



I am very pleased to welcome our new Head of Year 7 to OSSMA, Mr Burgess-Lowe. Mr Burgess-Lowe joins us from a local high school, and he has a wealth of experience to offer our students. I am confident that our Year 7 students will be well supported and cared for under his guidance.

As an academy, we are eager to work harmoniously with our parents and carers as we all have the children's best interests at the centre of everything we do.

Whilst we enjoy an excellent relationship with most parents and carers, unfortunately, we have had several incidents recently where adults have behaved in an aggressive manner towards our staff, either on reception, the telephone, via email or face-to-face.

I wish to make it clear that the academy takes instances of inappropriate behaviour very seriously and will not tolerate any circumstances which may make staff feel threatened. If parents and carers have any cause to raise concerns, please do so in the appropriate manner by first contacting the relevant Head of Year or Assistant Principal, Vice Principal, or myself. I want to encourage you to make appointments in the first instance, rather than arriving in reception, so staff can offer you enough time to discuss concerns thoroughly.

I would also like to remind parents about responsible parking when dropping off or collecting children. Recently, some staff and students have had near misses with vehicles when using this gate. Safeguarding and protecting students is our number one priority. We ask again for parents not to park in the driveway or the disabled bays by the top gates unless they have a Blue Badge or have an arrangement with the academy to use this area.

I want to thank you for your sustained support and hope we can continue building positive relationships.

Many thanks

K Hassall
Principal

DIARY DATES

Wednesday 25th October

Year 7 and 8 Halloween Disco
(criteria applies)

Friday 27th October

Last Day of Term

Monday 6th November

Academy open to students

Wednesday 8th November

Year 8 Parent's Evening

Monday 13th - Thursday 23rd November

Year 11 Mock Exams

Wednesday 15th November

Awards Evening

Friday 24th November

INSET day

Friday 1st December

Year 8-11 Careers Fair

Friday 15th December

Year 11 Mock Results Day

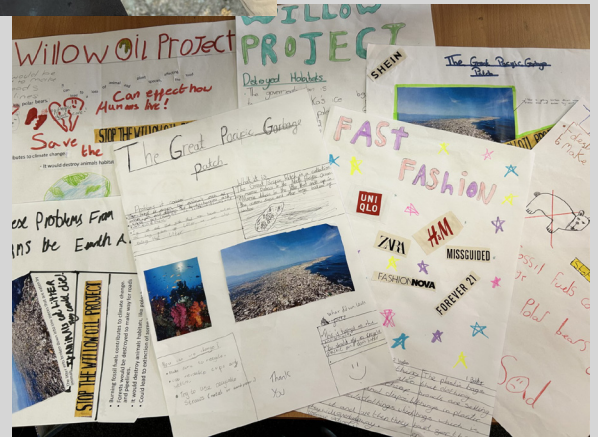
A DAY OF CHALLENGES

Recently, students took part in a drop-down day where all lessons and events were tailored to one of our core values of Challenge!

Each curriculum area planned lessons and activities focusing on challenging our students and doing something different.

For Challenge Day in geography, they set Year 7 and Year 8 classes the challenge of finding out the world's biggest "challenge" in the 21st Century. They had to choose from The Great Pacific Garbage Patch, fast fashion, and the Willow Project. In groups, they created posters about their chosen challenge and presented their findings to the rest of their class.

Also, in geography, a Year 10 group visited Barlaston Downs. Their challenge was to identify processes of erosion along the river. They studied the river bedload (rocks, pebbles, and sediment) as evidence of erosion at different locations along the river.

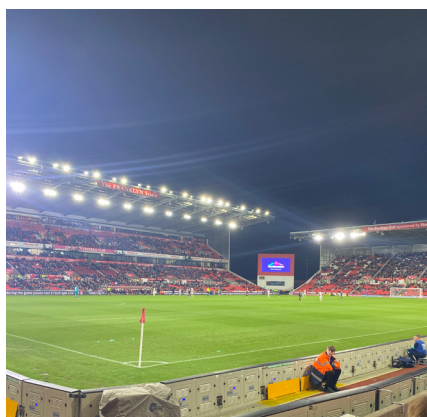


STOKE CITY 'NO ROOM FOR RACISM' EVENT

Recently, the PE Department took a group of Year 7 boys to Stoke City Football grounds to participate in a multi-school tournament and watch the Stoke v Southampton match afterwards.

