the government in England. Finally, we have learnt about child labour and how that changed the way that factories were run and how machinery was adapted for small children. (Fun fact, it wasn't)

Jake James

Recently in R.S we have been learning about philosophy and the questions of life. A main figure we have been discussing is Socrates. Socrates lived in Athens from 470 - 399 BCE. He didn't know how to read or write so Plato (one of his students) wrote his ideas down for him and later published them. He introduced the Socratic method which was a series of stimulating questions to expose contradictions in arguments.

Socrates came up with what he believed were the 7 steps to a good life:

1. Know thyself
2. Intellectual humility
3. Pursuit of truth over popular opinion
4. Ethics and virtue are central
5. Avoid hypocrisy
6. Reason over emotion
7. Question everything

He later was executed as people believed he was corrupting minds. However, Plato carried on his work and taught many others of his philosophy.

Willow Massey

In Geography we have studied natural disasters, specifically looking at how and where they take place, for example monsoons in India.

Junior McKnight

Trip to see The Paper Birds production of 'Feel Me' at the New Wolsey Theatre

Year 10 and 11 BTEC Acting students, along with Year 9s considering BTEC Acting as an option, had the exciting opportunity to visit the new Wolsey Theatre in Ipswich to see a production by The Paper Birds. The performance, titled *Feel Me*, was a thought-provoking and immersive experience that left a lasting impact on everyone who attended.

Feel Me explored the complexity of human connection, emotions, and communication, providing a unique perspective on how we interact with the world around us. It was a powerful production that not only entertained but also taught invaluable lessons in performance techniques.

For our students, the trip was more than just a chance to see a live theatre performance. The Paper Birds are renowned for their innovative approach to theatre-making, particularly in devising. Through watching the production, students learned a great deal about the creating your own work. They got to see various techniques used to devise and create theatre in action, gaining insights that will directly inform their own work in class. The students returned to school buzzing with ideas, eager to apply what they'd learned to their own performances. Overall, the trip to the Wolsey Theatre was an incredible opportunity for our aspiring actors to see professional theatre in action and to deepen their understanding of the creative process. We look forward to seeing how they will use the skills and techniques they learned in their own work next term!



Mr L Cox

Winners of OAT's Got Talent Regional Competition!

On the 18th of March, seven of our incredibly talented students made the journey to Norwich to compete in the highly anticipated Oats Got Talent Regional Finals. With over 150 entries across the Eastern region, the competition was fierce, but our students shone brightly among the 12 finalists. Representing us were: Darrene Babaleye, Davita Babaleye, Ronnie Burn, Declan Dixey, Ellis Fradley, Asa Pettigrew and Ben Powell. The event was a showcase of exceptional talent, and our students did not disappoint. Darrene and Davita performed a beautiful duet of one of their favourite songs. Meanwhile, the boys - Ronnie, Declan, Ellis, Asa, and Ben - had something special up their sleeves. As a band, they played one of their original compositions, a piece that demonstrated their creativity and musical skill.

The standard of talent at the competition was incredibly high, and after an impressive performance, our band emerged victorious, clinching first place! This remarkable achievement means they will now move on to the grand final, set to take place on July 10th in Birmingham. The stakes are high, with the chance to be crowned the overall Ormiston's Got Talent winner! We are incredibly proud of all the students who participated in this competition. Their dedication, talent, and hard work have truly paid off, and we cannot wait to see them shine on the national stage in July. Congratulations to everyone involved!



Mrs B Barry

Careers Update

This term we have had over 50 different business and organisations supporting our Career Education Programme at the Academy from a diverse range of sectors. In January our Year 10 students took part in an Employability Day where they learnt about employability skills, interview techniques, personality profiling and CV writing. Following on from this they then took part in a 'Meet the Employer' mock interview morning, where they got to practice their interview skills and receive feedback on the CV they produced.

