



Dear Parents, Carers, and Students,

As we approach the end of the spring term, I want to thank you all for your continued support. It has been a busy and productive term, and I am incredibly proud of the hard work and achievements of our students and staff alike.

A reminder that school will close for the Easter holidays at 12:15 pm on Friday. We hope all our students enjoy a well-deserved break and take the time to rest and recharge. Unfortunately, the Local Authority have confirmed that the funding for the holiday food vouchers has now come to an end. This means that vouchers will no longer be sent out. If anyone needs any urgent support please contact the academy.

I would especially like to encourage our Year 11 students to use the holiday period wisely to focus on their revision in preparation for the upcoming exams. This is a crucial time, and every bit of effort now will make a difference.

Wishing you all a happy, peaceful and safe Easter.

Kelly Hassall
Principal

DIARY DATES

Friday 11th April

Last day of term
Students finish at 12:20pm

Monday 28th April

Students back to the academy

Monday 5th May

Bank Holiday Monday

Tuesday 6th May

GCSE Exams begin

Friday 23rd May

Last day of term

Monday 2nd June

Students back to the academy

Thursday 26th June

Year 11 Prom

STEM SCIENCE CLUB AND TITRATIONS

Our budding scientists have been very busy in our science STEM club completing a Titration experiment to investigate the volume of Hydrochloric acid needed to neutralise a known volume of Sodium Hydroxide.

Our students loved using this equipment that they have never used before. They learnt how to measure volumes of solutions correctly, which is also something that Year 7 and 8 are currently working on in science.

We also discussed the pH scale and the different colours of acids and alkalis when universal indicator is added.



AN AMAZING VICTORY FOR OUR TENNIS STARS

We have some amazing students representing the academy at various sporting events. We are pleased to announce that our boys tennis team have recently had a fantastic victory in their Lawn Tennis Association National Championships first round match against Denstone College.

It was an exciting fixture and the boys won 10-2, moving onto the second round. Staff from Denstone commented on how the team were an absolute credit to OSSMA. Well done to:

Alex C
Aiden W
Ethan W
Jack T



WELL DONE TO OUR STAR STUDENTS

Students are earning CREECK rewards more than ever before, which is helping to create a strong sense of achievement and motivation. The competition between year groups and tutor groups remains healthy, as each group strives to accumulate more rewards, creating an exciting atmosphere.



Well done to the following students who have been the WOW students this half term:

Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11
Millen F	Nadia B	Tyler P	Dale C	Isabella B
Zak H	Jacob A	Lillie H	Samuel McC and Daniel W	Kenzie JJ
Millen F	Olivia S		Kaitlin. G	Carly. Y

Well done to the following students who have been the pupil of the week this half term:

Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11
Anaya H	Nancy D	Milly T	Misbah MP	Conor S
Brooke R	Roqaya A	Rylee M	Ivan T	Kobi C
Ivy A	Neve C	Lillie H		

Massive well done to the following students who have been given the Head Teachers Award this half term:

Holly W and Mamdouh K

A FEW FROM WORLD BOOK DAY

Happy World Book Day! Led by our "Queen of Literacy and Oracy" Mrs George, here at OSSMA we like to celebrate in style.

With the theme of female authors and characters, staff went the extra mile to make the pupils smile.



DUKE OF EDINBURGH AWARD

Recently, Duke of Edinburgh season started with the Y9 Bronze students completing an 11 mile practice walk from OSSMA to Barlaston Downs and back with Mr Trevor, Mr Wild and Mrs Johnson.

They were supported by Chloe M (Y11), Meg W and Gracie B(Y10) who are our DoFE Young Leaders this year. The girls are currently working towards their Silver award and are volunteering to help and support the Bronze students complete their awards.

















All of the students that came with us were fantastic and were an absolute pleasure to spend the day with. They are all well on their way to completing their Bronze award, their next challenge will be their expedition on 9th and 10th May at Stanley Head.



ADOLESCENCE.....

In light of Netflix's newest popular show – Adolescence - we would like to take this opportunity to help raise awareness surrounding the online security and safety of your child/teenager. Online, young people are communicating in ways that most adults completely misunderstand. What looks innocent could potentially have a very different meaning.

