



As we approach the Easter break, I want to extend my warmest wishes to each and every one of you for a restful and enjoyable holiday season. It's a time for relaxation, spending time with loved ones, and perhaps even indulging in some chocolate!

Before we embark on our break, however, let's take a moment to celebrate our students' incredible achievements. World Book Day was an outstanding success, with our entire community coming together to celebrate the joy of reading. It was heartening to see our staff enthusiastically engaging in activities to ignite a love for literature in our students. Your dedication to fostering a culture of literacy is truly commendable.

I also want to acknowledge the tremendous efforts of our Year 11 students. They've been diligently working in lessons and attending revision sessions, demonstrating their commitment to their studies as they prepare for the upcoming exam season. Let's continue to support and encourage them as they enter this crucial phase of their academic journey.

On a bittersweet note, I would like to express my gratitude to our departing staff members: Mrs Hof, Mrs Penwright, Mr Roberts, and Miss Wedge. Their contributions to our academy have been invaluable and will be greatly missed. We wish them all the best in their future endeavours and thank them for their dedication and hard work over the years.

As we bid farewell to some and look forward to the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead, let's remember to cherish the moments of success and growth that define our academy community.

I wish you all a wonderful Easter break.

**Kelly Hassall**

**Principal**



## DIARY DATES

**Monday 8th April**  
INSET DAY

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

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

**Tuesday 7th May**  
GCSE Exams begin

**Wednesday 8th May**  
Year 10 Parent's Evening

## A POLITE REQUEST

Several concerns have been raised by local residents regarding parking and road safety near the academy.

Could all parents/carers please ensure they park considerably around residents' driveways and access areas and adhere to speed limits?

Our student's safety is paramount, so please drive carefully. Many thanks.



# LANGUAGES CHALLENGE

Year 10 students Lisepa, Esme, Isabelle, Emily, Chelsea, and Teagan enjoyed a day with GCHQ learning how language analysts do their jobs today.

They started by recognising cultural idioms in French and then learning numbers in Arabic, Mandarin, and Korean. They then had to break a series of codes, including texts, PIN codes, and voice messages.

Using the clues, they presented their findings about a drug smuggling operation to the GCHQ team in French. Finally, they created a board game based on the work of GCHQ. Out of the 20 teams participating, they were runners-up (2nd place).

Each student received a certificate and £5 voucher, and Esme also received a special recognition award. Well done, team 007



## ORMISTON'S GOT TALENT

The cast of Matilda recently travelled to Ormiston SWB Academy in Wolverhampton to participate in the Ormiston's Got Talent Regional Final.

Our students behaved impeccably and showed how to be brilliant audience members by giving each performer a standing ovation. After a tough competition and some fantastic acts, the top three winners were announced out of the 20 acts.

3rd- Ormiston Horizon Academy  
2nd - The Cast of Matilda - OSSMA

1st - Ormiston Maritime Academy- a solo singer who captivated the audience.



Students received a trophy to mark their achievement and a certificate and medal for each student! The cast of Matilda worked extremely hard outside of normal lesson time to put on the performance. They have also been confirmed as finalists in the national finals in July—an amazing achievement!

## A FAREWELL FROM MRS PENWRIGHT

"I want to say a huge thank you and farewell to the OSSMA staff and community. I have worked here for six years, and working with you all has been a privilege. I wish all the staff, students and families well for the rest of this academic year and the future. To the OSSMA students reading this: be the main characters in your lives. Be kind, be good, and be yourself. I hope you find happiness."

# KS3 FANTASTIC CREATIONS

Year 8 have completed some excellent homework projects of making Mardi Gras masks. The attention to detail and effort was absolutely fantastic!

There are also huge congratulations to Year 9 for their outstanding efforts on their homework projects. Students were tasked with making their very own 'muñeca' for 'las Fallas' festival.

They had to use recycled materials with the theme of animals. As you can see these are absolutely fantastic. We can't wait to see what the students come up with for their next one! Well done to Year 9!



## EXCELLENT ENGINEERING

Last week, a group of Year 10 students attended a work experience day at Goodwin Engineering. Our students were given a tour of the workshop and then worked alongside current Goodwin apprentices, some of whom were former students of OSSMA, on a design development task.

The day inspired students, who all shared that they are keen to apply to the program next year. Staff at Goodwin Group commented on our students' exceptional behaviour and manners throughout the day. We would like to thank Goodwin Group for providing this fantastic opportunity for our students.



