

# OSSMA ORACLE

20/12/24

As we approach the festive season and the end of a busy term, I want to take a moment to reflect on the remarkable achievements and events that have shaped the past few months.

Firstly, a huge congratulations to our Year 11 students for their outstanding performance in their recent mock exams. Your hard work, dedication, and resilience have truly paid off, and we are immensely proud of your achievements. This is a promising start as we look forward to your continued progress in the months ahead.

A special mention goes out to all our students for their impressive attendance rates. I'm delighted to share that we have consistently maintained attendance above the national average, a testament to the commitment and resilience of our entire school community. Thank you to all parents and carers for your ongoing support in ensuring students make the most of their learning opportunities.

The lead-up to Christmas has been filled with joy and community spirit. Our annual Christmas Fayre was a resounding success, bringing students, families, and staff together for an evening of fun and festivities. Additionally, our Over-55s Christmas Meal was a heartwarming event, as our students extended their kindness and hospitality to members of the local community. These events truly capture the essence of the Christmas season and the generosity of our school.

As we break for Christmas, I encourage everyone to take time to rest, recharge, and enjoy time with loved ones. I am incredibly proud of what we have achieved together this term and look forward to seeing everyone return in January with renewed energy and enthusiasm.

Wishing you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

#### **DIARY DATES**

Friday 20th December Last day of Term

**Tuesday 7th January** 

Students return to the academy.

Wednesday 15th January Year 11 Parent's Evening

Wednesday 22nd January **SEN Passport Evening** 

Wednesday 5th February Year 10 Parent's Evening

Monday 24th Febuary **INSET** day

Wednesday 26th February Year 9 Options Evening

**Kelly Hassall Principal** 

# WELCOMING OUR PREFECT TEAM



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# CHRISTMAS CARD WINNER

Every year, Ormiston Academies Trust runs a Christmas card competition. Students from across the trust academies can submit their festive designs for a chance to become the winner. The winning students receive printed copies of their cards to share with family and friends, along with art supplies and a charitable donation to a cause of their choice.

We proudly announce that Krystal B, Year 8, won! Her design perfectly captures the festive spirit and has won some exciting creative prizes. A donation will be made to Cancer Research UK on behalf of Krystal, her chosen charity - a fantastic and meaningful cause to support. Pictured are Mrs Barker-Brown, Head of Art, Mr Line, Head of Year 8, Krystal and her Art Teacher, Miss Bloom.





## STUDENTS ON TRIAL!

As part of the Bar Mock Trial competition students in KS4 had the opportunity to visit Chester Crown Court to defend and prosecute cases of law, competing against other schools.

The competition was judged by real court judges and gave students a taste of what a career in law could look like. Although there was no win, students thoroughly enjoyed the day, found it useful and even made friends with other schools.

Watch out for the Magistrates competition launching after Christmas for 12-14 year olds!



## **A CHRISTMAS CAROL**



Last week, Year 10 and 11 students took a trip to Derby Theatre to watch the Charles Dickens classic A Christmas Carol.

Students watched an exciting, magical and vibrant adaptation of Charles Dickens' treasured novel, a key text for GCSE English.

A Christmas Carol is a timeless tale of hope and redemption that follows Ebenezer Scrooge on a journey through his past, present, and future. A wonderful time was had by all!





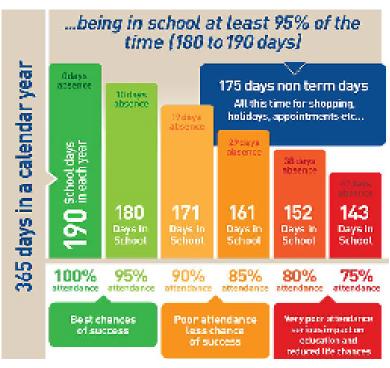
### ATTENDANCE MATTERS

The 10 days of Christmas attendance focus fortnight was very successful and students engaged with this realy well! Thank you to all students who are in school, achieving 100% attendance and were in it to win it! Autumn term 100% rewards were handed out on the last day.

Overall, this term, we've seen an increase in attendance compared to last year and we'd like to thank parents and carers

in helping us drive home the importance of attending school and how regular attendance can improve each and every student's outcomes in Year 11, and thereby life choices when they leave. Punctuality to school continues to be monitored as we are seeing a dip in some year groups, but again, thank you to parents and carers who ensure their child arrives to school on time, ready for learning, your support is appreciated.





