



Dear Parents, Carers, and Students,

As we approach the end of another busy half-term, I am delighted to share with you the latest news and achievements from our vibrant school community. Our students continue to excel both academically and in extracurricular activities. We are immensely proud of our cricket and football teams, who have demonstrated exceptional skill and sportsmanship in their recent matches. Their dedication and teamwork have led to impressive successes, further enhancing our school's sporting reputation.

In a remarkable achievement, OSSMA is currently in second position globally in the Topical Talk Festival during week three. This outstanding accomplishment reflects our students' critical thinking skills, engagement with current affairs, and ability to articulate their ideas effectively on an international platform.

Our Year 11 students are entering a crucial phase of their academic journey, and recently we captured the final group photo for Year 11, a poignant moment marking the culmination of their journey at OSSMA. This photograph will undoubtedly become a cherished memento of their time with us.

To support their preparation for upcoming examinations, we have organised additional Saturday School Revision sessions. These sessions provide targeted support and guidance, ensuring our students are well-equipped for their GCSEs. We are also offering these revision sessions over the half-term holiday. We are grateful for the commitment shown by both students and staff in attending these valuable sessions.

The Prefects have been tirelessly fundraising for their Prom, demonstrating exceptional initiative and organisational skills. Their efforts not only contribute to what promises to be a memorable event but also showcase their leadership abilities and commitment.

As we look ahead, please note that we break up for the half-term holiday on Friday 14th February. Students will enjoy a well-deserved break before returning to the academy on Tuesday, 25th February. I encourage all our students to use the half-term break as an opportunity to rest, recharge, and reflect on their achievements thus far. To our entire school community I wish you a restful and enjoyable half-term break.

Kelly Hassall
Principal

DIARY DATES

Friday 14th February
Last day of Term

Monday 24th February
INSET day

Tuesday 25th February
Student's back to the academy

Tuesday 25th February - Friday 07 March
Year 11 Mock Exams

Wednesday 26th February
Year 9 Options Evening

Wednesday 2nd April
Year 11 Parents Evening

Student Details - polite reminder that any changes in address or contact details for students, parents or emergency contacts should be updated with the school as a priority.



Are your **CONTACT DETAILS** up to date?

OSSMA IN CAPE TOWN 2025

Students and staff recently departed for 12 days in Cape Town. It is the biggest group to date, with 55 people in total: 30 students from OSSMA, 5 staff, 10 students from Discovery Academy, 4 from Excel Academy, and 5 staff from those schools.

Students will visit primary and secondary schools, participate in community projects, and help at The Safe House organisation. Our students will deliver sports coaching to primary school children in 3 schools and will bag, pack and distribute food parcels to those in need. They will also go on safari, visit Robben Island, Table Mountain, and much more. You can follow their journey on X (Twitter) @CapeOssma



INTRODUCING PRIDE CLUB

Introducing Pride Club: Our Safe and Supportive Space for LGBT-QI+ Students and Allies

We are excited to announce the launch of Pride Club, a new student-led group designed to provide a safe, inclusive, and supportive space for LGBTQI+ students and their allies. Taking place every Thursday afternoon in the LRC from 3:25 to 4:15, Pride Club offers students the opportunity to connect, access safe resources, and work together to promote inclusivity within our school community and beyond.



Our Pride Ambassadors are available for peer mentorship, ensuring all students feel welcomed, supported, and valued. The club is where students can explore LGBTQI+ topics, contribute to meaningful discussions, and participate in creative activities such as designing displays and raising awareness of key issues.

As part of our commitment to fostering an inclusive environment, we recently celebrated Allies Week (27th—31st January). During this week, students contributed to a display reflecting on what being an ally means to them. This initiative encouraged open conversations about support, respect, and standing up for equality.

We are proud to partner with the charity “Just Like Us”, which provides trusted resources to help students learn, share, and advocate for inclusivity. Our school staff members are also on hand during the club sessions to offer guidance and ensure a safe, welcoming environment for all.

