



Welcome to our newsletter!

I hope you will enjoy the updates we plan to bring you on a fortnightly basis now.

Since we returned from the Easter holidays, our Year 11 students have been making their final preparations for the start of the GCSE exams that begin this week. As a school community, results are important to us. We care passionately about helping each and every child in our academy reach their full potential, and their results will hopefully start them on their journey to a lifetime of amazing opportunities.

Their teachers have prepared them thoroughly and ensured they have the very best resources to revise. Students have worked hard, and I hope they will be ready to show off everything they have learnt over the past five years with us.

I want to lean on the support of all parents and carers to help the children feel properly prepared and encourage them to arrive at the academy on time. We also need students to look after themselves by getting a good night's sleep and avoiding too many distractions during the exam season. I do not doubt that this set of exams will lead to some brilliant results that our children truly deserve.

Good luck, Year 11. We are all behind you, supporting you and wishing you well!

Mrs Hassall
Vice Principal

DIARY DATES

Thursday 18th May
Wear it Green Day

Friday 26th May
Last day of term

Monday 5th June
Academy opens to students
GCSE exams resume

Friday 23rd June
Year 11 Prom

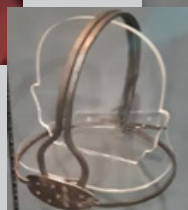
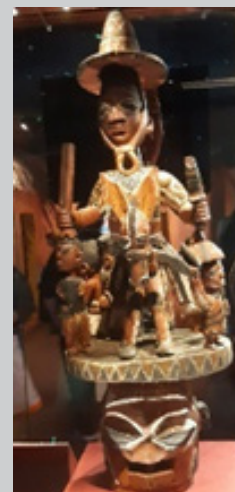
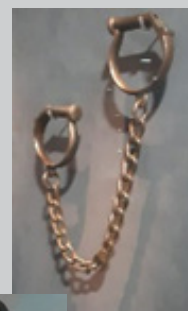
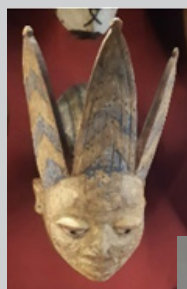
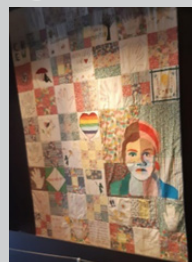
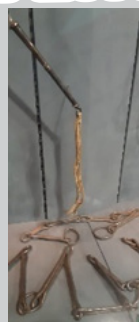
INTERNATIONAL SLAVERY MUSEUM VISIT

The History Department recently took 60 Year 7 students on a visit to the International Slavery Museum in Liverpool.

The artefacts and exhibits support the current learning in Block 3 with Year 7. They saw what West African life was like before the arrival of the Europeans and then looked at the origins of the slave trade. Students were able to see models of the slave ships as well as actual instruments of punishment and enslavement from the Middle Passage.

A model plantation showed students what life would have been like for the enslaved Africans when they arrived in the New World. The far end of the museum showed students the consequences of the Abolition of the Slave Trade and how far we have all come in terms of human rights. This linked with our OSSMA values of empathy and kindness.

They were lucky with the weather as well, swapping OSSMA's Bistro for lunch to sitting on a bench beside the water at the Albert Dock. After which, there was time to see a few more of the exhibits and visit the museum shop.

