



As we approach the midpoint of the GCSE season, I am pleased to report on the vibrant atmosphere here at OSSMA. Our students have been demonstrating remarkable resilience and dedication during this crucial period.

The past weeks have been filled with enriching experiences for our students. We've seen successful trips to Kenilworth Castle and Llandudno, as well as the challenging Duke of Edinburgh expeditions. These opportunities have provided valuable learning experiences outside the classroom, enhancing our students' cultural and personal development.

Our commitment to excellence extends beyond academics, and I'm delighted to highlight our numerous sporting achievements this half term. The determination and teamwork displayed by our athletes have been truly commendable.

I would like to extend a warm welcome to Miss Spencer, our new Head of Year. Her expertise and enthusiasm will undoubtedly contribute to the continued success of our students.

As we approach the half term break, I encourage all students to use this time wisely - balancing rest with focused revision for those sitting exams. To all our families, I wish you a safe and enjoyable half term.

Thank you for your continued support of our school community.

Kelly Hassall
Principal

DIARY DATES

Monday 2nd June

Students return to the academy

Monday 16th June

Year 10 Mock exam window

Monday 23rd June

Year 9 English Speaking Board week

Thursday 26th June

Year 11 Prom

Tuesday 15th July

School Rewards Day

Thursday 17th July

Sports Day

Friday 18th July

Last day of term

SPORTING STARS

The Year 7 girls' football team recently played in the City Finals 5-a-side tournament. The girls were incredible and won every game, finishing top and scoring 19 goals!

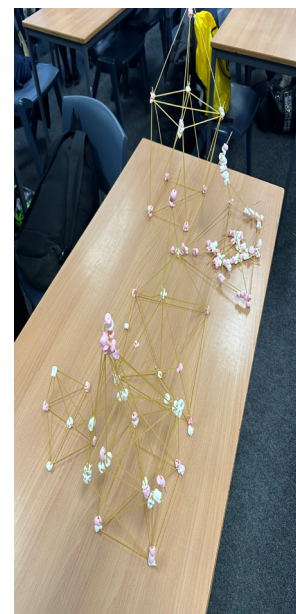
They won their last match 3-2 in a very close game against Thistley Hough, who came 2nd in the tournament. What incredible efforts from Brooke S, Daisie C, Isla R, Faith R, and Jaime-Leigh R.



SHINING A LIGHT ON GEOGRAPHY

As many OSSMA students realise, geography has links to science, technology, engineering, and maths. The department has recently showcased this with several STEM-related activities within Geography.

Starting with a green careers webinar that gave students an insight into different career paths that science and geography can lead to, to enthusiasm day where students worked in teams to construct 'earthquake-proof buildings' from spaghetti and marshmallows - not as easy as it might sound! Many of them did withstand the test of being shaken on a tray of jelly, suggesting we have some future engineers in our academy.



YEAR 10 KENILWORTH CASTLE TRIP

Our Year 10 students enjoyed a fantastic trip to Kenilworth Castle under glorious sunshine. The students were exceptionally well-behaved throughout the day, showing brilliant manners and enthusiasm for the experience.

The trip began with a wonderful two-hour guided tour of the castle ruins. The guide was thoroughly impressed with our students, who listened intently and confidently answered questions about the historical significance of the site.

Lunch was enjoyed al fresco in the sunshine at the castle's stables, followed by a visit to the Gatehouse, where students had great fun dressing up and immersing themselves in life as it would have been in medieval Kenilworth.

Thanks to the fantastic weather, students were able to further explore the castle grounds. A particular highlight was climbing to the top of Leicester's Tower, where they were treated to breathtaking views of the surrounding countryside.

Before heading home, the students had some time to enjoy the gift shop, and it's fair to say a few souvenirs will be making their way back home!

The journey back was a quiet one – many pupils took the opportunity for a well-earned nap after a busy and enriching day. It was a wonderful opportunity for the students to see, first-hand, some of the places they've been learning about in class. A great trip all round!



A TRIP TO LLANDUDNO

The geography department took Y10 to Llandudno in April. The trip gave the students the opportunity to study coastal defences along the north coast of Wales.

The trip also included a trip up the Great Orme on the tramway as well as time in Llandudno to study the impact



DONATIONS WANTED!

