

# OSCA'S ENRICHMENT NEWSLETTER

Academics | Sport | Trips

## Art

On 13th November, 40 OSCA staff and students took part in the art departments first House Competition "The Big Draw".

During the afternoon, participants were asked to produce a piece of artwork based on their house patron and great fun was had by all. All artists worked hard to win for their house and there was a great competitive atmosphere. With creativity flowing, great pieces of art were produced. Judging commenced on 16th November and final results were released, with Shakespeare house emerging victorious.

## Science

This year, STEM club has seen its highest attendance yet with 38 students attending! A range of different activities have been offered with special themes each week. Students carved pumpkins and induced a chemical reaction inside to make them vomit for Halloween; then made their own sparklers and fire writing for bonfire night. Science has an exciting new house competition to follow in the footsteps of Art, which we will be launching soon.

## English

The English department is currently running a 'Star of the Week' rewards programme for all year groups. All nominees, as well as weekly winners are awarded achievement points and winning nominees have their names displayed on display screens throughout the school as well as on posters in the English corridor. At the end of the term a name is drawn from the winners and one child from each year group wins an 11-17 year old driving lesson. So far, there has been a great response and students are really enthusiastic about the programme.

In October, the department took 48 pupils to the Rep Theatre to see 'Anita & Me' (a GCSE text that our pupils are studying in year 8 to provide appropriate stretch and challenge to all learners). The performance was excellent and the students thoroughly enjoyed themselves. Their behaviour was exemplary and they were a credit to the school.

25 pupils from all age groups are taking part in a Calligraphy Club run by the department after school on Thursdays, developing their handwriting skills and they are improving rapidly.

There have been over 10 applications to become part of the Writers' Guild - a new club starting in January for all ages exploring creative writing with the sole aim of becoming published.

Ongoing intervention sessions continue to take place on Tuesday and Thursdays for Year 11's on a carousel basis to improve coursework and work on exam preparation. Whilst over the October half term, revision school was aimed at our 'match up' students to improve their English coursework.

A Year 6 poetry competition was held during Open Evening - 3 primary students have been awarded vouchers and the winner of the Year 7 Poetry competition received a driving lesson as well.



## House Competitions

Since September, OSCA has been focusing on raising the profile of ethos through house competitions - directed by Paul Laird. Staff and students have welcomed this with open arms. We have already organized a table tennis house competition where all year groups and house staff got involved over four lunch times and we have also had our Big Draw house competition where staff and students stayed behind after school on a Friday. All drew about their own houses and these have been judged, with one of the pieces moving forward into the national competition.

We are now looking at even more house competitions such as PAPA organizing the house battle of the bands, PE organizing table football, house football and dodge ball tournaments; other subject areas are also organizing events soon to be announced and of four some Christmas activities.

The overall winners will receive the house shield at the end of July and will defend this in September.

Let the Battles continue!

## Physical Education

12 boys and 12 Girls have competed in 2 of the 6 Sandwell Schools indoor athletics competition. On the first athletic meet we broke the triple jump record that had stood for 13 years and as a school reward we have received 50% off the hire of the athletics track at Tipton Sports Academy for our end of year sports day. The results after the second meet put us in second position overall.

The boys football teams have had some mixed results in their 12 games so far this season. The training is well attended with 120 students attending the training sessions to prepare for the games. Each year group has 16 in a squad so 80 boys are regularly competing in the school's football league. Year 10 have made it through the qualifying rounds in the English Schools FA National Competition - winning 3-2 and were an absolute credit to our school.

We have been part of the Sandwell Schools Girls U16 Basketball League. The home game that we hosted showed the girls in KS4 to be gracious in defeat and proud of representing their school. The basketball club is still very well attended with both KS3 and KS4 students.

The girls extra-curricular clubs are extremely well attend with a regular attendance across Trampolining, Badminton, Fitness, Football, Basketball and Netball. Regular numbers are: 40 students on a Monday, 60 on a Tuesday and 40 on a Thursday. In light of this student enthusiasm, competitive netball games are being organized for year 7 and 8 to give the students the opportunity to represent other schools.

The students always behave exceptionally well and are gracious in both winning and defeat. They demonstrate excellent sportsmanship and do our school proud on every occasion.



## PAPA

A huge congratulations to Kelci Edwards, a year 8 OSCA pupil and a regular attendee of the Drama Club. She has landed herself a role on a gospel television show on Sky television. Kelci has been leading some activities at Drama club and has been sharing her experiences of performing for the camera.