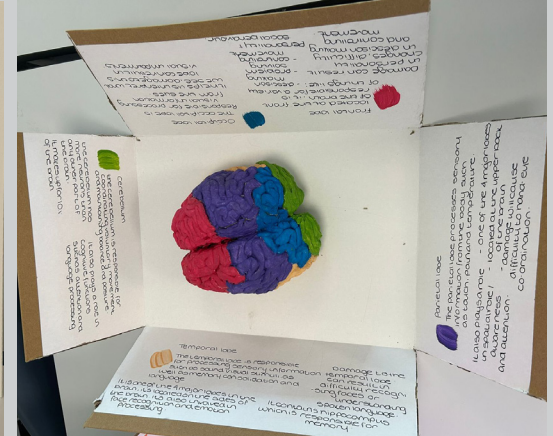
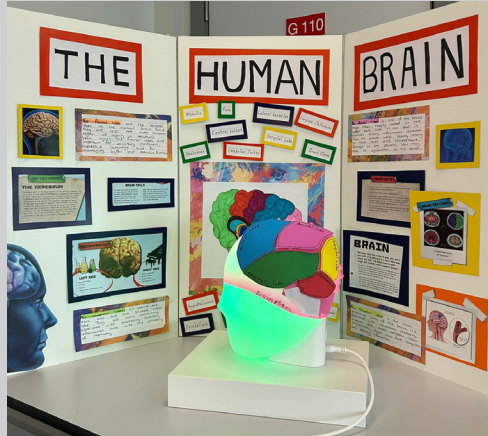
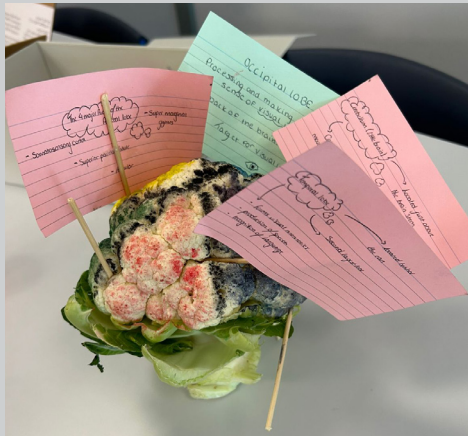
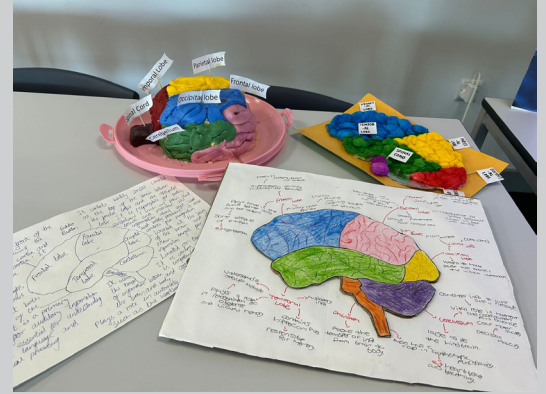


BUILDING BRAINS!?

Psychology is an immensely popular subject at OSSMA and our Year 10 students have gone above and beyond this week.

They have been building brains for their project, and some of the work that has been handed in is outstanding! They have been drawing, building, sculpting and even baking the brains then labelling them to understand the structure and function of the brain!

Mrs Walley, Director of Faculty for Humanities, said: "I am so impressed with the effort our students have gone to when completing this project. They really have gone above and beyond to understand the function of the brain, which is a key part of our curriculum."



EVERY SCHOOL DAY COUNTS!

