



Why a new publication?

In our recent parent survey 28.6% of parents did not know what Personal development opportunities the school provided for students or what this area covered. As a response to this we have decided to publish a half termly newsletter to share with you all of the work we do in this area and how we support students with their personal development.



So, what is Personal Development?

Personal development is the development of young people to help them become active, responsible citizens who have a range of traits that will allow them to move on to the next stage in their lives in a healthy, responsible and successful way. Personal development includes the following areas:

- Citizenship – developing students to be active, responsible and respectful citizens who are actively involved in public life.
- British values – ensuring students understand the fundamental British values of democracy, individual liberty, the rule of law and mutual respect and tolerance.
- Character and traits – developing positive personal traits and virtues to enable them to learn, reflect, cooperate with others and behave with integrity.
- PSHE – developing students understanding of how to develop healthy relationships through appropriate relationships and sex education, how to be physically healthy, eat healthily and maintain a healthy physical lifestyle, and development of the skills and knowledge required to stay mentally healthy.
- Equality and diversity – promoting opportunities for students to thrive together and to celebrate diversity.
- Safety – developing students' understanding of online and offline risks and ensuring they are aware of the support available to them
- Careers education, information and guidance – providing an effective careers programme that provides opportunities for work experience, access to unbiased careers advice, and contact with employers.
- Enrichment – providing enrichment opportunities such as extracurricular clubs, to allow students to develop their interests.



At Ormiston Rivers Academy key staff that support the Personal Development of students are:



Miss Victory
Assistant Principal responsible for
Personal Development



Mrs Crump
PSHE and Citizenship Lead



Miss Green
Enrichment Coordinator



Ms Goodfellow
Assistant Principal – Safeguarding
and well being Lead



Mrs Compton
Careers Lead



Mr Clay
House system Lead



Enrichment Provision

Our enrichment provision, which includes sports clubs, extra-curricular and supra-curricular activities, has been adapting and expanding in accordance with the changing guidelines from the Department for Education. We have been very fortunate that our provision has continued to grow, despite the challenges, and we are very fortunate to have staff members and students who continue to provide and engage with additional opportunities, even during these exceptional times.

Our enrichment programme is administrated through our Evolve software. To keep up to date and to enjoy the full benefits that this software enables, please could all parents ensure that they have created a myEVOLVE account: <https://evolve.edufocus.co.uk/myevolve/login.asp?redirect>.



A myEVOLVE account allows parents to enjoy continuous visibility of our enrichment programmes, as well as making it easier to monitor the clubs that students are registered to attend.

PE

Since the recent lockdown restrictions had caused many clubs, outside of school, to be cancelled, ORA's PE Department responded to the increased interest for clubs in school, and adapted the PE programme to suit the needs of students at this time.

They responded to the high demand for football and students in Years 7, 8, 9 and 10 have all been enjoying this opportunity, this half term.



There have been two very well attended gym / weights clubs for Sixth Formers as well as cross country for Year 8 and 9.

The PE Department have created next half term's club timetable in response to our enrichment student voice survey. They are always trying to meet the demand, as far as possible; many thanks to the PE Department for their continued dedication and flexibility in delivering the best PE enrichment programme possible at ORA!



STEM Club

Our STEM Club have been learning about, and using the school's new 3D Printer! This has been an amazing opportunity for our Year 9 students who currently attend STEM Club and Mrs Gibson continues to provide some outstanding STEM provision, not only during clubs, but across the whole school.

This 3D heart was made during this half term, as were some 3D Pokemons. The club are now preparing their entry to a national STEM competition. Good luck STEM Club!



Reading Club

Our Year 7 reading club was launched this half term and has been really well attended both at lunch time and after school.

The students have been reading books based on Geography and defying expectations.



Reading club is really good because it has widened my choice of books, and I'm really enjoying... Lightning Mary.

Year 7 Reading Club Member

Lightning Mary is a book about Mary Anning who was a fossil hunter and palaeontologist who made many crucial discoveries but her achievements were unrecognised because she was a woman.

Matthew Henson was navigator, craftsman, translator, and right-hand man on a treacherous journey to the North Pole. He was a black man who defied the odds and the many prejudices that faced him to become a true pioneer.

The club members have been reading, writing reviews and doing creative tasks about the books they've been reading. Next half term they will be reading Kit's Wilderness by David Almond.

National Theatre Connections

Miss Goodfellow, and a dedicated group of Sixth Form dramatists, are currently rehearsing for their next National Theatre Connections project. Each year the National Theatre commissions ten new plays and one of these is chosen to perform in school. The performance receives a critique from a professional and then improvements are made in preparation for the final performance at Queen's Theatre Hornchurch, in April. The play this year is titled Like There's No Tomorrow, it concerns climate change which many of our Sixth Formers are passionate about. Best of luck to the talented cast and crew, many of whom have partaken in this project, under the guidance of Miss Goodfellow, in previous years. Many of our Sixth Form Drama students are hoping to progress to Drama degrees; this opportunity will facilitate and enhance their applications!