Here are some of the 'codes' which may be being used by your child:

-  Red Pill – “I see the truth.” Used in toxic male spaces to mean waking up to supposed hidden ‘truths’ about women and society, often linked to misogynistic ideologies.
-  Blue Pill – Represents those who are “blind to the truth” or still believe in mainstream views about relationships and gender dynamics.
-  Dynamite Emoji – An “exploding red pill,” meaning someone is a radicalised incel.
-  Kidney Bean – A symbol linked to incel culture, sometimes mocking women.
-  100 Emoji – Tied to the “80/20 rule,” the belief 80% of women are only attracted to 20% of men.
-  Black Hole – Used to express depression, hopelessness, or being sucked into negative online spaces.
-  Tornado – Represents chaos or feeling overwhelmed, sometimes used to indicate mental distress.
-  Frog Emoji – Associated with alt-right & extremist meme culture, often linked to Pepe the Frog, which has been co-opted by toxic online groups.
-  Eagle – A symbol of extreme nationalism, sometimes used in far-right online spaces.
-  Skull – While often just slang for “that’s funny” or “I’m dead (from laughing),” in certain groups, it can signal darker themes like nihilism or self-harm.
-  Heart colours and what each one can represent.
 -  = Love
 -  = Lust
 -  = “Are you interested?”
 -  = Interested but not in sex
 -  = “You’ll be okay”

1. **Get Curious, Not Combative** – Ask open-ended questions: “I saw something about emojis meaning different things. Have you heard of this?” Keep the conversation light.
2. **Create a Judgment-Free Zone** – If your child feels like they’ll be punished for opening up, they won’t. Make it clear you’re there to listen, not just lecture.
3. **Decode Together** – Ask them to explain their digital world. What do different symbols mean? Who are the influencers they follow? Don’t assume—ask.
4. **Teach Critical Thinking** – Help them question online content. “Why do you think some groups push this idea? Who benefits?” Arm them with questions, not just rules.
5. **Monitor Without Spying** – Open conversations work better than secret surveillance. Make checking in on their online spaces a normal part of parenting, not a crisis move.
6. **Be Real About Manipulation** – Explain how toxic online groups groom young people by making them feel special, included, or like they have ‘insider knowledge.’
7. **Build Their Offline Confidence** – The more they feel valued and confident in the real world, the less they’ll seek validation in dangerous online spaces.

The digital world is evolving faster than most adults can keep up. But we don’t have to be in the dark...



The last attendance focus fortnight which wrapped around half term, was a great success, despite illness sweeping it's way through various year groups and an amazing 792 students achieved 100% and received an edible reward! Pictured are a group of Year 7 students we managed to photograph before their rewards were consumed! L-R Amelia, Poppy, Oliver, Harley, Harrison and Khurram.

The next attendance focus fortnight will be in the lead up to Easter. It will start on Wednesday 26th March, and run through to 8th April, where rewards for 100% attendance during this period will be presented in the following couple of days by their Heads of Years and Form Tutors.

Spring Term 100% attendance certificates and pin badges will be presented on Friday 11th April. We will also do the Spring Term Raffle, where two, 100% attendance (Spring term only) students, from each year group will be drawn randomly to win a voucher.

We are very proud to say that despite attendance dipping both nationally & regionally around half term, OSSMA has bucked the trend and we have seen an increase overall. As always thank you to parents and carers for supporting us with attendance and punctuality - it is appreciated.



A WONDERLAND OF BOOKS IN THE LRC!

Our Alice in Wonderland Book Tasting Event was a huge success!

The LRC was transformed into a whimsical wonderland as we hosted our very own Unbirthday Tea Party, inspired by Liz Braswell's Twisted Tale Unbirthday!

Students were welcomed by Alice and the Mad Hatter, straight from the pages of Unbirthday! Students explored a variety of genres and had the exclusive opportunity to be the first to check out brand-new, unread books. The excitement was contagious, with plenty of book recommendations shared and new favourites discovered!

A huge thank you to our amazing Pupil Librarians, whose support made this event even more magical. We can't wait to showcase our Reading Recommendations Wall in the LRC, filled with top picks from the event.



NATIONAL RECOGNITION FOR TOPICAL TALK

We are delighted to inform you that Mamdouh K. in Year 7 has received an award for his recent participation in The Economist Educational Foundation's Topical Talk Festival. Mamdouh's work was chosen, for demonstrating brilliant communication and critical-thinking skills. As a recipient of this prestigious award, he has been invited to join The Economist Educational Foundation's pilot Student Ambassador Programme. He will also receive:

- Certification References for future applications
- A goodybag of journalistic materials
- Invitations to Economist events
- A free Economist subscription

This will allow Mamdouh priority to take part in year two of the programme. It will give him an opportunity to work with a respected media brand and have his voice heard on an international educational programme. He will be representing OSSMA on a global stage, giving him the opportunity to meet a global group of likeminded young people whilst developing confidence and skills such as communication and presentation. This is an invaluable opportunity to enable him to build evidence for university, college or job applications. Congratulations, Mamdouh! We are so proud of you.

