



As we come to the end of a very long autumn term, may I take this opportunity to thank you for all the support you have given the academy. It has not been easy for the students to return to yet another new set of routines from September. They have, with your support, managed this remarkably well.

As you will be aware, schools across the country have been directed to arrange for testing to take place before students return in the new year. Now that we know how many students will be testing, we will complete all the testing on Tuesday, 4th January. This will allow all students to return to the academy for their first day of lessons on Wednesday 5th January. When they come in for testing on Tuesday 4th, students do not have to wear their school uniform but will need to wear a face-covering and will be able to leave and go home immediately after they have tested. They will return to the academy for normal lessons the following day on Wednesday 5th January.

Our on-site test centre will be located in the academy sports hall and will be accessed through our community entrance. Our test centre will be open from 8am to 3pm. Instead of allocating students' specific times to receive their tests, we are instead allowing students to drop in for their tests at any time during these hours. Please can I ask students who have a smartphone to bring it along with them, as this will help speed up the process of registering their test with the NHS Test and Trace Service. If students don't have a smartphone or cannot do this, please don't be concerned, as staff will be available to assist with this. If your child has tested positive for Covid within 90 days of their proposed test date, please do not send them for a test as it would be invalid. It finally remains for me to wish you and your family my very best wishes for Christmas and a happy New Year.

Nick Brennan
Principal

COMMUNITY CLUB CHALLENGE PAGE 2



Back row L-R - Charlie C, Zak T, Josh G, Ethan H, Hayden S, Archie S, Tom M, Callum M, Declan R, Alfie O. Front row L-R - Jack P, Ashley H, Elijah R, Dilraj M, Shea E.

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DIARY DATES

Friday 17th December
Year 7-10 Data reports posted

Tuesday 4th January
Academy open only for student testing via the Community Entrance between 8am – 3pm

Wednesday 5th January
Academy opens to students

Friday 7th January
Year 11 Mock Results Day

Wednesday 12th January
Year 11 Parents' Evening

Wednesday 9th February
Year 9 Parents' Evening

Wednesday 2nd March
Year 9 Options Evening

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COMMUNITY CLUB CHALLENGE

OSSMA students have completed the 'My Community Club Challenge' and have showcased their football club (OSSMA ELITE) at the final event which was held at Leek Town F.C.

The 'My Community Club Challenge' was organised by Higher Horizons and was designed to promote the different careers associated with a football club and also the higher education pathways and requirements to achieve those specific careers.

Josh Brown, PE Teacher, said: "All students participating in this challenge have had the opportunity to develop a wide variety of key life skills, such as leadership, teamwork, problem-solving, resilience and organisation.

"Since February, the students have worked incredibly hard to create a complete football club. All students have excelled by taking full responsibility for their roles in the coaching, media, commercial and ticketing team.

"The students approached the event with absolute professionalism, conducting staff interviews, managing social media and sharing their experiences with the Leek Town F.C chairman and the Director at Higher Horizons."

In terms of their football performance, OSSMA won the tournament and were crowned the 'My Community Club Champions', producing an emphatic victory, beating Staffordshire University Academy 9-0.

OSSMA were also recognised and rewarded for their efforts off the field of play, as OSSMA won the 'Best Kit Design Award'!

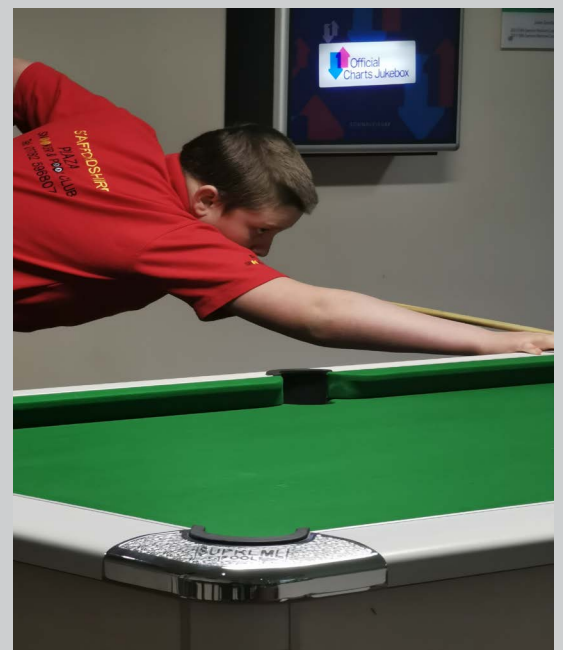


POOL CHAMPION!

A fantastic effort from OSSMA student Joshua FN who has been honing his skills at the pool table, playing for Staffordshire 8 Ball World Rules Junior County Team and the Staffordshire Blackball Youth County Team.

