



It has been a highly successful term with numerous activities taking place across the academy. The start of the year has been particularly impressive for our Performance Department, with many fixtures and notable achievements in both football and badminton.

Students have participated in visits to Chester Zoo, Manchester City Football Club, and some of our learners have undertaken our annual trip to the farm. Engagement in extracurricular activities, whether through excursions or participation in school clubs, is of great importance for our students. I had the privilege of visiting the farm, and it was a pleasure to observe our students engaging in such a valuable experience.

Additionally, we held our Year 11 Awards Evening, where we welcomed back our Class of 2025 students along with their families. It was a memorable event, enhanced by a distinguished guest speaker, Mr Luke Rees, who captivated our guests. We were honoured to be joined by The Deputy Lord-Lieutenant of Staffordshire, Mr Simon Davies, the Lord Mayor of Stoke-on-Trent, Councillor Steve Watkins, and Lady Mayoress Mrs Lynn Watkins. Our prefect team supported the occasion admirably, exemplifying their role as ambassadors for the OSSMA community.

Our ongoing building work to ensure fire compliance remains on schedule, with completion expected during the holiday break. As a result, the academy will be closed to all staff and students throughout the half-term holiday.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a restful and enjoyable break.

Kelly Hassall
Principal



DIARY DATES

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

Tuesday 16th December

OSSMA Christmas Fayre
5-7pm

Story telling is a great oral tradition and today we had fun sharing some spooky tales with the Wicked Witch of the West. Michael, Year 10, shared the curse legend of Alton Towers' Hex and we had Year 7s sharing their own spooky tales, whilst others read some Halloween themed short stories. Entertainment, reading and a cauldron full of Halloween treats... what better way could there be to start a Wednesday!

Happy Halloween all!



Please stay safe on Bonfire Night

As Bonfire Night approaches, we'd like to remind parents and carers about the importance of keeping young people safe during fireworks celebrations. While this can be an exciting time of the year, it also comes with increased risks.

Please take a moment to speak to your child about:

Firework safety - fireworks are not toys. They can cause serious injury if misused. Only adults should handle or light them

Staying in a safe environment - Encourage your child to attend organised displays where safety measures are in place.

Avoiding anti social behaviour - Misusing fireworks in public places is not only dangerous but also illegal. Looking out for others - Remind your child to be mindful of younger children, pets, and those who may find fireworks distressing.

We want all students to enjoy the festivities safely and responsibly. Thank you for your continued support.



Year 8 Students get hands on at the Farm!

Recently, a group of our Year 8 students swapped the classroom for the countryside as they spent a week on a working farm. From the moment they arrived, they threw themselves into every task — feeding and caring for the animals, harvesting fresh fruit and vegetables, and even cooking their own meals using produce they had picked themselves.

The experience gave students a real insight into where their food comes from and the hard work that goes into running a farm. They demonstrated fantastic teamwork throughout the week, supporting one another with early morning animal feeds and working together to prepare delicious group meals each evening.

By the end of the week, the students had not only learned new practical skills but also built confidence, resilience, and a strong sense of responsibility. It was a brilliant experience for everyone involved, and we're incredibly proud of how well our students represented the academy.



Sporting Successes

It has been a great start to the year for our Performance Faculty. Students have participated in multiple fixtures throughout the first half term and have achieved some outstanding successes!

The Badminton team have had fine victories against Thistley Hough (17-10) and St Joseph's College (16-10). During the matches against Thistley Hough the games were much closer than the final score suggests, because in 3 of the 4 categories (KS3 girls, KS4 girls + KS4 boys) we won the tie 3-2. After two games we sit at the top of the group on 33 points, with St Joseph's 2nd on 30pts. It will be a close one this year. The team over both tournaments included:

Aiden W, Ethan W, Jack T, Harley F, Jake R, Binyameen U, Roqaya A, Macie O, Fatima N, Sehar H, Nafiah A, Layla-Mae F, Mason B, Toby M, Charlie B, Zoya K, Lossana B.

Our U12/U14 Cross-Country team recently travelled to St Joseph's College to compete in the City Competition. Our U14 girls are now City Cross-Country Champions! This is the first time we have won a whole cross-country event which is fantastic! The team consisted of Tyler Mai R, Abi B, Poppy T and Jaime Leigh R.

The Year 7 boys played their first match for OSSMA recently against a very strong Trentham side. The boys fought hard for a fantastic victory with a last minute winning goal from player of the match Harvey B!

Goalscorers:

Harvey B x2 and Jack B

Charlie H, Jack B, Leo L, Deon-Dre S, Dante S, Max B, Caleb-Julian B, Joseph H, Preston M, Riley-Roy M, Liam B, Finley P, Frazer R and Liam P.





