

# Ormiston Sudbury Academy

## End of Term Newsletter



Issue 7

December 2025

Dear Parents and Carers

As we break up for the last holiday of 2025, I have been thinking about how much change has happened in 12 months.

The most visible changes are those linked to the new build project of course. There are obvious changes to the outside of the school and the entrance and a growing sports hall structure. Internally, we have a new wall from behind which we hear sounds of distant working every now and then. Our students adapted brilliantly to the changes of rooms, routes and loss of corridors.

We've also had changes to our uniform: the new year 7 look really smart and some other students further up the school have also bought new badge items to replace uniform they have outgrown.

Another less visible – but really important – change has been the increased percentage of students achieving the higher grades in their GCSEs and in their mock exams. It is great to see students' ambition leading to academic success.

Our 3 core values of ambition, respect and endeavour have been incorporated into our behaviour and reward systems, students' self-reflection and progress tracking activities and in our everyday classroom language. As I said to students in a recent assembly, words shape habits which become culture.

There will be a great deal of change again next year, linked to our new build, but for now our focus is on the opportunity for a restful break and the enjoyment of the familiar traditions of Christmas.

I hope you all have a lovely holiday.

Regards

Mrs. Morris



### Awards Evening

In September we hosted our annual Academy Awards evening, celebrating the academic excellence, resilience and personal growth of our students.

Awards on the night included Top Male Student, presented to Lucas Martin for achieving an exceptional average grade of 8.3. Top Female Student went to Dania Goncalves, whose outstanding results included grade 9s in English Language and English Literature, as well as Distinction\*s in Music and Child Development. The Resilience Award was presented to Poppy Lambert for her perseverance and success in her GCSEs, while the prestigious Opening Doors Trophy was awarded to Felix Cookson for his consistent academic excellence and exemplary commitment to learning.

The ceremony was made especially memorable by the attendance of Dame Laura Cox, former High Court Judge and current member of the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority. Her distinguished career and recognition for her 25-year commitment to equality and human rights set an inspiring tone for the evening.

In her keynote speech, Dame Laura shared insights from her career, reflecting on the values of respect, ambition, curiosity and resilience. She encouraged students to take risks, strive to do their best, and never be afraid to ask questions or challenge ideas with confidence.

The evening was a proud milestone for us, having achieved some of the best 5+ grades the academy has ever had in the summer, and highlighting the shared efforts of students, staff and families, setting the tone for our continued commitment to nurturing ambition and resilience.

#### **Sally Morris, Principal said:**

*"This evening was about celebrating excellence. Staff, family and students came together to recognise the many ways our students succeed. From academic achievement to resilience in the face of challenges, every award represents ambition and endeavour. We are immensely proud of them all. Having Dame Laura Cox join us to share her wisdom made this evening truly memorable."*



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### Mingalaba Workshop – Year 9

It was lovely to invite back Steve Eadon from Mingalaba for the 3<sup>rd</sup> time into the school to speak to our Year 9 students about the importance of languages to enhance careers opportunities in the future. Steve first delivered a talk to the whole Year 9 cohort about his personal experience of languages and how it played a key part in his own career, enabling him to achieve his own dream career working for Arsenal Football Club. He then worked with a group of 30 Year 9 students, showing them how to use languages in a real-life context, using fun and engaging activities to quickly and easily learn new vocabulary. They then had a go at using this newly learnt language to create a football match report in French.

It was a really fun and engaging session for the Year 9's.

Mr R Letort and Mrs L Brundle





### Year 11 BTEC Acting performance of the play 'Brainstorm'

Year 11 BTEC Acting students recently presented a performance of *Brainstorm* as part of their Component 2 practical examination, producing a thoughtful and moving piece of theatre that showcased both their creativity and maturity as performers. *Brainstorm* began as a blueprint and was then developed collaboratively by the class over several weeks. Through open discussion, experimentation, and shared reflection, students shaped and scripted each scene themselves, exploring what it means to grow up in the modern world. Themes included pressure, independence, identity, family relationships, and the often-unseen emotional experiences of young people.

The students approached the process with honesty and courage, drawing on personal experiences and observations to create a performance that felt authentic and engaging. Their willingness to share ideas — sometimes challenging or deeply personal — resulted in theatre that was at times funny, at times uncomfortable, and always truthful.

