

It has been an excellent start to the year, and we have thoroughly enjoyed being back in the academy. Exam season is now in full swing, with the Year 11 mock examinations underway and the final preparations for GCSEs imminent. We have had the pleasure of welcoming distinguished guests to the academy, including Joe Sleight, who visited to collaborate with our Drama students.

We are also celebrating further sporting achievements within our Performance department, and there is great excitement surrounding our upcoming school production.

I would like to extend my congratulations to all our Reward students. I am particularly proud of those students who consistently demonstrate our CREEK values throughout their time at the academy.

Our behaviour curriculum is continuing to become fully embedded across the academy, which is encouraging to see. Students are embracing the agreed language and expectations, contributing to a positive and respectful environment.

Finally, please note that Ormiston Trust will be transitioning to ARBOR for parental communication from 24th February 2024. We encourage parents to download the app, as it will become our primary communication platform. For further information, please see below.



Kelly Hassall
Principal

WE ARE CHANGING HOW WE COMMUNICATE!

We are excited to announce that we will be moving our school system to Arbor on 24th February 2026. Adopting Arbor will allow us to communicate with you more efficiently and bring all core school data and workflows into one system. From this date, Synergy will no longer be used.

We are really looking forward to getting started with Arbor and invite all our parents to familiarise themselves using the link below.

[Getting started - Log into the Parent Portal and the Parent App](#)

Arbor also offers access to many training resources which are completely free for you to make the most of! We will send further communication on the parental app and how to register next week, please look out for this information and register your child when prompted. We hope you are looking forward to using this new feature as much as we are!

DIARY DATES

Monday 23rd February

INSET Day

Tuesday 24th February

Students return (Week B)

Second week of Year 11 Mock Exams

Wednesday 25th February

Options Evening

Thursday 5th March

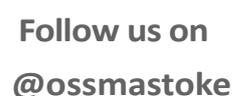
World Book Day

Wednesday 18th March

Year 7 Parent's Evening

Friday 20th March

INSET Day



Blood Brothers Guest Speaker

A selection of our Drama students had the incredible opportunity of participating in a workshop with Joe Sleight who is currently playing Eddie in the Blood Brothers UK Tour. Joe's credits also include Wicked and Romeo and Juliet on the West End.

Students explored three different scenes from Blood Brothers, where Joe offered directions to improve their acting skills and overall performance.

Students were then given the opportunity to ask questions and gain an understanding of how to enter the profession. Joe's advice was insightful and inspiring.

Our students thoroughly enjoyed the experience and gained a lot of knowledge from the workshop.



Spring Term is well under way, and we'd like to say a huge thank you to parents and carers for the smooth transition back into school after the Christmas break (despite the snow!). Attendance to school still remains an important focus here at OSSMA, and we're pleased to say that attendance for Spring Term has improved from the Autumn Term. Let's keep the momentum going!

Punctuality - While we have seen a slight improvement in punctuality to school, we're still concerned about the volume of students arriving late. Can we please ask parents and carers to remind their children to be with their form groups in line-up at 8.35 am, ready to enter the building at 8.40 am. Gates are shut at this point, and anyone arriving after this time is considered late to school and may be issued a detention. By instilling a sense of punctuality in school, it will stand them in good stead for post-16 education and employment.



Attendance Focus Fortnight - our next attendance focus fortnight will commence on Monday 9th March and end on Friday 20th March. Each student with 100% attendance during those two weeks will receive an Easter themed reward and these will be handed out week commencing 23rd March.

Spring Term attendance certificates and awards will be handed out on Friday 27th March.

Options Evening 2026

This important event is organised to assist Year 9 students in making informed decisions regarding their GCSE subjects and future career pathways.

Throughout the evening, attendees will have the opportunity to:

- Engage with subject teachers to gain insight into course details and expectations.
- Discuss how subject choices may relate to potential future career opportunities. It is Wednesday 25th February and includes a presentation followed by chance to visit departments.

Timings for the presentations are as follows:

5pm - Invite only via Mr Oakley

5:30pm - Students with surname A-H

6pm - Students with surname I-Z

There will be support available to select the options on the evening or links for how to do this. The evening will close at 7pm.



Parent Webinars on County Lines and Criminal Exploitation

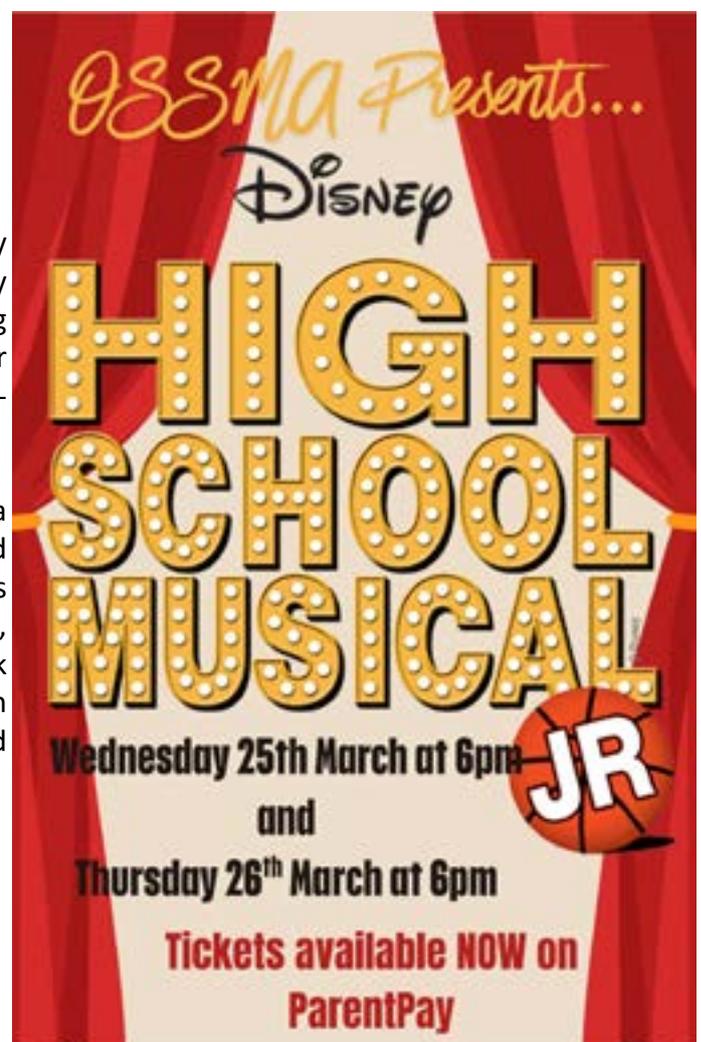
The Ivison Trust (formerly Pace) is a national charity working to keep children safe from exploitation by supporting parents, disrupting exploiters, and working in partnership with police and family services. Their work is grounded in a trauma-informed, family-centred approach.

