

# OSCA'S ENRICHMENT NEWSLETTER

Academics | Sport | Trips

## Science

Science enrichment, in the run up to Christmas, saw our Scientists using silver displacement reactions to create Christmas decorations made of beautiful silver crystals. The week prior to this we also had an enterprise focus whereby students thought about target audiences in the run up to Christmas, creating bath bombs as an ideal gift for mothers/sisters. Some groups also aimed bath bombs at boys experimenting with citrus flavours and chemical compositions to create blue bath bombs. The products were then packaged for transport using skills from design/technology and graphics to reduce damage to the pupils products.

## Excellence in Citizenship

Prior to the holiday break up, a local Nursing Home was burgled. Warrens Hall Nursing Home staff receiving a £500.00 cheque from



OSCA.

## English

The English Star of the Week project is open to all year groups and is aimed at rewarding excellent behaviours and attitudes in English. Each teacher nominates someone from their classes with a reason why they are nominating students. Each nominee and winner receive achievement points. The winners are added into a raffle which is drawn at the end of term - the winners receiving 11-17 year old driving lessons (5 driving lessons have been rewarded so far).

Over the past term, the English department has been running a Calligraphy Club who have met for six weeks as a team - with the numbers growing every week. What was once a cohort of 5 has now quadrupled into a class of 25 avid calligraphers.

These students (and some staff!) have had patience in order to learn how to:

- hold the pen and understand nib angles
- construct simple alphabets

Our work last term was focused on holding the pen correctly, drawing letterforms and being introduced to the Foundational Hand. Students learnt how to write at the correct angle and understand the style of the alphabet. Students were also shown how to write in the Gothic style and this will continue in the Spring term.

So far, students have responded very well with some at intermediate level already.

## Physical Education

10th December, 15 pupils from year 7, 8 and 9 attended an indoor athletics event, at Tipton Sports Academy, to compete against 11 other schools in the area. The pupils performed really well and accomplished a few outstanding results. Michelle Owusu came 1st in the sprint and hurdles. Ethan Court came 1st in triple jump and received a certificate for beating the distance covered in previous competitions. Rahmahdani Rahmahdani came 3rd in the sprint. The year 7 boys came 2nd overall.



## House Competitions

This half-term the 4 houses at OSCA faced off in a series of football matches. Each year played off earning points for their house. The whole tournament culminated with the teachers playing in a 90 minute match with over 50 pupils turning out to support the match and cheer on their houses.

The friendly competitive spirit stretched to our wider community in line with our celebration of Children in Need day. A competition between houses to see which house could raise the most money resulted in a total of 525.86 raised.

## OSCA Newscast

OSCA Newscast Pupils across all year groups have been coming together every Friday to film and edit OSCA's good news. The OSCA Newscast is presented as a 10 minute segment that is shared whole school during Monday's L4S sessions. Pupils are really enjoying broadcasting their achievements and activities and as a result we have seen a rise in participation in clubs across the academy.

In run up to the Christmas holidays the PE department embraced the festivities and ran a house competition in a Race to the North Pole. Students across a range of abilities came to the multi-gym in their spare time (before school, lunch and after school) during the month of December. In total both staff and students logged 1,900 miles towards the arctic centre.

The department also ran a fundraising activity that allowed pupils to participate in lesson in festive uniform, raising 240.00 that will be put towards Birmingham Children's Hospital and towards equipment to continue to enhance the PE curriculum .

## MFL

Thursday 26th November our Y11 French GCSE students were given the opportunity to attend an AS level French lesson at Sandwell Sixth. They worked in teams on topics such as Advertising, Films and Health. They then took part in activities organised by Sandwell Sixth AS students and really impressed the students as well as their teacher. Finally, they were taken on a private tour of the facilities and were given a goodie bag.

They behaved impeccably and were a real credit to the Academy!

## Humanities

The History department took a coach load of year 8 pupils to the Black Country Museum to further develop their study of local history in the industrial revolution. They participated in a Victorian school experience and enjoyed experiencing life during the 1800's.

## Maths

The Maths Super Star of the Week project targets each year group and is aimed at rewarding excellent behaviours and engagement in Maths. Each teacher nominates someone from their classes with a reason why they are nominating students. Winners receive recognition each week through the OSCA Newscast.



## PAPA

13 Year 10 GCSE Drama students traveled to Windsor to see Blood Brothers as part of their course. They will be performing extracts from the play for family and friends as part of their practical exam. They thoroughly enjoyed the show and lots of tears were shed at the end!

