



As we reach the end of another vibrant and eventful school year, we want to extend our heartfelt thanks to each of you for your unwavering support and trust. Your partnership and encouragement have been instrumental in making this year a successful and enriching experience for all our students.

Throughout the year, we have witnessed remarkable growth, achievements, and moments of joy among our students. From academic milestones to extracurricular triumphs, every success is a testament to the collaborative effort between our dedicated staff and supportive families. Your involvement, whether through attending school events, helping with homework, or simply being there to cheer on our students, has made a world of difference.

As we prepare to break for the summer, we wish you and your families a wonderful and restful holiday. May your summer be filled with laughter, adventure, and cherished moments together. We encourage everyone to stay safe, enjoy the beautiful weather, and take time to relax and recharge.

We look forward to welcoming you back in the new school year, refreshed and ready for another fantastic journey of learning and growth. Thank you once again for your continuous support. Have a lovely, safe summer!

Kelly Hassall
Principal

DIARY DATES

Thursday 22nd August
GCSE Results Day

**Monday 2nd &
Tuesday 3rd September**
Staff INSET days
academy closed to students

Wednesday 4th September
Students return to the academy.

Year 7 - timings have been sent home to new starters

Year 8 - 11 - arrive at 11:10am

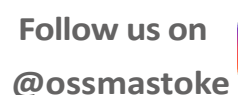
ANOTHER TRIUMPH FOR OSSMA: MAKE YOURSELF HEARD!

Well done to Ethan and Aiden W, Year 8, who excelled in confidence and charisma this month in the OAT oracy competition, 'Make Yourself Heard!'

The competition was stiff from Meridian and Shelfield with varied topics from the importance of the Arts for young people and the elitist view of English grammar.

However, the boys shone with their entertaining topic of 'Twins - An Identity Crisis' as they urged their audience not to judge a book by its cover. Both Ethan and Aiden engaged eloquently with the questions posed to them and they, too, sought clarification from the other competitors with genuine engagement.

As winners, the boys will have the opportunity to participate in the OAT conference in November, presenting to a prestigious audience of OAT Principals and delegates. We are so proud of your achievement! We look forward to Ethan and Aiden playing an integral role as oracy coaches next year.



OAT PHYSICS OLYMPICS!



Ten Year 9 students recently set off to compete in the OAT Physics Olympics Challenge.

The competition was against three schools

regionally and 13 schools nationally. Students had to participate in Olympic challenges that tested their teamwork and physics knowledge.

Jamie P, Jack W and Ben F came first in every competition, securing our first-place victory for the second year!



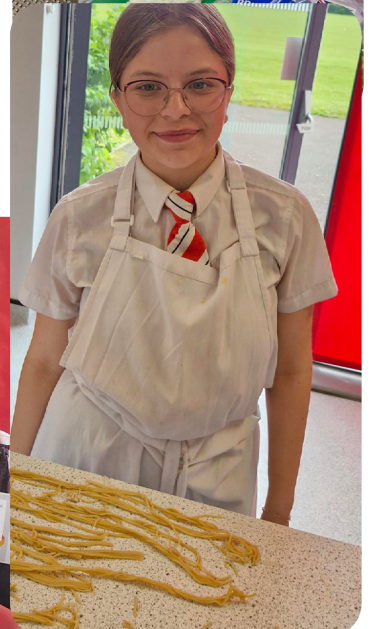
COOKING UP A STORM: JUNIOR CULINARY SKILLS SESSIONS

Over the past few weeks, a group of our talented students have been attending junior culinary skills sessions after school. Under the expert guidance of professional chefs from Chartwells, they've mastered a variety of delicious recipes, including artisanal bread, crispy katsu chicken, and savoury steak ramen.

The sessions culminated in a grand finale where the students had the freedom to showcase their culinary creativity by selecting and preparing their own dishes. The menu was a vibrant tapestry of flavours, featuring homemade pesto pasta, gourmet pizza, classic BLTs, and spicy chicken bowls.

