

OSCA Newsletter

A Message From Our Principal

Good afternoon parents/ carers,

My first reflections on this half term? Seven weeks is a long half term and we have all deserved a rest.

The year 11 students are now in the midst of their examinations and we all absolutely 100% wish them all the very best. I know that they have had a difficult five years in school: COVID disruption and, as I believe it to be, three head teachers at the last count. I guess that all I can say is that adversity makes u stronger and they will be more resilient in life as a result. I have tried really hard to make sure that they have had felt little impact on changes this year and to offer a strange kind of stability. They have overwhelmingly responded in a positive way, gone about their studies in a serious manner and deserve whatever success comes their way.

As regards to headteachers I think there may be a degree of confusion amongst students and some parents/ carers. Firstly, I am not leaving and will remain as permanent Senior Principal leading both George Salter and OSCA. Both schools will have Heads of School in place for September who will operationally run the organisations on a day to day basis. Peter McKinnis is the new OSCA Head of School and he is joining from his current role as Vice principal at a large school in London. I hope that clears that up – like all the staff who work here, I love OSCA, its young people and the community.

A lot has gone on this week – as I write this I know there are DofE expeditions taking place for instance. We have also seen a Culture Heritage Day, OAT's Got Talent success from Evie and Amber, Yr9 Brilliant Club graduation and a trip to Naples! Never a dull moment.

As many of you know I host a weekly headteacher surgery. I continue to value these immensely and they will remain as an offer to any parent/ carer who wishes to make me aware of any student concerns, talk through any challenges or, indeed, let me know what we are getting right. Thank you to all those who have attended one of these this term.

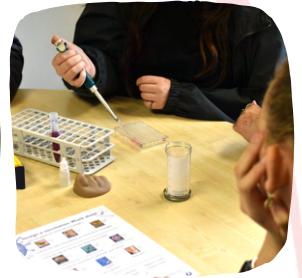
Lastly, can I please ask for your support with our drive to maintain high standards of appearance? As the hot weather arrives I have asked staff to be mindful of removing ties and blazers in hot classrooms. However I have had a few conversations this fortnight with young people whose blazers appear to be in the wash in midweek and/ or have shoes that have broken. I am also concerned that with high temperatures we seem to see skirts getting shorter. In some instances the skirts are rolled up and this is quickly sorted, more worryingly perhaps are the skirts that are too tight and ride up. In this instance the skirt is not appropriate or acceptable. Our sanctions and consequences for incorrect uniform haven't changed, are well known and will be followed. Yes, I absolutely 100% agree that we have more things to concern ourselves with but it is hugely important that we all get the basics right. I appreciate your support with the hot weather uniform issues.

As always, thank you to all of our students and staff for their hard work this half term, and thank you to parents and carers for your ongoing support. We hope you have a restful half term.

What's Been Happening at OSCA?

Y10 - History Trip to Edward Jenner's House

In April, Miss Wakeman took a group of our Year 10 students to see Edward Jenner's House in Gloucestershire. During the day, they experienced a guided tour around the house. The house was filled with interesting parts of Jenner's life, which even featured the shoulder from a whale which was found in the garden of the house centuries ago! After the tours, the students had an interactive workshop where they got to create their own pretend vaccine, and test to see how effective it would be. This knowledge learned from the trip will be a great asset to them for when they begin to study the history of medicine.



Drayton Manor Trip

At OSCA, we think it is important to reward students when they have shown excellent attitude and behaviour at school. Back in April, a select amount of students from all year groups had the opportunity to go to Drayton Manor for a well-deserved day out. The criteria that needed to be met to go on this trip was at least 96% attendance and to have recieved more achievement points than behaviour points. Our students had a great day, and thank-you especially to Mr Lovatt and Mrs Williams for accompanying the students on the water rides time and time again!



