



I am thrilled to share with you some highlights from our recent school activities that truly showcase the incredible talents and experiences of our students.

Firstly, I want to extend my heartfelt congratulations to all the students involved in the recent performance of "Matilda." The dedication, hard work, and talent displayed on stage were nothing short of amazing. It was truly a testament to the creativity and passion that thrives within our school community.

In addition to our successful theatrical endeavors, our students embarked on enriching journeys that expanded their cultural horizons. A visit to Cape Town provided an invaluable opportunity for our students to immerse themselves in a diverse tapestry of cultures, fostering a deeper understanding and appreciation for the world around them. Likewise, the trip to New York City allowed our students to witness iconic sights and landmarks, enriching their global perspective and igniting their sense of wonder and curiosity.

As we approach the culmination of the academic year, I want to take a moment to acknowledge the hard work and dedication of our Year 11 students. With exams on the horizon, I encourage our Year 11s to continue their diligent efforts and remain focused on their academic pursuits. This final push is crucial, and I have full confidence in their ability to excel.

Together, let us continue to celebrate the achievements and growth of our students, as they embody the spirit of excellence and resilience that defines our school community.

**K Hassall**  
Principal



## DIARY DATES

**Wednesday 20th March**  
Year 7 Parents' Evening

**Friday 22nd March**  
Last day of term students to leave at 12:15pm

**Monday 8th April**  
INSET DAY

**Tuesday 9th April**  
Students return to the academy

**Wednesday 17th April**  
Year 9 Options Evening

## POETS CORNER

**'Behind A Screen' by Ezara W, Year 10**

Behind a screen I hide my thoughts,

I hide my fears within these four walls.

I watch others living life,

As I drown myself in this demise.

I think and think of what might be,

Discourage others of what they mean.

I want to live life, but where to start?

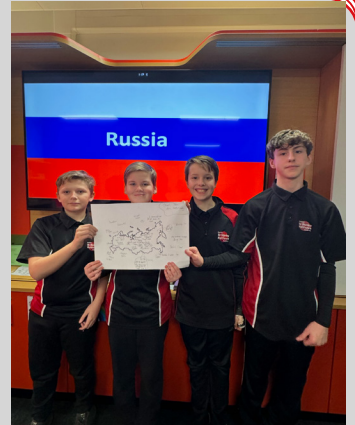
My secrets fade. Along with my heart.



# MOTHER TONGUE DAY!

International Mother Language Day is observed every year to promote linguistic and cultural diversity and multilingualism.

Here at OSSMA we celebrated this with a day of activities, including Bhangra dancing, learning Thai and Arabic, and workshops about Russia, Romania and many other countries. It was a fantastic day of engaging activities organised by the MFL Department. #globalalliance



## TALKING ABOUT COMMUNICATION

Expert trainers from Talk The Talk visited OSSMA recently to work with our students.

The Talk About Communication workshop is an exciting and engaging master class developing speaking and listening skills within a creative learning environment.

The workshop provides numerous speaking opportunities and students are coached and supported throughout the day to deliver a structured two minute presentation, on a topic for which they have a genuine passion, to their peers.



Talk The Talk's mission is to develop students' oracy skills and their communication confidence to support positive interaction in all life situations and improved social outcomes.

Talk The Talk has trained over 115,000 students to be confident communicators across England and Wales since they began in 2013. To learn more about Talk The Talk's work visit them at: [www.talkthetalkuk.org](http://www.talkthetalkuk.org)



## LAUNCH OF YEAR 10 STEM PROJECT AT KEELE

Ten Year 10 students attended an event at Keele University recently for the launch of the OAT STEM Project 2024.

They had a tour of Keele's campus, primarily focusing on the university's sustainability efforts and how they are aiming to protect the campus's biodiversity.

The students will be using the information they have learned to develop their project to design a weather station and educational centre within two miles of their school.

This is a 7-week project where two OSSMA groups will be competing against groups from OMERA and OHA.



## A LESSON IN GREEK MYTHOLOGY

Our incredible year 11 student, Lennon B, has taken on year 7 this term!

As his passion is Greek Mythology, Lennon has taught 7S2 some expert knowledge, preparing the resources in his own time. He has not only enriched the learning of these lucky students, but also created a huge fan base among them!

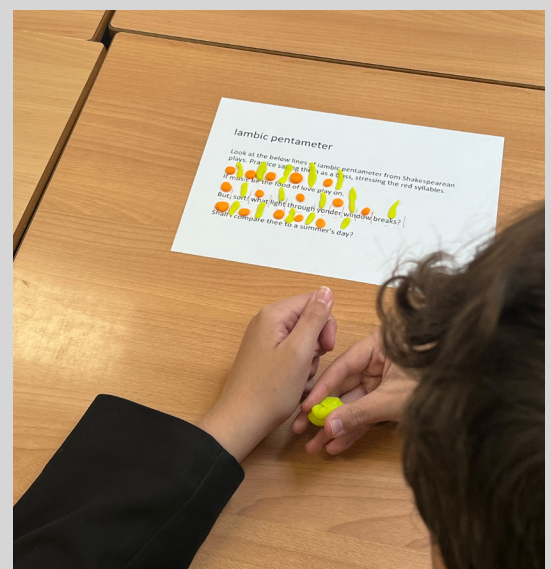
The English department is very lucky to have Lennon pursuing his passion and being an excellent role model to KS3 students. Mrs Pinkstone in particular is very proud (and grateful for the time off). Well done, Lennon!