Both Mrs. Hassall and Mrs. Williams joined a judging panel of professional chef's in tasting each dish, the competition was fierce. After much deliberation, and acknowledging the outstanding efforts of all participants, they crowned Charlie and Gracie as this year's winners.

Charlie and Gracie each received a goody bag from Essential Cuisine and will now benefit from coaching sessions with a professional chef. They have also earned a coveted spot in the Future Chef Champions with renowned chef Tom Kerridge. This competition, the largest school culinary contest in the UK, seeks to discover and nurture the nation's best young culinary talent.



YEAR 11 INTERVENTION

In Year 11, we provide additional support for selected students from 3:25 – 4:25 on a Monday, Tuesday and Thursday. These intervention sessions are crucial in the build up to the final GCSEs as they are designed to address any gaps in students' knowledge and ensure they are fully prepared for their examinations.

These sessions are free of charge and run by our staff so that students have consistency in the approaches that we use.

We ask for your support in ensuring that, if selected, your child attends these sessions and engages in the additional learning designed to support their outcomes. A personalised timetable of intervention sessions will be sent out in September which will have been specifically designed to meet the needs of each child.

Following this, if your child would like to opt into any of the sessions, they should contact Miss Pemberton to find out the availability. We thank you for your ongoing support in ensuring the best outcomes for all of our students.



A SHORT GOODBYE TO MISS MILLER

OSSMA debate club wished Miss Miller a fond farewell earlier this week as she moves on to pastures new.

Miss Miller has lead the club successfully through a wide range of hotly debated topics from euthanasia to national conscription.

The students have been lucky to have had Miss Miller's care and support in developing their oracy and debating practice. Thank you, Miss Miller. We will miss you!



LET'S GET EVERYONE READING!

During the Year 10 parent's evening last week, Mrs Maddox hosted Scholastic Books, giving an opportunity for parents and students to treat themselves to a summer read.

It caught everyone's attention... even our ICT technicians!

Have a great summer reading everyone!



A SPORTING STAR

Here at OSSMA we are always excited to hear about our students who are excelling at activities outside of the academy.

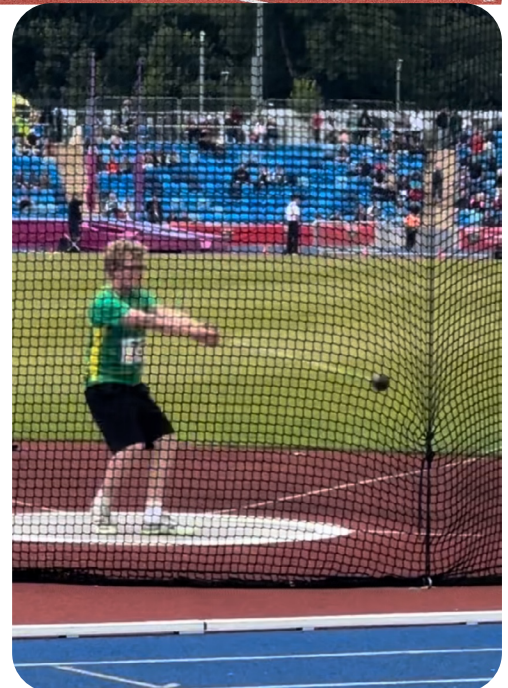
An example of this is Alfie R in Year 8 who has been participating in athletics competitions for the county and nationally.

Alfie started training for the hammer throw in October 2023 and his achievements this year include:

- * Staffordshire County Champion for U15 hammer & discus
- * Staffordshire County Silver medal for U15 boys javelin
- * Staffordshire District Champion U15 boys hammer and discus
- * Regional Champion for U15 boys hammer
- * Ranked 8th in the country for U15 boys hammer
- * Ranked 1st in the country for U14 boys hammer
- * National qualification standard for English schools with a throw of 43m 97cm (standard is 38m for U15 boys).
- * Selected for a National Competition in Birmingham to compete with the best in England despite being a year younger than everyone else.