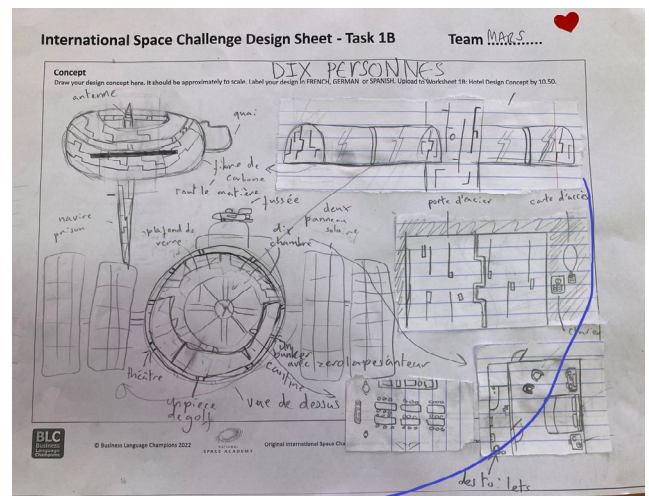
## GCSE TIMETABLE

Date of exam	Start time	Exam Board	Component Title
Tue 07 May	09:00	EDEXL/GCSE	Health and Wellbeing
Wed 08 May	09:00	EDEXL/GCSE	Marketing & Finance
Thu 09 May	09:00	AQA	Religious Studies A P1-3 Christ
Thu 09 May	09:00	AQA	Religious Studies A P1-5 Islam
Thu 09 May	09:00	EDEXL/GCSE	Dev.Fitness Imp.Particip.
Thu 09 May	09:00	OCR	Enginring: Prncpl Engrng Dsgn Wrtn
Thu 09 May	13:15	OCR	Drama: Drama: Prfrmnce & Rspns Wtn
Fri 10 May	09:00	AQA	Biology Paper 1 Tier H
Fri 10 May	09:00	AQA	Biology Paper 1 Tier F
Fri 10 May	09:00	AQA	Combined Sci Trilogy Biology P1H
Fri 10 May	09:00	AQA	Combined Sci Trilogy Biology P1F
Mon 13 May	09:00	AQA	English Literature Paper 1
Wed 15 May	09:00	AQA	History Paper 1A Option B
Wed 15 May	09:00	AQA	History Paper 1B Option B
Wed 15 May	13:15	OCR	Comp Sci: Computer Systems Wrtn
Wed 15 May	13:15	EDEXL/GCSE	Psychology Paper 1
Thu 16 May	09:00	OCR	Mathematics: Paper 1 Fnd Wrtn
Thu 16 May	09:00	OCR	Mathematics: Paper 4 Hgh Wrtn
Thu 16 May	13:15	AQA	Religious Studies A P2A Excl Text
Fri 17 May	09:00	AQA	Chemistry Paper 1 Tier H
Fri 17 May	09:00	AQA	Chemistry Paper 1 Tier F
Fri 17 May	09:00	AQA	Combined Sci Trilogy Chemistry P1H
Fri 17 May	09:00	AQA	Combined Sci Trilogy Chemistry P1F
Fri 17 May	13:15	AQA	Geography Paper 1
Mon 20 May	09:00	AQA	Eng Lit Paper 2
Tue 21 May	13:15	OCR	Comp Sci: Comp Thnk Algrthm Prgrm Wtn
Wed 22 May	09:00	AQA	Physics Paper 1 Tier H
Wed 22 May	09:00	AQA	Physics Paper 1 Tier F
Wed 22 May	09:00	AQA	Combined Sci Trilogy Physics P1H
Wed 22 May	09:00	AQA	Combined Sci Trilogy Physics P1F
Thu 23 May	09:00	AQA	English Language Paper 1
Thu 23 May	13:15	EDEXL/GCSE	Psychology Paper 2
Mon 03 Jun	09:00	OCR	Mathematics: Paper 2 Fnd Wrtn
Mon 03 Jun	09:00	OCR	Mathematics: Paper 5 Hgh Wrtn
Tue 04 Jun	09:00	EDEXL/GCSE	Listening [F]
Tue 04 Jun	09:00	EDEXL/GCSE	Reading [F]
Tue 04 Jun	09:00	EDEXL/GCSE	Listening [H]
Tue 04 Jun	09:00	EDEXL/GCSE	Reading [H]
Tue 04 Jun	13:15	AQA	History Paper 2A Option B
Tue 04 Jun	13:15	AQA	History Paper 2B Option C
Wed 05 Jun	09:00	AQA	Geography Paper 2
Thu 06 Jun	09:00	AQA	English Language Paper 2
Fri 07 Jun	13:15	AQA	Biology Paper 2 Tier H
Fri 07 Jun	13:15	AQA	Biology Paper 2 Tier F
Fri 07 Jun	13:15	AQA	Combined Sci Trilogy Biology P2H
Fri 07 Jun	13:15	AQA	Combined Sci Trilogy Biology P2F
Mon 10 Jun	09:00	OCR	Mathematics: Paper 3 Fnd Wrtn
Mon 10 Jun	09:00	OCR	Mathematics: Paper 6 Hgh Wrtn
Mon 10 Jun	13:15	EDEXL/GCSE	Writing [F]
Mon 10 Jun	13:15	EDEXL/GCSE	Writing [H]
Mon 10 Jun	13:15	OCR	Crtve Imedia: Imedia Media IND Wtn
Tue 11 Jun	09:00	AQA	Chemistry Paper 2 Tier H
Tue 11 Jun	09:00	AQA	Chemistry Paper 2 Tier F
Tue 11 Jun	09:00	AQA	Combined Sci Trilogy Chemistry P2H
Tue 11 Jun	09:00	AQA	Combined Sci Trilogy Chemistry P2F
Tue 11 Jun	13:15	AQA	Further Mathematics Paper 1
Fri 14 Jun	09:00	AQA	Geography Paper 3
Fri 14 Jun	13:15	AQA	Physics Paper 2 Tier H
Fri 14 Jun	13:15	AQA	Physics Paper 2 Tier F
Fri 14 Jun	13:15	AQA	Combined Sci Trilogy Physics P2H
Fri 14 Jun	13:15	AQA	Combined Sci Trilogy Physics P2F
Wed 19 Jun	09:00	AQA	Further Mathematics Paper 2
Thu 20 Jun	09:00	WJEC/GCSE	Hosp & Catering Unit 1: Paper New