PERFORMANCE HIGHLIGHTS

OAT's Got Talent Regional Final

Warren Brown, Lydia Oakley and Sky Clarke performed at the Regional finals of OAT's Got Talent Regional Final. The talent across the board was amazing and our students performed with confidence and flair.

We will find out soon if they have made it to the grand final in Birmingham. Good luck!



UNIFORM UPDATE

Many thanks for your continued support in ensuring that our students are adhering to the high standards of uniform at OSSMA. We are delighted to see so many of our students consistently following the uniform policy, which helps to foster a sense of pride and identity within our school community and contributes to a focused and respectful learning environment.

Your efforts in ensuring that your child is in the correct uniform every day plays a key role in maintaining these high standards and we as an academy appreciate it greatly. The link to the uniform policy is here <https://bit.ly/4b8G3zH>

Can I also remind you that we are now selling school ties for £5.50 on Parent Pay. Once purchased they can be collected by your child from the front office. Please note, we cannot accept cash payments for ties. Many thanks again for your ongoing support with raising standards at OSSMA.



FOCUS ON YEAR 11 - GCSE EXAMS

Feeling stressed about exams is to be expected. Worrying about exams is entirely normal; this can motivate action and be put to positive use. Anxiety can, however, become overwhelming, and we urge students in the academy to speak to any member of staff who they feel comfortable talking to about these feelings so that they can access support.

Students can put strategies in place now to help prepare for the inevitable stress that will happen. For example, teenagers need between 8 and 10 hours of sleep each night. They can drink lots of water (avoid caffeine and high energy/sugary drinks), exercise for at least half an hour a day, and also remember to schedule rest breaks/time to unwind (e.g. have a hot bath, bake or watch a funny film).

When the exams are in progress, students need to be mindful about being on time to the academy so that they are ready and prepared and take advantage of the booster sessions we hold during form time for each exam. Below is a reminder of some national rules and regulations that candidates must adhere to for the exams. The following page also gives a list of every exam taking place.

We wish everyone good luck!



AQA

City & Guilds

CCEA

OCR

Pearson

WJEC

AQA	City & Guilds	CCEA	OCR	Pearson	WJEC
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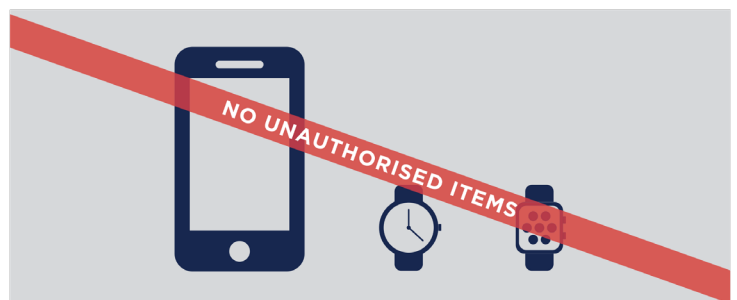
Warning to Candidates

1. You **must** be on time for all your examinations.
2. **Possession of a mobile phone** or other unauthorised material is **not allowed** even if you do not intend to use it. You will be subject to penalty and possible disqualification from the exam/qualification.
3. You **must not** talk to, attempt to communicate with or disturb other candidates once you have entered the examination room.
4. You **must** follow the instructions of the invigilator.
5. You **must not** sit an examination in the name of another candidate.
6. You **must not** become involved in any unfair or dishonest practice in any part of the examination.
7. If you are confused about anything, only speak to an invigilator.

The **Warning to Candidates** must be displayed in a prominent place outside each examination room. This may be a hard copy A3 paper version or an image of the poster projected onto a wall or screen for all candidates to see.

NO MOBILE PHONES NO WATCHES

NO POTENTIAL TECHNOLOGICAL/WEB
ENABLED SOURCES OF INFORMATION



Possession of unauthorised items, such as a mobile phone or any watch, is a serious offence and could result in

DISQUALIFICATION

from your examination and your overall qualification.

This poster must be displayed in a prominent place outside each examination room.

