



As we come to the end of another busy and successful school term, I want to thank you for your ongoing support since September.

Our Year 11 students have worked really hard during their mock exams, attending extra support sessions and giving their all to perform at their best. In Year 10, we have seen students settle well into Key Stage 4, putting a lot of effort into their core subjects and their chosen options.

We are happy to see Year 7 adjust well to secondary school. We realise that some students have found this transition more difficult than others, and we sincerely appreciate the support from families during this important time. In Years 8 and 9, students continue to show great interest and enthusiasm in both lessons and school activities. They have worked very hard, and we are proud of all they have achieved.

The end-of-term events have been fantastic, with our Christmas Fayre being a big highlight and a great success. Thanks to the big man himself, Santa, who dropped in for the occasion. I also want to congratulate Miss Mountford and Mr Williams for their wonderful performance in our Strictly Come Dancing competition and their victory on the night!

On behalf of all the staff, I would like to wish you and your family a very happy, peaceful, and relaxing Christmas break. We look forward to welcoming students back on Tuesday, 6th January 2026, feeling refreshed and ready for the new year ahead.

Kelly Hassall
Principal



DIARY DATES

Monday 5th January

INSET day. Academy closed to students.

Tuesday 6th January

Students return (Week B)

Wednesday 7th January

Year 11 Parents' Evening

Monday 19th - Friday 30th January

KS3 Assessment Window

Wednesday 4th February

Year 10 Parents' Evening

Thursday 5th February

Year 11 Photographs

Monday 9th February

Year 11 Mock Exams begin

Friday 13th February

Last Day of Term

Monday 23rd February

INSET Day

Tuesday 24th February

Students return (Week B)

Click below to book
appointments

**YEAR 11
PARENTS
EVENING**



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OSSMA's 10 days of Christmas has been a huge success, with all of the winners enjoying a selection box, many of which we're positive probably didn't make it home! Autumn term 100% attendance certificates and rewards are handed out on the last day in form. Congratulations and well done to everyone who has received a reward linked to their attendance this term, whether it was the Spooktacular, the 10 Days of Christmas Attendance Focus Fortnights, or a 100% attendance certificate.



Thank you to all parents and carers for your support during the long Autumn term. Roadworks and their impact on traffic in the surrounding areas have significantly affected punctuality to school for a large number of students. Hopefully, these are now behind us, and we can start the Spring term with a clean slate. The spring term brings lighter evenings and, hopefully, drier weather, which means more smiles on faces as we stride towards summer.

After a term of punctuality issues, please note that all gates close at 8.40 am. Anyone arriving after this time will receive a late mark and possibly an after-school detention. If you could speak to your child about the importance of arriving at school on time, we would appreciate it, as it's an essential building block for readiness for post-16 education and employment, regardless of which year group they are in.

Wishing you all a very Merry Christmas and a peaceful start to 2026 from OSSMA's Attendance Team.



SUPPORT BOOKLETS

IN THE PALM OF YOUR HAND





WINTER 2025





SEND





YOUTH SERVICES



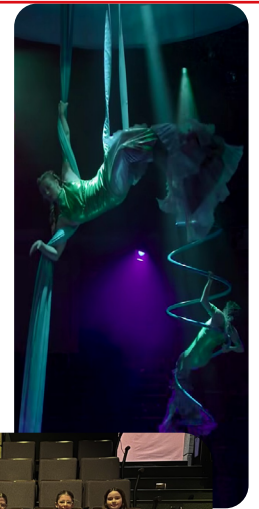
Please note, if your device camera does not support QR codes, you will need a QR Code Reader app.

The Little Mermaid...

Recently, at OSSMA, we have gained accreditation to offer The Arts Award to our students. 16 of our Year 8 students have recently embarked on their Arts Award journey. Their first step was to attend a live performance.

Our students attended The Little Mermaid at The New Vic Theatre. This performance featured a variety of performing arts disciplines, including dance, drama, singing, live music, and aerial skills. It was amazing to see how a play was structured in a theatre in the round, with the mermaid emerging from the stage floor and characters swimming out of the ceiling.

Our Arts Award students will now complete a live theatre review before attending a variety of sessions to deepen their understanding of their selected discipline. Students will then take a leadership role in teaching a workshop to a selection of Year 4 students on their new performing arts skills.



Year 11 Mock Exam Results

On Wednesday, 17th December, Year 11 students were given their Mock, Current and Predicted grades reports. Parents/carers have been emailed a full copy of the report with detailed explanations of all the gradings. This will be sent as one email per household, and to any non-resident parents with parental responsibility if we have their email addresses.

Please discuss the report with your child. If you believe you should receive a copy and don't (please check your 'junk' folders), please get in touch with us at comms@ossma.co.uk.

Year 11 Intervention

Y11 Core (English, maths, science, geography, history, RS) Intervention Burst 2 starts on 12th January - running through to the next set of mocks at February half-term. Letters will be sent out in the first week back, confirming targeted sessions for students and will be shared at Parents' Evening. All students are always welcome to attend available interventions, even if they are not directly targeted.