As always, we are looking to collect any old school uniform from our Year 11 students when they finish their exams. If you have any uniform or PE kit that is in good condition, there will be a donations box in the main reception and in F16 (Miss Walkers room) after half term until the summer break.

Please be mindful that students do have to attend each exam in full school uniform. Thank you in advance for any donations that are made.

A polite reminder as well that all skirts worn to the academy from September 2025 need to be pleated. For our full uniform policy click [here](#)



A WONDERFUL EXPEDITION

On 9-10th May, 22 Year 9 students completed their Bronze Duke of Edinburgh expedition at Stanley Head.

The students all faced their own individual challenges and completed the 2 day walking expedition in the beautiful May sunshine.

We are extremely proud of all of the students who are now finishing their physical, skills and volunteering sections in order to complete their award by the summer.



MORE OF OUR SPORTING ACHIEVEMENTS

We are 'Boys Year 10 City 5-a-side Football Champions'

The boys were excellent all tournament lifting the trophy, having gone unbeaten. We have not won this competition for a long time!

Team:

Nicholas B, Callum B, Harrison P, Harrison C, Alfie R, Rylee M

Scores:

OSSMA 2 - 1 Haywood (Bell, Pace)

Co-op 1-1 OSSMA (Meakin)

OSSMA 2-1 Horizon (Bell, Cooper)

OSSMA 3 - 0 St Peters (Cooper x2, Pace)

Excel 1-3 OSSMA (Meakin x2, Pace)



Our Year 8 Girls are now City 5-a-side Football Champions, winning every game!!!

We have not won this competition with the girls for some time, it is an amazing achievement.

Team: Tyler Mai R, Brooke S, Isla R, Daisie C, Mya C, Faith R, Jamie Leigh R

Results: Meridian 1-0, Horizon 5-1, Haywood 3-0, Thistley Hough 8-0, Discovery 4-0, Excel 2-0



SPECIAL MENTIONS

Alfie R Year 9 has qualified to represent Stoke on Trent Schools in the Javelin, with a score of 37.43m and Hammer Throw. He is also Stoke on Trent Schools champion for Discus with a score of 34.37m .

Aaron R Year 9 has qualified to represent Stoke on Trent Schools in the High Jump with a score of 1.45m.

GOLD FOR OSSMA

OSSMA have been awarded GOLD for the School Games Mark 2025. This is a testament to the hard work and dedication of our students, PE staff, and the unwavering

support of our parents/carers. We have achieved this award for several years now, and it is a source of pride for our entire school community.

Thank you to all parents/carers who support us with fixtures. Your commitment makes it possible for the students to achieve in sports.



TENNIS ACES

Recently we played Denstone A team in our Boys Year 9 and 10 Staffs Tennis Division 1 match. We won all our singles and doubles matches with a special mention to Charlie H who won his first Staffs Division 1 singles match 7-6.

It was overall a 12-0 win for OSSMA!! Well done to Aidan, Alex, Charlie and Ethan #teamossma



WELL DONE YEAR 11



Our Year 11 students are now half way through their GCSE examinations and we could not be more proud. They have approached them with maturity, resilience and confidence and we are looking forward to our students moving on to the next stage of their education whether that be a colleg placement or apprenticeship, with focus and confidence, ready to embrace new challenges. There are stilll some exams to complete and below is our revision offer for the half term to support our students.

YEAR 9
OPTIONS

Our Year 9 students are currently in their final few weeks of the Key Stage 3 education. In September students will embark on their option choices, partiapiating in their chosen subjects

Options letters are being distributed this week so that students are aware of the subjects they have been allocated. Any issues students shouls speak to their Head of Year Miss Lane.

YEAR 11 INTERVENTION
MAY HALF TERM

Tuesday 27 th May	Wednesday 28 th May	Thursday 29 th May
History 10-12 Mrs Walley Mr Wilson	Geography 9.00-11.00 Miss Law	Creative Imedia 9.30-11.30 Mr Jones
Geography 9.30-10.30 Miss Black		

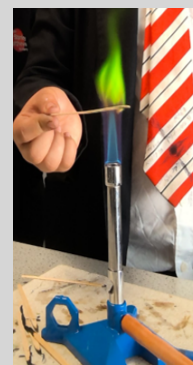
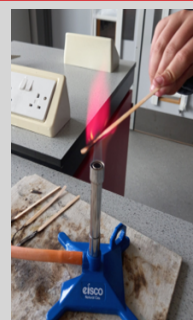
FOCUS ON STEM!

