

OSCA Newsletter

Welcome to the first newsletter of this academic year. In addition to our weekly highlights letter, we will be sharing our OSCA newsletter at the end of each half-term as a round up of all of the great things that have happened.

Over the past eight weeks, staff and students have been working hard to ensure a smooth start to the new year. There has been countless positive news stories happen throughout this half-term, all of which are detailed below. We hope you enjoy the first edition of our OSCA newsletter for this academic year.

What's Been Happening at OSCA?

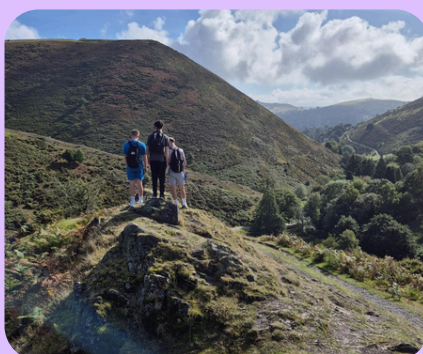
Mock Exam Preparation

As we edge closer to the GCSE season, we will be holding our first round of mock examinations when we return from the half-term break. Our Year 11 students have been working extremely hard for this, and we are so proud of them for it. They have received praise from their teachers in various subjects, who are all in agreement that their work ethic is incredible. This attitude is what will guide the students through their GCSE year, and we'd like to say a huge well done to all of them for their ongoing efforts. We would also like to say thank you to their teachers for helping the students reach their maximal potential.



Year 11 Geography Fieldwork Trip

Our year 11 Geography students had a great couple of days in Carding Mill Valley where they completed their compulsory GCSE fieldwork. Throughout the time they were there, they represented OSCA wonderfully and the ranger commented to staff that "It's lovely to have a group of such well-mannered students who have listened so well.". They should all be very proud of themselves, and thank you to Mr Dixon and Ms Maiden for accompanying our students.



This trip plays an important part in the GCSE Geography coursework, and it is great to see that our students are striving to do well in their studies. We hope that they enjoyed their time at Carding Mill Valley.

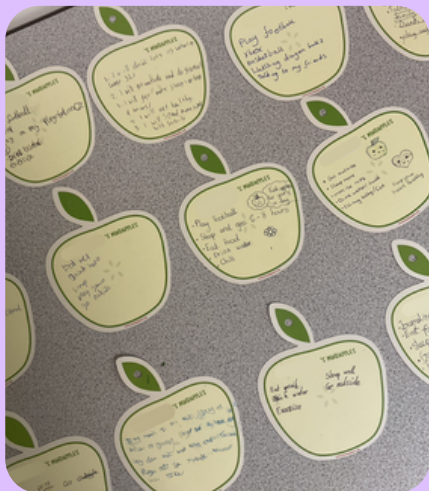
Open Evening 2024

Open evening is always a great event that showcases how amazing OSCA really is. This year, we welcomed prospective students and their families, as staff opened the doors to their classrooms for or visitors to explore. There was lots of things to see, from science experiments to trying out food in our technology rooms. We had an abundance of student helpers who gave up their spare time to come and help out at the event and speak to our visitors about any questions they may have had. Thank you to all of our student helpers for this, and thank you to staff for opening their classroom doors. It was a great event, and we are already looking forward to next year's.



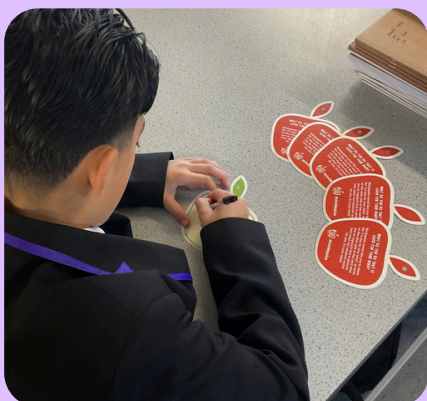
Brand New Pitch - Updates

At the end of July, we found out that we had successfully fundraised to get OSCA a brand new state-of-the-art astro pitch on our campus. Since returning in September, it has been very exciting to see the pitch begin to take shape as building work has commenced. It will be a while before the pitch is ready for our students to enjoy, but it is coming along nicely and we can't wait to see it in action. Please look out for further updates on our social media.



#HelloYellow Day

On Thursday 10th October, we showed our support for the YoungMinds charity for World Mental Health Day. YoungMinds is a charity that provide support to children and young people who are having difficulty with their mental health. To show our support, we asked OSCA students to wear a yellow accessory to school and give a donation towards the cause. From doing this, as a school we raised a total of £192.47 to donate to YoungMinds. We are thrilled to have been able to do this, and we'd like to thank everyone who donated and took part in #HelloYellow day. To promote mental wellbeing, students were



asked to fill out a 'mind apple'. The aim of the mind apples were to encourage our students to write down 5 things they are going to do to help look after their mind. Well Done to all who took part in this invaluable activity!

