

# OSCA'S ENRICHMENT NEWSLETTER

Academics | Clubs | Sports

## English



On the 24th of June, the English department took a group of 25 aspiring writers to Hay on Wye. With exceptional weather, students enjoyed a lovely time in this renowned literary town, with nearly all of them coming home with at least one book and many of them coming home with an entire bag full. They also explored the history of the town and visited the remains of the castle. This trip was to bridge the gap between year 10 and year 11, especially for the students involved in OSCA's Writer's Guild. The texts they took home are to act as a form of inspiration. The club will relaunch again in Autumn 2 before school on a Friday.

Over the course of last year, the English Department completed 3 successful draws from a cache of students who had won English Stars of the Week. Another 5 Young Learners Driving Experiences were awarded to: Amy Beaman, Anna Peters, Liam Price, and Sebastian Trojanowski.

## Maths

This year, the Mathematics department are excited to announce that they will be continuing with their mentoring programme that was established last year, with great success — all in thanks to last year's Year 7 and 9 students who took part in the programme. The programme has already begun to take off for its second year. Year 9 students have filled in application forms to secure their positions as mentors. Successful applicants will be designated one or more Year 7s in need of numerical mentoring. With the support of staff, students are empowered to help students to develop their mathematical skills; build both leadership and communication skills; as well as building independence and curiosity for further learning.

Continuing on from last year, the maths department have also decided to continue with their 'Stars of the Week'. Each week, a student from each year is nominated for their fantastic effort and attitude in their mathematics lessons — winners are broadcasted weekly via the OSCA Newscast. In addition this year, each winner will have their name entered into a prize draw. At the end of the term, 30 names will be drawn for the opportunity to go on a school trip to Bletchley Park!

Due to the Mathematical importance Bletchley Park held during World War II, and is still visited by people all over the world, it is the perfect destination to reward Mathematical engagement and interest. Students fortunate enough to be drawn will have the opportunity to partake in a number of exciting tasks including enigma-esque code breaking.

## Science



On the 22nd of June, 30 year 8 students boarded their coach and headed for the RAF Cosford interactive museum. Here they took part in several hands-on activities, one of which was to design and build a jet car (model) which all pupils attacked with typical OSCA enthusiasm, completing their designs as if it were common practice to them. Throughout the day the students continued to engage in exhibits and enjoyed the chance to see many different types of military and flying related hardware.



## MFL



On the 1st of July, the French Ambassadors travelled to Birmingham University to participate in the Languages and Martial Arts day. The students enjoyed a day immersed in languages, mixing with students from other schools and engaging in hand-to-hand combat!

Over the course of the year, the French Ambassadors (a team of 11 students) represented the MFL department, organizing House Competitions, raising the profile of foreign languages through popular culture and newscasts, as well as mentoring their peers in lessons.



As part of a cross-curricular enrichment programme, 32 year 11 students travelled to Remis before heading on to Paris, France. The trip was open to students studying French and/or Art/History. The trip departed the morning of Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> September, returning late Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> September.

Accompanied by Ms. Blondeau, Ms. Cooper and Mr. Sorby, the group travelled by coach to Folkestone, before taking the Eurotunnel to Calais and continuing on to Reims. Whilst in Reims, they enjoyed a visit to Notre Dame Cathedrale (which included the towers); the Palais de Tau, rode in Vintage cars; visited the Fort de la Pompelle (a WWI for and museum). Whilst in Paris, they visited the Eiffel Tower, going all the way to the top; visited the Sacré-Coeur Basilica and enjoyed a stroll around painters' square; walked the famous Avenue des Champs Elysées; visited the Notre-Dame of Paris Cathedral; and took in the sights of the Lovres Pyramid.

## Wicked Wednesdays

Wednesdays are back on the timetable!

Despite training sessions taking place on a Wednesday, students at OSCA are not to miss out.

This year, Wednesday evenings have a lot to offer.

The Year 11 football team is out and about with some serious training — looking to take the Sandwell Cup for a consecutive year under the supervision and management of Mr. Laird.

Taekwondo and Gymnastics lessons are also being delivered on a Wednesday night for students of all ages, genders and abilities.

## Dance

The UDC Street Dance has started again as part of our OSCA Fridays. The team is working towards a Dance Show/Christmas Review at the end of the autumn term.

All profits from the ticket sales are due to go towards the schools chosen charity.

The club runs every Friday, coached by Jessica Smallwood, and is always looking for new members.

# Physical Education

## Sports Day:

The 15th of July was the annual OSCA sports day. Supporting staff and students, dressed in house colours and uniting under their separate house banners, competed for gold.

Over the course of the year, all houses took part in a plethora of House Competitions, collecting points as they went. Sports day was the penultimate challenge, and as such, was chalked full of friendly rivalry.

With excellence both on the track and in the field, the results were as follows:

Gold Medal: Shakespeare with 679 points

Silver medal: Da Vinci with 530 points

Bronze medal: Dahl with 475 points

Wooden spoon: Picasso with 462 points

With the new academic year underway and the scores set to zero, the competition is back on with the first of our House Competitions ready to kick off.

As part of the annual sports day, the PE department took advantage of cross-curricular competition in partnership with the Design Technology department. Students taking Design Tech. competed in a competition to design the bronze, silver and gold medals. The finalists' medals were then mass produced and awarded to medalists on the day.

And as always, the PE department is busy promoting sport and healthy living with a wide array of after school clubs every night of the week.