During Burst 1, we had fantastic attendance and great feedback from staff and students, and a HUGE number of snacks devoured! Over 1300 sessions were attended across the 4 weeks, but with Mock results in, the next set approaching, and heading into the final build-up, we are confident we can smash beyond the 2000-session mark this time! The snack order is already placed, and the rewards and prize draws this time will be even better. Look out for all the details in the first week back, including a link to ensure you are considered for prom attendance!

We have also just completed our Open/NEA Burst 1 intervention, with once again a vast number of students taking the opportunity to improve their work or resubmit previous work to improve their marks. Thank you to all of you for your efforts in this first term with intervention - and a massive thank you to all of the staff for putting the intervention sessions in place to support our Y11 students!

Rewards Week!

In the final week of term, OSSMA proudly hosted Rewards Assemblies for every year group, celebrating the incredible achievements of our students.

The primary focus of each assembly was recognising students who have consistently demonstrated our CREECK values throughout the term. These values reflect not only positive behaviour but also a strong sense of duty, personal responsibility, and pride in contributing to our school community.

We also celebrated some truly impressive rewards milestones. A considerable number of students have now surpassed the 500-reward points mark, with an outstanding group of students achieving over 1,000 points. This phenomenal achievement reflects sustained effort, commitment, and the understanding that knowledge is power when it is applied consistently.

The assemblies also highlighted the exciting battle for the top tutor group in each year group, reinforcing the importance of teamwork, collective responsibility, and striving together for success.

Finally, we celebrated students who achieved 100% attendance, recognising their reliability, resilience, and commitment to being present every day, because turning up, taking responsibility, and engaging in learning are key foundations for success.

Thirty students were also selected at random from a rewards draw, in recognition of their positive behaviour, commitment, and continued demonstration of our OSSMA values.

The Young Driver sessions provided students with a real, practical driving experience on site, guided by fully qualified instructors in a safe, controlled environment.

The experience was a fantastic way to celebrate students' efforts and commitment, reinforcing the message that positive behaviour and hard work are recognised and rewarded at OSSMA. A huge well done to all students who took part, and we look forward to offering more reward opportunities like this in the future.



Blood Brothers Trip.....

Our Year 11 GCSE Drama students have recently visited The Regent Theatre to see Blood Brothers.

Blood Brothers is the performance text that students are currently studying for section A of their GCSE written paper. Students commented that seeing it live helped them gain a deeper understanding of the characters and visualise how the play has been put together.

They are looking forward to their next performance, Mary Poppins, in January!



A reminder about EScooters



With Christmas just around the corner, the Staffordshire Safer Roads Partnership (SSRP) has some important advice for anyone thinking about buying an e-scooter as a present.

While it's legal to buy and own an e-scooter, you can only legally ride a privately owned one on private land, with the landowner's permission.

This means it is against the law to ride, or to allow your child to ride, an e-scooter anywhere on the roads, pavements, cycle tracks and parks, or to school. If a child is stopped by the Police, and they suspect a parent or carer has purchased the e-scooter for them and allowed its use on the highway, the parent may be investigated for causing or permitting a traffic offence.

Riding an e-scooter illegally can result in a £300 fine, penalty points, and in some cases prosecution. It is also likely that the e-scooter will be seized.

As well as the legal implications of using e-scooters, they also pose a significant fire safety risk due to the lithium-ion batteries that are used to power them. These can spread a fire rapidly if they ignite and explode.

For more information on e-scooters and the law, and the fire safety risks, visit: [E-scooters and the law – Staffordshire Safer Roads Partnership](#)

A polite reminder regarding uniform.....

Many thanks for your continued support in ensuring students wear the correct uniform. All students must return in January and adhere to the uniform policy, which is available in full [here](#).

False nails, false lashes, and any new piercings must be removed before the first day back, Tuesday, 6th January. Students may wear a V-neck jumper made of wool-type material. Students are not permitted to wear crew neck jumpers/sweatshirts, and logos or motifs are not permitted on knitwear.

Students are allowed subtle makeup only. This is decided at the academy's discretion, but if students are wearing heavy, visible makeup, they will be asked to remove it.

Any student arriving at the academy wearing incorrect uniform can expect to be sent to our Inclusion hub to be isolated until the parent/carer can bring a replacement. The decision regarding the appropriateness of appearance is at the discretion of the OSSMA Pastoral Team.



We are seeing an increasing number of lost property items at the academy, particularly coats during the winter season.

Please ensure that students' coats and other belongings are labelled with their full names or initials and their form, to help us return items to students. We endeavour to locate lost items, but if they are not labelled, this can make it more difficult.

All lost property items are initially located at reception and are then stored in the uniform room for collection.



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.

Strictly Come Dancing.....

Wow, what an evening! The OSSMA Glitter Ball trophy was fiercely fought for, with Mrs Bednall and Mrs George performing their Monster Mash, Mr Williams and Miss Mountford impressing with Jail-house Rock, and Miss Parkes and Miss Birchall delivering an incredible version of Toxic.

