



It was with great pleasure that we welcomed back all our OSSMA students at the beginning of the new term, and now as we move forward in the Autumn term I would like to reflect on the past couple of months.

Our students returned to school with excitement, enthusiasm and the motivation to learn as we resumed our normal way of working. I am extremely proud of the resilience, confidence and enthusiasm in which our students approached the new academic year and their studies, particularly our new Year 7 cohort, who have settled in fantastically well.

As always at the beginning of a new academic year, we welcomed our new Head Boy and Head Girl alongside our Senior Prefect team (pictured below). The prefects help support our academy during events, such as parents' evenings and open evenings, get involved with the running of the school, and promote fundraising for various charities and the Year 11 prom. We are incredibly proud of the prefect team that embodies all of our values.

I hope you enjoy this newsletter, and if you have any comments or feedback then please get in touch with me at [info@ossma.co.uk](mailto:info@ossma.co.uk).

**Nick Brennan**  
Principal

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## DIARY DATES

**Year 8 Parents' Evening**

17th November

**Children in Need Day**

19th November

**Year 11 Mock Exams**

19th Nov - 10th Dec

**Christmas Lunch**

7th - 9th December

**Christmas Jumper Day**



10th December

**Last day of Term**

Thursday 16th December

## SPORTING SUCCESS

The PE Department had lots of fixtures recently and our students' attitude to each competition has been excellent.

PE is a fundamental part of the curriculum, and the goal is for students to focus on becoming a well rounded individual and not just a good performer.

In lesson time students focus on the physical (performance skills), mental (decision making, resilience, understanding healthy active lifestyles) and social (leadership, teamwork, respect),

Mark Grice, Director of Performance Faculty, said: "The PE Department are extremely proud when we take our students to events and see them showing off all of the qualities we instill in lessons in a competitive environment, whether they are winning or losing.

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L- R- William Hustwit, Rylee Birkin, Jessica Wright, Maisy Forrest Hay, James Dixon (Head Boy), Emma Hammersly (Head Girl), Demi Locket, Demi Louise Bolton, Ryan Franks, Bailie Hope

## Stoke Kicks Tournament

Recently we took Year 8 students to play in the Stoke City Kicks 7-a-side Multi-Schools Tournament at Power League, where OSSMA won the whole competition!

In the first game we lost to Meridian 1-0. We had all of the possession but just could not score. We then showed great resilience and teamwork to win the next two games (2-1 v St Peters and 3-2 v Discovery).

Mark Grice, Director of Faculty, said: "The students absolutely loved the night, with some saying that they will remember the night forever.

We even got the OSSMA name on the main Tannoy at half-time as the winners of the competition. We chose Miley to go pitchside to collect the trophy and she was like a celebrity at the end, with members of the public saying well done to her!"

Well done to all of the students who are attending our clubs and representing the academy at fixtures.



Connor S(GK), Owen J, Kobi C, Harley T(3 goals), Dylan C(1 goal), Liam M, Aiden P, Declan R, Logan B, Miley D, Lewis B (1 goal), Adrian C, Serigne M, Mustafa A

## OSSMA results so far.....

### Boys Cross Country

The boys ran at Haywood High School and Trentham High School.

Team: Freddie R, Amari C, Jacob W, Lennon M, Leon S, Harry B, Charlie B, Declan R, Owen J, Cameron K, Connor S, Dylan R, George H, Josh L, Connor S, Kobi C

Star Performer - Amari C, Y7 - 2nd place in the City

### Girls Cross Country

The Girls ran at Haywood High School and Trentham High School

Team: Lydia O, Olivia J, Sara P, Macy T, Miley AH, Faith B, Phoebe D, Caitlin T, Summer C, Lorna W

Star Performer - Caitlin T, 4th in the City for under 16s

### Girls Netball

Under 14s City Competition - 4th Place

Team: Scarlett D, Sariyah H, Shannon B, Alicia M, Gracey W, Grace T, Orla T, Lucy T, Hollie Mae P

Under 16s City Competition - 6th place

Team: Evie M, Emma P, Gracey W, Shannon B, Ella B, Lucy T, Sariyah H,

### Boys Football

Year 7 5-a-side - 4th place in the group

Team: Alfie R, Amari C, Harrison P, Ivan T, Tyler A, Harry B, Harrison C, Ollie M, Seth R, Danny T, Tommy S