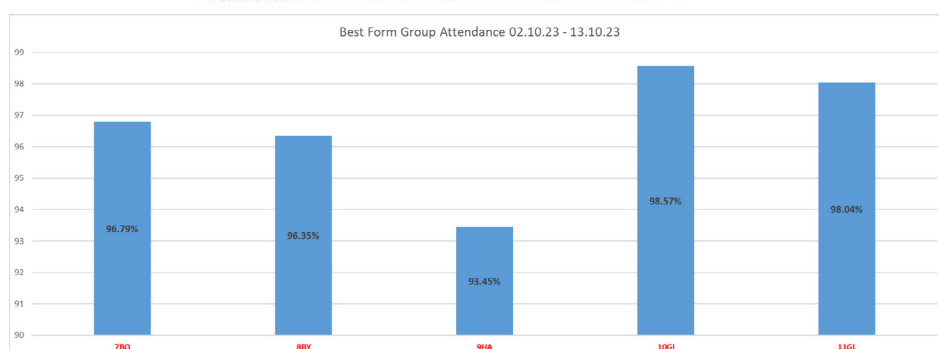
The boys also took part in a 'No Room for Racism' competitive workshop that was part of the trip. The student's attitude and behaviour were excellent, but unfortunately, they did not win. But they beat Discovery Academy and Thistley Hough, losing out to Excel Academy and Ormiston Meridian Academy.

The Year 7 girls will be attending the same trip in December.



Well done to Form 10GI, who have achieved the best Form Group Attendance in the whole school for the last two weeks!

Holidays during Term Time - can we politely remind parents that the DfE does not allow schools or academies to authorise any holidays during term time unless they are for exceptional circumstances. Please submit a Leave of Absence form to the school at least four weeks prior to the intended leave to allow us to make an informed decision regarding your request. You may receive a fine via the Local Authority if your request is not authorised.



Absence due to Sickness - we understand that children fall ill, especially at the start of a new academic year when they're in contact with new people and, therefore, new germs. Can we please ask that you report your child's absence every day they are off. You can do this by contacting the school on 01782 882200 and choosing option 1 (this is the absence line's voicemail) or reporting via absence@ossma.co.uk. If your child is absent for three or more days, we may ask our Education Welfare Officer to visit the home address. If your child is residing elsewhere during their illness, please inform us as soon as possible. All absences are unauthorised unless evidence to support the need to remain off school is received.

Appointments during the School Day - we do ask that any appointments for students, GP, Dental, Opticians, etc, be made outside of the school day or during the school holidays to minimise the disruption to their learning. We understand, however, that this isn't always possible due to limitations on appointments, so can we politely remind parents/carers that evidence for ALL appointments that fall during the school day is provided prior to the appointment or upon collection/return of the student. We also expect students to attend school around these appointments unless there is a medical reason for this not to happen. If evidence is not provided, it will be unauthorised on their attendance record. Please send any evidence to support the appointments to absence@ossma.co.uk or hand it to reception if that is preferable.

WELL DONE TO OUR ECO STARS

Our eco-committee recently received the Green Flag award for the second year running, recognising their commitment to helping the environment.

To qualify for this, they did various projects, including a bird watch, making bird feeders, several litter picks, researching insect diets and delivering assemblies to share their work with the rest of the school.

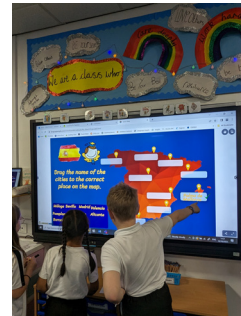


SPECTACULAR SPANISH STUDENTS

This week, 12 Spanish students visited Heron Cross Primary School to partake in their Spanish Day! Students participated in flamenco dancing, geography activities, mosaic making and cooking, supporting the younger pupils with their Spanish skills.

This is part of our work as an academy towards achieving the Global School Award Bronze Award. The Global School Awards are a supportive framework that guides and supports schools through their international work.

