

"On Wednesday, 15th November, we held our annual Awards Ceremony. Over 250 students and parents attended to support the outstanding achievements of our fantastic young people who left us in the summer term.

The evening commenced with a warm welcome from our Head Boy and Head Girl, who highlighted the importance of hard work, motivation and education. This was followed by a fantastic musical performance from our students performing in the upcoming OSSMA musical, Matilda.

We then celebrated our students' academic achievements, who were awarded certificates and trophies to acknowledge their successes. Our special guest speaker, Darren Edwards, shared details of his personal life experience and spoke of how OSSMA's values struck a real chord with him as he drew on them while recovering from a life-changing injury. I hope we are all left with great admiration and inspiration for the future.

After the ceremony, students, parents, and staff celebrated with each other in our mall area, with drinks and canapes served by our current student leadership team.

Overall, the evening was a remarkable success and one that I was immensely proud to be a part of."

**K Hassall**  
Principal

## DIARY DATES

### Thursday 7th December

Christmas Jumper Day  
Academy Jumble Sale 4-6pm

### Friday 15th December

Year 11 Mock Results Day

### Friday 22nd December

Last day of term - academy will close to students at 12pm.

Students can wear own clothes.

Students on FSM will be able to collect their lunch at break in the Bistro.

### Monday 8th January

Students return to the academy



## A SPOOKY EVENING FOR ALL...

On Wednesday 25th October, our prefect team hosted our first Halloween Disco. What a huge success it was!

The night consisted of lots of tricks and treats. There was a full dance floor, sweets galore, apple bobbin and many more games, hot dogs and glow sticks.

The Year 11 prefects selected the winners of the best costumes, with first prize going to Paige N (Yr 8), second prize to Matthew (Yr 7) and third prize to Briana O (Yr 7). The competition was tight as all of the students looked thrilling! Thank you all who attended we cannot wait for our next event.

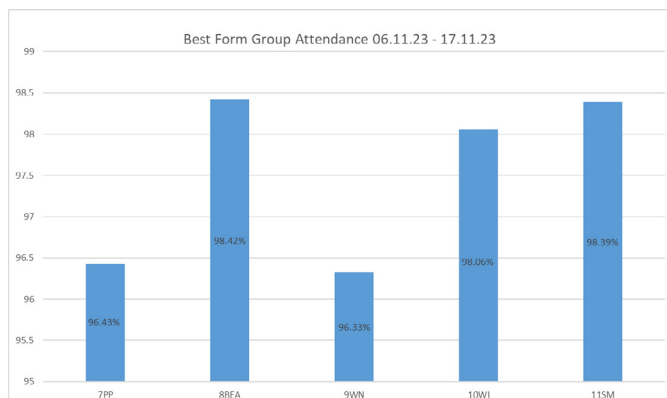


## ATTENDANCE MATTERS

**Absence due to illness**- we understand your child may be absent from school due to illness. In order for us to authorise this absence, please provide medical evidence to support the illness. This could be photograph of prescribed medication (please ensure child's name and date of prescription is on the photo), a copy of a screen print out from the GP) or similar.

**VIP Education** - OSSMA work very closely with VIP Education with attendance support. If your child is absent from school for 3 or more days, we will request a visit from their allocated EWO, Rebecca Watkin.

**Holidays** - a polite reminder that we cannot authorise any holidays in term time unless they are for exceptional circumstances (family holidays do not, unfortunately, fall under that category). If your child is absent from school for a holiday, you may receive a Penalty Notice Fine which starts at £60 per child per adult and increases to £120 if not paid within the relevant time frame.



## YEAR 10 WORK EXPERIENCE

We are pleased to announce that Year 10 students are now able to gain an exciting insight into the world of work by completing a period of work experience!

Students need to self-place and the dates are w/c 13th May 2024 and w/c 20th May 2024. Placements can be for a single day, a few days or one or two weeks.

Once students have arranged a placement they need to bring the following into school:

- The company name, address
- The lead name of the person you are doing the work experience with
- The email address and telephone number
- Parents name and email address.

Any queries please email [info@ossma.co.uk](mailto:info@ossma.co.uk) marked for the attention of Miss Pemberton.





## HYDE WINS BEST VILLAIN OF OSSMA DEAR TIME READS!

Year 8 have just completed one of our most challenging, and arguably least popular, DEAR Time reads, 'Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde' by Robert Louis Stevenson. Miss Miller's form wrote some amazing book reviews and here are the top three...

"I would recommend this book to 11+ years of age. I liked how Stevenson gave two sides of the story and I really enjoyed the sense of mystery. My favourite part was the transformation after a break in sleep. I think this would be better as a film as the transformation could be made graphic to show what really happened."