OSSMA Christmas Fayre

Tuesday 16th December

2025

5-7 pm

Free Entry

**What's On: Carol Singing, Food Van, Food
Stalls, Hot Chocolate,
Crafts, Tombola, Raffles, Games and much more.**

**Come and visit Santa Claus and his elves
in Santa's Grotto. (£2 entry)**

**If you would like to sell any crafts, festive bakes, or Christmas
products from a stall, please email info@ossma.co.uk to secure your
spot.**



Attendance Matters

We have seen a positive return to school this term and a decrease in the number of students arriving late to the academy, which is amazing - so thank you! Just a few reminders of what is required of you in regard to punctuality, absences, medical appointments and leave of absence from the academy:



Punctuality to school - Arrival to the year group yard should be by 8.35am ready for form groups to move into the building by 8.40am. Gates are locked at 8.40am, so students arriving after this time will be marked late and may receive a detention after school. If you could reiterate this to your child/children, it would be appreciated. If your child is late, they will enter via the top gate, through the late room, and hand in their mobile phones. If they have a detention after school, their phone will be returned once that detention is complete. If students arrive to school after the late room has closed (9.10am or 9.00am on a Wednesday), they will sign in through reception where they will hand their phones in. Students who have a detention will have their phone returned once the detention has been completed.

Where a student does not turn up for their late to school detention, it will result in a 30 minute after school detention the next day. Lates to school are monitored closely and if they persist, you will be invited to a meeting and if they still continue to be a concern, this will result in a referral to Education Welfare, where a Penalty Notice will be issued (£80 per parent per child, increasing to £160 if not paid within 21 days).



Leave of Absence during term time - please ensure these requests are sent to the school with at least 4 weeks notice. We cannot authorise any leave of absence unless for exceptional circumstances. All applications are looked at on an individual basis. The LA will issue a penalty notice of £80 per parent per child (increasing to £160 if not paid in 21 days. These are not rules implemented by the school, they have been put in place by the Department for Education.

Medical Appointments - we understand that some medical appointments need to be made during the school day, but we do ask, where possible, students attend school around these appointments to minimise lost learning. Please provide the school with evidence of appointments, in advance where possible, to prevent unauthorised lates (and detentions) and unauthorised absences.



VIP Education- we will be working closely with VIP Education again this year and they will do some of our home visits, safe and well checks, attendance clinics and offer advice to parents if needed. Should your child be absent for 3 or more days, and if you have not seen a medical professional within that time frame, we will be asking or VIP to make a home visit or arrange a video call to see your child.

If you move address, change your phone number or email address please remember to update us! Email office@ossma.co.uk, contact your HoY, or Reception. If you have more than one child in the school, please tell us. It is important we have a minimum of two emergency contacts so if necessary, please provide additional contact names and numbers.

As always, thank you for your support with attendance and punctuality to school, it is appreciated.

Chester Zoo

On 15th October the Geography Department took Year 8 to Chester Zoo.

Chester Zoo is a conservation charity who work to protect endangered species. The students saw a variety of animals including chimp's, snow leopards and meerkats as they toured the zoo.

Students also had the opportunity to study animals that have become endangered due to deforestation in tropical rainforests such as orangutans and jaguars. Our Year 8 students will be studying deforestation and the importance of tropical rainforests in our next block 'Brazil'.



History Trip Opportunities for Year 7 and 10

Students currently in Years 7 and 10 have the opportunity to participate in two exciting trips.

The first is a **Year 10 trip to the Justice Museum Trip** on 9th December 2025. This is to the National Justice Museum in Nottingham. The day focuses on a Crime and Punishment Workshop & The Derek Bentley Case. Students step into a real courtroom and take part in a mock trial, exploring how crime and punishment has changed through time. They also get the opportunity to investigate the Derek Bentley case and consider whether justice was really served?

The next trip is for our current **Year 7 students to participate in an educational trip to the historic Battlefields of Belgium**. This includes visits to several key sites, including Wellington Tunnels, Ypres, The Somme, and Newfoundland Memorial. Students will attend the Last Post ceremony at the Menin Gate Memorial. This is a moving tribute, held every evening since 1928 (except during WWII), which honours the soldiers of the British Commonwealth who died in the Ypres Salient and have no known graves. There are also visits to the Thiepval Memorial, to pay our respects to the missing of the Somme. Students also visit Vimy Ridge, a significant site for Canadian forces during World War I. The Vimy Memorial, with its striking twin pillars, stands as a tribute to the Canadian soldiers who fought and died there.

Spaces are filling up fast- Get a letter from your History teacher or Miss Sargeant in G87-Spaces are limited

Uniform and Equipment

Many thanks for your support this academic year in ensuring that our students are adhering to the high standards of uniform and bringing their equipment everyday. We are delighted to see so many of our students consistently following the uniform policy and being prepared for learning, 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. We would like to remind you as the

weather gets colder that if students wish to wear a jumper under their blazer these should be plain black V neck school style jumpers. No logos, sweatshirts or round neck sweaters are permitted. Students must wear their school blazer.

We also ask that students attend the academy prepared for learning, with a school bag, pen, pencil, ruler and planner. Also, during the winter students will be outside, so please ensure that they attend with a plain waterproof coat. No hoodies, leather, camouflage pattern or denim jackets are allowed. Tracksuit and hooded leisure tops are not acceptable and will be confiscated if seen.

OCTOBER HALF TERM FAMILY FUN SESSIONS

Join us for our **FREE** autumn themed activities which will include lots of crafts, messy play, sensory play, story time and much more!