During March 2026, the Ivison Trust is delivering a series of live webinars for parents and carers focused on county lines and criminal exploitation. The sessions help parents understand how exploitation happens, how children are groomed, what warning signs to look out for, and where to access advice and support. Each webinar includes local context, time for questions, and input from a parent with lived experience.

More information and booking details are available at:
<https://ivisontrust.org.uk/webinars/>



protecting
children, supporting
families



Student Rewards!



Students have been working exceptionally hard to earn reward points by consistently demonstrating the core values of our school's **CREECK** framework — Confidence, Resilience, Enthusiasm, Empathy, Challenge, and Kindness.

Across the school, students have shown confidence when approaching new or demanding tasks, resilience when faced with setbacks, and enthusiasm towards their learning. Many have demonstrated kindness and empathy through their interactions with peers, offering support and encouragement, while also challenging themselves to step beyond their comfort zones. In recognition of these positive behaviours, students have been actively working towards earning reward tokens, which can be exchanged for an end-of-day treat, reinforcing the importance of positive choices and effort.

Well done to the following students who are the top 3 students in their Year group this half term:

<i>Year 7</i>	<i>Year 8</i>	<i>Year 9</i>	<i>Year 10</i>	<i>Year 11</i>
Alfie D. Phoebe D. Brooke T	Aiden B. Lyla B. Narayan M. Jaime-Leigh R.	Charlie R. Chenar Q Ashton A.	Madeleine G. Gracie M. Sumayyah A.	Mina M. Eleeza G. Evie B.

Upcoming rewards:

As we look ahead to the next half term and the end of the academic year, there are lots of exciting opportunities for students to be recognised and rewarded for their positive choices, effort, and commitment to our school values.

We will be launching details of our End-of-Year Rewards Day in the first week back after half term. Full information, including the criteria for taking part, will be shared through the school broadcast, so students are encouraged to listen out carefully.

We are also delighted to welcome Young Driver back to OSSMA on 12th March. During the first two weeks after half term, students will have the opportunity to earn a place in a prize draw to take part in this pop-ular experience. Full details and the criteria for qualifying will be shared in the school broadcast, recognis-ing students who consistently demonstrate positive behaviour.

Later in the term, students will be celebrated in our End of Term Reward Assembly, where achievements and positive contributions will be formally recognised. Across the half term, there will also be booster weeks for reward tokens, giving students extra opportunities to earn end-of-day treats by demonstrating our **CREECK** values in lessons and around the academy.

Sporting Successes!

Recently, the following Y7's represented the academy at the Partnership Games where they finished 4th overall. Well done to Jasmine T, Harvey B, Zachary B, Jacob G, Maizie G, Sophie K, Lacie L, Ivan M and Spen-cer W.

The following Year 8 boy's football team recently beat St Thomas More 4-1, sending them through to the South Area Semi-Finals. Well done to Harley F, Oliver B, Harvey B (2 goals), Jacob E, Lewis H, Blake J, Lionel K, Albi M (2 goals), Vinnie P, Oliver R, Harvey S and Noah W.

A final win from the Year 11 boys who played against St John Fisher (last year's winners) in the Sentinel Cup, drawing 2-2 then winning 5-4 on penalties to send them through to the semi-finals.

An amazing game from Nick B, Brayden D (1 goal), Reece L, Alfie R, Harry B, Callum B, Harrison C, Lucas S, Harrison P, Arslan M, Ashley D (1 goal), James P and Brooklyn W.



Another badminton win!

Recently we played the final game of our group in the City Badminton League against St Peter's.

We won 20-5! This means we topped our group after beating St Joseph's, St Peter's, Thistley Hough and Trentham. We are now through to the City final, where we will be trying to retain our title.

Congratulations to Aiden W, Ethan W, Jack T, Sehar H, Nafiah A, Layla F, Macie O, Fatima N, Losana B, Roqaya A, Jake R, Harley F and Adam W




Stoke City
Foundation

FREE FEBRUARY FOOTBALL TOURNAMENT

Thursday 19th February, 11:00am - 3:00pm
 (Registration from 10:00am)

Powerleague, Trentham Lakes, Dennis Violet Avenue,
 Stoke-on-Trent, ST4 4TN

Age Groups: Year 7 - Year 10

To register your team please email lewis.mcmurdo@stokecityfc.com

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