GCSE EXAMS

Week	Date	Time	Day	Exam Board	Subject	Title	Duration
B	06/05/2025	Morning	Tuesday	EDEXL	BTEC Health	Health and Wellbeing	2 hrs
	07/05/2025	Morning	Wednesday	EDEXL	BTEC Enterprise	Marketing and Finance	2 hrs
	08/05/2025	Morning	Thursday	OCR	Drama	Performance + Response	1 hr 30
	08/05/2025	Morning	Thursday	EDEXL	Psychology	Paper 1	1hr 45
	08/05/2025	Morning	Thursday	EDEXL	BTEC Sport	Dev Fitness Improve Participants	1hr 30
	08/05/2025	Afternoon	Thursday	AQA	German	Listening + Reading	1hr 20/1hr 45
A	12/05/2025	Morning	Monday	AQA	English Literature	Paper 1	1hr 45
	12/05/2025	Afternoon	Monday	OCR	Computer Science	Computer Systems	1 hr 30
	13/05/2025	Morning	Tuesday	AQA	Religious Studies	The study of Religions:Beliefs, teachings..	1hr 45
	13/05/2025	Morning	Tuesday	OCR	Engineering	Principals of Engineering Design	1hr 15
	13/05/2025	Afternoon	Tuesday	AQA	Science	Biology Paper 1- Single/Triology	1hr 15
	14/05/2025	Morning	Wednesday	AQA	Geography	Paper 1	1hr 30
	15/05/2025	Morning	Thursday	OCR	Mathematics	Paper 1/Paper 4	1hr 30
	15/05/2025	Afternoon	Thursday	EDEXL	Psychology	Paper 2	1hr 20
	15/05/2025	Afternoon	Thursday	AQA	German	Writing	1hr 15
	16/05/2025	Morning	Friday	OCR	History	Hist B- History Around Us	1hr
B	19/05/2025	Morning	Monday	AQA	Science	Chemistry Paper 1- Single/Triology	1 hr 45/1hr 15
	19/05/2025	Morning	Monday	EDEXL	Urdu	Listening + Reading	1hr 45
	20/05/2025	Morning	Tuesday	AQA	English Literature	Paper 2	2 hrs 15
	20/05/2025	Afternoon	Tuesday	OCR	Computer Science	Algorithms + Programming	1hr 30
	21/05/2025	Morning	Wednesday	EDEXL	French	Listening + Reading	1hr 20/ 1hr 45
	21/05/2025	Afternoon	Wednesday	AQA	Religious Studies	Thematic Studies	1hr 45
	22/05/2025	Morning	Thursday	AQA	Science	Physics Paper 1- Single/Triology	1hr 45/ 1hr 15
	23/05/2025	Morning	Friday	AQA	English Language	Paper 1	1hr 45
HALF TERM							
A	02/06/2025	Morning	Monday	AQA	Italian	Listening + Reading	1hr 45
	02/06/2025	Morning	Monday	EDEXL	Urdu	Writing	1hr 15
	03/06/2025	Morning	Tuesday	AQA	Punjabi	Listening + Reading	1 hr 45
	04/06/2025	Morning	Wednesday	OCR	Mathematics	Paper 2/Paper 5- Non Calculator	1hr 30
	05/06/2025	Morning	Thursday	OCR	History	Crime + Punishment	1hr 45
	05/06/2025	Afternoon	Thursday	EDEXL	French	Writing	1hr 15/1hr 20
	06/06/2025	Morning	Friday	AQA	English Language	Paper 2	1hr 45
	06/06/2025	Afternoon	Friday	AQA	Geography	Paper 2	1hr 30
B	09/06/2025	Morning	Monday	AQA	Science	Biology Paper 2- Single/Triology	1hr 45/1hr 15
	09/06/2025	Afternoon	Monday	AQA	Italian	Writing	1hr 15
	09/06/2025	Afternoon	Monday	OCR	Creative iMedia	Creative iMedia in the Media industry	1hr 30
	10/06/2025	Morning	Tuesday	AQA	Spanish	Listening + Reading	1hr 45
	10/06/2025	Afternoon	Tuesday	OCR	History	Viking expansion/Nazi Rule	1hr 45
	11/06/2025	Morning	Wednesday	OCR	Mathematics	Paper 3/Paper 6	1hr 30
	11/06/2025	Afternoon	Wednesday	JCQ CONTINGENCY AFTERNOON			
	12/06/2025	Morning	Thursday	AQA	Geography	Paper 3	1hr 30
	12/06/2025	Afternoon	Thursday	WJEC	Hospitality+ Catering	The Hospitality + Catering Industry	1 hr 20
	12/06/2025	Afternoon	Thursday	AQA	Further Mathematics	Further Mathematics Paper 1	1hr 45
	12/06/2025	Afternoon	Thursday	AQA	Punjabi	Writing	1hr 15
	13/06/2025	Morning	Friday	AQA	Science	Chemistry Paper 2- Single/Triology	1hr 45/1hr 15
A	16/06/2025	Morning	Monday	AQA	Science	Physics Paper 2 - Single/Triology	1hr 45/1hr 15
	17/06/2025	Morning	Tuesday	AQA	Spanish	Writing	1 hr 15
	18/06/2025	Afternoon	Wednesday	AQA	Further Mathematics	Further Mathematics Paper 2	1hr 45
B	25/06/2025	Morning	Wednesday	JCQ CONTINGENCY FULL DAY			
	25/06/2025	Afternoon	Wednesday				

HOMework AT OSSMA

The Importance of Homework at OSSMA

At OSSMA, we believe that homework plays a vital role in supporting students' learning and building the foundations for future academic success. Research from the Education Endowment Foundation (EEF) highlights that effective homework can lead to an average of five months' additional progress for students each year. It helps to reinforce knowledge learnt in the classroom, develop independent study habits, and foster a deeper understanding of subject content.