Precious Lives Workshop

This half term we had an excellent opportunity arise for the team from West Midlands Police and Crime Commissioner to come to OSCA and give our students a work shop on knife crime. Each year group was involved in the workshops, as they learned about the seriousness of knife crime as well as educating them on their rights. The workshop included a talk where students learned about topics such as actions and consequences and joint enterprise. This is a hugely valuable resource for our students, and we'd like to thank them all for taking part. We'd also like to say thank you to the team from West Midlands Police and Crime Commissioner for coming in and delivering the workshop.



CAAT Craft Afternoon

Our CAAT department hosted a great workshop for our new year 7 students, with all things craft. Year 7 students were invited to the craft afternoon where they could relax and try out new hobbies. Students had fun doing their favourite crafts, from origami to drawing and painting to scrapbooking, all while watching Night at the Museum! Thank you to our CAAT department for hosting this for our students.

Sporting Success

Our sports teams have been busy this half term, as they have represented OSCA in fixtures and tournaments. First off, our Year 10 netball team attended the U16 School Games Netball tournament. The team were involved in a number of matches, going from strength to strength with each game. Mrs McKinney said, "They improved their team performance throughout the 5 matches and had a fantastic attitude ". This is great feedback and the team should all be very proud of themselves. Also, thank you to Mrs Williams for accompanying them and guiding them through the tournament. Up next, some of our Year 11 students attended a 3v3 Basketball competition a few weeks ago, where they represented OSCA. The OSCA B team made it to the semi finals and missed out on the final by only 1 point! Mr Jackson and Mr Edwards were particularly impressed with the boys communication throughout the games, which they had been working on in practice. Well done to all involved! In more netball news, our U14 netball team performed brilliantly in their recent tournament, as Miss Harrison said they had a fantastic attitude to the game. It is amazing to see the dedication that our students show towards their extra-curricular activities.



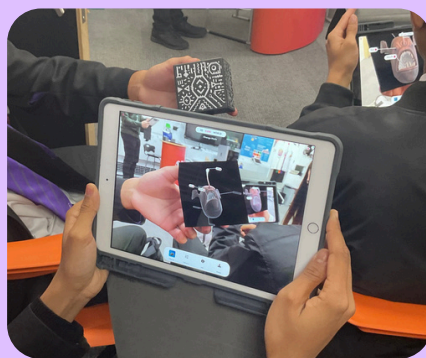
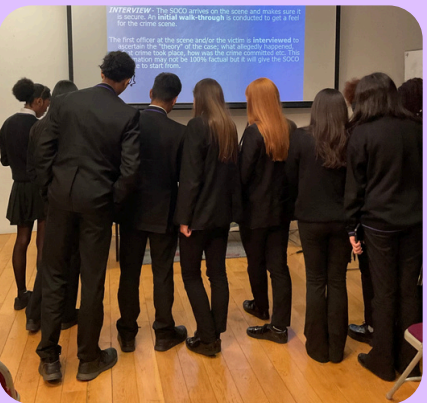
Year 11 Achievement Conference

We recently invited our Year 11 students and their families to the Year 11 achievement conference. This was a insightful evening for all as there was information given on how to support students throughout their final year. Students had talks from various departments, including their Head of Year. This year is hugely important to our Year 11 students, and it is important to guide them in the right direction and offer support in any way possible. The evening was a brilliant introduction to their GCSE year, and thank you to all who came.



Year 11 College Taster Day

To help get our year 11 students prepared for life after OSCA, there are a range of college and sixth form taster sessions on offer. The first one was to Central Saint Michael's Sixth Form College, where a group of students had a work shop on Criminology. The day began with a tour of their campus, which was brilliant for our students to see what facilities they had to offer. One of the facilities they saw was their 'fab lab', where they were introduced to 3D printing and how AI technology can be helpful in many different ways to various subjects. In here, they were also shown the college's robot dog! After lunch, the



students had a workshop on Criminology, where they had to look at a made-up crime scene and think of different ways this could aid the investigation. We hope the year 11's had a fun time exploring the college, and we look forward to the next one.

Important Upcoming Dates

Monday 4th November - All students return to OSCA. Please note, students will return on a Week A timetable.

Monday 4th November - Thursday 14th November - Year 11 Mock Examination period.

Wednesday 4th December - Flu vaccinations.

Ormiston Sandwell Community Academy

Lower City Rd, Tividale, Oldbury B69 2HE

0121 552 5501

osca_info@ormistonsandwell.org.uk