

OSCA'S ENRICHMENT NEWSLETTER

Academics | Sport | Trips

English

For the past two terms the English department has been running a Writer's Guild for the more able students in year 10. As a part of this enrichment activity the Guild is travelling to Hay on Wye to experience the history of a literary town. The trip will consist of the 7 members of the Writers' Guild, as well as 18 other aspirational students in year 10, who have been selected through an application process.

With the conclusion of the Spring term, the English department drew names, for the second time, from past winners from year group (7 through 11) of the English Stars of the Week. 5 Young Learners Driving Experiences were awarded.



Maths

On March 22nd, 4 year 10 students travelled to Wolverhampton University to complete the National Year 10 Mathematics Feast. During this competition, they competed against other schools in our region - including grammar schools - and WON! During an interview with the Newscast, the students explained that this competition gave them a huge confidence boost, especially when faced with grammar school academies. "It's great to know that we can compete!"



On April 20th, the Maths department took 30 year 10 students to the University of Warwick to experience a day of workshops and lectures on Maths and Beyond. In addition to a fantastic day being had by all involved, the students embraced the experience of A Level material on imaginary numbers.

On April 27th, a group of students, selected from both years 7 and 8, participated in the UKMT Maths Challenge. The group of Keystage 3 students sat a paper in exam conditions that challenged them with problem solving questions - the likes of which they wouldn't be faced with during lesson.



Science

On the 21st of April, 4 year 7 students were selected to travel to the University of Birmingham to participate in the Salters Chemistry Festival. Their day consisted of two challenges and demonstrations. During the first round, the team had to work together to solve a murder investigation before they faced the mystery challenge as their second task. During the competition, all members of the team demonstrated exceptional teamwork and scientific enquiry.



MFL

As part of the year 8 French curriculum, students studied the topic of music. They were exposed to current French artists including a band called Kids United, made up of 6 French youngsters aged between 8 and 15 who have released a single for the charity Unicef.

The single 'On écrit sur les murs' reached number 5 in the French charts and was so popular amongst our year 8 group that 7 students decided to do a cover of it.

This cover features: Daniel Payne on the guitar with Heather Gall, Louise Falconer, Paige Hollyoake, Stephanie Lawrence, Isabelle Eyi-Mensah and Mankiran Dhillon on vocals and was featured in Newscast 18 on the 25th of April.

After rigorous rounds of applications and interviews, the MFL department has composed a team of Modern Foreign Language Ambassadors. The team is made up of 25 members. Their aims are to: support other students during lessons; organize events and competitions; to represent the department during open evening activities and other duties connected to positively representing the MFL department.

Most recently, they have used their objective of promoting the speaking of French to help raise money for their peers who are travelling to Peru. In order to do this they have organized and are currently facilitating a house competition in which staff and students sign up to speak French for an entire day.

PAPA

MML (Make Music Louder) was organized by a group of year 11 BTEC music students; the MML team created a line up of talented peers to showcase in their production. The event was advertised by them to their peers, and was performed on the 22nd of April. Tickets were sold and all proceeds were donated to the Birmingham's Children's Hospital (a charity of the students' choosing).

Beacon Holocaust School

From the 6-9th May as part of our Beacon Holocaust Status, Ms Madeley was able to join the other 17 Beacon School Lead Teachers, along with staff from UCL's Holocaust Education Department, on a 4 day study tour of Warsaw. The visit allowed for tours of Warsaw itself, the sites of the infamous Warsaw Ghetto, Investigations into pre and post war Jewish life in and around the local area and culminated in a visit to Treblinka.

The tour allowed the teachers involved to consider the pedagogical techniques employed by historians in site visits, as well as the unique and emotive learning opportunities that these sites can give our pupils and how to address such emotive responses.

On the 11th April, OSCA hosted a UCL CPD training day 'unlocking the Holocaust'. This day was funded by UCL as well as being led by their staff, Darius Jackson and Tom Haward. The day focused on classroom practice, with practical activities and engaging resources developed to engage young people's understanding of the complexities of Holocaust studies. The course covered how to use authentic testimony to engage students in personal stories, what was the Holocaust, as an historic event, pre-war Jewish life, resistance and the legacy of the Holocaust. The course was attended by a range of OSCA staff within Humanities, and several teachers and course directors from across the country.



Geography

The Geography department took their year 11 groups to the Dorset Coast and to Swanage for an experiential revision opportunity, spending two nights and three days observing the physical geography in real time. Over 20 Y11s spent three days with Mr Kettle, Mr Dixon and Ms Maiden. With no hanging around, the group set out on a cliff top walk out of Swanage up towards Old Harry rocks to find great examples of how a headland erodes.

Once at Studland beach, the students engaged in the opportunity inspecting the gabions and linking what they'd seen to what we had learnt in class.

