

OSCA'S ENRICHMENT NEWSLETTER

Academics | Sport | Trips

English

Early in February, the English department took ___ year 11 students to The Birmingham Rep. There the students experienced an interpretation of John Steinbeck's *Of Mice and Men* adapted for stage. As a GCSE text for the Modern Text Literature paper, this interpretation opened the floor for discussion about central themes between students. The students were well behaved and thoroughly enjoyed the show.

Physical Education

Sandwell School Indoor Athletics

7 pupils represented OSCA at the Sandwell School indoor athletics final competition.

Along with individual achievements, the year 7 boys team finished 2nd place overall whilst the year 9 girls team finished 3rd place overall, qualifying for the Midlands competition.

OSCA Watches Man. United

40 students travelled to Manchester to watch as Manchester United triumphed over FY Midtjylland 5-1 in an Europa League match.

Science

"It's Rocket Science!"

The OSCA science department is working in association with UK Space Agency and the Royal Horticultural Society, to help carry out an experiment that is truly out of this world.

Earlier this year, the STEM club put in an application to study the effects that being in space has on plant seeds.

The seeds were launched into space, spent a few orbits on board the international space station (ISS) and are now back!

At 04:26am, on Tuesday 2nd March, Commander Scott Kelly of NASA and Russian cosmonauts Mikhail Korjenko and Sergey Volkov of Roscosmos landed safely back on Earth in Kazakhstan. The seeds then travelled with Scott Kelly to NASA in Houston on a charter flight from Moscow, Russia and returned to the UK on Thursday.

They will arrive at OSCA in early April as part of our Rocket Science experiment pack. In the meantime the science team are prepping for their arrival.

Big Bang Fair

A trip to the NEC in Birmingham was held for students in year 8. 30 students attended the Big Bang Fair and experienced all the wonders of seeing, speaking to, and participating in interactive science and engineering activities.

Maths

The Maths department accepted applications from the year 9 cohort to fill the roles as Maths Mentors, from which 14 candidates were selected. These 14 individuals underwent intensive training in February, preparing games and introduction speeches in preparation for their first session with their year 7 mentees. The Maths Mentors program is a pupil lead and facilitated mentoring program in which year 9 pupils mentor year 7s through interactive and engaging sessions after school on a Tuesday.

Media Studies

On Thursday 10th March a group of OSCA students from the Year 9 Media Studies class, along with a few members from the OSCA Newscast team, took part in the national BBC Schools Report day, representing the school.

Based in their 'News Hub' set up for the day, they created their own BBC news bulletin throughout the day, based on stories and research that they conducted.

Students had to work cooperatively and creatively in order to meet the tight deadline of 4pm, uploading their bulletin to the BBC website where it was aired nationally.



Brilliant Club

The Gifted and Talented program is once again running the Brilliant Club. Offered to aspiring year 9 students, the Brilliant Club received 43 number of applications this year - from which 24 spaces have been granted. The club partners year 9 students with PHD students. Over the next 4 weeks each student will create and defend a thesis in their specialty fields.

PAPA

The Performing and Production Arts department (PAPA) have done it again! This year's production: *We Will Rock You* - the musical by Queen and Ben Elton.



Over 80 students took part, working tirelessly from September auditions right through to the final production last month.

After performing for local primaries, the production concluded with three nights (back to back to back) performances, February 23-25. Each performance was to a full audience, selling out on the final night. With the hall kitted out with full scaffolding the group was truly able to transport their audience into the future - to a world without instruments, putting on a high-end performance.

The production was multi faceted consisting of actors and actresses, dancers, back up dancers, a 7 piece pit band, lighting crew, sound crew, backstage crew, hair and make-up, costume department, and set design - all of which were managed by students from every year group.

The performance was reported on by both internal and external agencies, giving a back-stage exclusive to OSCA Newscast reporters as well as being featured in the Express and Star, local Sandwell paper.

Having once again risen the bar, our expectations are high and the whole school waits in anticipation of next year's performance (still to be released).

OSCA Newscast

The OSCA Newscast has continued to develop their skills and now often features on scene reporters. The reporters capture footage from inside clubs over the course of the week and film their anchored news every Friday after school.

The Newscast continues to be played every Monday during the shortened L4S slot and all broadcasts can be found on the school website and OSCA Youtube Channel, as a way to ensure that all pupils and parents have access to the enrichment opportunities that are being provided throughout the week both academic and extra-curricular.

OSCA's DofE



The OSCA's DofE Cooking Skills Club have been meeting every Friday since returning from the December holiday. The group hosted the LGB and members of SLT and ELT for an afternoon of High Tea on 4th March. The group of 13 year 10 students are now looking forward to passing along their learning to keen KS3 students.

L4S Day

Friday the 11th of March saw the OSCA's second Learning for Success day of this academic year.

Over the course of the day, students worked within their vertical tutoring groups in teams of 7 to demonstrate that their teams could act as a company to organize a fictional Ormiston Sandwell Community Academy's Music Festival.

Their aim was to raise more money than they spent, as they were throwing a benefit concert for a charity of their choosing. Plans had to reflect provisions suitable for a three day festival.

This enterprise challenge helped to develop individuals abilities to:

- Tackle a problem, identifying a need - brainstorming, developing ideas and discussing things as a team to reach a solution
- Planning a project - breaking down tasks, organizing resources and research, as well as using team member's skills and allocating responsibilities
- Putting their plans to action - solving problems as they went along, monitoring, evaluating and reviewing their progress.

One team was chosen from each of the four houses to compete in front of a board of external judges in a final house competition.

CEIAG at OSCA

Over the past term, 7 Careers Champions have been recruited and appointed to aid in the provision of CEIAG here at OSCA. The students (ranging from year 9 through to year 13) will work in conjunction with our PSHE curriculum leader and Connections officer, helping to plan, design and evaluate the CEIAG curriculum at OSCA.

