

Ormiston Sudbury Academy

End of Term Newsletter



Ormiston
Sudbury
Academy

Issue 9

July 2026

Dear Parents and Carers

From my perspective, school life is never boring. Every year, every term and every day will bring changes, fresh challenges and things that make me smile. This year has had some very major events. The demolition of the front of the school and the gym has been one of the most visible changes, as has the building of the new sports centre. Our Ofsted inspection visit and the subsequent report reflected internal changes that are supporting our students to succeed.

On the subject of academic achievement: the year 11 students were very positive about the GCSE and BTEC papers they sat back in the cold days of May and early June. We are looking forward to celebrating their results with them on 20th August. Our large year 6 intake had an extremely warm but very enjoyable induction to their new school at the end of the summer term.

This newsletter lets you know about the many activities that staff have arranged to enrich the school experience for our young people. They are going above and beyond because we all believe our students are really worth investing in. I am grateful to all our staff who create growth opportunities for young people with every club, trip – and every lesson. Our local governing body also make a really valuable contribution to the life and success of the school and we are very grateful for that. I would also like to say a really big thank you to all the students who have contributed to our school community over the year: helping out with year 6, being sports leaders, prefects, ambassadors, open evening guides... the list goes on. They are amazing and make me proud.

I hope that everyone has a well-deserved rest over the summer and a safe and happy holiday.

Regards

Mrs S Morris



Careers Update

This term our building contractors Bowmer + Kirkland ran a 'Skills Workshop' for our Year 7 students where they were given different challenges to complete in teams, around working in the construction industry and developing work-based skills. The winners of each workshop have the opportunity to have a tour around the school construction site in the new academic year.

In May we took 52 Year 10 students on a visit to Colchester Institute for a 'Familiarisation Visit' which included a tour of the campus and information on their Post 16 provision. In June we took 55 Year 9 student on a visit to Hollow Trees Farm for a 'Food and Farming' student day so that they could find out about the career opportunities available within the agriculture and food production industry

We were also delighted to have retained the national Quality in Careers Gold Standard using the Career Mark approach, provided by Complete Careers. This means that for the last six years we have been providing careers guidance and support to a high standard and our programme meets the needs of our learners.

Work experience 2026

For the third consecutive year our Year 10s went out on work experience, the second week of July. This year we managed to secure placements for 86% of our students for between 3-5 days.

We had students working in a vast range of settings including primary schools, garden centres, hotels, charity shops and veterinary practices. Some students travelled quite some distance to work for Peabody Trust, Coca Cola, Fossils Galore, with one student going to Poland to work in a Nursery and another student working in Oludeniz in Turkey for a paragliding centre. We received great support from so many local businesses including Stephen Walters, Cherry Lane, Swan Hotel Lavenham, Hollow Trees Farm and Atkins Dellow Solicitors to name a few. We are really grateful to all the employers that supported our work experience programme and have received some fantastic feedback about how well our students got on in the workplace and most of our Year 10s really enjoyed the experience with a couple being offered possible part-time jobs when they turn 16 and potential apprenticeships.



Those that stayed in school got to support teachers with Year 6 transition, working with our IT department, supporting an RSC event at the Mercury Theatre. We also had the University of Suffolk and WizeUp Financial Education come in to run workshops with our students along with a trip to Foxearth Nature Reserve to participate in some conservation activities.

Mrs H Boreham



Science Faculty Update

Physics Olympics Success for Year 9.

On 23 June, a group of Year 9 students were selected to attend the Physics Olympics, where they took part in a series of exciting and challenging activities. The event aimed to:

- Increase students' appreciation and enjoyment of Science, with a particular focus on Physics, Technology and Engineering.
- Develop communication, teamwork and leadership skills.

Our students performed exceptionally well, applying their scientific knowledge and problem-solving skills to achieve excellent results. Challenges included designing a Gravitrax track that would keep a marble travelling for the longest possible time, constructing a free-standing tower capable of supporting a tin of beans, using limited resources, and creating a wind turbine designed to generate the highest voltage.

The students demonstrated creativity, resilience and outstanding teamwork throughout the day. Well done to everyone who took part!

Year 11 Biology Field Investigation.

We would also like to celebrate our Year 11 students, who this term completed their final compulsory Biology investigation. Using quadrats and transects, students estimated the population size of daisies across the school grounds. Through random sampling, they investigated the distribution of these plants in both trampled and untrampled areas of the school field.