#### **GET HELP OVER WINTER**

We know that the cost of living crisis, fuelled by rising inflation and increasing energy bills, is impacting Stoke-on-Trent residents, businesses and communities.

We are all facing tough financial challenges. If you are struggling, a range of support may be able to help you. The council administers a number of grants, benefits, relief funds and other support. As we approach winter and face cost of living pressure across our

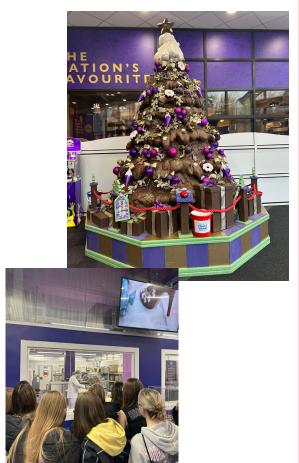
communities, Stoke-on-Trent will come together and support the most vulnerable

We want to ensure that you receive all of the support and benefits you may be entitled to because #helpisathand. Scan the QR code for more details.



#### **CADBURY'S CHRISTMAS**

The Geography Department took Year 9 Students to Cadbury's World. Students had a great day exploring the story of chocolate and how a global, transnational corporation changes its operations based on its location to suit its customer's needs. The free chocolate was an added bonus!



## **NEWS**



#### **STEM SUCCESS**

Many congratulations to our STEM Chemistry students. Two Year 9 students, one Year 10 and one Year 11 students entered the Royal Society of Chemistry's 'Top of the Bench' competition which saw students answering high level chemistry questions in exam conditions.

Our students absolutely smashed it and are the overall winners across the country!!!!

Well done to our OSSMA students, you have represented our school and have made us all very proud.



### UNIFORM UPDATE

Many thanks for your continued support in ensuring students wear the correct uniform. All students must return in January adhering to the uniform policy which can be found in full here <a href="https://bit.ly/4gCglpa.">https://bit.ly/4gCglpa.</a>

False nails, false lashes and also any new piercings will be expected to be removed for the first day back, 7th January. Only one set of studs can be worn in the lower lobe. Hoop earrings are not permitted. Students may wear a v-neck jumper made of wool type material. Students are not permitted to wear crew neck jumpers/sweatshirts, and logos or motifs are not permitted on knitwear.

Students are allowed subtle make-up only. This is decided at the discretion of the academy, but if students are wearing heavy, visible make-up they will be asked to remove this. Students with dispensation regarding an agreement to wear a differentiated uniform is currently being reviewed and parents will be contacted if there is an issue regarding this.

Any student arriving at the academy wearing incorrect uniform can expect to be sent to our Inclusion hub to be isolated until the parent/carer can bring a replacement. The decision regarding appropriateness of appearance is at the discretion of the OSSMA Pastoral Team. And finally, thank you all very much in advance of your anticipated support and understanding.

# **SPORTING SUCCESSES**

The PE Department has been busy taking students to fixtures across the city this term.

We played St Thomas More in the North Staffs Badminton fixture in November and won 14-12. There were some great games, and the students loved it.

Some of the students involved had never represented the academy before, but it was a fantastic evening for all.

We also won another City Badminton League fixture in December at Trentham. The score was Trentham 8 - 16 OSSMA, meaning that we are currently top of our group.

The Year 8 Netball team recently attended the City Netball Festival. The team showed the highest levels of resilience and respect, fought through the tournament, and came 4th overall.

The Year 8 and 9 Netball team played their first league game against Thistley Hough and were victorious! The score was 14-6, and the standard of netball was incredible.

The Year 7 and 8 Girls Football Team got through the

group stages at the Utilita Cup, a nationwide football tournament designed for young football enthusiasts. The girls won the quarter-finals and then the semi-final on penalties. Unfortunately, they lost to Alsager 4-2 in the final. However, they were club finals runners-up, coming second, and will all receive a medal.

Our Year 10/11 boys and girls also took part in the Year 11 City 5-a-side Football tournament. Both sides were fantastic and played the games with such enthusiasm. The boys finished 2nd in the city and were unbeaten, losing the final on penalties. This was a great effort from the boys because the competition is a well-attended event where most high schools in the city participate. The girls finished 2nd in their group and loved the experience.

Our Year 10 Boys' Football Team also played an intense football match against our local rivals, Trentham (previous city champions), in appalling weather last week. They were absolutely brilliant, showing teamwork, desire, resilience, and respect. They came out 3-0 victors, putting us through to the next stage!

We are incredibly proud of all our Sporting Stars!