The creative journey proved to be equally impactful for staff involved. Working on *Brainstorm* offered valuable insight into the emotional depth and complexity of the students, reminding everyone involved of how much can lie beneath the surface, of even the most positive and happy people. It also highlighted the importance of listening to young people and creating spaces where their voices can be heard and respected.

The production was made possible with the support of families, many of whom contributed in unique and generous ways, from sharing memories and recordings to supporting rehearsal and allowing elements of real life to be reflected on stage.

Above all, *Brainstorm* was a powerful demonstration of the students' commitment, trust, and artistic ability. The Performing Arts team are extremely proud of the Year 11 BTEC Acting cohort and look forward to seeing how they build on this experience in Component 3.

Mr L Cox and Mr A Napier



### Careers Update

This term has mostly been dedicated to supporting our Year 11 students with their next steps onto Post 16 Education. We have had several local providers visit the Academy to speak to students about courses and qualifications and taken some students on visits to local colleges. Most students have now submitted applications with many of them already having interviews and receiving conditional offers. Please remember that the deadline for applications on many courses is the end of January.

In November Year 10 students got the opportunity to visit the Suffolk Future Skills Fair and find out about jobs and careers in the local area. They have also had a tutorial on Work Experience which runs from 6th-10th July 2026. As Christmas time is a good opportunity to see relatives and friends maybe they can offer your child a placement with the organisation they work for.

Next term Year 10 student will participate in the 'Meet the Employer' event and two Employability Mornings with HSBC, DWP, Colchester Institute and Ingleton Wood. Year 9 students will attend a 'Future Steps' workshop from West Suffolk College and will have their annual Speed Networking Event. Year 8s will be attending a workshop with Border Force Customs Officers, to find out about different careers and training pathways.

We are always looking for employers to support our career events, if you have a few hours to spare or the organisation you work for might be able to support our work experience programme then please email our Academy Career Adviser on [hboreham@ormistonsudbury.co.uk](mailto:hboreham@ormistonsudbury.co.uk)



Ms H Boreham

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### Japanese Club

Some Year 8 pupils have been learning to speak and write Japanese after school. They have learned some basic grammar, hiragana and kanji characters and can write full sentences in Japanese. The students involved have made an amazing amount of progress in a relatively short time and I am extremely proud of them.

Mr N Want

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### Lego Club



Lego Club, co-ordinated by Mrs Bell, supports our Year 7 students to have a positive start to the day. During tutor time students work in small groups to solve Lego puzzles or independently to create colourful structures. Whilst being creative students are making new friends, this supports their well-being, promotes collaborative play, and increases their social skills.

Mrs K Jacques





## Christmas Concert

The Academy's Christmas Concert was a truly wonderful celebration of festive joy, bringing together students, staff, and families for an evening of music, dance, and community spirit. Open to all, the concert was wonderfully inclusive, featuring students performing in front of an audience for the very first time alongside seasoned performers. Highlights included the exceptional close harmony of the Snow Ensemble Choir, drawn from this year's *Frozen* cast, and the energetic performance of *Don't Let the Bells End* by the talented band Bird Vision.

Solo performances from Jovie Allen (*One Night, One Moment*) and Freya Scott (*Hallelujah*) captivated the audience, while the Angel Choir, now in Year 11, delivered a moving rendition of *Sparkle and Shine*, connecting the past and present by performing alongside a projection of their original 2021 version, when they were in Year 7. The audience joined in wholeheartedly, singing along to carols like *Once in Royal David's City* and *O Come All Ye Faithful*, eventually standing to their feet after much encouragement from the enthusiastic co-presenters, Millie and Fri. From first-time performers to seasoned singers and musicians, the concert showcased talent, festive spirit, and the joy of coming together as a community. It was a truly memorable way to celebrate the season!

Miss K Conway-Jarrett

## Trip to the Royal Albert Hall

A group of Year 9, 10 and 11 performing arts students had a memorable start to the festive season with a trip to London's Royal Albert Hall to see Sir John Rutter's Christmas Celebration, one of London's most popular holiday concerts. This annual event brought together the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, The Bach Choir and The King's Singers, led by acclaimed composer and conductor Sir John Rutter, for an afternoon of choral and orchestral seasonal classics. The programme featured a mix of well-loved carols, sing-along favourites and powerful performances in one of the best concert venues in the world.