There are three levels of recognition, from introducing international work to the curriculum, to embedding it within the school's culture and wider ethos. Thank you to Miss Shaw, who organised the day.



HALLOWEEN DISCO

On Wednesday, 25th October, from 4.30- 6 pm, we are hosting a Spooktacular Halloween Disco for Year 7 and Year 8 students.

Hot dogs and snacks will be available to buy on the night, and students are encouraged to wear fancy dress. There will also be Halloween games, such as apple bobbing and more.

To be eligible to attend, students must not receive a B4 or B5 from Monday 16th until Wednesday 25th October. Entry cost is £2.



All National Online Safety materials are available in empowering parents, carers and trusted adults with the information to hold on informed conversation about online safety with their children, should they feel it is needed. This guide focuses on one of many issues which we believe trusted adults should be held on. Please visit www.nationalonlinesafety.com for further guides, tips and tips for adults.

Top Tips for Adopting

SAFE & HEALTHY ONLINE HABITS

Everyone has so much going on in their lives, and that includes children: from exams and deadlines to anxiety and mental health struggles. It's quite easy to send memes, make jokes and vent online about the things that irritate us, but when was the last time you – or your child – took a moment to share something kind or positive instead? In fact, when did you last stop and think about your family's online activities? To help keep everyone safe and teach them healthy online habits, we need to develop our children's digital resilience. There are lots of ways that children can become more digitally resilient, and we've pulled together some popular strategies here...

WHAT IS DIGITAL RESILIENCE?

Resilience doesn't mean being so tough that nothing gets to you, and it's not about 'putting up with things' either. Instead, it's the ability to recover from setbacks. Everyone feels sad, worried, scared or upset at times: it's how we respond and adapt to these situations which is important. Digital resilience is about making choices that keep us safe and happy online, even when we're exposed to something negative or upsetting. Building your child's digital resilience will help reduce the impact of potential risks as they engage with and navigate around the online world.

MAKE POSITIVE LIFESTYLE CHOICES

- Make time for the people and things that make you happy.
- Monitor your screen time and stick to your limits.
- On social media, follow people that make you feel good about yourself – and unfollow the ones who don't.
- Spread some positivity: post good reviews, leave encouraging comments and share good news.

KEEP YOUR HEALTH IN MIND

- Try to factor in regular breaks offline and away from your screen – ideally, outdoors for some revitalising fresh air.
- Exercise is a brilliant stress-buster: even a walk around the block, a bike ride or a stroll to your local shop can really work wonders.
- Be strict with yourself about putting devices away in plenty of time before bed: they can interfere with a good night's sleep, which is essential for staying healthy.

REACH OUT FOR SUPPORT

- If you have a problem online, don't be afraid to reach out to specialist people or organisations that could help.
- Follow people on socials who have the same values and morals as you.
- You could always talk to a friend, or a trusted adult like a teacher or family member for some advice.

PUT SAFETY FIRST

- If you see something online that upsets or worries you, tell a trusted adult about it as soon as possible.
- You could also report the content that's making you feel uncomfortable to the site or app that you saw it on, so they can look into it.
- Another option is to block the person or the account that's causing you a problem – or you could go one step further by totally deleting the app they were using.

GET THINGS CLEAR IN YOUR HEAD

- Ask yourself what kindness online actually looks like. Can you remember the last time someone was kind or supportive towards you online? What did they do?
- Think about how it makes you feel when someone sends you a positive or funny message online.
- What about the opposite: has someone ever been deliberately unkind to you online? What did they do and how did it make you feel?
- If someone's behaviour online is causing you stress, try to remind yourself of all the steps you can take if a person is being unkind online.

Meet Our Expert

Cecily Jorgensen is a registered counsellor with the Health Professionals Council of South Africa, working to empower parents and other supporting the children, teenagers and young adults. She is the founder of Engage Parents, a positive space focusing on mental health awareness with the goal of providing resources and solutions to achieve wellbeing.

**National
Online
Safety**

#WakeUpWednesday

@nationalonlinesafety

nationalonlinesafety

nationalonlinesafety

national_online_safety

Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 15.03.2023