OSSMA ORACLE

03/10/25

I am pleased to share some exciting developments from the start of our new academic term. Our commitment to excellence continues to drive our educational approach, and I am delighted to highlight several key moments that demonstrate the vibrant spirit of our academy.

This term marks a significant milestone with the introduction of our new behaviour curriculum, which is anchored by three powerful themes: "Knowledge is Power", "Sense of Duty", and "Personal Responsibility". These principles are not merely words but a comprehensive framework designed to support our students' holistic development and academic growth.

We are particularly proud to announce the appointment of our Year 11 prefect team. These outstanding students have been selected for their demonstrated leadership potential and commitment to our academy's values. We have full confidence that they will represent our community with distinction throughout the academic year.

Our recent Open Evening was a testament to the exceptional learning environment we have cultivated. We were overwhelmed by the remarkable turnout of prospective parents eager to explore what Ormiston Sir Stanley Matthews Academy offers. What truly distinguished the evening was the enthusiasm of our current students, who voluntarily stayed to showcase our departments and share their educational experiences.

The passion and pride displayed by our students during the Open Evening reflect the core of our educational mission. Their willingness to engage with prospective families demonstrates the strong sense of community we have built. As we move forward this term, we remain committed to providing an outstanding educational experience that empowers our students to achieve their full potential.

Kelly Hassall
Principal

DIARY DATES

Wednesday 8th October
Welcome to Year 10 Evening
5:30-7:00pm

Wednesday 15th October
Meet the Form Tutor Evening
4:30-7:30pm

Friday 17th October
INSET DAY - no students in the academy

Wednesday 22nd October
Year 11 Awards Evening

Friday 24th October
End of Half Term

Monday 3rd November
Year 11 Mock Exams begin of our academy.

Wednesday 12th November
Year 9 Parent's Evening
4:30-7:30pm

Wednesday 26th November
Year 8 Parent's Evening
4:30-7:30pm

Ormiston Sir Stanley Matthews Academy

Welcome to KS4 Evening...

At OSSMA, we aim to ensure that every student achieves their full potential, both academically and personally, during their time with us. We are committed to supporting your child in every way possible as they embark on their final years of high school – starting KS4 qualifications - and the crucial build up to exams and next steps.

As part of our commitment to keep you informed about your child's upcoming academic year, we are delighted to invite you to our Welcome to KS4 Evening on Wednesday 8th October. Doors will open at 5:15pm for a 5:30pm start, refreshments available, and finish at approximately 7pm.

The evening will take place face-to-face in the school theatre and maths hub. It will consist of an informative presentation which will outline our expectations for the coming academic year as well as key dates, qualification information and the many opportunities available to the students in school. There will also be subject specific presentations to give insightful information regarding how qualifications are obtained, especially for subjects with coursework elements.

To allow us to best prepare for this important evening next week, please complete the MS form linked below by Friday 3rd October at 3pm. It's important to ensure that all students and families are able to attend so we ask that where possible you keep attendance to students plus one or two maximum (total 2 or 3 people).

https://forms.office.com/e/8pVmgddNhQ

Ormiston Sir Stanley Matthews Academy

Homework at OSSMA!

The Importance of Homework at OSSMA

At OSSMA, we believe that homework plays a vital role in supporting pupils' 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 pupils each year. It helps to reinforce knowledge learnt in the classroom, develop independent study habits, and foster a deeper understanding of subject content.

KS3 Homework Structure

KS3 homework will only be set for English, maths, and science as we build positive routines. Each subject will have a specific day on which homework is both set and due:

- English – set and collected via Sparx Reader
- Maths – set and collected as paper-based and issued by the class teacher
- Science – set and collected via SENECA Learning

All pupils 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 Loughhead (Sloughhead@ossma.co.uk)

Maths homework is set on a weekly basis and will be given to pupils on paper. We aren't just looking for the right answers; the internet can provide those! We are looking for full working out to be displayed on the sheet by the students, this allows us to really see their understanding. Teachers are always on hand at lunch time to support any student struggling with their homework.

Rewards and Expectations

At OSSMA, we celebrate effort and achievement. Pupils 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 pupils establish strong study routines.

KS4 Homework

For our KS4 pupils, homework will continue to be set by individual class teachers across all subjects. Our preferred platform for homework is Carousel Learning, where each pupil logs in with their name and receives a unique homework link from their class teacher. We have also included a Carousel Homework Guide in this article to help support both pupils and parents.

We ask all parents and carers to support our homework policy. Your encouragement plays a crucial role in helping pupils 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

NEWS

Ormiston Sir Stanley Matthews Academy

Open Evening Extravaganza!

