



As we step into May, our school community is abuzz with activity and anticipation. With the exam season underway, I want to extend my heartfelt wishes to our Year 11 students embarking on this crucial phase of their academic journey. Your dedication and hard work leading up to this moment are truly commendable. Remember, each challenge you conquer brings you closer to your dreams. Believe in yourselves, stay focused, and strive for excellence.

In other news, our students have been soaking up experiences beyond the classroom. Despite the unpredictable weather, our adventurous souls from various year groups recently embarked on memorable excursions. The trip to Wales provided an opportunity for our students to embrace the elements, with a wet and windy day spent on the beach. Additionally, a tranquil walk in the Lakes allowed for moments of reflection and appreciation of nature's beauty. These experiences not only enrich their learning but also foster camaraderie and resilience.

I would also like to express my sincere gratitude to all parents who supported our recent uniform drive. Your generosity ensures that our students not only excel academically but also present themselves with pride and professionalism. By investing in their appearance, we reinforce the importance of discipline and respect for oneself and others.

I am also delighted to share that we have received numerous commendations from external visitors about the calm and purposeful environment here at our academy. This is a testament to the dedication of our staff and the exemplary behaviour and focus exhibited by our students. Your commitment to upholding our school values is truly inspiring.

**Kelly Hassall**  
Principal

## WE ARE RAIL SAFE

We are pleased to announce that we recently received our Rail Safe Friendly Bronze Award.

This award is given to an academy that demonstrates it has promoted rail safety and educated students about how to be rail safe, in accordance with the standards set out by the rail industry.

More information can be found at the following link <https://switchedonrailsafety.co.uk/>



## DIARY DATES

**Tuesday 7th May**  
GCSE Exams begin

**Monday 13th - Friday 24th May**  
Year 10 Work Experience

**Friday 24th May**  
Last day of term

**Monday 3rd June**  
Students return to the academy

**Monday 17th June - Tuesday 2nd July**  
Year 10 Mocks

**Friday 21st June**  
Year 11 Prom

**Wednesday 10th July**  
Year 10 Parent's Evening

**Friday 12th July**  
Year 10 Mock Results Day

**Thursday 18th July**  
Sports Day

**Friday 19th July**  
Last day of term for students

**Monday 22nd July**  
INSET day, academy closed to students



## OSSMA LRC LINKING PUPIL WELL-BEING AND READING FOR PLEASURE

We are pleased to announce the introduction of a new comic book called The Umbrella Gang in our LRC at OSSMA. This educational comic book, produced by DEKKO Comics in collaboration with the ADHD Foundation, is designed by young neurodiverse individuals for neurodiverse individuals.

The comic book explores the concept of neurodiversity, and the first three volumes are available in the LRC for all students to access. The Umbrella Gang Volume 1 introduces five neurodiverse characters, representing students with conditions such as Dyslexia, ADHD, Autism, Dyspraxia, and Dyscalculia.

These characters are inspired by real “Neurodiversity Ambassadors” from the ADHD Foundation, who have achieved success despite not always receiving top grades. They serve as a reminder that having a learning difference does not have to hinder one’s potential and ability to accomplish great things. If you are interested in reading the Umbrella Gang comic book, a digital copy can be found at the following link: <https://www.adhdfoundation.org.uk/2022/11/17/the-umbrella-gang-comics/>

Students can also find a physical copy of the Comic Book on the pupil well-being activity stand in the LRC. Additionally, if students are looking for more books with neurodiversity themes, they can seek assistance from Mrs Maddox, the Student Librarians, Anti-Bullying/Well-being Ambassadors, or explore resources on the LRC Homepage: <https://uk.accessit.online/orm06/#!dashboard>.

Neurodiverse individuals are often incredibly creative and intelligent in ways that traditional exams may not always measure. We encourage students to explore these resources and celebrate the diversity of learning styles and abilities within our school community in anticipation of the fourth and final volume, which is due to be released during Christmas 2024.



## AN EXECUTIVE CHEF EXPERIENCE



Recently, our Year 10 Hospitality students were able to work as commis chefs with an Executive Chef from Chartwells. They created a range of mouthwatering canapes that were served at the recent Year 9 Options Evening.



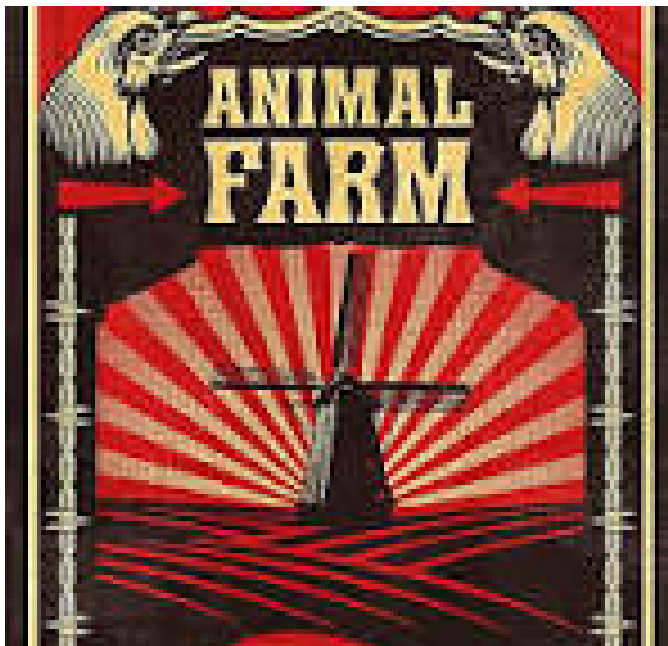
## BOOK REVIEW - ANIMAL FARM

Here is an Animal Farm book review from Freya H in Year 8. Animal Farm - a satirical allegorical novel by George Orwell

They knew something was wrong when the animals took centre stage in a battle for equality and justice.