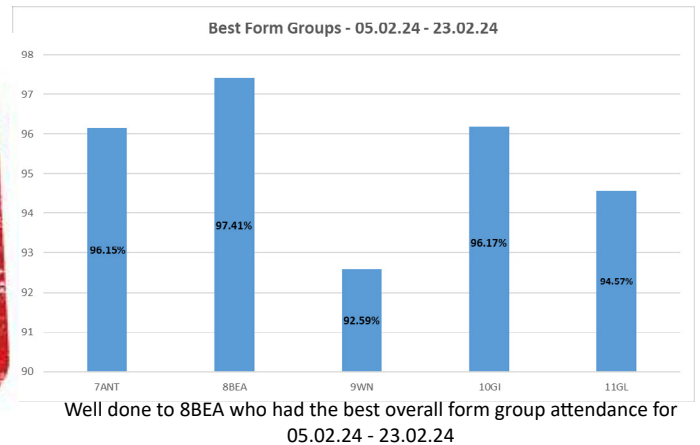


## PLAYDOH POETRY

At OSSMA we utilise innovative ways of teaching different topics, which can be seen with a year 9 English group.

Mrs Penwright utilised an innovative way of teaching a tricky topic with 9S5 as they studied iambic pentameter in a more tactile form when learning poetry in English!





**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 and date of prescription is on the photo), a copy of a screen print out from the GP or similar. Please ensure to notify the school daily of all absences.

**VIP Education** - OSSMA work very closely with VIP Education with attendance support. If your child is absent from school for three 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.

## OF MICE AND MEN BOOK REVIEW

Isabella P, Year 8

Author: John Steinbeck

Main Characters: George and Lennie

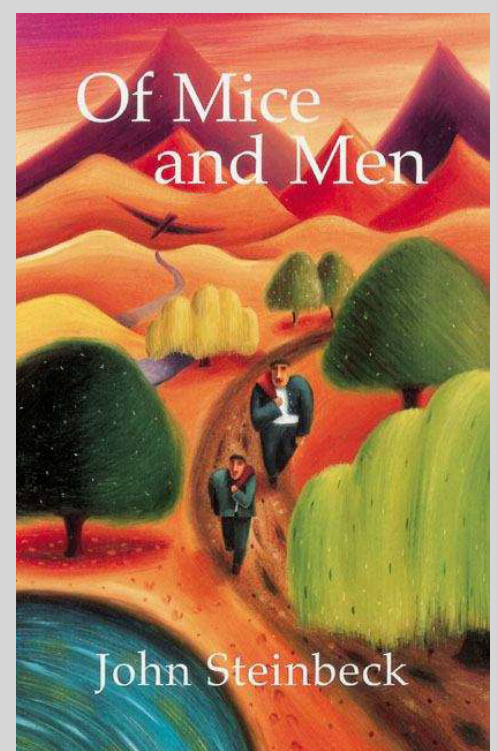
Lennie was always on the run... has anything changed, or has it just begun?

Whilst reading this book I have noticed that Lennie's character is simple-minded; he can't remember anything. Despite being very innocent, he is always getting into trouble. On the other hand, George is smart and intelligent. Steinbeck describes him as 'sharp' and 'quick-tempered' with strong features.

These two characters, George and Lennie, are best friends who have a dream that one day they will own their own farm with rabbits.

Read the book to discover if their dream ever comes true. Personally, I believe that this book is good for educational aspects. It fits with our core values of challenge, enthusiasm and empathy.

I absolutely recommend it!





## SUCCESS FOR THE BRILLIANT CLUB!

Since October some Year 10 pupils have been partaking in The Brilliant Club. Their hard work has recently paid off in their final assignments, achieving outstanding results. This includes a first-class award for Charlie B and Joseph G.

All students involved attended their graduation at the University of Warwick to celebrate their achievements.

Miss Law, who organised the Brilliant Club, said: "This was a really insightful day and gave students a flavour as to what further and higher education can offer them.

"Charlie B asked if we could leave her in the library and Chloe M said that she would spend all her time in the fantastic arts facility that Warwick offers!"



## CAPE TOWN TRIP 2024

Over the half term, students went to South Africa on an international project to challenge young people and push their boundaries and get out of their comfort zone as individuals.

During the trip, students visited primary schools, high schools and an orphanage. Also, they took on some more conventional aspects of travelling abroad, such as visiting tourist attractions.

Prior to the trip, students took part in sports coaching sessions at the academy to prepare them for the trip. The trip was organised by Mr Ahmed, Student Welfare Co-Ordinator and was open to Key Stage Four students.





# THE BIG APPLE 2024!

During February half term 23 Year 10 students visited the Big Apple! The students got to see many of the top attractions that New York City offer which included Top of the Rock, Statue of Liberty, the Empire State Building and Grand Central Station. Students also took time to appreciate the 911 memorial which was a moving experience.

Food was a priority for many of our students and luckily, they got to experience two famous diners where pancakes and waffles exceeded expectations. A first visit for all students to a live Ice hockey game was superb, the New Jersey Devils did not disappoint!

The favourite part of the trip for many students was the visit to Central Park Zoo followed by ice skating in Central Park.....Home Alone style!