At the meet in Birmingham, Alfie performed exceptionally well. As the youngest competitor, he finished 10th in the National Competition and is on track to win next year. His achievements rank him first in the country for first-year U15 boys in the hammer throw. He had a fantastic experience and is now more motivated than ever to reach the international standard of 45 metres.

Well done Alfie!



AN ACCOLADE FROM OXFORD

Congratulations to Tyler Harker Year 10 for winning the Anthea Bell Young Translator prize, from The Queen's College Oxford University, for his translation of a French story into English.

Out of 16000 students who took part this year Tyler showed creative flair and attention to detail in his work to win for the North West region. He received his certificate in assembly and a £15 book token.

The MFL department are really proud of his outstanding achievement. The competition is inspired by the life and work of the great translator Anthea Bell. It aims to promote language learning across the UK and to inspire creativity in the classroom. By providing teachers with the tools they need to bring translation to life, they hope to motivate more students to study modern foreign languages throughout their time at school and beyond.



OSSMA ARE THE CHAMPIONS

OSSMA are Year 8 Boys Lawn Tennis Association Staffordshire Schools Division 2 Champions!

It was a tense tennis final against Erasmus Darwin High School. A very tough test for the boys and the final score of the match was 6-6...but we won the fixture on a final set doubles tie break to ten points. Alex and Ethan held their nerve to win 10-5 and take home the trophy. All four boys have been absolutely fantastic throughout the competition, being crowned champions over schools from Cannock, Denstone, Lichfield, Tettenhall and beyond.

Another amazing result for Charlie H, Alec C, Ethan W and Aidan W...well done team OSSMA!

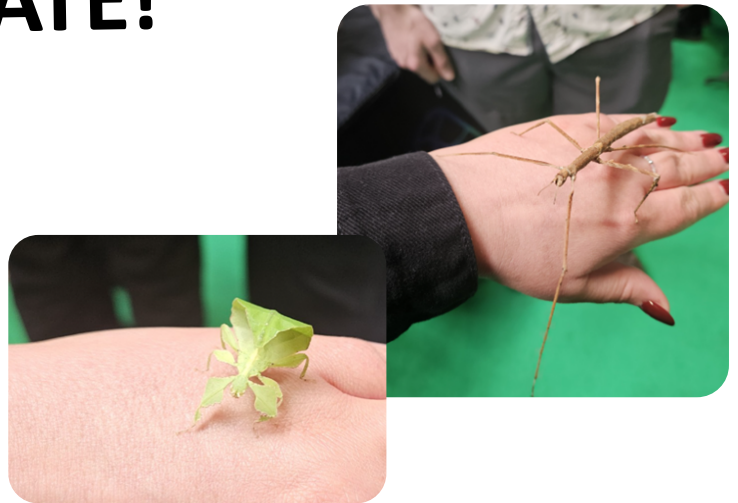


SCIENCE UPDATE!

BIG BANG FAIR 2024

On 19th June, 50 Year 8 students visited the Big Bang Fair at the NEC. The trip included science shows, STEM experiments and STEM careers advice from universities and British based companies such as Rolls Royce, Specsavers and the BBC.

A highlight was our visit to the Royal Entomological Society stall where we got to hold giant cockroaches, stick insects and leaf bugs.