Science STEM Club- FLAME TESTING



Recently, our science STEM club students have been conducting flame tests to discover the colour emitted when metals are heated using a Bunsen burner. The students have been working on their Bunsen burner skills, lighting and changing from a safety flame to a blue flame, which can be quite scary for some students.

Our students performed their experiments with skill and enthusiasm. They discovered that a lot of different metals are used to make fireworks because of the different colours of light that can be emitted. The science department is very proud of our Science STEM club; every member is fully committed and participates with laser focus and amazing curiosity for science.



Discover the University of Derby

An opportunity to explore and discover a different university in our local area. Students will take part in a interactive campus tour, understand what qualifications they will need for different courses and offered an academic taster session either Criminology, Nursing, Business or Psychology.

Up to 30 places per school
£250 Travel Bursary available

When: 9th July 2025

Time: 10:00am -2:30pm

Where: University of Derby Kedleston Road campus DE22 1G

Who: Y9, Y10

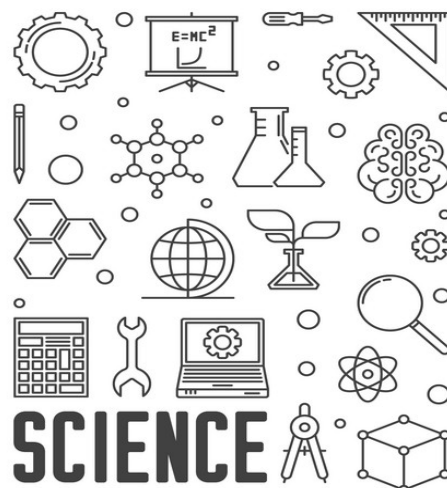


UNIVERSITY OF
DERBY

This is a fantastic opportunity for year 9 students.

Please collect a letter from Mrs Stirzaker. There are only 30 places available, it is first come first served!

The hand in date is the Friday the 6th of June 2025



SCIENCE
TECHNOLOGY
ENGINEERING
MATHEMATICS

Higher Horizons+ Y10 STEM Campus Visit - University of Staffordshire - 01/07/2025 10:00am to 2:00pm

9:45 – 10:00	Arrival Car Park 1, Leek Road	
10:00 – 10:30	Intro to HE & Pre-evaluations Led by Simran Virdee The Ashley Building: LT111/3 (50 students)	
10:30 – 11:15	Campus Tour Led by Student Ambassadors Leek Road (5 groups of 10)	
11:15 – 11:30	Student Life Talk Led by Student Ambassadors The Ashley Building: LT111/3 (50 students)	
11:30 – 12:30	STEM Subject Taster 1 Led by Chris Wayman The Ashley Building: LT111/3 (25 students)	STEM Subject Taster 2 Led by The Ashley Building: LT114 (25 students)
12:30 – 13:00	Lunch (students to bring a packed lunch)	
13:00 – 14:00	STEM Subject Taster 2 Led by The Ashley Building: LT114 (25 students)	STEM Subject Taster 1 Led by Chris Wayman The Ashley Building: LT111/3 (25 students)
14:00 – 14:20	Debrief & post-evaluations Led by Simran Virdee The Ashley Building: LT111/3	
14:20	Departure	



STAFFORDSHIRE
UNIVERSITY

- This is a fantastic opportunity for year 10 students.
- Please collect a letter from Mrs Stirzaker. There are only 50 places available.
- The hand in date is the 6th of June 2025.

OFFICIAL**Community Safety Flash**

During the school holidays, and in particular in hot weather, increasing numbers of children are drowning. On average, there are 50 of these tragedies each year in the U.K.
Keep reading to see our top tips on how to stay safe around open water.



Water is often far deeper than people think. Only swim where there is supervision or a lifeguard. Water that looks calm on the surface may have a fast current underneath.



It's very cold and can quickly cause cramp and breathing difficulties. Cold water shock can paralyse your ability to move and kill within a minute



There may be
hidden dangers

The depth of water can be deceptive and may contain hidden rubbish and debris such as shopping trolleys or broken glass which can cause injuries and drowning.



Waters could be
polluted

Sometimes it can be polluted and make you ill. There is a serious risk of waterborne diseases

Think!
Stay safe and keep out of open water