Top Goalscorer - Harry B (7 goals in the tournament)

Year 11 Match v St Thomas More; Won 3-1 (Declan R, Callum M, Zak T)

## CURRENT EXTRA-CURRICULAR TIMETABLE 2021

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Before School (7:45am - 8:15am)	Tennis (Sports hall)	Tennis (Sports hall)	Tennis (Sports hall)	Tennis (Sports hall)	Tennis (Sports hall)
	Homework/Reading Club LRC - Ms Baker	Homework/Reading Club LRC - Ms Baker		Homework/Reading Club LRC - Ms Baker	Homework/Reading Club LRC - Ms Baker (7:45-8:00)
Lunchtime (1:30pm - 2:15pm)	Football (3G) Year 8	Football (3G) Year 9	Football (3G) Year 10	Football (3G) Year 11	Football (3G) Best behaved year group from the previous week
	Fitness Suite (all year groups)	Netball - Sports Hall (8 - 11 girls)	Netball - Sports Hall (8 - 11 girls)		Netball - Sports Hall (8-11 girls)
	Art Club Year 10/11 Miss Barker	Fitness Suite (all year groups)	Fitness Suite (all year groups)	Fitness Suite (all year groups)	Fitness Suite (all year groups)
	Art/Photography Y8/9 Mrs Pope	Art Club Year 10/11 Miss Barker (Week A only)	Art Club Year 10/11 Miss Barker	Art Club Year 10/11 Miss Barker	Art Club Year 10/11 Miss Barker (Week A only)
After School (3:15pm - 4:15pm)	SCFC Football (Years 7, 8 and 9)	Netball/Volleyball	SCFC Multi sports on 3G/Sports hall (2-3pm)	Dance (Dance studio)	Cricket (sports hall)
	Tennis (sports hall)	Singing Club - Music Room All Years - Mrs Hof	Keyboard Club - Music Room All Years - Mrs Hof (2-3pm)	Badminton (sports hall)	
	Art Club Ks3/4 Miss Barker (3:15-4:00) Week A Only	Reading Club - Year 7 LRC Miss Miller (3:15-4:00)		Debate Club - Miss Walters - F73 (3:15-4:00)	STEM Club Y7/8 Miss Brown (Starts after October half term)
	Health Hub Mrs Hackney Homework Club LRC - Ms Baker (3:15-4:00)	Homework Club LRC - Ms Baker (3:15-4:00)		Homework Club LRC - Ms Baker (3:15-4:00)	
Colour Reference	PE Extra-Curricular Clubs	Subject Specific Extra-Curricular Clubs		Please speak to the member of staff running the club for further information	



## HOMEWORK UPDATE

Homework at OSSMA is set consistently with the aim of complementing what is taught in lessons. Through directed learning tasks that are proven to promote knowledge retention and boost the progress of students over time, we aim to make homework more relevant to the key knowledge our students need to master their subjects, whilst making progress independently beyond the classroom.

Research carried out by the [EEF](#) (Education Endowment Fund) and educational researchers like John Hattie show that where homework is specifically linked to the learning that takes place in the classroom and then studied at home, an additional 5 months progress per student can be made.

Rory McQueen, Assistant Principal, said: "As an academy, we introduce our students to techniques that help make this [key knowledge stick](#), through use of self-quizzing and then fortnightly short 'Factual Recall Tests' within lessons, we build the level of knowledge stored in the brain that can then be used in any scenario.

"Some of the techniques we teach the students are pictured to the right. How students perform in these Factual Recall Tests helps teachers identify areas of strength and weakness before introducing the next topic of their subject's curriculum."

### Homework and knowledge organisers

Homework is checked by the class teachers, and detentions will be issued for non-completion of homework. Reading is a vital part of homework as we follow the Accelerated Reading (AR) programme in Key Stage 3. The new GCSEs are becoming increasingly more difficult. Reading will certainly help!