## Sports Leaders Award:

22 KeyStage 4 students began their level 1 Sports Leaders Award on the 16th of September. The course will run up until Christmas and will provide the students with a qualification that is highly recognized by both colleges and universities alike; it is also a stepping stone that can be used to access other leadership awards later on.

## Residential:

The year 10 GCSE PE class travelled to Dinas Mawddwy in Snowdonia National Park on June 22-24th. Whilst there, the group worked to transform their theoretical knowledge into practical experiences. They took part in an array of activities only accessible from such a location including: abseiling, canoeing and raft building.

## Peru 2017

5 Pupils will be travelling to Peru in July-August 2017 for 4 weeks to participate in local environmental conservation of the Amazon rainforest, support local schools with building work and basic sanitation, as well as completing a 5 day trek of the Salkantay Inca trail to Machu Picchu.

Each individual is taking part in a variety of physical challenges and fundraising opportunities to help raise funds for the efforts.

Thus far, the school has supported this endeavour through two staff runs and a clothing drive.

## Black Country to Birmingham 1/2 Marathon



As part of the efforts to help raise funds in support of the students going to Peru, a group of staff teamed up, accepting the challenge of competing in and completing the Black Country to Birmingham 1/2 Marathon. The race followed along the canal and staff were cheered on by students, parents, colleges as well as governors. All in all it was a great success!

## PAPA

Following the success of We Will Rock You, PAPA continued to deliver a jam-packed calendar of clubs, rehearsals and performances.

To close off the academic year, PAPA OKE and the SUMMER SIZZLER concerts provided a fantastic opportunity for students to showcase their musical and performing talents. During Thursday lunchtimes, singing enthusiasts of all ages and abilities took to the stage to sing their favourite songs, to a packed Drama studio audience. We were also lucky enough to have several outstanding vocal performances by Miss Blondeau.

The clubs were both attended and facilitated by students who not only participated but also organized and promoted these fantastic showcases.

The SUMMER SIZZLER events took place in the week before the last week of term. Students from Mr Cooper's BTEC Music class, as well as other musicians and



singers performed outside the S Block to audiences of up to 200 staff and students. The audiences were blessed with wonderful sunshine and the event provided an excellent 'festival' feel to our OSCA lunchtime.

In addition, Year 11's MAKE MUSIC LOUDER event saw 14 OSCA students plan and organize an exciting dance and music event that raised over £100 for charity. Students from all year groups performed songs onstage in the Great Hall to an audience of staff, students and parents. The event was part of their BTEC Music course and all students achieved the highest grades possible for organizing and running such a successful event.

This year is looking to be even busier with a new, full and diverse extra-curricular timetable, auditions for Aladdin already in full swing and performances around the community, including several at the Tesco superstore in Dudley and a Shakespearean Drama performance in Birmingham already fast approaching!

## Transition

With the first month of the new 2016-2017 academic year almost completed, we can confidently comment on the successful transition of all new year 7 intake students (not that there was any doubt as the transition programme at OSCA has a positive legacy).

The current year 7 group is the largest intake group that OSCA has yet to see — being full and oversubscribed with 210 year 7 students. All students have really hit the ground running with full and challenging curriculums (studying GCSE material in most subjects). All year 7 students will experience a full and robust day of team building and leadership activities in their house teams October 4th and 5th. The trip is due to take place at Conkers Outdoor Activity centre in Swadilincote.

Last year, we worked in partnership with a variety of local organizations and Tividale Community, welcoming 30 year 6s to the academy for a selection of activities on Friday afternoons. The Transition Team is happy to report that they are in the midst of establishing a rolling programme similar to last years once again.



## More Able Gifted and Talented

### Women's Summit at the Forge Mountain Centre:

18 girls, recognized as being more able gifted and talented in 3 or more different subject areas and ranging from years 8-10, travelled to Dinas Mawddwy in Snowdonia National Park. Here, the students stayed at the Ormiston Forge Mountain centre, for a period of 3 days and 2 nights.

The trip challenged the girls to consider their position within our global structure as aspiring women. They participated in a variety of activities whilst there, exploring various case studies and discussing issues regarding the position of women across different areas of our global community.



The mission of the trip borrowed from the The Women's Summit mission: "to empower those who attend to be professionally, personally, and financially successful... To recognize that "the contributions [they can] make to [their profession, family and community] has great value." All girls were pushed outside of their comfort zones, horse riding, canoeing, hiking, and painting. The conversations and encouragement they had, gave and received contributed to an experiential opportunity they will not soon forget.

## Rewards and Aspirations

During the Summer term 2, students from all year groups and houses were rewarded for their excellent behaviour and attendance records. Students who maintained an attendance score of, or above, 97.7% were invited to attend the rewards trips.

2 trips were run both to Alton Towers for the day.

On 14th of July, 38 year 10s, 12s and year 13s enjoyed a lovely sunny day at the park. The following week — 21st July — 138 students who had maintained this attendance standard had their opportunity to enjoy a day out as well.

## Duke of Edinburgh



38 year 11 students took on the challenging cross country trails of Cannock Chase over the weekend September 17-18th. This weekend served as the teams final expedition and the next step to completing their Bronze Award. Over the course of the two days, teams worked cooperatively to navigate, cook and camp. The groups hiked over 30 kilometres over the course of the weekend.

Despite any difficulty or frustration that they may have encountered, each individual hiked up their socks and snugged-up their walking boots in true OSCA fashion.

For a third time, the group were graced by good weather during the day - suffering the autumn chill that set in at night.

With the expedition completed, the students have only to complete their presentation portion of the assessment — assessing the impact tourism has on our environment.

Autumn half-term 2 will see the start of our next cohort of DofE.