If you have any questions or want to view the resources available, please get in touch with Mrs. Maddox. We look forward to seeing students at Pride Club as we continue to build a school community where everyone feels seen, heard, and celebrated!

TOPICAL TALK FESTIVAL

As part of our drive to improve confidence around oracy, OSSMA are participating in a project called the Topical Talk Festival once again. It is delivered by The Economist Educational Foundation, a charity that was set up from inside The Economist newspaper.

The project takes place over several weeks. It gives children valuable knowledge about the news, the skills to explore different points of view and make up their own minds, and the confidence to have their say.

Students from Year 7, 8, 9, and 10 have weekly discussions about the news at school with Mrs George, where they are presented with factually accurate information and balanced arguments. They also have opportunities to take part in safe online discussions about the news with young people living in different parts of the world, and experts on the topics.

Each contribution earns our students 'stars' for their school. Currently, OSSMA are 2nd in the world! Well done to all involved. Go OSSMA oracy!

Class leaderboard

#	Class	★
1	IES Francisco Salinas Spain	65
2	Ormiston Sir Stanley Matthews Academy United Kingdom	38
3	Kassie Braun Memorial Schools B Nigeria	34
4	Krishnakumari City Corporation Girls' High School Bangladesh	31
5	Thurgood Marshall Elementary School United States of America	25
6	IES Javier García Téllez Spain	24
7	River's Edge Elementary School United States of America	24
8	IES Al-Qázeres Spain	19
9	Lee Street Elementary School United States of America	17
10	Elite Scholars Academy C United States of America	14

Update - OSSMA's 10 days of Christmas was a huge success, with selection boxes being awarded to the daily winners. Autumn term 100% attendance awards were presented on the last day of term, with vouchers for students whose names were drawn at random, receiving a voucher each (2 for each year group). The number of 100% attendees was higher than the previous two years so well done to those who received that certificate, it was well deserved!



Absences from school - all absences should be reported to school on a daily basis. You can do this by ringing the school, choosing option 1 and leaving a message on the absence line; emailing absence@ossma.co.uk or by responding to the Synergy message that will be sent to you once the absence alerts are sent out. If your child is absent for 3 or more days, our Independent Welfare Officer from VIP Education, will contact you at some point during the absence unless evidence that you have seen a medical professional has been provided.

Punctuality to School - we have seen a slight dip in students arriving late to the academy on a daily basis. Could we please ask parents and carers to reiterate to their children, that punctuality is an important aspect of everyday life, and poor punctuality could be detrimental to their chosen career. All students should be lined up with their forms by 8.35am ready for uniform and equipment checks. Anyone arriving at the gate after 8.40am are classed as late and may be subject to a detention at lunchtime.

As always, a huge thank you to parents and carers who support OSSMA with all aspects of attendance and punctuality to school. It is appreciated.



Our next attendance focus fortnight will wrap around the February half term.

Students who gain 100% attendance between 10th February and 28th February will receive a reward.

THE PERFECT CUPPA?

Our budding scientists have been very busy in our science STEM club, working on their projects for their bronze CREST award.

Jack T, Year 9, has been designing a new style of pizza box to combat the issue of sogginess by increasing its stability.

Charlie J, also Year 9, has been busy investigating what makes the best cup of tea.

Charlie has been using various blends with various sugar-to-milk ratios to create an excellent brew!



STEM @DISNEY

Recently, five students were selected to travel to Paris to Disneyland Park and Disneyland Studios for a STEM workshop.

The students attended a STEM workshop and were given an assignment. They had to measure the G forces on their bodies for each rollercoaster using an app and then share all the data to build a better picture of the rides' effects.

Students also learned about the maths, computing, and chemistry involved in creating a Disney Park show, from the video, sound, software mapping, and projection techniques to the colour and ignition of different types of fireworks.