Drama club are writing and rehearsing their own pantomime. Mr Jackson's dance studio is a hub of activity every lunch with free style dance workshops available for all year groups. You can get involved at guitar club and learn how to string and tune guitars. You also get one to one tuition for free! We have two thriving rock bands practicing in the dinner hours too.

### We Will Rock You!

Unless you have been walking around with your eyes closed you will know that this years school production is We Will Rock You! Showcasing the hits of rock legends, Queen, this 3 night extravaganza will take place in February and rehearsals are going great. Tickets will be on sale in the new year so watch this space!

### PAPA CRIMBO

On the final week of term PAPA hosted a week of festive celebrations with students performing for their peers.

## Technology

This academic year 46 of our Y11s and Y10s have completed the European Computer Driving Licence or ECDL vocational qualification. A further 22 Y11 students will start the course this week. This is a high status GCSE equivalent qualification, over 2 million students and adults in the UK have taken the ECDL since 1997. The ECDL equips students with the skills to use a computer confidently and effectively, building on existing knowledge and motivating further learning.

This qualification develops computer skills at beginner, intermediate, advanced and professional levels. In the world of work the ECDL assists with employability as it provides excellent proof of digital literacy. This qualification is equivalent to a full GCSE and is graded from a Pass, Merit, Distinction, and Distinction\*.

## L4S Day

An excellent L4S day on Friday 4th December was had by all year groups. Important PSHE concepts were focused on with the different year groups:

- Year 7 - Life saving skills and first aid. Our students had a busy day learning valuable skills of how to react in an emergency situation and how to implement resuscitation. Students also focused on safety elements required around waterways and rail crossing and raising the awareness of dangers in these environments.
- Year 8 - Money Matters themed day for our year 8 students. Understanding the importance of saving & budgeting. Also raising the awareness of money through running a car a home and a mobile phone.
- Year 9 - TRAPPED programme so study, focusing and raising awareness of abusive relationships and reflecting on what a healthy relationship amongst different people in our lives.
- Year 10 - Sex Education. Students looking at STI's and contraception and the importance of practicing and instilling safe sex. Raising the awareness of readiness for sex and feeling comfortable in situations.
- Year 11 - A very important transition stage for our year 11 students so students were introduced to important study skills in readiness for exam preparation and revision. Students learnt how to implement 'mindfulness' strategies that can help them in times of anxiety and stress. Students also engaged in a drama workshop focusing on interview techniques in line with applying for jobs or colleges/six form

## OSCA 6th

A trip to the German Market was jointly organized between staff and students in order to develop independence. Students were asked to make their own way there navigating and organizing both their time and public transportation.

A University trip took place prior to the end of the first term. Students were given the opportunity to meet providers and discuss courses in order to raise aspiration.

Staff and students have jointly developed a Reading Mentoring Programme to increase provision of adults able to listen to students reading during Reading Renaissance lessons.

Lunch Duty (paid) - a team of students are now a paid part of the duty team helping to both establish sixth formers as our most senior students and give them a real world work experience which does not negatively impact on their studies.

During our L4S Day, OSCA 6th heard from local business and ex students (currently attending university) speakers. They also enjoyed the opportunity to develop relaxation skill through yoga.

All segments involved feedback that the day was successful with all students engaged and enjoying what the day had to offer. Valuable life lessons learnt that are important in modern Britain today!

## Rewards Trip

December 4th, OSCA pupils who had maintained 97% or higher attendance were rewarded with a trip to the Telford Ice Rink. Over 300 pupils enjoyed their afternoon at the ice rink sliding, gliding and clinging to the boards. All pupils enjoyed themselves and were a credit to the school.

## Accreditations

- ✓The Investors in People Silver Award, at the very first accreditation.
- ✓The OAT Gold Award for outstanding achievement in Science
- ✓The OAT Gold Award for outstanding achievement in Attendance. (We are once again the highest performing school in the borough in this field this term, and one of the top performers in the whole country). This is so important, given the proven link between high attendance and outstanding results.
- ✓The Music Mark, for outstanding and innovative practice in music education
- ✓The Holocaust Beacon Schools Status. This has only been awarded to NINE schools in the whole country
- ✓The CEIAG (Career Information Advice and Guidance) Quality Mark, for outstanding and innovative practice in careers education
- ✓The Developing Democracy Award. This award is given by the British Youth Council to schools who have been encouraging students to have their say in society - both within the school or through social action projects in the local community. OSCA is one of only 19 Schools nationally to hold this award.