



As we head into the last week of the school year, our newsletter is brimming with stories of success and adventures. This is a wonderful time of year when we have the opportunity to enrich our students' lives while continuing to balance the learning in the classroom.

Our Year 9 students recently embraced ESB Week, and they were a credit to themselves in the way they conducted their presentations. Their hard work and dedication were truly commendable.

Our Year 11s had their prom, which was a lovely evening to celebrate their five years of memories. It was a joyous occasion that highlighted their journey and achievements. We also saw great success in the Duke of Edinburgh program, showcasing the determination and resilience of our students.

A heartfelt thank you goes out to our staff for going above and beyond, both in and outside of the classroom. Your commitment to our students' success is deeply appreciated.

As we move into the final week, let's give a big push to squeeze in as much learning as possible. Together, we can make these last days meaningful and enriching for our students.

Kelly Hassall
Principal

DIARY DATES

Thursday 18th July
Sports Day

Friday 19th July
Last day of term for students
Non uniform day
12pm finish

Thursday 22nd August
GCSE Results Day

**Monday 2nd &
Tuesday 3rd September**
Staff INSET day

Wednesday 4th September
Students return to the
academy

TRIUMPH FOR OSSMA IN THE OAT SPORTS CUP

Recently, on one of the rare sunny days this summer, OSSMA competed in the OAT Sports Cup.

There were 13 schools in total participating and our students came 3rd overall!

There were some exceptional results on the day, and everyone worked extremely hard to compete to the highest standards. Our students were so well behaved and it was a lovely atmosphere and a great day had by all!



CLASS OF 2024 - WE WILL MISS YOU!!

We have said goodbye to our Year 11 students last month with our annual shirt signing ceremony and our OSSMA Year 11 Prom!

The prom was held at Keele Hall and our students all looked spectacular. They arrived in style in sports cars, Range Rovers, a traditional camper van, Herbie and an entourage of motorbikes. After photographs with family and friends they proceeded into the Great Hall. The evening was spent with laughter, fun, food and drink aplenty, selfies and lots of dancing!

The night was thoroughly enjoyed by all students and staff and Keele Hall were delighted by our students demonstrating our OSSMA Core Values throughout the evening! Below are a few memories from the events.



LEXONIK - IMPROVING STUDENTS READING

At OSSMA, we put reading at the heart of what we do and believe that it is the key to opening the doors to success for our students.

From September, we will be working in partnership with Lexonik, a programme of study designed to enhance a student's reading ability no matter what their starting point. Lexonik has been evaluated by the National Literacy Trust and is proven to improve a child's reading age and give them the tools to ensure that they can access the challenging curriculum of KS3 and 4. Supported by the reading tests completed by students, we will identify specific strengths and areas for development for all of our students and, from this, students will be selected for one of our programmes.

Lexonik Leap is a phonics intervention which supports phonics gaps for learners who find literacy particularly challenging and those for whom English is not their first language. Lexonik Advance is designed to improve reading ages by an average of 27 months in six short, practical lessons while also developing vocabulary and comprehension. Lexonik Vocabulary will be used across the academy to support students with development of reading and vocabulary.

Should your child be selected for one of the programmes of study, we will ensure that you are made aware prior to the programme's start date and will update you on the progress they make. We are extremely excited about giving students this opportunity to improve their reading abilities to allow them to thrive both within our academy and in the world beyond.



ANNUAL SNOWDON WALK

On Friday 14th June, as part of our Personal Development programme, 24 year 8 and 9 OSSMA students took on the annual challenge of climbing Mount Snowdon in Wales.

All the students who took part demonstrated all of the core values of our academy and demonstrated considerable confidence, resilience, enthusiasm, resilience, empathy and kindness.

Fortunately the weather gods were smiling and despite a brief shower during the ascent, the sun shone on our students which allowed them to see some awe inspiring views during the climb once they got to the top. A huge well done to all the students involved!



DUKE OF EDINBURGH UPDATE

Our Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award students have been busy completing their training in order to gain their awards by the end of this academic year.

They have learnt how to administer first aid, how to cook a sausage and egg sandwich .. a perfect breakfast when camping, and how to put up a tent.



LAKE DISTRICT VISIT WITH THE FELL FOODIE!

The geography department ran a free trip for 23 year 8 and 9 students to the Lake District in association with Avanti West Coast Trains.

The students boarded the train at Crewe and travelled to Oxenholme station in the Lake District where we met Harrison Ward the 'Fell Foodie'.

They walked up Gummer's How and Harrison cooked a lunch of veggie fajitas and pancakes for us at the top. Harrison talked to the students about his battles with his own mental health and how being outside and hiking has given him a new perspective on life.

He talked about the importance of healthy eating and exercise and the importance of talking to someone about how you feel. All of the students really enjoyed the experience and for some it was the first time they had travelled by train.



TRIP REPORT: A VIKING ADVENTURE IN YORK

On Monday, July 1st, the History team embarked on an unforgettable journey back in time with 39 eager students to the Jorvik Viking Centre and DIG in York. Bright and early at 7 am, we boarded the bus—some students still rubbing sleep from their eyes, while others buzzed with excitement for the adventures ahead.