A range of Ormiston academies attended the trip, and they spent time building fantastic friendships with their fellow scientists!



OSSMA @ MAN UNITED

Recently, staff from the Performance Faculty took students on a trip to Manchester United.

They went to watch Manchester United women play Newcastle United women, and the students had a fantastic time watching a great game.

This is just one of the many trips organised by the faculty to encourage student participation in sports.



DEAR BOOK REVIEW

Witch Child – Harvey S Year 7

Witch Child is a book that you do for DEAR time in Year 7. It is a good book you can get it on Amazon and personally I like it and think a lot of people like it. The front cover is a good image to look at to find out a bit of it.

Witch Child is about a young child being between the age of birth and puberty, or between the development period of infancy and puberty. The term may also refer to an unborn human. The child was a teenager, and when you read it it makes you feel in a good mood. It is a good book to read in the silence.

Good Luck!

Recently, Warren Brown, Lydia Oakley and Skye Clarke have got through to the regional finals of OAT's Got Talent.

The final of the competition is in March and we are looking forward to it.

A massive congratulations from all the staff and good luck in the finals. You will smash it!

STUDENT REWARDS



Students have been actively working to earn reward points by demonstrating the core values of our school's CREECK framework: Confidence, Resilience, Enthusiasm, Empathy, Challenge, and Kindness. Whether tackling a difficult task with confidence, showing resilience in the face of setbacks, or approaching new learning with enthusiasm, students have embraced these values in their everyday actions.

They have been kind to their peers, offering support and encouragement while also facing challenges head-on and pushing themselves beyond their comfort zones. Empathy has been a key factor, as students have been mindful of others' feelings and needs. Students have also been actively trying to achieve a reward token for an end-of-day treat.


Year 7 are doing well, leading the charge and holding onto the top spot for most of the year! Year 8 are hot on their heels, doing everything possible to catch up and claim the lead. Meanwhile, Year 9 are in third place, and Year 10 are holding firm in fourth. Year 11 are putting up a solid fight in fifth—there's still plenty of time for a thrilling comeback! The race is far from over!

Well done to the following students who are the top 3 students in their Year group this half term:

Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11
Melissa. S	Jayden. P	Sophie. B	Daisie. D	Olivia. M
Jorgie. B	Lewis. B	Alexandra. B	Dylan. C	Isabella. B
Jack. Y	Mia. S	Olivia S	Kaitlin. G	Carly. Y

If you would like to keep up to date with your child's positive reward progress, then please sign up and download the Synergy app here <https://bit.ly/4huCqHn>

YEAR 11 INTERVENTION FEBRUARY HALF TERM	Monday 17th February	Tuesday 18th February	Wednesday 19th February-	Thursday 20th February
	English 9.30-11.30 Miss Halstead	Geography 9.30-11.30 Mrs Johnson	Science 9.30-2.00	Imedia 9.30-1.30 Mr Jones
	English 9.30-11.30 Mrs George	Geography 9.30-11.30 Miss Law		
		Geography 9.30-11.30 Miss Black		
		Engineering 12.00-2.00 Mr Collier		
	Maths 9.00-11.00 Mr Williams Mr Loughhead Mr Harrison Mr Wood			



WELLBEING UPDATE

As we reach the end of this half-term, we look back on Children's Mental Health Awareness Week (3rd–9th February), which focuses on the theme "Know Yourself, Grow Yourself." This important week encouraged students to reflect on their well-being, understand their emotions, and take steps towards a positive mindset.

Year 7 Mental Health Drop-Down Day

In preparation for Mental Health Awareness Week, our Year 7 students took part in a Mental Health Drop-Down Day, where they engaged in an interactive session focused on:

- Understanding emotions – Recognising feelings and developing self-awareness
- Coping strategies – Learning practical ways to manage stress and anxiety.
- Healthy habits – Exploring the link between physical and mental health.
- Seeking support – Understanding when and where to ask for help.