The first evening meal was enjoyed with a walk along the beach, during which students were able to see how the beaches were managed - this time in Swanage bay with the groynes.

Day 2 involved yet more walking - this time up to Durdle Door, a natural arch in the Jurassic coast. Here the group looked at the cliff collapse as they hiked up over to Lulworth Cove. Cross curricular links were explored as they discussed and considered the smuggling history of the area. After this, the team headed up onto the Isle of Portland to see Chesil beach and Weymouth Harbour - the venue for all the sailing in the London 2012 Olympics!

They awoke on day three and the weather had broken, meaning cloudy and normal conditions returned to the British coastline. The group packed up our things and headed to Bournemouth for our final leg. They considered how longshore drift works and actually saw it happening.

Not only did the students witness their texts coming to life and get the opportunity to revel in the outdoors but it was also crucial revision for their summer exams.

Animal Therapy

The SEN department welcomed 2 new members of their team, Peanut and Pumpkin - guinea pigs! The guinea pigs are the central focus of the new Animal therapy programme.

The animals are used to teach responsibility and provide comfort. They also create an environment through which students can find a common interest and work to build upon the already strong community within the department.



Book Club

Conversations between a group of year 10 girls and Ms Ruth (head of Humanities Faculty) has resulted in the formation of OSCA's first book club. The club had their first meeting prior to the Easter holiday having selected their first book from the Carnegie Book Award nomination list. The club meets every Wednesday at lunch and are always welcoming new members.

Physical Education



On March 22nd, 3 year 9 OSCA students travelled with Ms Pearce to compete in a triathlon. Their performances were outstanding! Megan Hawley completed her triathlon in 10.06 and achieved the fastest time overall.

Michelle Owusu completed hers in 12.23 and Jocyme Mhango completed hers in 12.32.

Overall, they came second - missing first place by just one minute!

The Sandwell Athletics Championships were held on the 12th of May. OSCA had several elite athletes participating in the various events. Our year 7 boys efforts resulted in a 3rd place position while the year 10 and 11 scores left us in an extremely close race tying for 3rd place. Overall, out of the 12 schools competing OSCA tied for 4th place position.

The Sandwell Cup play downs have been running over the past two months. Both our year 7 and year 8 teams played well - both making it to the quarterfinal round before being put out by ACE academy. The year 9 team managed to keep into the running until the semi-final match, playing through all sorts of weather conditions (within their final match). The year 10 boys have, again, improved upon the performances of their younger peers and are currently preparing for the championship cup.

Attendance of after school clubs run by the P.E. department equates to one ticket for each student. At the end of the term there is a raffle draw. The winner of the Spring term draw was year 9 student, Lauren Holden. She became the 2nd student to win a signed West Bromwich Albion t-shirt for her attendance of after school clubs and was presented with her prize by Ms. Cutler during the Dahl house assembly.

Over the course of the Spring Term, the Sports Council were busy constructing their second ever house competition. On the 26th of May years 7 through 10 and teachers faced off in an elimination points Dodgeball Competition. Both gymnasiums were packed of participants, officials and the odd spectator and great fun was had by all.

Dance

The Street Dance team has been working since December on perfecting their skills and moves. The group has met faithfully every Friday afternoon, practicing from 1:30 to 3pm. Their programme concluded with a showcase performance in amalgamation with other dance teams at a theatre in Birmingham on the 12th of June.

Kit Car Club

A group of 10 year 10 boys have been working tirelessly, meeting every Tuesday night since February half-term, to build themselves an electric kit car. The Green Power Project is an electric kit car racing club. The objective is to build a operational car to then enter into races. The race is 90 minutes long and cars are scored on both their total distance and speed made over that time allotment.

To better understand the physics and strategy behind conception and design, the team travelled to Rockingham Motor Speedway, in Colby on the 4th of May. There they did a bit of recognizance gathering intel on racing strategy, team composition, and of course, investigating the differences in performances of the different designs.

The team is a skills based club for the skills component of the Duke of Edinburgh programme, counting towards their award.

Brilliant Club

On Wednesday 18th May 2016, 24 year 9 students travelled to The University of Warwick where they successfully graduated from The Brilliant Club 2016.

Students had worked alongside their PhD tutors, Esther Jawring and Ben Stokes, to complete a series of tutorials that culminated in a 2,000 word University style assignment. Esther's group completed a study of "Reading in the Digital Age" whilst Ben's group were exploring "Skeletal Muscle: More than just Movement?" Both tutors commended the commitment and enthusiasm our students put into the course and were equally as satisfied by the final results. This year's OSCA cohort were one of the participating cohorts to have a 100% completion rate and there were some stellar results amongst them with 5 students passing with Distinction. In addition, the students' behaviour on the trip was exemplary and their achievement as a whole is a testimony to their dedication to succeed both at OSCA and beyond.