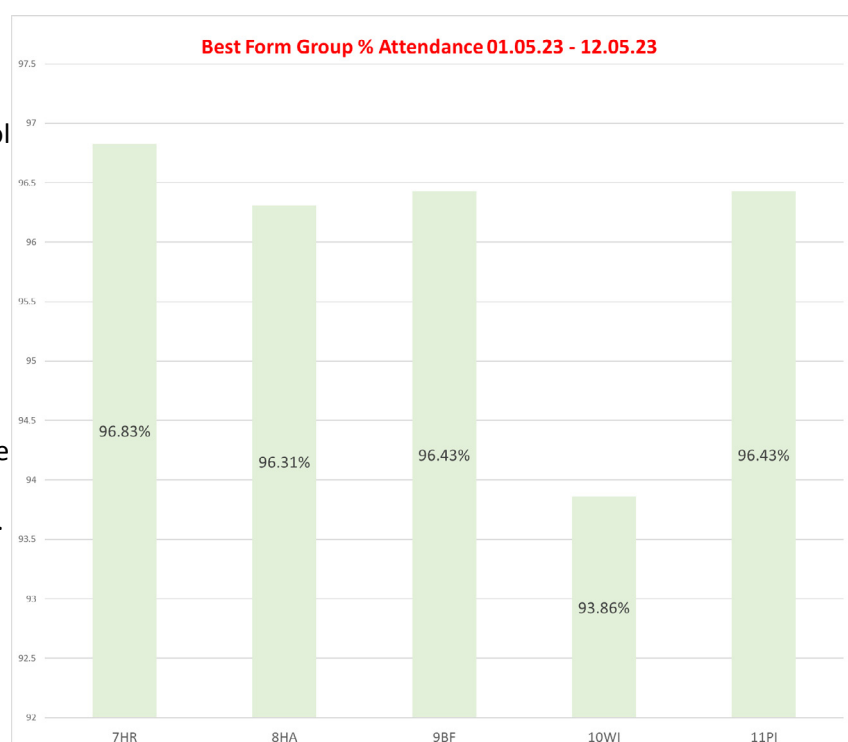
Did you realise that if your child is late by 5 minutes each day, they miss a total of 3 days of education each year?

Currently, the school day starts at 8.40am. Arrival at school past 8.40am will mean they are late, and a detention may be issued. Arrivals after 9.25am mean they've come after the school register has formally closed, and this late mark will impact on their overall % attendance.

Regular lateness after 9.25am may result in the Local Authority issuing a Penalty Notice.

We are heading into the holiday season, and this is a polite reminder that we cannot authorise any holidays during term time, and any that are taken may be pursued further.

Please ensure the school is notified of any holidays by completing a Leave of Absence form at least four weeks before the intended leave. These are available on the [school website](#) or by collection from Reception.



PLAY IT ON THE PITCH FOR MENTAL HEALTH

Last week, the PE Department took a mixed Year 9 football team to the Bet 365 for a play-on-the-pitch experience.

This was organised in conjunction with Stoke City Football Club, and the students who attended also completed workshops in mental health to raise awareness of National Mental Health Week, taking place this week. The students had a fantastic experience and received a really warm welcome at Bet 365.

The play-on-the-pitch experience provides our students with an opportunity to play on a professional football pitch amongst their peers competing against other schools. As a team, they worked hard and came up against some highly skilled teams. Unfortunately, we didn't make it to the final, but the students were a fantastic credit to the school and really showcased the OSSMA values.

On Thursday 18th May, to raise mental health awareness, we are holding a Wear It Green Day at the academy. Raising awareness of good mental health is important as 1 in 6 of us is affected by mental health problems every week. Students and staff that join in will be asked to donate £1 via Parent Pay. No hooded tops, hats, trainers, boots or any other shoe apart from normal school shoes are allowed.



Pictured are Liam M, Amari C, Archie G, Owen J (back), Evan N, Connor S and Miley D (front).



EXCELLENT ACHIEVEMENTS IN ORACY

Our fantastic Year 9 cohort recently completed their Level 2 Certificate in Speech (Grade 4) Speech for Employability.

This involved a presentation on a job using a visual aid, a mock interview based upon their CV, a Q & A session about their chosen job and a mock telephone call. This is a formal qualification and will set our students up for success in the 'real world.'

Our Year 9 students smashed it with 50 Distinction grades which is phenomenal! Mrs George, English Teacher and Literacy/Oracy Co-ordinator, enthused: "We are extremely proud of the year group. They worked incredibly hard and achieved great things throughout the week."

"Oracy is extremely important and is a core part of our ethos at OSSMA. It was wonderful to see so many of our students performing to such a high standard and we are incredibly proud of the results."



Pictured are Alfie W, Tyler S, Harley H, Mrs George, Chloe M and Chloe-Anna M.

Students will be receiving their certificates during an assembly this week in school.