

Welcome

Welcome to our final edition of our OSCA Newsletter for this half term. We hope you are enjoying our good news communications - we certainly love to compile our celebrations for you. The past eight weeks have been filled with positivity, with so many exciting events happening around the school. As you are aware, we have had Ofsted in over this past week. We would just like to take this opportunity to thank all students, parents/carers and staff for their commitment to the school and ongoing support, with special thanks to all who completed our Ofsted parental voice.

We hope you have a restful half term break, and we look forward to welcoming back students on Monday the 6th of November.

Good News

Halloween Pumpkin Painting

On Friday the 13th, to get students in the Halloween spirit Miss Whitehouse hosted a pumpkin painting event in our CAAT department. Students were able to choose their pumpkin and got creative with painting some amazing designs on them. There was such a variety, and it was great to see the students being so imaginative. As they painted their pumpkins, they also watched 'The Nightmare Before Christmas', which was a huge hit. Well done to all the students involved, for creating such brilliant masterpieces, and a huge thankyou to Miss Whitehouse for hosting a fun activity for the students!



Year 9 Sporting Success

A few weeks back, Mr Evans took the year 9 football team away to play at Perryfields. OSCA produced an utterly dominant display from the first kick off and ended up 8-0 winners. The whole team played brilliantly but some special mentions must go to Rhys who scored 4 goals, Godswill for constant pressure and chasing down right throughout the game, Cameron in goal, often didn't have a lot to do but still made 3-4 impressive saves when called upon and Mason for controlling the middle of the pitch. All the team played excellently, playing some of the best football Mr Evans has seen them play since they started as a team in year 7. Huge well done to the students, and thankyou to Mr Evans for coaching such a fantastic team.

Attendance

- 1st—Year 7
- 2nd—Year 9
- 3rd—Year 10

High attendance is vital to ensure that students reach their maximum potential while at school. Having a couple of days off here and there may not seem like it will have much of an impact, but by having just 6-10 days off a year, it can drop the chances of achieving those higher grades by 10%. This equates to over 50 hours of learning lost per year. Congratulations to Year 7 who achieved the highest attendance this week!

Upcoming Events

Half Term—Monday 30th October until Friday 3rd November

Happy Half Term! Students will break up on Friday 27th October, and will return on Monday 6th November. We hope that all students, parents/carers and staff have a lovely half term.

Year 11 Mocks—Monday 13th to Thursday 23rd November

Year 11 mocks will be happening between **Monday 13th to Thursday 23rd November**. All year 11's should have received their Individual Mock Exam Timetable and the Joint Council for Qualifications (JCQ): Exam Information for Candidates. If any year 11 student hasn't received one of these packs, could they please go and see Ms Dornelly in the Data and Exams office (A Block) to get one. Thankyou for your ongoing support with this.

Social Media

Don't forget to follow us on social media, where you can find any news on school activities as well as updates about recent events.



@OSCATweets



Ormiston Sandwell Community Academy

Dear Parents & Carers,

What a week, indeed what a half term!

As you know we welcomed a team of inspectors from Ofsted this week. It was a rigorous, demanding and thorough experience for us all. It is also something that will continue to improve our academy, and, we are very happy with the findings indeed. The confidentiality of an inspection means I am unable to feedback until the report is quality assured and validated but, rest assured, I am very eager to do so and will share it as soon as I am able to.

The inspection does mean that a very long eight week half term felt perhaps even longer. I would like to thank first of all the students who have welcomed me to their school and it, most definitely, feels like home. I've thoroughly enjoyed meeting them, talking through their opinions informally at social time and also in weekly student voice activities. I have now met with all year groups and have a good understanding of the student perspective. I would like to thank the overwhelming majority of them for their hard work, attitude and response to changes made.

I have also thoroughly enjoyed getting to know the staff in school and appreciate their honesty, support and dedication to school improvement. This academy has many unsung heroes and I just love our Friday praise briefings when I get to publicly thank those staff who have gone above and beyond. This week it was all the leaders from all levels in the academy who met with an inspector, our Careers co-ordinator who not only met with inspectors but also ensured that we retain our CareersMark Award amongst others to receive special praise.

I'd also like to point out that I have thoroughly enjoyed meeting parents at various events and in my weekly Headteacher Surgeries. The latter have been really important in understanding parental perspective and informing our school improvement. I do not take parental support for granted and it is very much appreciated.

We will continue to expect the very best from our students in terms of their attitude, attendance, punctuality and appearance. Please do not allow piercings over half term that may infringe our uniform code upon the students' return.