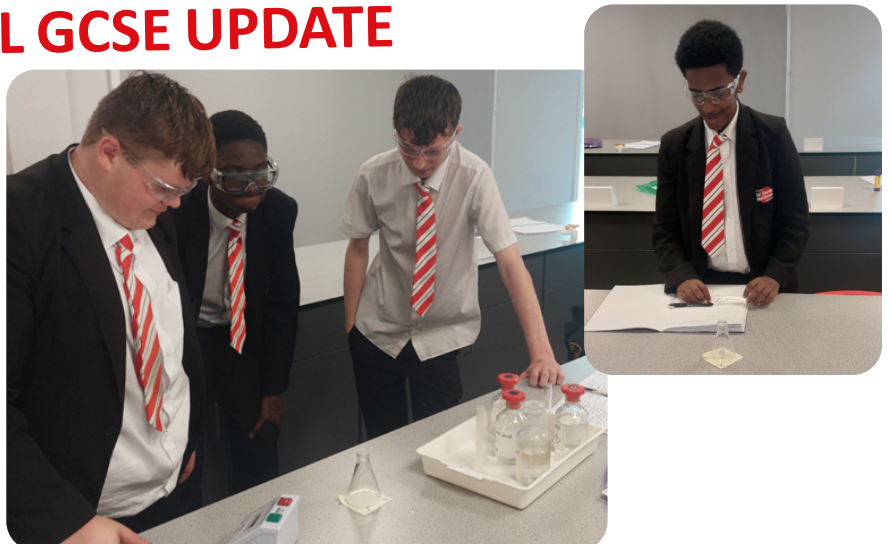


YEAR 10 PRACTICAL GCSE UPDATE

Year 10 have continued to carry out their GCSE required practicals and have been focussing on chemistry this term.

This is an important part of their curriculum and has been a fantastic learning opportunity for them.

One of the practicals shown is to investigate how the concentration of a chemical affects the rate of a reaction.

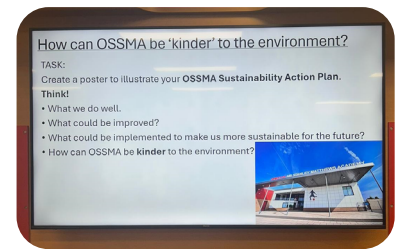




KINDNESS DAY

At OSSMA we celebrate our core values with regular focus days on each of our values.

Our recent kindness day saw students in Geography evaluating how 'kind' the school is to the environment. Students came up with some brilliant ideas, even suggesting a mini farm on the grounds to reduce food miles! It was great to see how students were considering the impact their school has on the environment around them and coming up with solutions to the climate crisis we all face.



A CHESS SUCCESS FOR TEAM OSSMA

Recently students from across the year groups competed in an online Chess Tournament against other schools.

There were around 150 students playing altogether and three OSSMA students were in the top 20 players!

All students played impeccably; supporting each other if others were struggling on moves and practising their skill between games with physical chessboards in the room. They all have a real passion for chess.

Team 1 – Ethan W, Aiden W, Leon S, Jack T
 Team 2 – Tyler B, William W, Ben B, Aryze J
 Team 3 – Tyler S, Oscar M, Daniel M and Keira S



FORM TUTORS & TIMETABLES

At this time of year we tend to get a lot of parental enquiries about form teachers and timetables.

Students in all year groups will be given their form teacher and timetable on the first day back to the academy, Wednesday 4th September.

On the first day back, students will be given their timetable from their Head of Year on the yard when they arrive at the academy.

ATTENDANCE UPDATE

The Attendance Team at OSSMA would like to say "Thank You" to all parents and carers for their support during this academic year.

We hope you have a lovely summer break, and we look forward to seeing you in September.



AMAZING CAST OF MATILDA DO ORMISTON'S GOT TALENT

On Thursday 11th July, the cast of Matilda went to the eagerly anticipated Ormiston's Got Talent Finals. The competition was held at The Rep Theatre in Birmingham. The final consisted of nine acts and OSSMA were the only academy from Stoke-On-Trent.

Along with the chance to perform in a brilliant theatre, the students received a backstage tour, a meet and greet with Myleene Klass and the chance to make new friends. They showed nothing but respect for every performance and for the overall winner. They really are a credit to our academy!

Each act sat in the audience whilst waiting their turn showing each other nothing but respect. Our cast of Matilda performed amazingly, they sang their hearts out and put every ounce of energy into both performances. The audience cheered and sang along to 'When I Grow Up' and 'Revolting Children'.

Unfortunately OSSMA didn't place this time, but we know who our winners are. Not only did the cast do OSSMA proud they also did themselves proud. Thank you to all the students, staff, parents and carers who have supported our students every step along the way and to those who came to support in the audience, your help and guidance is hugely appreciated by all.