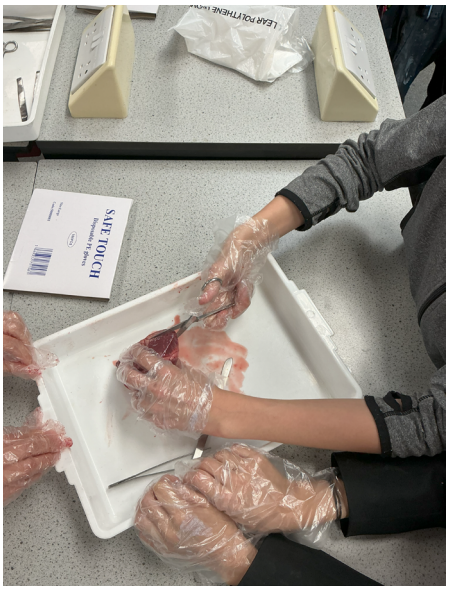
Last week, we welcomed members of the community to our annual Open Evening!

During the evening, our dedicated departments showcased the diverse and exciting opportunities available at OSSMA. Below are some of the pictures from the event.

At OSSMA, we believe education is about much more than exam results. It is about developing the whole student — their skills, knowledge, and character. Our vision to create a safe place where every student can thrive underpins everything we do. This Open Evening is a perfect opportunity to see how our academy lives out these values daily and how your child can be part of a community where ambition meets support.

During the evening, our dedicated departments showcased the diverse and exciting opportunities available at OSSMA. Below are some of the pictures from the event.
We would also like to remind parents & carers in Stoke-on-Trent that if your child is starting secondary school next September, you must apply before 31st October via the Stoke-on-Trent Local Authority website even if your child already has a sibling that attends OSSMA.

Deadline: 31st October
Apply here: https://admissions.stoke.gov.uk/CitizenPortal_LIVE/en
If you are considering OSSMA for another child and have any additional queries about the school or the application process please email fhissey@ossma.co.uk



NEWS

Ormiston Sir Stanley Matthews Academy

A great start to our Reading Club this term!

The LRC has been buzzing with enthusiasm from both Y10 mentors and Y7 and 8 reading mentees. Reading is an academy priority, and the importance of reading is highlighted throughout the school day through our DEAR time reads and literacy focus championed by Mrs George!

From 8am to 8.30 every Wednesday, students are teamed up to support their reading needs. This popular programme provides students with additional support to help them achieve their reading goals, and also empowers our mentors to support younger students who may be struggling.

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All those attending received CREECK awards for enthusiasm.

Extra-Curricular Timetable 2025-2026

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Before School (7.45am - 8.15am)	Tennis	Table Tennis	Basketball	Badminton	Fitness Suite
	Homework Club - All Years (LRC G33)	Homework Club - All Years (LRC G33)	Homework Club - All Years (LRC G33)	Homework Club - All Years (LRC G33)	Homework Club - All Years (LRC G33)
Y8-11 Lunchtime (1.25pm – 2.10pm) (Wed - 12.15pm - 12:55pm) Y7 Lunchtime: (12.25pm - 1.25pm) (Wed - 12:55pm - 1:55pm)					
	Football (3G)	Football (3G)	Football (3G)	Football (3G)	Football (3G)
	Badminton (Sports Hall)	Badminton (Sports Hall)	Badminton (Sports Hall)	Badminton (Sports Hall)	Badminton (Sports Hall)
	Guitar Workshop - Years 8-11 (Music Room)	Keyboard Workshop - Years 8-11 (Music Room)	Performing Arts Open Space - All Years (G47)	Karaoke - Years 8-11 (Music Room)	Art Club - Years 8-11 (F28/29)
	Drama Club - All Years (G47)	Dance Club - All Years (Dance Studio)		Drama Club - All Years (G47)	
	Art Club - Years 8-11 (F28/29)		Art Club - Years 8-11 (F28/29)	Dance Club - All Years (Dance Studio)	
		Art Club - Years 8-11 (F28/29)		Art Club - Years 8-11 (F28/29)	
After School (3.25pm – 4.25pm) (Wed 2:10pm - 3:10pm)					
	SCFC Football (Years 7,8,9 Only)	Netball (Sports Hall)	SCFC Multi Sports (3G & Sports Hall)	Badminton (Sports Hall)	Cricket (Sports Hall)
		Table Tennis (Sports Hall)			
		Badminton (Sports Hall)			
	Tennis (Sports Hall)	Choir - All Years (Music Room)		High School Musical (Cast only) (Theatre)	
	Volleyball (Sports Hall)				
	High School Musical (Cast only) (Theatre)			Pride Club - All Years (LRC G33)	
	Ks4 Art Club (F28/29)		Band Workshops with ODM - All Years (Music Room)	Ks4 Art Club (F28/29)	Dance Club - All Years (Dance Studio)
	Games Club - All Years (LRC G33)				