Have a really good half term and a well-deserved break.



Adrian Price

Principal

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about

YOUTUBE

YouTube is a video-sharing social media platform that allows billions of people around the world to watch, share and upload their own videos with a vast range of content – including sport, entertainment, education and lots more. It's a superb space for people to consume content that they're interested in. As a result, this astronomically popular platform has had a huge social impact: influencing online culture on a global scale and creating new celebrities.

INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

YouTube is free and can be accessed via numerous devices, even without creating a YouTube account. Some content is flagged as 'age-restricted' (requiring the user to be logged into an account with a verified age of 18), but children can still view some mildly inappropriate material. This can include profanity and violence, which some young users may find upsetting.

CONNECT WITH STRANGERS

YouTube is a social media platform which allows people to interact with other (usually unknown) users. Account holders can leave comments on any video they have access to, as well as messaging other users directly. Connecting with strangers online, of course, can potentially lead to children being exposed to adult language, to cyberbullying and even to encountering online predators.

SUGGESTED CONTENT

YouTube recommends videos related to what the user has previously watched on their account, aiming to provide content that will interest them. This is intended to be helpful but can also lead to binge-watching and the risk of screen addiction, especially if 'auto-play' is activated. Users without an account are shown popular videos from the last 24 hours, which might not always be suitable for children.

HIGH VISIBILITY

Content creators can also be put at risk – especially young ones who try to make their online presence as visible as possible. Creating and uploading content exposes children to potential harassment and toxicity from the comments section, along with the possibility of direct messaging from strangers. Videos posted publicly can be watched by anyone in the world.

TRENDS AND CHALLENGES

YouTube is teeming with trends, challenges and memes that are fun to watch and join in with. Children often find these immensely entertaining and might want to try them out. Most challenges tend to be safe, but many others may harm children through either watching or copying. The painful 'salt and ice challenge', which can cause injuries very quickly, is just one of many such examples.

SNEAKY SCAMMERS

Popular YouTube channels regularly have scammers posing as a well-known influencer in the comments section, attempting to lure users into clicking on their phishing links. Scammers impersonate YouTubers by adopting their names and profile images, and sometimes offer cash gifts or 'get rich quick' schemes. Children may not realise that these users are not who they claim to be.

Advice for Parents & Carers

APPLY RESTRICTED MODE

Restricted Mode is an optional setting that prevents YouTube from showing inappropriate content (such as drug and alcohol abuse, graphic violence and sexual situations) to underage viewers. To prevent your child from chancing across age-inappropriate content on the platform, we would recommend enabling Restricted Mode on each device that your child uses to access YouTube.

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CENSORED

TRY GOOGLE FAMILY

Creating a Google Family account allows you to monitor what your child is watching, uploading and sharing with other users. It will also display their recently watched videos, searches and recommended videos. In general, a Google Family account gives you an oversight of how your child is using sites like YouTube and helps you ensure they are only accessing appropriate content.

CHECK PRIVACY SETTINGS

YouTube gives users the option of uploading videos as 'private' or 'unlisted' – so they could be shared exclusively with family and friends, for example. Comments on videos can also be disabled and channels that your child is subscribed to can be hidden. If your child is only uploading videos that are protected as 'private', they are far less likely to receive direct messages from strangers.

CHECK OTHER PLATFORMS

Influential content creators usually have other social media accounts which they encourage their fans to follow. Having an open discussion about this with your child makes it easier to find out how else they might be following a particular creator online. It also opens up avenues for you to check out that creator's other channels to see what type of content your child is being exposed to.

MONITOR ENGAGEMENT

YouTube is the online viewing platform of choice for billions of people, many of them children. Younger children will watch different content to older ones, of course, and react to content differently. You may want to keep an eye on how your child interacts with content on YouTube – and, if applicable, with content creators – to understand the types of videos they are interested in.

LIMIT SPENDING

Although YouTube is free, it does offer some in-app purchases: users can rent and buy TV shows and movies to watch, for example. If you're not comfortable with your child purchasing content online, limit their access to your bank cards and online payment methods. Many parents have discovered to their cost that a child happily devouring a paid-for series quickly leads to an unexpected bill!

Meet Our Expert

Clare Godwin (a.k.a. Lunawolf) has worked as an editor and journalist in the gaming industry since 2015, providing websites with event coverage, reviews and gaming guides. She is the owner of Lunawolf Gaming and is currently working on various gaming-related projects including game development and writing non-fiction books.



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