More Able Gifted and Talented

Ons April 22nd, a group of year 10 students (comprised of 12 students from the GCSE Business Studies class) worked alongside Miss McDonald in a Business and Enterprise competition. The students worked off timetable for the morning, connected to lecturers University of Reading's The Henley Business School via live video web link. They competed against 3 other Ormiston Academies and were the only group of fewer than 25 students and although they did not place in the competition they performed to an excellent standard and produced a viable business plan.

Transition

Working in partnership with a variety of local organizations and Tividale Community, OSCA's transition team have welcomed 30 year 6s into our academy for a selection of activities on Friday afternoons. The 30 year 6's are working with teams of OSCA students and members from the greater community both here and at Tividale Community. They are working in 8 different activity teams over a period of 6 weeks.



Duke of Edinburgh

39 year 10 students invaded Kinver on May 7th and 8th during a preparatory camping trip. The trip was in preparation for their Duke of Edinburgh Practice Expedition. The students walked in teams of 14 with supporting staff members up to peaks and across the fields, hiking for 10 hours over the two days.

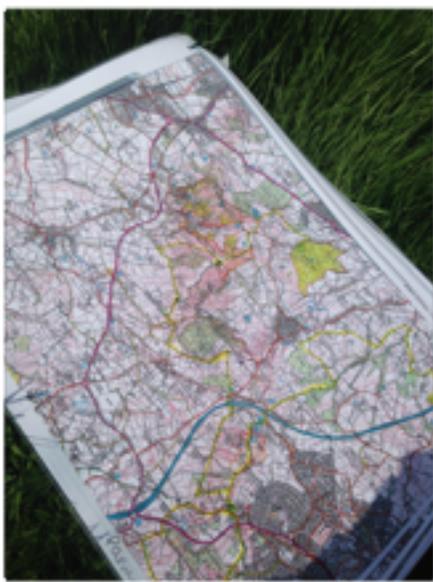
At camp, pupils worked in teams of two and three to practice their camping craft - setting up their tents, cooking creative meals for their tea and supper. During the night they took shelter for a brief (yet torrential) downpour, enjoyed a campfire and built on their sense of community and teamwork.

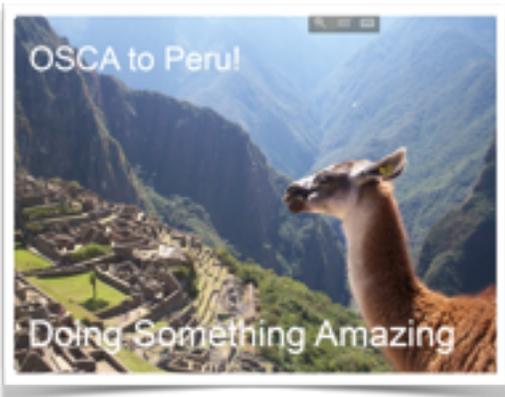
This camping trip allowed them the environment needed to hone their camp craft, orienteering and cooperative communication skills.

Only a short 3 weeks later, the group traversed the Clent and Lickie Hills. This time in proper DofE regulated grouping - with no more than 7 members to a team and a gradual release to remote supervision.

Once again, the group was favoured by the weather gods and graced with exceptional sunshine - again with the exception of gale force winds in the heart of the night (a true testament to their camping abilities, as all tents were still standing securely come morning).

All participants have successfully completed their Practice Expedition component of their Bronze award and are ready and waiting for their final assessed expedition in September.





OSCA to Peru

In the summer of 2017, 5 of our current year 10 students will travel with Ms Madeley and CAMPS International to Peru.

Although this is an amazing opportunity, it comes at an amazing cost. The individual students have been busy raising funds through individual and team efforts.

Two teams of teachers have decided to lace up their trainers to raise money for these pupils, choosing to run in a 5km obstacle race or a 21km local half marathon.

All proceeds go to the students to get them to Peru.

Spring Rewards Trip

On April 15th, OSCA ran its annual Spring Rewards trip. This year 545 students were invited to attend. Students who had met the punctuality, attendance and behaviour requirements had the option of either attending a trip to Water World or to Air Space.

Both trips were a great success and fun was had by all.

Boxing Club

Ormiston Sandwell Community Academy students are enjoying an opportunity to take part in a boxing club set up by the local police in Tat Bank Road, Oldbury. The club's trainer and coach is amateur boxer and super heavyweight Solomon Darces, who in November became national champion for the first time.

This 12 week programme runs once a week and is open to both girls and boys at OSCA aged 12 to 13.

On the 10th May, West Midlands Police Crime Commissioner David Jamieson, went along to the club to see for himself how the funding was being used. He was impressed with the club and our students. He thought that they were incredibly strong and disciplined and that their coaches were an absolute credit to the community.

The club has been funded by POCA cash; this is money recovered from the ill-gotten gains of criminals, which is spent on good and worthwhile projects that benefits the law abiding community.