For children aged 0 to 12 years old
No need to book, just come along.

Monday 27 October - 1pm until 3pm
 Chell Heath Family Hub
 Bishops Road, ST6 6QW

Tuesday 28 October - 1pm until 3pm
 Blurton Family Hub
 Finstock Avenue, ST3 3JU

Wednesday 29 October - 10am until 12noon
 Normacot Family Hub
 Buccleuch Road, ST3 4RF

Thursday 30 October - 1pm until 3pm
 Shelton Family Hub
 College Road, ST4 2DQ

Friday 31 October - 1pm until 3pm
 Family Hub @ Hanley Market
 Potteries Shopping Centre, Basement, ST1 1PP

OCTOBER HALF TERM SESSIONS FOR UNDER 5'S

Alongside our Family Fun Sessions we will also have a few of our regular groups for under 5's to enjoy. All sessions are **FREE** to attend and will be themed around Autumn.

No need to book, just come along.

Monday 27 October
 Mini Movers - 10am until 11am
 Chell Heath Family Hub
 Ages 12 to 36 months

Read, Chat, Play - 1:30pm until 2:30pm
 Shelton Family Hub
 Ages 0 to 36 months

Tuesday 28 October
 Read, Chat, Play - 10am until 11am
 Normacot Family Hub
 Ages 0 to 36 months

Sensory Stars - 10:30am until 11:30am
 Family Hub @ Hanley Market
 Ages 0 to 6 months old

Stay and Play - 1pm until 2:30pm
 Family Hub @ Hanley Market
 Ages 0 to 5 years old

Wednesday 29 October
 Read, Chat, Play - 10am until 11am
 Chell Heath Family Hub
 Ages 0 to 36 months

Baby Mornings - 9:30am until 12noon
 Blurton Family Hub
 Ages 0 to 12 months

Sensory Stars - 1pm until 2pm
 Tunstall Family Hub
 Ages 0 to 6 months

Babbling Babies - 2:15pm until 3:15pm
 Normacot Family Hub
 Ages 0 to 6 months

Friday 31 October
 Stay and Play - 9:30am until 11am
 Tunstall Family Hub
 Ages 0 to 5 years old

Fun Friday's - 12:30pm until 2:15pm
 Bentilee Family Hub
 Ages 0 to 5 years old



Child Death Prevention
 Newsletter



Be aware!

Magnets and Button Batteries

Magnets and button batteries are in everyday objects like car key fobs, remotes and children's toys. But did you know that if they are swallowed they can badly injure, or even kill a child?

Batteries react with saliva and if a child swallows a button battery it can burn holes and cause internal bleeding, or even death.

Magnets can rip through a child's gut if they swallow them, causing life-threatening injuries, or even death.

Tragically, two young children in Staffordshire have died from ingesting a button battery, and a magnet.

- Symptoms may not be obvious.
- Your child might be coughing, gagging or drooling, or pointing to their throat or tummy.
- Unclear or fluctuating symptoms mean it is important to be vigilant.
- Trust your instincts and act fast even if there are no symptoms.

They can be fatal if swallowed.

If you think your child has swallowed a battery or a magnet, take them straight to the nearest A&E department or call 999 for an ambulance

For further information visit: [Magnetsafety.org.uk](https://magnetsafety.org.uk) | [Top tips to keep children safe](https://top-tips-to-keep-children-safe.org.uk)
 Button Battery Safety | Child Accident Prevention Trust

Magnets and Button Battery Awareness 2025

POETS CORNER

Blurton's Gate: OSSMA by Narayan M, Year 8

In the soft red bricks, ash-grey sky above,
A place where young hearts come to learn and move,
Beaconsfield Drive holds more than halls and doors,
It holds ambition, steeped in legends' scores.

Named for Sir Stanley Matthews — feet that danced
on green,
A legacy of grit, of grace, of humble dreams.
Here youth are not just taught the sum or phrase,
But taught to speak with courage, voice ablaze.

Between its walls the books are opened wide,
WOW words whispered, vocabulary's tide;
Reading circles, novels, thought-threads intertwined,
Stretching minds, ensuring no promise left behind.

Mixed years of laughter, challenge, striving feet,
From eleven to sixteen, where hopes and futures
meet.
A non-selective school, yet striving for the best,
Proud when open doors, each test passed, each quest.

"The basics" taught — English strong, Maths secure,
Not just to pass, but to grow, to endure.
Careers mapped in early years, paths lit with choice,
Voices heard, decisions made, each student finds their
voice.

Kindness, resilience, confidence take root,
Empathy, enthusiasm in every student's pursuit.
Teachers build not only knowledge but character,
In voices loud and soft, in each young mind a chatter.

And though the city pulses with its coal-smoke, clay,
and grit,
Here there is sanctuary, a canvas for each bit
Of latent skill: drama, sport, music's sweep,
Outside the classroom, where dreams no longer sleep.

Ormiston Sir Stanley Matthews — more than building
bright,
A beacon in Blurton, turning dark to light.
Here students learn to rise, to stand, to see
That who they are today shapes who they'll be.



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.