Year 10 GCSE Drama students will see Blood Brothers at the Windsor Theatre Royal the week of 23rd November, as they are studying the text for their exam and are very excited to see the play and the Windsor Castle.

Film and Media students are getting ready to travel to the NEC in Birmingham 21st November, for its annual 'Comic-Con' event. For film, comic, and computer game enthusiasts, it is an opportunity to take a further look into the industry.

## MFL - Trip to Paris

On the 25th September, 23 students set out on a trip to Paris. The journey started at the academy at 7.00am, travelling by coach to Birmingham New Street Station; then travelling by train to London, where they boarded an International train to Paris.

In the afternoon, the students checked into the Hotel Splendid. They enjoyed a visit to the Gardens at The Jardin du Luxembourg, created at the beginning of 1612 by Marie de' Medici. After their evening meal, the students experienced Paris by night with a walk by the Eiffel Tower.

The next day, after breakfast, the students visited the museum 'Musee d'Orsay', on the bank of the Seine. They walked across the Lovers' Bridge where all the students signed an OSCA padlock and attached it to the bridge as per tradition. This was followed by an outing to the Jardin de Tuileries to see the Louvre Pyramid. Then the students walked to Notre-Dame Cathedral before moving on to the Basilica of the Sacred Heart of Paris - commonly known as Sacre-Coeur. The evening finished with a French meal (which included snails!) in a restaurant in the heart of Montmartre.

The following day the students set out to visit the Arc de Triomphe with its 287 steps to the top, followed by some lunch and shopping on the Champs-Elysees. In the afternoon, students went up the Eiffel Tower with the bravest going up to the 3rd floor. The evening meal was enjoyed at the Hard Rock Cafe, where the evening ended with a bit of singing and dancing.

On the last day, the students headed off to enjoy a cruise at Bateau-Mouche on the Rive Seine before doing a last bit of shopping in Rue du Commerce and making their way back to the train station.

## Edmund Hall

In October, all year 7 pupils were invited to participate in our annual Transition visit to Edmund Hall Outdoor Education Centre. The purpose is to provide the pupils with an opportunity to get to know the others in their House and to highlight the importance and benefits of being able to work together as a team.



## OSCA 6th

A group of Year 13 students visited the University Fair at Aston Villa Football grounds on Wednesday 21st October. The students visited the University Seminar, UCAS application session and various Universities from around the country. Year 13 students were given the opportunity to go around and speak to the University tutors who attended the event about the courses that they were interested in studying. This was a great opportunity for students as they explored what new courses the Universities offered and what entry requirements were needed for acceptance.

## OSCA Newscast

A select group of pupils have come together, working throughout the week to capture footage from multiple clubs. On Fridays after school, they meet to record a broadcast with highlights from the week, as well as announcements for the upcoming week. Their Newscast is then released to the student body on Mondays during L4S. At present, they have officially launched the first broadcast and are busy collecting footage for next weeks.

## Natural History Museum

On 15th October, 44 Year 9 pupils travelled to the Natural History Museum. The main purpose of the visit was to stretch and expand the awareness of pupils in regarding Natural Hazards. Whilst there, pupils had the opportunity to experience an earthquake through the earthquake simulator and identify many different factors that control Natural Hazards and witness for themselves the result of hazards - including seeing victims of Pompeii! Whilst at the museum, pupils also had the opportunity to experience the Dinosaur and Animal exhibits. The animal section can also be related to our ecosystems scheme of work. Overall, a great day was had by all involved. The pupils were excellently behaved and gained a lot from the experience - including travelling to London, which many of them had not done before.

## U21 European Qualification Match

13th October, OSCA travelled to Coventry's Ricoh arena to see England beat Kazakhstan 3-0, in the U21 European qualification match. It was really nice to see our youngsters having this opportunity and it was a first ever Football fixture seen live for a few of our youngsters! All pupils and staff enjoyed a fine England performance and our pupils' behaviour was very good throughout.

## OSCA Wednesdays

Although the staff body are busy with CPD on a Wednesday, the pupils are intent on remaining active. For the past two weeks, we have been running a successful Wednesday afternoon programme with hired coaches brought in to offer our pupils the opportunity to try their hand or feet as the case may be at some unconventional sport. Last week attendance was up to 37 pupils with more pupils looking in promising to bring their friends out next week. Vigor boarding and Kinball are the two unconventional sports being offered every Wednesday up until Christmas with the opportunity to extend after the winter holiday.