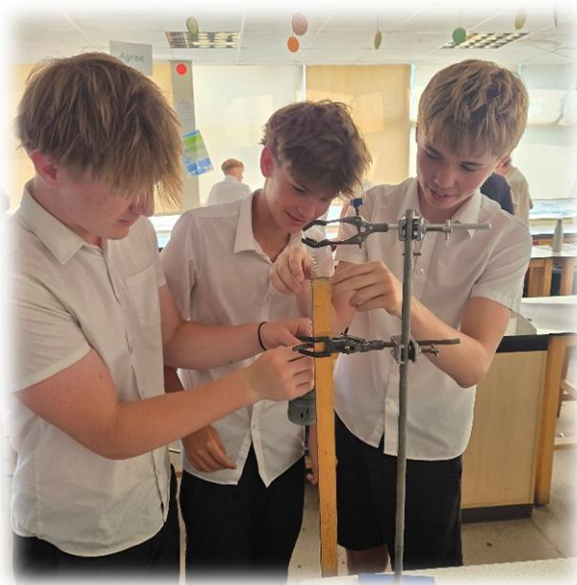
The students approached the practical with enthusiasm and professionalism, collecting and analysing data effectively. Excellent work, Year 11!

Year 9 Forces and Elasticity Investigation.

Finally, Year 9 students successfully completed their investigation into forces and elasticity, exploring how different forces affect the extension of an object and determining its limit of proportionality. This practical forms part of the GCSE required practical programme and provided students with valuable hands-on experience in scientific investigation.

Students conducted the experiment carefully and responsibly, demonstrating excellent practical skills throughout. Well done, Year 9!

Mrs C Juwe



Benedict's Law Update

As many of you may be aware from September 2026, all schools in England, including maintained, academy, and independent schools, are expected to comply with Benedict's Law through statutory guidance. Benedict's Law was introduced following the tragic death of five-year-old Benedict Blythe who died from anaphylaxis at a school in 2021. The law establishes **national protections to ensure schools have policies, trained staff, and emergency medication** to respond effectively to severe allergic reactions, aiming to prevent similar tragedies in the future. At Ormiston Sudbury Academy from September 2026, we will have emergency medication (adrenaline auto-injectors) on site for use in any anaphylactic emergency. Our Whole school Allergy Policy will also be available to view from September 2026. For students that already have an **existing known** serious allergy must continue to have an Individual Health Care Plan (IHCP) so that staff can support the student in the best possible way. All staff, including teachers, support and site staff will receive up to date training in allergy awareness and emergency response. We endeavour to keep our students here at Ormiston Sudbury as safe as possible and feel that the new law and procedures will support us in doing so.



BENEDICT BLYTHE
FOUNDATION

IN MOTION - Dance Show

Ormiston Sudbury Academy proudly held its annual dance show, In Motion, in June. The festival was a sold-out event and featured performances from almost 100 students across Years 7–11, showcasing the incredible talent, dedication and creativity of our young dancers.

The show included a wide variety of performances, from the energetic “Nicest Kids in Town” from *Hairspray* to a number of impressive Year 11 solo performances. Audiences were also treated to the Year 10 Component 2 examination pieces, alongside outstanding group performances such as “One Night Only” by Verve Junior and “Iconography”, a spectacular finale performed by Elevate Motion.



It was wonderful to see so many students performing together on stage and proudly showcasing everything they have been working on throughout the year. Many students also demonstrated their creativity by choreographing their own routines, while our school dance companies delivered a range of exciting and inspiring performances.

It was especially fantastic to see so many Year 11 students involved in the show. While it was a celebration of their achievements, it was also a bittersweet moment as it marked their final performance on the Ormiston Sudbury Academy stage.

A huge congratulations to all the students who took part. Your hard work, commitment and passion made In Motion a truly memorable event.

Miss T Bayly

Year 11 Prom

On 25th July, our Year 11 students enjoyed a fantastic Prom celebration at AFC Sudbury, marking the end of their secondary school journey in style. The evening was a wonderful opportunity to recognise and celebrate the hard work, resilience and achievements of our students throughout their time at school.

Students arrived looking incredibly smart and enjoyed an evening filled with laughter, dancing and memorable moments with friends and staff. The event was a tremendous success and was thoroughly enjoyed by all who attended.

A special congratulations goes to Lee and Lauren, who were crowned Prom King and Prom Queen for 2026. We would like to thank everyone who helped make the evening such a special occasion and wish our Year 11 students every success as they move on to the next exciting chapter of their lives.

Miss C Norman



The Oscars 2026

The Performing Arts department recently hosted its highly anticipated annual Oscars Award Evening. The night was a spectacular celebration of student talent, dedication, and creative growth across the academy.