Our first stop was the Jorvik Viking Centre, where we were whisked away on a fascinating ride through a meticulously recreated Viking village. The students were captivated as we glided past scenes of everyday Viking life. From marketplaces to tranquil homes, the attention to detail was astounding. The lifelike figures, authentic sounds, and even the distinctive (and surprisingly pungent) smells brought the era vividly to life. We could almost imagine ourselves donning helmets and joining the villagers!

Next, we donned our archaeologist hats at DIG, a hands-on museum that allowed our young explorers to delve into the past—literally! The students enthusiastically unearthed ancient artefacts, learning about the painstaking process of archaeological digs.

A highlight of the day was the Viking battle tactics workshop, where our students learned how Vikings prepared for and engaged in combat. The workshop was both educational and entertaining, as the children were able to try on armour and hold weapons – under supervision of course!

Throughout the trip, the students' exemplary behaviour was a testament to their interest and enthusiasm. They represented our school with pride and curiosity, engaging with each activity and soaking up knowledge.

Of course, no trip is complete without a moment of humour. While handling a 2000-year-old artefact, one of our students let it slip from their grasp, causing a collective gasp as it hit the floor. Thankfully, both the artefact and the student were unharmed—though we suspect the student's cheeks might have been a little redder after that!

All in all, our visit to the Jorvik Viking Centre and DIG was a resounding success. The students returned with a deeper understanding of Viking history and a newfound appreciation for the work of archaeologists. We're already looking forward to our next adventure!

Thank you to all the parents and staff who made this trip possible. Your support ensures that our students continue to have enriching and memorable educational experiences.

Here's to more journeys back in time!

Sincerely,
 OSSMA History!



REMEMBERING D-DAY

Our trust wide OAT History 'Remembering D-Day competition' recently closed and we are pleased to announce that OSSMA student, Archer Minister, who wrote an incredible poem, is the north regional winner!

Archer received a £25 Amazon voucher, certificate, and a congratulations letter for his poem below:

6 Seconds Times 20

Three armies, one cause
Men of all creeds united and fighting
To release themselves of Hitler's claws
With civilians only capable of nail biting

A push on the beaches
a last stand,
no time for wetting breeches
just follow your current command

An aerial bombardment
both bombs and paratroopers
subtly thrown to discardment
falling soldiers protected by Ruperts

And let us not forget to tell
of the bravery of some many men who gave plenty
who threw themselves head long into hell
so let's count and be silent for six seconds times twenty



English Speaking Board

This term our Year 9 students have successfully completed their ESB Level 2 Certificate in Speech (Grade 4) Speech for Employability.

The assessment was made up of a four minute presentation on a chosen career, job interview and professional telephone call.

Our students worked so hard to prepare over the week with subject staff and form tutors. The external assessors who spoke with our students said that they were very impressed with their aspirations and determination to succeed in their chosen career path.

Our students, many of whom were nervous, came out of the assessments with smiles on their faces and said that they had enjoyed the experience and felt that their confidence had grown as a result of completing the English Speaking Board exam.

The results will be announced before the summer break. Well done, Year 9! We are proud of you!

ANOTHER SMASHING TENNIS SUCCESS

The year 7 and 8 boys tennis team played at the annual city competition recently.

All players were amazing and we won both competitions making us Tennis City Champions in Years 7, 8 and 9!

The players that officially finished top of their year were:

Year 7 City Champions - Alex and Hunter

Year 8 City Champions - Ethan and Aiden

Other team members were;

Hunter M, Tom W, Jake R, Charlie H and Daniel M

To be City Champions in 3 out of the 4 year groups at Tennis is a remarkable achievement for the boys.



ANOTHER OSSMA GOLD!

We are proud to announce that we have gained **GOLD** for the 'Healthy Schools Rating Scheme' again this year.

The ratings are assessed on the following categories:

- Food education, including in the curriculum and teacher training;
- Compliance with the school food standards;
- The amount of time children spend on PE each week;
- Participation in an active travel scheme



YOUTH SPEAKS!

Team OSSMA recently participated against 6 other local high schools in the annual speaking competition, aptly named, "Youth Speaks."

Leon S, Y9 , Ethan and Aidan W, Y8, represented us brilliantly, discussing the amusing and engaging topic, 'Twins: An Identity Crisis' urging the audience to be conscious of individuality and not to judge a book by its cover.

Despite conceding to Ormiston Meridian, Team OSSMA were formidable, with only three points between the top three performing teams.

Congratulations to the boys for their performance, teamwork, delivery and timing. We are really proud of you!



LAST DAY OF TERM - 19TH JULY

Friday 19th July is the last day of the academic year and students will leave the academy at 12pm. It is a non-uniform day - clothing **MUST** be appropriate for school (no low-cut tops/short shorts) and not have any offensive language on. The academy reserves the right to send pupils home to change if dressed inappropriately.

Instead of students and staff donating £1, we are asking for an item of non-perishable goods or toiletries for the Alice Charity, based in Fenton, as they are in desperate need of these to support local disadvantaged and vulnerable families.