For many of our students, the performance was an inspiring example of professional musicianship, live performance at scale, and ensemble collaboration. From orchestral arrangements to choral pieces, the concert showcased a wide range of musical styles and traditions, and included opportunities for audience participation in carols, which our students, (and teachers) enjoyed immensely!

The Royal Albert Hall's exceptional acoustics and grand surroundings made the experience even more special, giving students a real sense of being part of a long-standing musical tradition and seasonal celebration. This trip not only enhanced their appreciation of live performance but also helped to bring the Christmas season to life for everyone involved.

Well done to all students who took part. A wonderful way to round off a busy term in performing arts and to gain fresh inspiration ahead of the new year!

Mr L Cox





## New Build: Steel Signing

Recently, a group of students were given a unique opportunity to take part in a steel signing event as part of the academy's exciting new build project. As you will all be aware of, the academy is currently undergoing a major new build, with the sports centre being the first section of the new site to take shape. With the foundations in place and the steel framework now erected, construction partners Bowmer and Kirkland invited students to visit the site and add their own messages to the steel beams before they were sealed into the structure.

Students wrote positive messages, names, and reflections directly onto the steel, a symbolic moment that means their words will become part of the fabric of the school for years to come. It was a powerful way to connect current students to the future of the academy and to recognise that the building is being created not just for them, but with them in mind.

The event gave students a real insight into the scale of the project and helped bring the redevelopment to life, turning plans and drawings into something tangible. It was also a moment of pride, marking an important milestone in the construction process.

We would like to thank Bowmer and Kirkland for involving our students in such a meaningful way, and for helping to create a lasting link between our current community and the future generations who will learn in the new academy.

Mr L Cox





### Royal Shakespeare Company First Encounters Tour of King Lear

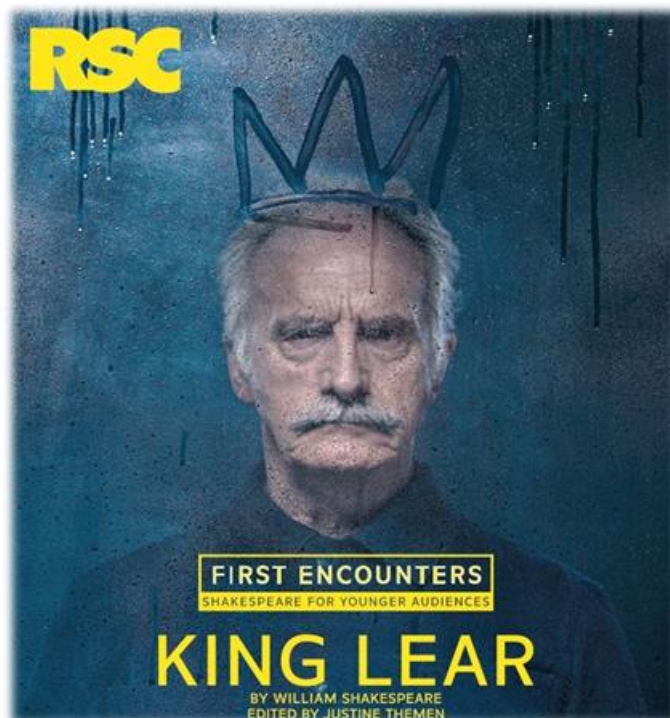
In November, our school hosted the Royal Shakespeare Company as part of their touring production of King Lear. Over the course of the week, the company performed four shows on site, turning our auditorium into a professional performance space.

The performances were attended by a wide range of audiences. Alongside our own students, primary school pupils from across the local area were invited to attend, giving many the chance to see a live Shakespeare production for the first time. One performance was also open to the public, welcoming families and members of the wider community into the school.

In addition to the performances, students in the Year 10 BTEC Acting class took part in two practical masterclass workshops led by RSC actors and directors. These sessions focused on exploring King Lear through rehearsal techniques used by the company, with students working on character, text and physical storytelling. The workshops offered a clear insight into professional working practices and challenged students to approach the play with precision and confidence.