TRIP REPORT: THE HISTORIC BATTLEFIELDS OF BELGIUM

From July 8th to July 11th, 2024, our Year 8 and Year 9 students embarked on an educational trip to the historic battlefields of Belgium. This trip aimed to deepen our understanding of the significant events of World War I and to pay tribute to the soldiers who fought and sacrificed their lives in these conflicts. The trip included visits to several key sites, including Wellington Tunnels, Ypres, The Somme, and Newfoundland Memorial.

After a busy night of travelling we arrived in Arras at 9:30 and spent time looking at the town which was rebuilt following the devastation of WWI. As a group we were able to see the Wellington Tunnels, which are an extensive network of underground passages constructed during World War I by the New Zealand Tunnelling Company. Stretching over 20 kilometers, these tunnels could house up to 24,000 soldiers and included facilities such as living quarters, kitchens, latrines, and a hospital.

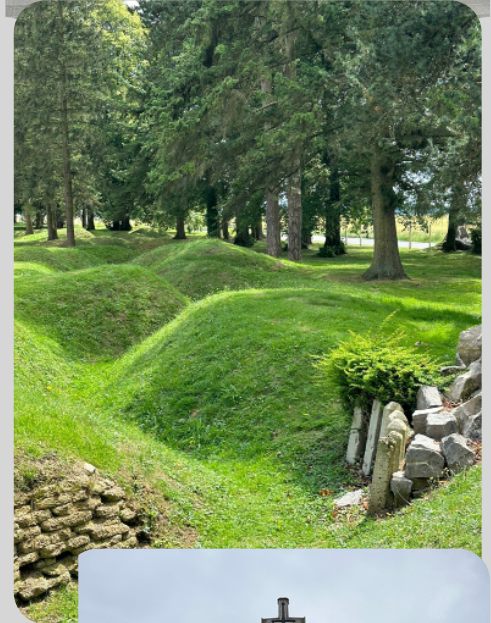
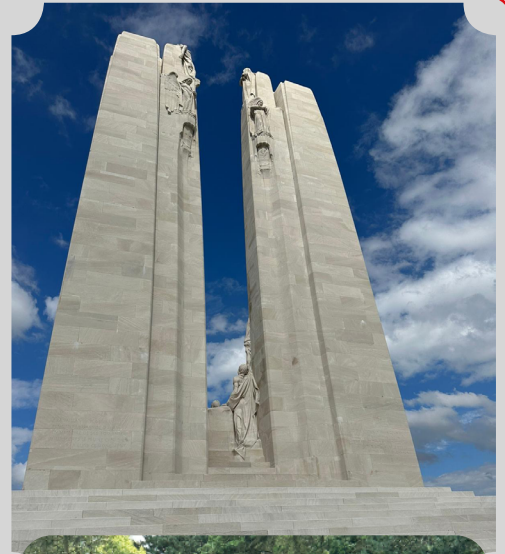
On the Tuesday evening, we attended the Last Post ceremony at the Menin Gate Memorial. This moving tribute, held every evening since 1928 (except during WWII), honours the soldiers of the British Commonwealth who died in the Ypres Salient and have no known graves. The solemn bugle call and the reading of names left a lasting impression on all of us.

Wednesday was the trip to the Somme. At the Thiepval Memorial, we paid our respects to the missing of the Somme. The memorial's grandeur and the thousands of names engraved on its walls were a poignant reminder of the war's human cost.

Later, we visited Vimy Ridge, a significant site for Canadian forces during World War I. The Vimy Memorial, with its striking twin pillars, stands as a tribute to the Canadian soldiers who fought and died there. We also explored the preserved trenches and tunnels, which provided a vivid sense of the battlefield's conditions.

On the Thursday, one of our last stops was the In Flanders Fields Museum, where we learned about the war's impact on the region and the lives of the soldiers and civilians. The museum's interactive exhibits and personal stories brought the history to life.