The first half treated the audience to a fantastic lineup of the year's finest work. The evening kicked off with a high-energy performance by Bird Vision, followed by fantastic musical features including a medley from the Year 9 and 10 students and a standout music performance, 'How you do', by Oliver Skeats. The stage also came alive with vibrant routines from the BTEC Dance students, the Verve Senior Dance Company, and Elevate Dance Company. Dramatic talents shone through in the BTEC Acting students' presentation of 'Brainstorm' and a compelling excerpt from the RSC Ambassadors. The first half closed beautifully with vocal harmonies from the Close Harmony Choir and a magical medley from the cast of Frozen the Musical.

After the interval, the formal awards ceremony began. Students dressed up in their red-carpet attire as we celebrated the outstanding achievements of our students in Dance, Drama, Music and Musical Theatre. The biggest cheers of the night belonged to the major award winners, with top awards going to Ella Iliffe, Elsie Moores, Joseph McSweeney and Callum Ambrose, for their exceptional contributions and artistry. Awards also celebrated everything from technical design to critical writing, highlighting the incredible variety of talent in our faculty.

The night then ended with the awaited announcement of next year's whole academy production of... Beauty and the Beast! The evening was a massive success that perfectly captured our supportive community spirit. Huge congratulations go to all the nominees, winners, and staff members who made this magical night possible!

Miss K Conway-Jarrett



Mental Health Awareness week

This year's Mental Health Awareness week saw our Wellbeing Ambassadors go 'On Tour' taking their positive support into the community and encouraging others to talk about mental health and wellbeing. They had a stall in the market with supportive information on various mental health topics and signposting to appropriate support. The students were amazing and welcomed by the community and stall holders in the town. They also manage to raise a few hundred pounds for local charities.

Following this they visited Catchpole Court to spend time with the residents chatting and playing bingo. The Ambassadors had been supported by Waitrose, who donated plants to brighten the environment of the Court's garden, whilst also giving them an activity to keep them active.

This is just the start for this fantastic team of young people who are hoping to continue their tour raising awareness for All.

Mrs M Newell



Year 10 History - Old Operating Theatre Trip:

On the 27th of April, Year 10 GCSE History students enjoyed a visit to the Old Operating Theatre Museum & Herb Garrett. Students had a talk from one of the experts on the history of medieval and renaissance operations and medical practices, and were given the opportunity to explore the museum of medical discoveries, including the opportunity to make their own herbal remedy! This visit strongly linked to their Medicine Through Time exam to give them extra knowledge to go alongside their studies.

Miss C Norman

Royal Shakespeare Company – Playmaking Festival

This month, 17 students from Ormiston Sudbury Academy took to the stage at the Mercury Theatre, Colchester, as part of the Royal Shakespeare Company's Associate Schools Playmaking Festival.

The festival brought together more than 150 young people from schools across Suffolk and Essex to create a unique performance of Julius Caesar. Each school was responsible for a different section of the play, with our students delivering the dramatic assassination scene.

After months of rehearsals and workshops with professional RSC practitioners, they performed with exceptional confidence, maturity and professionalism on one of the region's leading stages.

As well as performing, Ormiston Sudbury Academy was proud to lead the entire project, coordinating the festival and working closely with the Royal Shakespeare Company, the Mercury Theatre and our partner schools to bring the production to life. The event celebrated not only the talent of the young performers, but also the power of collaboration and the opportunities that the arts can provide. The feedback from audiences and RSC staff was overwhelmingly positive, and our students represented the academy brilliantly throughout the project. We are incredibly proud of every student who took part and would like to thank the Royal Shakespeare Company, the Mercury Theatre, our partner schools and everyone who supported this unforgettable celebration of Shakespeare and youth theatre.

Mr A Napier

Duke of Edinburgh Bronze and Silver

This year marks the 70th anniversary of the Duke of Edinburgh's Award, and it has been another successful year for OSA's expedition groups. The Bronze group began the year with an expedition to Leiston, enjoying excellent weather throughout. Every participant completed the expedition successfully, with several students particularly standing out through their leadership, teamwork, and willingness to support others on the route.

Next came the Silver practice and qualifying expeditions. The practice expedition in Boxford brought back memories of many students' Bronze expedition in Danbury the previous year, when temperatures reached record levels. Despite the challenging conditions, the group approached the expedition with determination and resilience, completing the practice with minimal fuss.

The Silver qualifying expedition took place in Bures. While participants had to contend with an enthusiastic ant population, as well as the occasional misplaced toothbrush, fluffy socks and even an entire tent (courtesy of Mr King!), spirits remained high. The group demonstrated excellent perseverance, teamwork and navigation skills throughout, and every participant successfully completed their qualifying expedition.