To ensure our approach to homework is purposeful and consistent, we will be making some changes to Key Stage 3 (KS3) homework after the Easter break. Key Stage 3 is Years 7, 8 and 9. These changes aim to promote engagement, build effective routines, and reduce unnecessary workload for students and staff alike.

KS3 Homework Structure (Effective After Easter)

From the start of the summer term, KS3 homework will only be set for English, maths, and science. Each subject will have a specific day on which homework is both set and due:

- English – set and collected every Friday via Sparx Reader - [Sparx Reader - A parent's guide to Sparx Reader](#)
- Maths – set and collected every Wednesday, paper-based and issued by the class teacher
- Science – set and collected every Wednesday via SENECA Learning

All students have been issued with usernames and passwords for both SPARX and SENECA. If your child experiences any difficulties logging in, they should speak directly to their class teacher.

To further support parents, we have included a link in this article to a Sparx Reader Parent Guide. A video will also be released soon, where I will outline the full process and provide more guidance on each homework platform. Additional support materials can be found on our school website.

Homework Leads

If you have any subject-specific questions, please contact the following staff who lead on homework for each subject:

- Science – Mrs Taylor (Staylor@ossma.co.uk)
- English – Miss Mountford (CMountford@ossma.co.uk)
- Maths – Mr Wood (JWood@ossma.co.uk)

Rewards and Expectations

At OSSMA, we celebrate effort and achievement. Students will be recognised and rewarded for consistent completion and effort with their homework. However, non-completion of homework will result in a detention, as we are committed to maintaining high expectations and helping students establish strong study routines.

KS4 Homework

For our KS4 students, homework will continue to be set by individual class teachers across all subjects. Our preferred platform for homework is Carousel Learning, where each student logs in with their name and receives a unique homework link from their class teacher.

We ask all parents and carers to support our homework policy. Your encouragement at home plays a crucial role in helping students stay motivated and organised. Together, we can create a culture of success where every child can thrive. Thank you for your continued support.

Mrs Walley

Assistant Principal for Teaching and Learning

SUPER STEM!

On Saturday 22nd of March at 05:40am in the morning, four of our lovely students and Mrs Stirzaker travelled to Cardiff University for a Royal Society of Chemistry event.

Our students thoroughly enjoyed themselves and represented our academy with beautiful manners, immense kindness for others and the up most respect for everyone.

Out of hundreds of schools across the United Kingdom that entered the initial competition, we were selected, after rigorous testing, to be invited to Cardiff. There were 28 schools in total from Scotland, England, Wales and Belgium. The students were Charlie B, Fatima B, Ivan T and Oliver W.

They first completed a written test for 40 minutes (we are awaiting the results) and then a practical test for 1.5 hours. They had to deal with a few mishaps, in particular the sickness of another student across their workspace, but overall, they came back from the laboratory happy, confident and amazed at the facilities the University offers.

It was a lovely yet exhausting day. Our students at OSSMA for their kindness, resilience and enthusiasm. Well done, you are all amazing!



SPORTING SUCCESS - SCULLING

Archer M, Year 10, recently took part in the National Junior Sculling Head Championships and he came an amazing second out of 74 crews!

The competition had 370 Year 10 boys competing so it was an incredible achievement. Next up is the Inter-Regional finals at Nottingham Watersports Centre. Archer competed in the time trials a few weeks ago and was selected to represent the North West at this race.

Well done Archer!



U14 GIRLS FOOTBALL

Recently our U-14 girls played their final game of football against Blythe Bridge and they won 3-2!

The girls played with great tenacity with goals by Daisy, Maizie and Tyler Mae. This team have been an absolute delight to take on fixtures, showing our OSSMA values impeccably well. They have been undefeated throughout the league and have successfully qualified for the finals day after Easter.

The team have beaten Meridan, St Thomas More, Trentham and Blythe with a draw against St Joseph's. Well done to Maizie, Faith, Daisy, Brooke, Tyler Mae, Alesia, Violet, Isla, Audrey and Lacey!