## SPACE CHALLENGE

Recently, six Year 10 French GCSE students participated in a STEM Space Challenge in conjunction with 'Business Language Champions'!

Students had two hours to design a space hotel, pitch a three-minute presentation to an investor in French, and make a 30-second advert, also in French. The students did exceptionally well and came second out of 11 teams, missing out on first place by just half a mark! Well done to Team Mars!

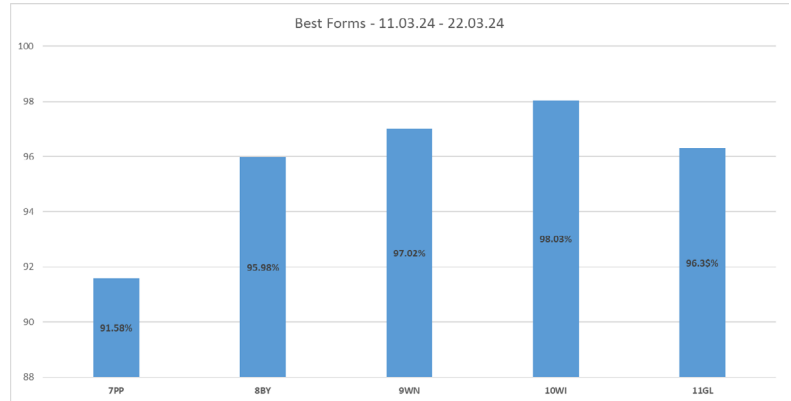


## FOOTBALL SUCCESS

Recently, our Year 7 and 8 girls' football team competed in an FA Football Festival at Fenton Manor. The students took part in a variety of activities and then played in a football tournament against other schools in the city.

The girls approached every game with determination to win and played tenaciously while upholding good sportsmanship. They won each game and did not concede a goal, which they were thrilled about.





We have had almost 700 students who have achieved 100% in the two-week attendance focus leading up to the Easter break. Each student has received a Cadbury Creme Egg (or similar). Each of the 700 students was entered into a draw, and one student from each year group received a Cadbury's Easter Egg. Well done to each and every student who succeeded in our challenge. The Attendance Team would like to thank you for your continued support during the first two terms and we hope you have a restful break over Easter.

#### Polite reminders:

**Punctuality to School** - can we please remind parents that students are expected on site by 8.35am in readiness to line up with their form at 8.40am. We are experiencing a higher-than-normal volume of students who are arriving late to the academy so can we request that you discuss with your child if they are arriving late. You will receive a text message on the days students are late, and a letter should the lates persist. If there is no improvement, we will request a meeting with you where further action will be discussed. We appreciate that some days, lateness cannot be helped, but your support with this during the summer term and beyond would be greatly appreciated.

**Absences** - can we please remind all parents, that any absence from school will be unauthorised unless we receive evidence to support it. Where appointments fall in the school day, we expect students to attend school around these. Again, evidence for those appointments will be required. We work closely with VIP Education and where a student is absent for 3 days without engagement or 4 or more days with engagement, we will request either a home visit or video call, unless a medical professional has seen the student and we have evidence to support that.

**Holidays during term time** - please be reminded that we cannot authorise any holidays during term time unless they are for exceptional circumstances. Unfortunately, family holidays are not included under that umbrella. If you are thinking of taking your child out of school during term time, please ensure a Leave of Absence form is completed at least four weeks prior, so we are aware of the absence. From September, fines from the Local Authority for unauthorised absences and holidays will increase from £60 to £80, increasing if the fine isn't paid. This has been implemented by the DfE and not the school.

## AN ICELANDIC OPPORTUNITY

The Geography Department is proposing a visit to Iceland from 14th to 18th April 2025. The trip is for current Year 9 students, and spaces will be limited to 30. Miss Black will lead the trip, accompanied by members of staff from the Geography Department. The trip has been planned to optimise the once-in-a-lifetime experiences the country offers.

As Iceland sits on a tectonic plate boundary, our students will have the opportunity to witness several geographical landforms they will study in the classroom during their Geography GCSE course.

The trip will give them a unique insight into geographical landforms such as amazing volcanoes, waterfalls, lagoons, and landscapes. It will consist of excursions to The Secret Lagoon, Skagafoss Waterfall, Iceland's capital city, Reykjavik, ice caves and glaciers, and a Hellisheidi Geothermal Plant to see how energy is harnessed from underneath the Earth's surface. For further information, please email [jblack@ossma.co.uk](mailto:jblack@ossma.co.uk).