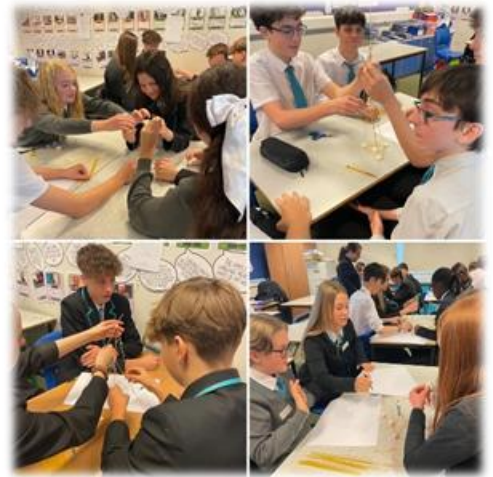
In March we were joined by 25 employers supporting our annual Year 9 Speed Networking event where students rotated around 12 different employers asking them questions about careers and training opportunities within their organisation. Year 9s also participated in a 'Future Steps' workshop with West Suffolk College, finding out about different Post 16 pathways and opportunities.

Our Year 8 students participated in a 'Green Futures' career event supported by West Suffolk College and attended by the Environment Agency, MACE construction and FCC Environment. Students got to speak to business about green careers linked to sustainability, and how they are tackling climate change and protecting the environment. Year 7s visited Sudbury Police Station and got to find out about careers in policing, online safety and toured the police station. Year 10 engineering students were visited by the RAF and took part in a Typhoon Build.

Year 11 students had an Apprenticeship assembly and workshop with Suffolk Apprenticeship. We also hosted an NHS mini fair for students to find out about different careers within the NHS and some of our Year 10/11 students attending a talk on careers in Nutrition and Dietetics.

We are still looking for work experience placements for our Year 10 students. If you run a business or work for a company that might be able to support a young person by offering a placement then please contact Miss Boreham at hboreham@ormistonsudbury.co.uk for further details. Our work experience week is 7-11th July 2025.

Mrs H Boreham



Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award Training Day

In March, our Bronze Duke of Edinburgh (DofE) award students took part in an intensive training day to prepare for their upcoming expedition in June. The students gave up their Saturday to work alongside Lloyd and Marc from East Coast Outdoors, gaining valuable skills and knowledge to help them navigate the challenges of the expedition.

The training covered key areas such as basic first aid, menu planning, kit preparation, navigation, and map-reading skills—crucial tools for the students as they gear up for their adventure. It was a jam-packed day, but the students remained fully engaged, eager to learn and improve their skills. Their enthusiasm and positive attitude were noted by Lloyd and Marc, who were impressed by the dedication shown throughout the day.



Lloyd and Marc praised the students for their punctuality, enthusiasm, and respectful behaviour, stating, "The students are a real credit to your DofE team and the school and are full of enthusiasm. They were extremely respectful and polite throughout." They also highlighted how engaged the students were, asking thoughtful and relevant questions during the training sessions, and producing excellent route plans during the navigation exercises.

After the students had completed their training, parents joined the group for an informative briefing about the upcoming expedition. The support from parents, teachers, and students was exceptional, and many parents took part in the final presentation, showing strong community involvement and support for the DofE programme.

Lloyd and Marc were impressed by the collaboration between everyone involved, saying, "The support from not just the students and teachers but also your parents was fantastic. It was wonderful to see so many parents participating in the final presentation." Looking ahead, they also expressed their excitement for the next stage of the DofE journey, stating they are "really looking forward to working with them all on their final 3-day, 2-night field training and Bronze qualification."

We are incredibly proud of all our students for their hard work, dedication, and positive attitude. This training day was an excellent first step toward their expedition in June, and we're confident that they will continue to excel as they work towards completing their Bronze DofE award.

Miss E Cooke



Sports Leaders assisting with the Newmarket Swimming Gala



Our Sports Leaders have been busy this half term, demonstrating exceptional leadership, teamwork, and enthusiasm in a variety of roles. One of their first major contributions was at the Year 5/6 Swimming Gala held at Newmarket Leisure Centre. The students were eager to get involved and took on a variety of responsibilities. Issi and Zuzanna were tasked with collating race data and updating positions in real-time, using unfamiliar software and staying ahead of the fast-paced

paces. They handled the pressure flawlessly! Seb Reeve took on the role of host for the day, announcing the race order, announcing winners, and making important safety announcements. Seb's confident and engaging hosting style won him praise from both spectators and participants alike. The rest of the Sports Leaders were assigned to timekeeping, managing lanes, and motivating the swimmers, ensuring that everything ran smoothly. The event organiser was so impressed with the team that he jokingly said the students had "run the show" and he had been made redundant – a true testament to their hard work and professionalism!