The winners, decided by our esteemed judges, Mrs Jenkins, Miss Hassall, Mrs Day and Mrs Owen, were... Miss Mountford and Mr Williams! Congratulations to everyone who took part. A special shout-out to Warren, our Head Boy, for his fantastic performance and to the prefect team for putting this event together.



LA dancer works her way to OSSMA

Last month, a selection of Year 7 and Year 8 extracurricular dancers had the opportunity to participate in a dance workshop with Alyx Steele.

Alyx Steele is a Liverpool-born dancer currently living and teaching dance in LA. Alyx has danced for many artists, including Rihanna, Pink, and Charlie XCX. She has also choreographed major productions, including the Brit Awards.

Alyx delivered an hour-long commercial dance workshop and then shared her inspiring dance journey with our students.

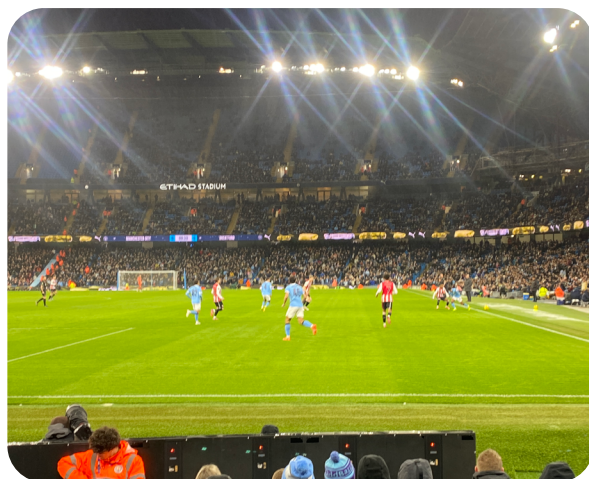
Students found the workshop exceptionally motivating and participated in a Q&A at the end.



A trip to Etihad Stadium....

This week, the Performance Department took 20 students to a wet and windy Etihad Stadium to watch the League Cup quarter-final, where Man City beat Brentford 2-0.

This was a reward trip for students who regularly attend extra-curricular clubs in the PE Department. They had a great time with a brilliant view near the players. It was a long night, but the students thoroughly enjoyed themselves!



Another round of sporting success!

Recently, OSSMA students have participated in sporting fixtures, achieving more successes!

The first is our Year 9 and Year 10 students who travelled to Fenton Manor to compete in the Indoor Athletics. A huge well done to Ashton-Lee B, Ollie M (Overall 1st place winner of 4-lap sprint), Alfie F, Dillon B, Charlie R, Charlie H, Will K, Losana B (Joint 1st long jump winner), Rodina E, Mya C (1st in heat for 2-lap sprint), Tillie W, Tyler Mai R, Olivia M and Amelia H.

Last Thursday, our Y11 football team hosted Thistley Hough in their final City Football League game, winning 1-0 and advancing to the South Area Semi-Final. This is the next stage of potentially becoming back-to-back City Champions. Well done to Nick B, Brayden D, Alfie R, Lucas S, Brooklyn W, Callum B (1 goal), Ashley D, James P, Arslan M, Harry B, Aaron R, and Cameron C.

Our Y8 football team also hosted Thistley Hough, where they dominated, winning 8-1. The team included Logan L, Harley F, Oliver R, Blake J, Hasnaat M, Jacob E, Kaden T, Harvey Brown (1 goal), Lewis H (2 goals), Jasper B, Albi M (3 goals), Frazer R, Vinnie P and Lionel K (2 goals).

Real Life Crime and Punishment.....

We are delighted to share news of a truly memorable day for our Year 10 History students, who recently visited the National Justice Museum in Nottingham. The trip perfectly complemented their GCSE History module on Crime and Punishment, bringing many of the themes they have been studying in class to life.

Our 56 students spent the morning immersed in the realities of the Georgian and Victorian prison systems, exploring original cells and experiencing what it was like to be a prisoner through live actors. They examined authentic artefacts, including a pillory and a scold's bridle, and visited three different exhibitions. Throughout, the museum staff questioned the students about what they were seeing – and our students impressed everyone with their thoughtful, well-informed answers.

The afternoon session took place in a historic courtroom, where students re-created the trial of Derek Bentley. Taking on roles including judge, jury, prosecution, defence and witnesses, students developed their own legal arguments and demonstrated outstanding reasoning and teamwork. After a lively debate, the jury returned a verdict of not guilty.

For context, the real Derek Bentley case had a very different outcome. Although he did not fire the fatal shot, Bentley was convicted of murder under the principle of joint enterprise and was executed in 1953.

After many years of campaigning, his conviction was finally quashed in 1998. The case remains a significant example of how the justice system and attitudes towards it have changed over time – making it a truly valuable learning experience for our students.

We were exceptionally proud to hear museum staff praise our students' behaviour, manners, and contributions, describing them as the best they had ever seen from a school group.