**Rated 4 and a half stars out of 5 stars by Alfred R**

"I liked this book because it had a sense of mystery and so I would recommend it to people who enjoy the mystery genre. My favourite part was when Hyde, my favourite character as the embodiment of evil, trampled the little girl to death. This led to the most shocking revelation when Dr. Jekyll turns into Mr. Hyde. This was the last thing I expected."

**Rated 3 stars out of 5 stars by Ewan BG**

"I wasn't quite fond of the book, 'Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde' because of its different vocabulary and difficult words. I didn't like the confusing ideas of the potion and what it did. The book was difficult to understand, particularly the shift between narrators. What I did like about the book was the theme of science and scientific discoveries and experiments gone wrong. The idea of Mr Hyde not having been revealed as Dr. Jekyll in the beginning was good as it built tension, making the reader question what or who Mr Hyde was.

My favourite character was Mr Hyde as he embraced all of Jekyll's negative qualities and brought a feeling of 'what would you do next' when he was in the scene."

**Rated 2 and a half stars out of 5 stars by Layla-Jai T**

## WELCOME TO MR BURGESS-LOWE

We are pleased to introduce our new Head of Year 7 and Transition, Mr Burgess-Lowe.

Mr Burgess-Lowe has a wealth of experience within education, having worked in mainstream secondary education since 2001 across four different academies. As an experienced pastoral manager, Mr Burgess-Lowe has worked in many roles that have focused on supporting students to be successful and working to improve the lives of young people, in particular, supporting students with SEN needs.

Mr Burgess-Lowe said: "I have been really impressed with Year 7 as a whole so far, and we have a lot of positives across the year group in terms of achievement, behaviour, attendance and overall hard work and resilience.

"Students have settled in well to the academy and are working on developing our OSSMA values of Confidence, Resilience, Enthusiasm, Empathy, Challenge and Kindness. I plan to keep working towards embedding good habits, which will be the foundation of success in the future. Habits such as great punctuality and attendance, high levels of drive and motivation to achieve the best each student can be, and encouraging positive self-awareness and social responsibility."



# SCFC COMMUNITY TRUST VISIT

Recently two students were lucky enough to attend Clayton Woods Training Ground in recognition of their commitment with the SCFC community trust sessions run at the academy. Zain and Ashley were selected to attend the event due to their excellent commitment to afterschool sessions on Mondays and Wednesdays.

They visited Clayton Woods Training grounds to be involved a photoshoot with SCFC first team to celebrate the work of the community trust. The boys were able to meet some of the first team players, as well as having a tour around the facilities, which was very inspiring, especially when they saw all the different jobs that take place at football clubs and potential career opportunities.



## AMAZING ACHIEVEMENT

Congratulations to Laila T in Year 11 who was part of a county football team that won the national finals over the half term.

Laila plays for Stoke City as part of their regional talent and participated in the national competition alongside other top players from across the county of Staffordshire. She even scored a penalty - fantastic!



## SPORTING SUCCESSES

We have recently had a fantastic round of sporting successes with various teams and tournaments.

### NETBALL - YEAR 9

Students travelled to Fenton Manor for a city competition. There were 14 schools at the competition, and we were placed in a very challenging group. We finished in 2nd place Ellie Mae F Freya J, Imy B, Kaitlin G, Lily Paige D, Izzy K, Olivia D, Eloise G.

### FOOTBALL - YEAR 8 - CITY CUP

OSSMA 4 - 2 Trentham  
 Scorers: Rylee M x3 and Reece L  
 Squad; Cole M- Matchday Captain, Max D, Baden H, Miles L, Jack M, Aaron R, Reece L- Team Captain, Rylee M, Frankie H, Alfie G, Charlie G, Ashley D, Charlie H

### BADMINTON - CITY BADMINTON LEAGUE VS ST JOSEPH'S COLLEGE

Leon S, Ivan T, Zain UI H, Kenzie J, Kobi C, Braden ST, Maggie G, Raneisha H, Hamida K, Sehar H, Nafiah A, Aysha A

**CROSS COUNTRY - Stoke-on-Trent City Cross-Country League Meeting**  
**Junior race (Yr 7)** Alexander C came 3rd out of 45 runners to pick up the bronze medal. Hunter M came 7th.

**Intermediate race (Yr 8 & 9),** Brooklyn W - 6th out of 50 runners. Aaron R, Leon S and Seth R all finished in the top half of the field.

**Senior Race (Yr 10 & 11),** Jacob T came 2nd out of 30 runners to pick up the Silver medal.