The following week, another group of 15 Sports Leaders assisted with a Year 3/4 Tag Rugby Festival. They were responsible for running eight different activity stations, guiding the young participants through the games and ensuring everyone was engaged and having fun. The students worked with great confidence and energy, making sure each group understood the tasks and enjoyed the activities. Their efforts received outstanding feedback from the event organisers and a standing ovation from the students, parents, and staff!

The Sports Leaders also took on the responsibility of organizing and officiating two after-school Badminton tournaments – one for KS3 and another for KS4. Both tournaments were success, with the sports hall full of eager participants. The leaders ensured the smooth running of the event, from organizing teams to keeping track of scores. The winners were Ryan Kinsella and Tom Lyon for KS3, and Justin Noyan and Ian Lai for KS4. Due to the success and popularity of these events, the Sports Leaders are already planning future tournaments.

Looking ahead, the team is preparing for more exciting events in the summer term, including Rounders tournaments, skills festivals, and even Geocaching activities.

We are incredibly proud of all our Sports Leaders and their continued commitment to supporting the school community with such enthusiasm and professionalism!

Mrs D Collins



Sporting Success from the PE Department

This term has been packed with impressive performances from our talented students across various sports. From handball to rugby and basketball, our students have showcased great skill, determination, and sportsmanship. Here's a roundup of the exciting sporting events the PE department has organized this term:

Year 10 Handball: A Historic Victory

In their first-ever competitive match in January, the Year 10 Handball team absolutely shone! Despite having never played before, the boys took to the court with confidence, winning both of their games and emerging as tournament champions! Special mention goes to Ollie and Lucas, who were named Players of the Match, with Lucas also finishing as the top goal scorer. A solid team effort under the expert guidance of Coach Noynay!



U16 Handball: A Hard-Fought Win

In February, our U16 Handball team secured another thrilling victory! They faced East Bergholt High School and maintained their lead throughout the match, ultimately winning 11-9. Josh J's perseverance as a pivot player was a standout, converting turnovers into goals and earning him the Player of the Match award. Coach Noynay's leadership proved invaluable, providing the team with motivation and a steady hand throughout.



Year 8 Rugby: A Promising Start

The Year 8 boys had their first rugby tournament on February 15th, and what a debut it was! They not only won their first match but also scored nearly 10 tries, showcasing their growing skills and enthusiasm for the sport. The future looks bright for these young athletes!

Year 9 Rugby: Battling Through the Elements

In March, the Year 9 rugby boys took part in the Suffolk Rugby Festival at Ipswich School. They displayed incredible resilience, playing through challenging weather conditions and securing a win in one of their two matches before the event was cut short. Well done to all the boys for their determination and teamwork.

Year 10 Handball: Western Area Cup Champions!

In March our Year 10 Handball team achieved another remarkable victory, this time in the final of the Western Area Handball Cup. Facing off against Thurston, the boys fought hard, coming back in the final third after a tight second interval to win 13-11. Spencer, with his crucial interceptions and goal conversions, and Lewis, who showed incredible bravery in goal, were named Players of the Match. This fantastic win was the result of outstanding teamwork, and the boys' conduct throughout was a credit to our school.

Year 8 Basketball: A Valuable Learning Experience

Also in March, the Year 8 boys had the opportunity to compete in a basketball tournament at Samuel Ward Academy. Despite facing strong opposition, the boys delivered a spirited performance, learning valuable lessons along the way. Their determination and positive attitude made for an excellent experience.



It's been a fantastic term for OSA's sporting teams. Each of our athletes has shown impressive dedication, skill, and teamwork, making us all incredibly proud. Congratulations to all the players, coaches, and supporters who have made these successes possible. We look forward to more victories and memorable moments in the next term!

Mr S Dodd

We wish everyone a very happy Easter and are already looking forward to the summer term!