Overall, it has been a fantastic year of adventure, personal development and achievement, with students continuing to embody the values of the Duke of Edinburgh's Award through their commitment, resilience and support for one another. We look forward to working with more students next year on the two levels and students in Y8 and 9 currently will have the opportunity to sign up for the D of E Award in September.

Mr O King and Mrs A Montgomery



Colchester Castle

Our Year 7 students had a fantastic day exploring Colchester Castle, bringing centuries of history to life. During the morning, students took part in an exciting treasure trail, where they uncovered fascinating facts about the history of Colchester, beginning with the Roman invasion of Britain and continuing through to the Norman conquest. Working together, they solved clues and explored the castle's exhibits, deepening their understanding of how Colchester has changed over time.

One of the highlights of the day was a guided tour of the castle's dungeons. Students learned about key events in British history, including the Roman invasion, the rebellion led by Boudica, and the remarkable transformation of the site itself, from the foundations of a Roman Temple to the impressive Norman castle that still stands today. The tour offered a fascinating insight into the people, events and stories that have shaped one of Britain's most historic landmarks.

The students were a credit to the school throughout the visit, demonstrating curiosity, enthusiasm and excellent behaviour. It was a memorable day that helped bring their classroom learning to life.

The 'Globe' Newsletter - Update from the Humanities Council

The Globe

Welcome to the last edition of the Globe for this school year. We have several contributors describing their experiences in Humanities. Next year we will be looking for more Humanities Ambassadors. Have a lovely summer break. *Mr A Bishop*

Year 9 Geography

I have really enjoyed learning about climate, tourists, and glacier landforms over the past term in Geography. We were exploring the impact that tourism has on the environment and ecosystems; we also looked at how Benidorm's environment has changed from 1950s, to the 1990 because of the results of over-tourism and jungles of skyscrapers. We have looked at the different types of landforms that may have occurred due to glaciers. Overall, a varied and fascinating stop on my geographical journey.

Finally, I have really enjoyed being a humanities ambassador this year. Everyone is so friendly and it's a nice thing to do every Friday.

Jake James

Being a Humanities Ambassador

This term, us humanity ambassadors have met every Friday and we have presented a few assemblies to the school on important historical events or people. I like being a humanity ambassador because not only do you learn a lot, you also work on skills such as public speaking. I have also spoken to new people since getting involved and been on a trip with them to the Remembrance service in town.

Lily-May Hollinshead

Year 10 History

This year, year 10 students have experienced a whirlwind of learning both in and outside classrooms. In class, students have made tremendous progress in preparation for GCSEs. Beyond the classroom students had the opportunity to visit a museum in London which deepened their understanding through the eye opening exhibitions, engaging talks and an overall informative yet interesting experience.

Davita Bableye

Year 9 Humanities

Being a humanities ambassador has been a great opportunity for me, as it has allowed me to be able to improve my presentational skills as well as my teamwork skill. Humanities ambassadors have great fun helping in assemblies talking about all things geographical and historical. You also work in a team a lot and the other humanities ambassadors are really kind and respectful and if you just joined, they would help you get to know what you're doing as well as what you can help with, whether that be in an assembly or just working on a job as a team, they will make sure you don't struggle and have a great time while you help out the humanities lessons.

Jake Barnard

GCSE History

In GCSE History we have studied the following topics: 'Medicine Through Time', Weimar Germany and Anglo-Saxon Society.

Why is it important?

In my opinion, learning the History of something is a crucial aspect in decision making, cultural awareness and developing empathy.

How could you make an assumption of a person if you didn't learn how they have developed over time and what events have shaped their personality?

You may think that people performing bloodletting with leeches and using astrology to predict what illness someone had is absurd, but these were common strategies during the medieval period, and if we didn't start from crazy ideas, we may have never had the chance to develop and learn from past mistakes.

Studying Weimar Germany has made me realise the atrocities multiple minority groups faced, many having previously been exposed to prejudice, this has assisted me in developing empathy and a strong cultural awareness.

Although we have only recently started learning about Anglo-Saxon Society, we have seen how the King had the highest authority of the country, but many earldoms (territories governed by earls) were able to establish their own laws and ideals, much like today with local governments controlling smaller areas and our national governments regulating the country.

To finish my piece, I would like to stress the importance of learning how history shapes our outlook on everyday life and current events. There is so much to learn from the past to improve the present and future.

Clara Ilczenko

We'll leave you with a photo of our old building being torn down.

It's sad to see the old building go... but we are really excited about the next phase about to begin!



We wish everyone a very happy Summer holiday!