Dora Love Prize

The Dora Love Prize is awarded each year for the best Holocaust awareness project by an individual pupil or group of pupils from a school in Essex or Suffolk. This half term, Mr Chapman and Miss Blatch are helping Year 9 to create a drama project to express 'speaking up against hatred wherever it occurs, never forgetting the ultimate consequence of seemingly small acts of discrimination and developing a sense of personal responsibility'. We wish the team the very best of luck as they submit their proposal and continue to work on this significant project.



Super 6

Year 11's Super 6 programme has made a significant contribution to our recovery curriculum. Next half term many additional subjects will be added to the timetable. Student incentives to attend include weekly awards during assembly, pizza and free prom for students who achieve 100% attendance!

Many More

Further to the aforementioned clubs, our students are also benefiting from a wide range of other opportunities such as Duke of Edinburgh, Film, Social Action, Technical Theatre, Elite Scholars, Brilliant Club, Arts Awards and Art Clubs.

Student Voice

As a result of our whole school enrichment survey we are now striving to meet the areas of demand that students have expressed interest in.

ORA students are passionate about cooking: 238 students, across all Year Groups, have requested a cooking club! Next half term we will be offering Year 7 a cookery club, and Mrs Hyde is also going to provide a virtual cookery club for the whole school, using Google Classrooms and social Media. We're really excited to see what our students can create.



Hundreds of ORA students also requested Drama and Dance Clubs; the Department have responded to this, providing clubs for Years 8, 9 and 10 starting next half term! Places for these new clubs will be very sought after and will be allocated on a first come first served basis, please do register on Evolve as soon as possible.



Spring Term 1 Enrichment Timetable January – February

Day	Breaktime	Lunchtime	Afterschool 3.20pm – 4.20pm
Monday		Art Club Year 7 D02	Super Six, Various Subjects Year 11-13
			Arts Award Bronze Years 7, 8 and 9 – Virtual on Google Classroom
Tuesday	Science Club Year 7 S11		Rugby Year 7 Boys
			Netball Year 7 Girls
			Rugby Year 10 Boys
			Football Year 10 Boys
			Technical Theatre Club Sixth Form
			Dance Club Year 8 Week A E03
			Dance Club Year 10 Week B MFL Area
			Super Six, Various Subjects Year 11-13
			Elite Scholars Years 7, 8, 9 and 10 – Virtual through Google Classroom (in own time over week)
Wednesday		Get up Stand Up Social Action Club Year 10	Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award Year 9 S06
			Art Club Year 9 S03
			Rugby Year 8 Boys
			Netball Year 8 Girls
			Drama Year 8 Week B E01
			NCFE Coursework Catch-up Year 10 M12
			Super Six, Various Subjects Year 11-13
Thursday		Rivers Young Reporters and Storytellers Year 9 S02	Reading Club Year 7 LRC
		Computing Year 7 LRC Week A only	Netball year 9 Girls
			Rugby Year 9 Boys
			Football Sixth Form
			STEM Club Year 9 S06
		INTO Film Club Year 8 E03	Drama & Dance Year 9 Week B S02
			Cookery Club Year 7 D04
			Super Six, Various Subjects Year 11-13
Friday	Digital Media and School Magazine Year 9 S06	INTO Film Club Year 8 E03	Super Six, Various Subjects Year 11-13
			Gym Club Sixth Form
			National Theatre Connections Sixth Form

Please use Evolve to sign up to these opportunities!



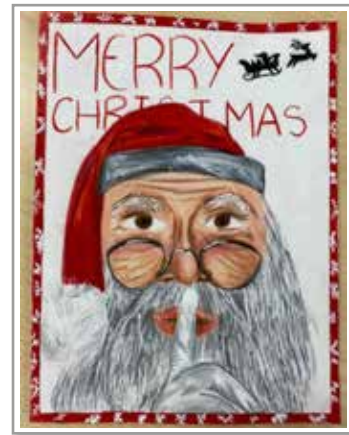


ORA House System

Latest news, results and upcoming competitions

OAT Christmas Card Competition

Congratulations to Lucy Johnson (right) from [Danube](#) who won the Christmas Card competition. Her entry will be used by ORA as the school Christmas card this year! Special recognition to Mia Shute for finishing second for [Amazon](#).



Performing Arts Talent Competition

To discover new talent, the Performing Arts Department ran a talent competition for Year 7 students. The 4 weeks of heats led the way to a final, where the below students were placed 1st to 3rd. Talents ranged from singing, dancing and acting; to musical performances and media projects.