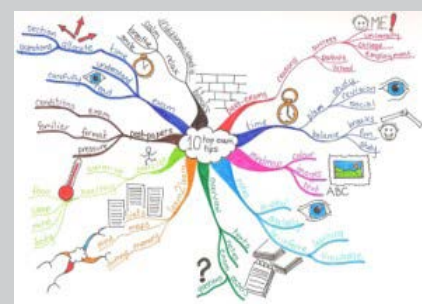
Homework may use either Knowledge Organisers for that block, Internet resources such as GCSEPod, Seneca and Hegarty maths or a specific resource chosen by the class teacher.

### Key Stage 3 (Years 7-9)

All homework is set in each student's planner. Each student's homework timetable is bespoke linking to their individual timetable and will change and be updated over time. These are also kept in the Student's Planner.

### Key Stage 4 (Years 10 and 11)

The subjects will depend on the options you have chosen but each subject should be studied at least once a week. Pupils will be given homework by their subject teachers, and this may be on online platforms such as GCSE Pod and Seneca.



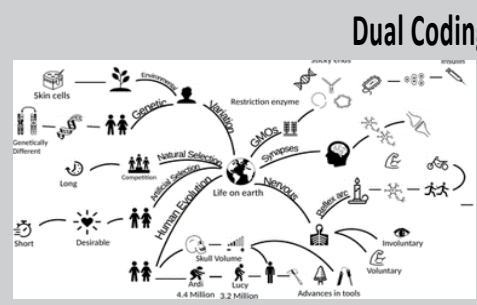
Mind Map



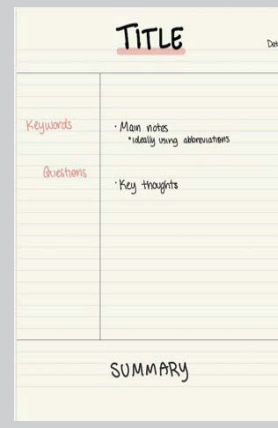
Revision Cards



Self Quizzing



Dual Coding



Cornell Notes

## CENTRALISED DETENTION UPDATE!

As we move away from the previous systems in school that were required during the last academic year, we have introduced a centralised detention system and there have been some parental requests for clarification on the points surrounding this.

Detentions are used at OSSMA as they are in most secondary schools across the country. We make this clear at Open Evenings and through our Home-School agreements before students join the academy. Detentions are used as a response to different issues, including examples such as:

- Failure to complete homework
- Inappropriate behaviour
- Lateness

Angela Fleming, Vice Principal, said: “Unfortunately detentions are held after school and students cannot choose when they complete detentions. Detentions cannot be held at the convenience of the students and will be set when the academy is able to ensure the correct staff are available to supervise the detention.”

The legal basis for the setting of detentions in English schools can be found in the 1997 Education Act and subsequent

developments through the 2006 and 2011 Education Acts also removed schools and academies’ legal requirement to give parents prior notice regarding detentions. However, at OSSMA, we believe that the safety and wellbeing of our students is paramount, so we will always endeavor to inform parents of a detention before it is served, but we do not formally seek parental permission as the law does not require us to.

If a student refuses to complete their detention in an appropriate manner, the academy will escalate its response. All students are expected to complete detentions in line with academy policy.



## ATTEND TODAY, ACHIEVE TOMORROW

Attendance is very important to us at OSSMA. Research shows that students with good school attendance are more likely to achieve higher results in their GCSEs. This means they’ll have better options when they leave school and will be more likely to have greater job satisfaction and a higher paid job. There’s evidence to show that getting 5 GCSEs at grade 4 and above [adds £80,000](#) to your earnings over a lifetime.

At OSSMA, we are passionate about making sure that every single student has the best chance of success both now and for their future, so we are committed to making sure that every student has excellent attendance. We hope all of our students will attend 100% of the time, but we understand that this isn’t always possible. So we aim for all students to attend a minimum of 96% of their year. This means having no more than 7.5 days off school for any reason all year.

Remember, if you have medical evidence to show why your child was absent, please send this in to school so we can authorise the absences.

100%	This is everyone’s target and is excellent attendance.
96-99%	= 7.5 days or less days of absence in one year. Good attendance, this is the minimum for all students.
91-95%	= Between 8 and 18 days of absence in one year. Your child’s chances of success are at risk.
90% or less	= 19 or more days of absence in one year. Your child is classed as a persistent absentee. Their chances of success have dropped significantly and their attendance must improve urgently.