Colour Reference	PE Extra-Curricular Clubs	Subject Specific Extra-Curricular Clubs	Please speak to the member of staff running the club for further information

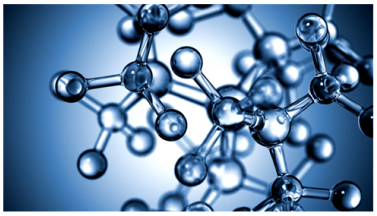
NEWS

Ormiston Sir Stanley Matthews Academy

Science STEM Club

Our club is an opportunity for you to achieve a CREST award for science. You will also be conducting experiments to show off and improve your practical skills!!! If you are interested in joining our club, please register your name with Mrs Stirzaker.

CREST AWARDS



UNIFORM UPDATE

Many thanks for your support this academic year 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 we believe fosters a positive school culture, image and creates a positive learning environment for all.

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.

However, we do have a minority of students who have unnatural hair colours, and we have spoken to these students in person. Please ensure that all hair colours are natural by Monday, October 13th. If you have any concerns over this or require any advice, please contact your child's relevant Head of Year.

Ormiston Sir Stanley Matthews Academy

Quick Reference Guide – How to Contact Us

Student Absences

- ·**Phone:** Call our main number and press 1 to report an absence.
- ·Simply leave your child's name, what year they are in and the reason for their absence.
- ·If you need someone to call you back, please mention this in your message.
- ·**Email:** Send absence details to **absence@ossma.co.uk**
- ***Please note: You do not need to speak directly to our reception team for absences; this helps keep our lines free for urgent calls.***

ParentPay Support

- ·For any ParentPay queries or login details, please email: **parentpaysupport@ossma.co.uk**
- ·We will respond promptly with the information you need

General Enquiries

Email: **office@ossma.co.uk** for:

- ·Synergy codes
- ·Non-urgent enquiries
- ·Complaints
- ·General questions

We aim to respond within 48 hours, often sooner, depending on the nature of your request.

"Every second counts" "Silence is golden"

OSSMA BEHAVIOUR CURRICULUM

Ormiston Sir Stanley Matthews Academy

"Anger is weakness, self-control is strength'

'Trust is like a bucket of water; easy to spill but harder to fill.'

At OSSMA we are committed to creating a safe, supportive environment where every child can learn, thrive, and achieve no matter their background. Over the last four weeks, pupils have been focusing on our Behaviour Curriculum, which underpins the high expectations and values we hold as a community. Here's what your child has been learning:

Did you know?

The behaviour curriculum is taught each week in form time, alongside weekly broadcasts and assemblies. Upcoming sessions will include:

- Silence is golden - allowing us to listen and learn
- Saying sorry - admitting when you are wrong.

Our Core Values: **The OSSMA Way**

We have been revisiting our six values: Confidence, Resilience, Enthusiasm, Empathy, Challenge, and Kindness. Pupils explored how to show these values both in and out of lessons — from understanding how to make strong choices, to showing kindness by thanking the teacher.

Duty, Responsibility & Knowledge

Pupils learned that behaviour choices matter:

- Sense of Duty – recognising our role in the school community and showing pride (e.g. wearing the uniform correctly).
- Personal Responsibility – making strong choices, even when difficult.
- Knowledge is Power – every lesson builds towards a stronger future.

We discussed real-life examples, like Mary Earps, England's goalkeeper, whose resilience and responsibility helped her succeed.

"Its great to be grateful"

EVERY SECOND COUNTS

This half terms focus was the value of time. Pupils reflected on how:

Every minute lost is knowledge lost.

Knowledge builds like blocks – if one lesson is missed, the "wall" becomes weaker.

Using time wisely means investing in their own future.

Through scenarios like Jayden arriving late and missing key instructions, pupils saw how small actions can affect everyone's learning.

GRATITUDE

Thank the Teacher

To end lessons calmly and respectfully, pupils practised saying thank you to their teachers. This simple act:

- Shows gratitude and respect.
- Builds positive classroom relationships.
- Helps pupils reflect on their learning.

They read about a day in the life of Mrs Walley, recognising the dedication teachers give each day. Pupils were encouraged to think about teachers who have made a difference in their own lives.

"Your behaviour becomes your habits and your habits become your character"