Across the school, students had the opportunity to explore ways to achieve good mental health, including:

- Self-awareness – Recognising emotions and understanding personal triggers.
- Healthy habits – The importance of sleep, exercise, and balanced screen time.
- Seeking support – Talking to friends, family, or trusted adults when needed.
- Mindfulness & relaxation – Using techniques like journaling and breathing exercises.
- Building relationships – Joining school clubs to make new friends and feel connected.

Throughout the week, the LRC provided:

- A showcased selection of well-being books and safe online resources to help students develop resilience.
- Opportunities to speak with Well-being, Anti-Bullying, and Pride Ambassadors, who offered advice and guidance.
- Information about school clubs and social groups, helping students build confidence and friendships.

The LRC is always open to supporting students with resources, access to peer ambassadors and supportive staff, and a welcoming space to reflect and grow.

The Menstruation Station

Our Well-being Ambassadors played a vital role in supporting students this term by supporting The Menstruation Station. The station aimed to:

- Break the stigma around periods by encouraging open conversations.
- Ensure access to essential sanitary products for those who need them.
- Promote menstrual health education by providing information on hygiene, cycle tracking, and self-care.

By opening these discussions, our ambassadors helped build confidence and break down barriers, ensuring students feel supported and informed about their health. Students will find this stand available once a month.

We would like to express our thanks to Lorna Boden and her church family at The Dignity Project @ LongtonElimChurchLivingSpringsCommunity for their support. Their generous donation of Period Rescue Bags, containing cleaning products and menstruation supplies, ensures students are supported at school. Additionally, their contribution to our Cape Town Project has provided essential products to those in need. Thank you for making a difference in our school community and beyond!



Changes

PEER SUPPORT GROUP

Join our weekly **Peer Support Group** for ongoing emotional wellbeing and mental health support, open to all students ages 14 to 16 at OSSMA

Every **Thursday** after school at **3:25pm**

Room F28

Please speak with **Maddison Smith** or **Mrs Shim** to book your space!

Sir Stanley Matthews Academy

IMPERIAL WAR MUSEUM AND SALFORD QUAYS

The Humanities Department recently embarked on a joint history and geography trip with our Year 7 students to the Imperial War Museum and Salford Quays in Manchester.

Students got a chance to learn about conflicts covered in their Key Stage 3 History curriculum and the regeneration of the area for their current geography learning. They behaved impeccably and represented our OSSMA community beautifully. They even ended the day with a traditional homeward-bound coach singalong!





STAFFORDSHIRE
POLICE

ESCOOTERS & THE LAW



DO YOU KNOW THE LAW IF YOU HAVE AN E-SCOOTER?

What is the law if you have an e-scooter?

You can buy one but you can't ride it on a UK public road, cycle lane or pavement. The only place an e-scooter can be used is on private land with the landowner's permission.

Why is this?

E-scooters are classified as Powered Transporters, so they are treated as motor vehicles and subject to the same legal requirements such as:

- MOT
- Licensing
- Tax
- Insurance

As e-scooters do not have number plates, signalling ability and don't always have visible rear lights, they can't be used legally on the roads.

What happens if you are stopped?

We understand the public's support for environmentally friendly modes of transport. We want to work with the public to make sure the roads are safe for everyone.

Following controlled trials of e-scooter hire in two Staffordshire towns these have since come to an end due to the risk and legal implications.

E-scooters are subject to the rules and regulations outlined in the Road Traffic Act 1988. There have been prosecutions in Staffordshire of e-scooter riders in relation to dangerous driving and other offences resulting in their disqualification.

What is a section 59?

Section 59 of the Police Reform Act allows police to give road users a warning if they are reported to have used their vehicle in a manner which causes alarm, distress or annoyance. Staffordshire Police also have the powers to seize vehicles. Please make sure you keep your e-scooter on private land so this doesn't happen to you.