Joshua attended the first tournament of the season for County Blackball recently and played exceptionally well, coming out at the top of the leaderboard. He played 20 frames and won 14.

Joshua started playing pool at the age of 10 and was spotted at age 11 by Staffordshire County. He is still the youngest player in the county and plays for three different leagues during the week, playing and winning against adults.



NEW SCHOOL REWARDS SYSTEM

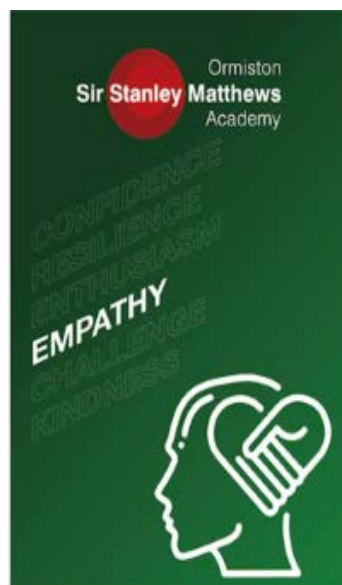
Here at OSSMA, we want to ensure our core values are embodied through our students and their day-to-day actions. We have implemented a series of rewards during the last half term to ensure learners who consistently demonstrate our core values are rewarded and develop all learners who achieve these qualities and values into well-rounded members of our community.

Our values are CREECK, Confidence, Resilience, Empathy, Enthusiasm, Challenge and Kindness. Here at OSSMA, we feel that these qualities will carry students forward when they leave the academy.

We encourage students to achieve these awards, and any student considering being part of the prefect team in Year 11 will be asked to demonstrate that they have participated in this scheme.

Alongside this system, we have our existing rewards scheme of Positive Postcards, stickers, Head Teacher Award, and Pupil of the Week. These rewards support the development and acknowledge learners who demonstrate and embrace our core values.

When learners collect 5 reward cards of the same core value, they will receive a certificate and a pin, and when all values are achieved, they will receive an overall Core Values pin. One of the aims of the scheme is that when learners receive a Core Values pin, they become Core Values Ambassadors in future years.



STUDENT SUCCESS

Modern Foreign Languages (MFL) have completed some fantastic project work focusing on all the different Spanish-speaking countries.

The MFL staff were amazed by the standard of work and the students' creativity. All winners and runners up received prizes and the winners also won a Spanish flag badge to wear on their blazers.

The names of the Year 7 winners were Jessica W, Danny T, Elloise G, Nevaeh S, Huzaima K, Charlotte R, Warren B.



Mrs Giller and Miss Shaw with some of the Year 7 work.

SCHOOL UNIFORM

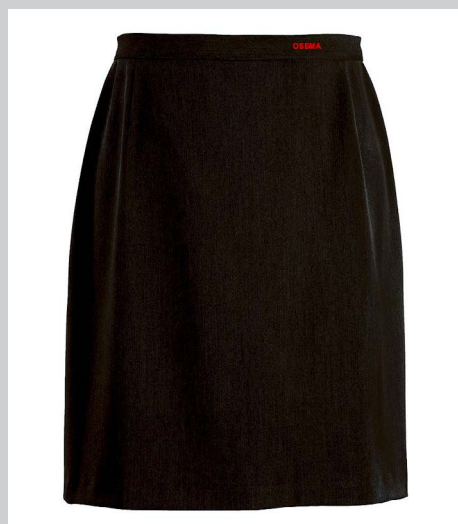
Here at OSSMA we pride ourselves on our uniform standards and kindly ask that students are wearing their full uniform each day.

Nina Pemberton, Assistant Principal, said: "Wearing a uniform is a badge of pride, creates an identity for a school and is an important part of being a school student.

"A uniform also helps students to prepare for when they leave school and may have to dress smartly or wear a uniform. Perhaps most importantly, a uniform means that students don't have to worry about peer pressure when it comes to their clothes."

Please ensure your child is wearing their full uniform each day. Please use the following link for further details about our school uniform <https://bit.ly/3e3JAmb>. Our uniform does include our OSSMA skirt (pictured). The skirt must be knee-length, and students may not roll or alter it.

If you would like to purchase school uniform items, we recommend "School's in", which can be located at 41 Weston Rd, Meir, ST3 6AB, or can be contacted on 01782 310111.



MATHS UPDATE

Students who have shown an interest in mathematics have been given the opportunity to broaden their knowledge and understanding during lunchtimes this half term. During the sessions, students were encouraged to look at areas of maths that are not usually covered in the scheme of work. Mr Woods has been running the sessions and is passionate about making students aware of the different facets of Mathematics.

Mr Woods said: "It is always fun to look outside the national curriculum to inspire an interest in mathematics. Some of the concepts we have been working on include looking at categorising different types of numbers, researching past mathematicians and their work, and working through problems that incorporate many areas of mathematics.