Many congratulations to the podium finishers and everyone who entered



3rd Place [Katie Melton](#)



2nd Place [Darcie Goulding](#)

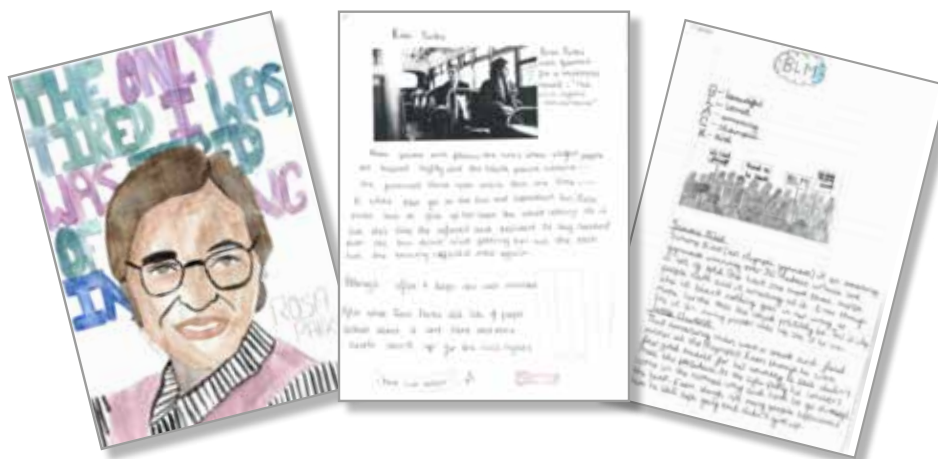


1st Place [Lenny Rush](#)



Black History Month

Congratulations to Amelia White from **Mekong** (Yr 7), Pyper Clark from **Amazon** (Yr 8) and Millie Allwinkle from **Mekong** (yr 9) for winning their year group competition for Black History Month. The winning entries can be seen below.



Egg Parachute Drop

Thank you to Science for hosting our first competition of the year to see who could build the most effective parachute whilst carrying an egg!

Bethany Fearn and Zachary Plumb from **Danube** won the competition for their House - well done to them both and thanks to everyone who took part, the Science Department were really impressed with your designs. exploring PSHE topics through their Drama studies and have developed skills and knowledge surrounding positive and negative behaviours including how to manage risk and make informed decisions.

Ongoing Competitions
Food - Young chef competition
Religious Studies - Create a protest board
PE - Cross Country
PE - Design a football kit to feature in FIFA 21
MFL - Christmas Card competition

Please join us on Google Classrooms to access all of your year group competitions:

Year 7 - ybrf7b7

Year 8 - pxn7ixk

Year 9 - chvpk2k

Year 10 - mqlavpa

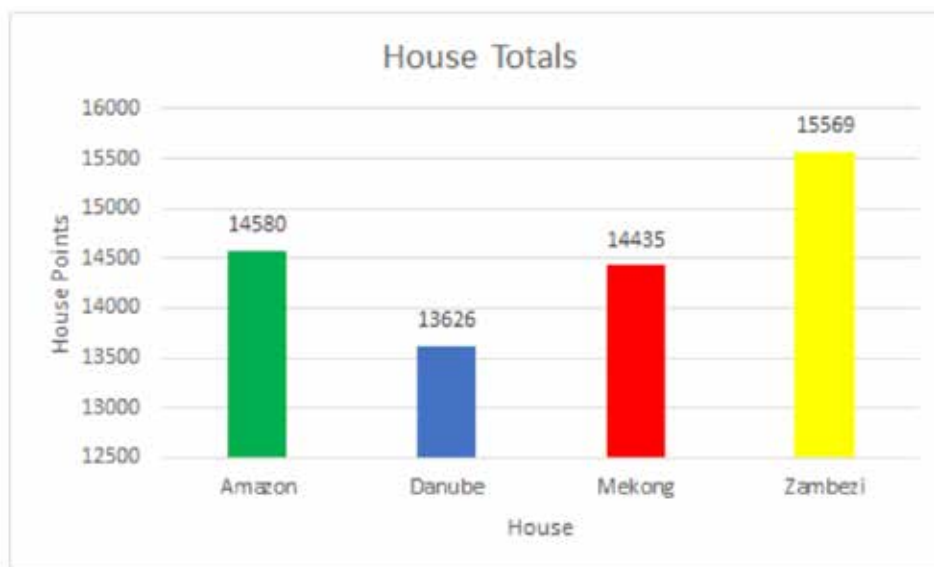
Year 11 - gh3aesx

Or you can find us on Instagram [ora_houseteams](#)



Current House Totals

The graph illustrates all house points gained from classrooms, attendance at clubs and points gained in House competitions



Personal and Social Development

PSHE and Citizenship *NEWS*

This half term we have been considering the topics of puberty and body development, physical health and mental wellbeing, and body confidence within years 7 - 9; whilst years 10 – 11 have discovered more about adult health, internet safety, and how to keep themselves safe in society. Sixth Form have also enjoyed the launch of a new PSHE and Citizenship curriculum, lead by student feedback.