The visit provided a valuable opportunity for students to engage directly with a world renowned theatre company, combining performance, training and audience experience in a way that extended learning beyond the classroom.

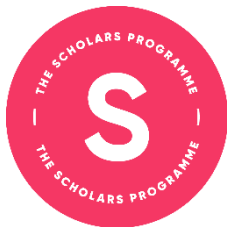
Mr A Napier



### Year 9 Scholars Programme Graduation



Three groups of Year 9 students recently celebrated their successful completion of the Scholars Programme, part of a university access initiative run by education charity The Brilliant Club. As part of the programme, students took part in seven university-style tutorials led by PhD mentor Gayle Overton, exploring (amongst other things) the Social Science pathway "*The Secret to Living a Long and Happy Life*". They were challenged to think independently and develop their academic writing, culminating in a university-style essay assessed using higher education grading criteria.



The Graduation Evening recognised the hard work and commitment shown by students. Selected essay extracts were read aloud by the students themselves, and students were congratulated by staff and families. Speeches were delivered by Gayle Overton, Mr Howkins (Vice

Principal) and Mr Robin (Assistant Principal), celebrating students' academic progress and ambition. Miss Webster, Head of Year 9, also spoke about how proud she was of her Year 9 Higher Prior Attaining students, having organised the programme.

The Scholars Programme has a proven impact on university progression, with graduates significantly more likely to progress to competitive universities. Well done to all involved on an excellent achievement.



# The Globe

Welcome to the latest edition of the Globe, the Humanities newsletter. This term has been a busy term for Humanities. The Humanities Ambassadors represented the Academy at the town Remembrance Day celebrations and did a

fine job of presenting assemblies celebrating Black History Month. This edition we have articles discussing all aspects of Humanities, what they have studied this term, their experience of the Remembrance trip and articles about their relatives' experiences of WW2.

*In geography this year we have been learning about earthquakes and what will happen at the different types of plate boundaries. We have also learnt how to earthquake proof buildings using modern technology such as base isolators and balls at the top of buildings to distribute balance. We also learnt about the different types of waves that occur during an earthquake.*

*Jake James, Yr 9*

*In year 9 RE you learn about moral and ethical questions. You learn about philosophers like Socrates, Plato, Aristotle and others. These lessons really help you with decision making and how ethical your ideas are.*

*Jake Barnard Yr 9*

*On the 11th of November, a group of Humanities Ambassadors took part in a Remembrance Day trip to pay their respects the soldiers who served in the First and Second World Wars. The group travelled to Sudbury Town, where they joined the crowd in the two minutes' silence at 11:00. Afterwards, they visited the Sudbury Museum, which features a range of stories from the World Wars, including the contributions and experiences of people from Sudbury. To conclude the trip, the group visited a series of memorials, taking photos and reflecting on the day.*

*Davita Babaleye Yr 10*



*Ernest David Little served 1939 to 1945 in the 7th artillery survived and found on D Day . Martha Rush WW1 VAD member from 1914 to 1918 she helped save the some of the wounded soldiers from the Somme.*

*Josh Hauth Yr 10*

*My maternal great great grandparents, fled, from the Nazis and converted their religion to survive the holocaust after their parents had tragically become victims of the genocide.*

*Junior McKnight Yr 10*





## Christmas Jumper Day!

Another fantastic Christmas Jumper Day this year – raising over £500 for Save the Children!



We wish everyone a very happy Christmas holiday!





ORMISTON  
SUDBURY  
ACADEMY

10<sup>TH</sup>, 11<sup>TH</sup>, 12<sup>TH</sup>, 13<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2026

Disney  
**FROZEN** JR.

7PM MAIN AUDITORIUM

TICKETS AVAILABLE SOON

Music and lyrics by  
Kirsten Anderson-Lopez and Robert Lopez

Book by  
Jennifer Lee

Based on the Disney film written by Jennifer Lee  
and directed by Chris Buck and Jennifer Lee

Disney's *Frozen JR.* is presented through special arrangement with and all authorized materials are supplied  
by Music Theatre International, New York, NY 212-541-4684 [mtishows.com](http://mtishows.com)