A novel in which the animals try to battle for equality, but after a while the pigs become corrupted by power and start to oppress the other animals.

I have mixed feelings about 'Animal Farm' because I think the book is quite complex and not the easiest to understand the allegory or satire of communism. However it does highlight the battle for freedom and equality which I think is important.



## SPORTING SUCCESS

Congratulations to Year 7 students on their recent efforts in the City Football competition. Losana B, Lacey C, Leedz M, Maizie F, Paighton E, and Kiesha C came 3rd in the event.

Lacey C won Player of the Tournament after scoring a hat trick in one game and putting in a great team performance. Overall, OSSMA came 3rd, scoring 16 goals. Well done to the team!

## POETS CORNER

Mr. Braggadocio by Ezara W

I can feel the world spinning,  
 I can feel my blood pumping.  
 I can smell colours,  
 I can hear my heart beating.  
 I can do all the unthinkable  
 As I am God.  
 No, me!  
 I AM GOD!

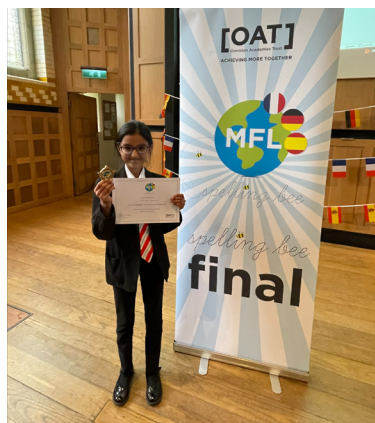
Horror movies don't scare me,  
 Comedies don't make me laugh,  
 Actions don't make me think,  
 Westerns don't make travel back in time.  
 As I am God

Better than the rest of you.  
 I can scare myself,  
 I can make myself laugh,  
 I can think for myself,  
 And I can travel to whatever time I want.  
 As I am God

Madder than the rest of you.  
 I don't have to be friendly  
 As I have all the personality I need.  
 Everybody loves me  
 And no one will even think about hating me.  
 As I am God  
 I can fool the awake.

I can fly through walls and watch you make  
 All the mistakes, that I can't take.  
 I can fight the devil, on roller skates,  
 I can jump from Mount Everest and leave with no trace.  
 As I am God  
 I can see you, but I have no face.

## SPELLING SUCCESS



Congratulations to Samihah M. in Year 7 for achieving 3rd place in the OAT national final MFL Spelling Bee, which was recently held at Cambridge University.

We are all very proud of you.

**Polite reminders:**

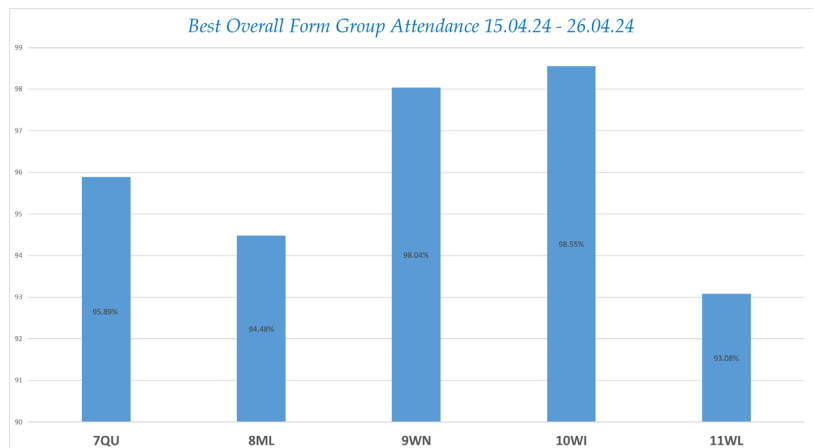
**Punctuality to School** - can we please remind parents that students are expected on site by 8:35 am in readiness to line up with their form at 8:40 am. Gates will be closed promptly at 8:40 am, and any student arriving after this time will be classed as late to the academy. A late detention will be issued and will take place at breaktime on the same day (unless agreed otherwise). You will receive a text message on the day/s that they are late and a letter should the lateness persist. If there is no overall improvement, we will request a meeting with you to discuss further action. We appreciate that some days, lateness to the academy cannot be helped, but your support with this during the summer term and beyond would be greatly appreciated.



**Absences from school** - 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 times, and again, evidence for those appointments will be required. We work very closely with VIP Education, and where a student is absent for three days or more, 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 considering 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 know about the absence. If you take your child out of school during term time for a holiday, you may be issued with a fine by the Local Authority.

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.



## LLANDUDNO GEOGRAPHY VISIT



Recently, the Geography department took 53 Year 9 and Year 10 students to Llandudno to study sea defences along the coastline as part of their coastal landscape unit.

The group visited a beach to look at groyne (and was blasted with sand by the wind), then went to Llandudno and took the tram to the top of the Great Orme.