Y11 - Jekyll and Hyde Theater Trip

On Wednesday 1st May a small group of year 11 students, were given the opportunity to visit the Alexandra Theatre in Birmingham, for a viewing of Dr. Jekyll & Mr. Hyde, being performed by The Dickens Theatre Company. It was an exciting new stage adaption of Robert Louis Stevenson's Victorian Gothic masterpiece. Our students were engaged throughout the performance and were a credit to team O.S.C.A. We also stayed at the end of the performance for the optional Q&A about the performance and novella. Two of our students were brave enough to ask pertinent questions relating to the contexts and production. We hope this brought the revision to life in preparation for their G.C.S.E on Monday 13th May.

Cultural Heritage Day



Cultural Heritage Day at OSCA always creates a buzz around the academy. Staff and students are invited to wear traditional dress from their cultures, or dress in colours from their national flag. This year was extra special, as from donations from staff and students we managed to raise over £800 towards our fundraising project to get OSCA a new pitch! Everyone looked amazing, and there was a lovely positive atmosphere throughout the academy.

Y8 - Junior UK Maths Challenge

The UK Mathematics Trust (UKMT) is a registered charity whose aim is to advance the education of young people in Mathematics. The UKMT organises national mathematics competitions and other mathematical enrichment activities for 11-18 year old UK school pupils. Over 300,000 students from across the UK sat the Intermediate Challenge on the 31st of January 2024 and some of our year 10 students participated in this Challenge. Also some of our year 8 students participated in this Junior Challenge on the 25th of April 2024.

We in the Maths department would like to congratulate all those who participated, and in particular those who obtained Gold, Silver or Bronze awards. We achieved the best results so far this year.

Year 8: Gold awards were obtained by Gurprabhjodh and Jashandeep (Best in the School) Silver awards were obtained by Hussain, Maiya, Matas, Lewis and Jaipal.

Bronze awards were obtained by Jagvir, Nefeli, Charlotte, Eleanor, Laycee, Natalia, Sufian, Yahya, Abi, Logan, Mateos, Farrah, Tejay, Muhammad, Kacie, Archie, Sophie, Arion, Asa, Tayyab and Ayaan.

Year 10: Silver awards were obtained by Muhammed (Best in the school), Sasha, Dante, Suman, Ethan, Leo, Syon, Sashi and Caitlin.

Bronze awards were obtained by Ifeoluwa, Mohammed, Lily, Sadie, Lauren, Nadia, Evie-Lea, Malig, Raeesa, Daniel, John, Amber Mai, Mankaran, Shannon, Casey, Alisia and Summer.

Y9 - Brilliant Club Graduation

Last week, our Y9 Brilliant Club students traveled up to the University of Nottingham - a world leading university! They had a campus tour, a Q and A session with current students and their graduation celebration. The day was a great way to celebrate all of their hard work over the past few months. Well Done to all of the students involved, they should be very proud of themselves!



The Great OSCA Sponsored Walk Tuesday 25th June



As part of our fundraising project to get OSCA a new pitch, staff and students from all year groups will be taking part in a 16 mile walk between the OAT academies in Sandwell. They will be collecting sponsorships for this, to hopefully raise as much money as possible to get our new pitch! The walk will take approximately 12 hours, so this will be a huge challenge for both staff and students. If you'd like to help us reach our goal, you can donate by visiting :

www.justgiving.com/campaign/osca3g

Important Upcoming Dates

Year 11 Revision Sessions

Tuesday - Science 10am - 12.30pm (28/05/2024)

Wednesday - English 10am - 12.30pm (29/05/2024)

Thursday - Maths - 10am - 12.30pm (30/05/2024)

Year 8 PCE

The Year 8 PCE will be on the 19th June 2024. Bookings for this will be live after half-term.

Return To School

Students are expected to return to school on Monday 3rd June at 8:20am.

Uniform Amnesty

OSCA would really appreciate any donations of good quality used uniform that you no longer require.

We do occasionally need to loan students uniform for a variety of reasons, and your donations will help to enable us to do this.

If you have any donations of: **Blazers, Jumpers, Shirts, Ties, Skirts, Trousers or PE Kit** please feel free to drop them into our school reception.

It would be really helpful if donations were provided in bags please, with any name tags removed.

Thank you so much in advance for your help with this!

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