Keep your eyes peeled for information in the new academic year for the next visit



MENTAL HEALTH EVENT UPDATE

On Thursday 27th June we held our first mental health information evening at OSSMA. Parents and students were invited to OSSMA to meet with agencies and services based in Stoke on Trent so that they could ask advice and take away information that could help them and their child or family member. The evening was a great success and we are hoping to hold another evening in September. Some of the agencies and services that attended were as follows: Adam Dunn from Dogsmindsmatter, CDAS Community Drug and Alcohol Service, Caudwell Children, Mental Health Support Team, YMCA Go, Chartwells, Foodbank and many more. Thank you to everybody that attended and we hope to see you at our next event.



OAT MATHOLYMPICS SUMMER CHALLENGE

The Ormiston Academies Trust (OAT) Matholympics Programme involves termly maths-based competitions across OAT academies where students are set a series of maths based challenges.

The project was the first time a national, trust-wide enrichment programme for maths had been developed and established at OAT. Congratulations to Diana C in Year 7 who won the Medal Table Mystery challenge this half term!

ART, TEXTILES AND PHOTOGRAPHY KS4 COURSEWORK

Current **Year 9** students who have chosen Art, Textiles or Photography as their GCSE options have been given a homework task to complete over the summer break. Students were invited to meetings this week at lunch to discuss the tasks and were given a supporting booklet. All students have been sent the task via email as well. Students are required to take 30 photos linking to their theme in Y10. The themes are:
Art: In the kitchen/food, Textiles: Nature, Photography: Structures

If students have taken more than one of these options for example Art and Photography, they will be required to complete this homework for each subject as they have separate themes. The tasks are to support their GCSE coursework and the deadline is Friday 6th September. The photos will need to be emailed to their own OSSMA email address ready for the start of the project. If students are unsure how to email them they can come to the Art room the first week back at any lunch time for support.

Year 10 Art students have been set a project for the summer break and have been informed about the task during lessons. Students need to take 30 photos linking to the theme 'Memories' which will be emailed to their teacher the first week back. Students can access support with emailing during the new term. They have also been asked to complete any outstanding coursework on their first project during the break. The deadline for all the tasks is Friday 6th September ready for the start of the new project.

SUPPORT OVER THE HOLIDAYS

As we come to the end of an academic year there is still support available over the holidays. Please use the below links to access these where necessary:

Speak up Space - www.speakupspace.org.uk - Available 7 days a week.

Dove - Bereavement support - Bereavement Counselling and Support - [The Dove Service](#)

School Nursing Hub - [Families Health and Wellbeing 0-19 service](#) - Midlands Partnership University NHS Foundation Trust

Chat Health - text the school nurse on 07520615723

Childline - [Childline](#)

Safeguarding Childrens Partnership Board Stoke on Trent, call 01782 235100 - [Safeguarding Children Stoke .](#)

For out of hours reporting, call Stoke-on-Trent Safeguarding Referral Team: Emergency Duty Team (out of hours) Telephone: 01782 234234

THE LEGEND OF LOUGHHEAD

A goodbye to the legend that is Mr Loughhead, we couldn't resist one last use of our World Book Day picture!



POET'S CORNER COAL OR GOLD?

Who created life or death?
 Who made this dreaded world of heft?
 I like this world
 It's so unknown
 But through my mind questions roam

Tell me how did the Big Bang happen?
 Was a crash to the atmosphere?
 Was it a deathly radiant explosion nowhere near?

Is the story of the bible true?
 That God created Adam and Eve before me and u?
 That this great big God high in the sky, created the next millions of years that fly by?
 He created the billions of people on the planet with his one mind, thinking like the greatest of a kind?

Tell me about the world today, but aren't we still in the early years yet?
 Or is blessing and curse a big enough bet?

The bright colours
 The Florescent flowers
 But in a world with so much colour
 Soon after follows
 Is a great development in evil
 Why would god create murder?
 If this world is so much weirder
 Not the weird and wonderful
 Or any cliché like that
 A shadow of a black cat
 A spiritual protector
 A good luck projector

A soul's fixture
 On a moon light picture
 That shows the up
 To be some outsider
 From a man that used to be some-what wiser

Ezara W