PSHE and Citizenship *EVENTS*

This half term has seen the launch of a number of new PSHE and Citizenship initiatives that students have taken part in to support their knowledge and skillset in Personal, Social and Health Education:

Social Norms Survey (school-wide initiative)

This term we have teamed up with The Training Effect who offer an award winning, independently evaluated programme which aims to support the academy in pinpointing any issues affecting pupils in our care, and identify any themes that need to be addressed. A survey took place with pupils week commencing 9th November. The results of this survey were shared with the Training Effect for analysis; and once the results have been analysed and forwarded to the academy for review, we will begin to embed initiatives to help improve our young people's lives based on what they have shared with us in the survey.



#iwill (school-wide initiative)

#iwill is a UK-wide campaign that aims to make social action part of life for pupils, through collaboration and partnership, and spreading the word about the benefits of youth social action. Ormiston Rivers Academy is a proud #iwill member, and will be exploring new social action opportunities in 2021 including: the launch of Year Group Library Hubs; a Young Carers Breakfast Club, a Virtual Business Mentor Programme and the continuation of the Duke of Edinburgh Award.

PSHE in Drama

Years 7, 8 and 9 have completed their first term of PSHE in Drama studies, where topics such as positive, healthy relationships, and how to recognise bullying, and its impact were considered in detail.

Get Up Stand Up Social Action Club (Year 10)

This academic year, our Year 10 pupils continue to take part in the Get Up Stand Up social action club alongside Miss Blatch. The club encourages pupils to join together to solve the problems that are important to them, and the local community. This year the year group has chosen to raise awareness of the following areas: Dementia, PRIDE and Cancer. The pupils are currently establishing which charities, linked to their chosen areas, they will be fundraising for and raising awareness of.

Wellbeing Hubs (Year 11)

From January onwards, there will be a drop in area for Year 11 pupils to access to gain wellbeing support from Mrs Corbett; particularly as these pupils may have concerns of worries about exam pressures; and how to overcome this. A message will be sent out to Year 11 pupils with the agreed times/days that Mrs Corbett will be available to support, in January.

PSHE and Citizenship Curriculum (Sixth Form)

Before October half term, Sixth Form students were invited to take part in a survey to help identify what PSHE and Citizenship topics they would benefit from learning about in Mentor Time going forward. The results of this survey were reviewed and a new PSHE and Citizenship curriculum has been rolled out for Sixth Form learners, helping to meet their life-stage learning needs, and ensure that they are fully equipped for transition onto University, further study and the world of work.

Meet our PSHE and Citizenship Lead

Mrs Crump is our PSHE and Citizenship Lead and is passionate about creating opportunities for our young people to develop the knowledge, skills and attributes they need to manage life's challenges and make the most of life's opportunities.

Our aim is to develop mature, confident and thoughtful citizens. We have a thorough programme of PSHE for all students as well as an exciting Citizenship programme of study.

For further information or queries about the PSHE and Citizenship curriculum at Ormiston Rivers Academy, please feel free to email Mrs Crump via pshe@ormistonriversacademy.co.uk



Recent Events

Remembrance Day

As a school we were proud to show our respect in mark of Remembrance Day on 11th November 2020. Due to current Covid restrictions, all students took part in a virtual assembly and a 2 minute silence, to allow them to reflect and remember those who have served our country. A small number of cadets also represented their regiments in a remembrance parade.



Children In Need Day

On 13th November 2020, the school community got together to support the Children In Need charity. Students raised money by paying a contribution to wear non-uniform for the day. The canteen baked special Pudsey waffles, with all profits going straight to the Children in need fund. The day was a big success and you raised an amazing £1,420.07 + sale of waffles £135.50 - Total £1,555.57.



World Kindness Day

This year the school is happy to have supported World Kindness day on 13th November 2020. Students nominated each other for kindness awards to recognise acts of kindness they have received or know about. We are also happy to be supporting the Rural Council of Essex this year with their Christmas project. The Council is producing Christmas boxes for those elderly members of our community who are socially isolated to ensure they receive some kindness and cheer this Christmas. Our students have designed and written Christmas cards that will form part of the Christmas boxes. Hopefully these will help make people in our community smile this year.





STEM - Bebras Competition

As part of Computer Science our Year 7, 8 and 9 students took part in the Bebras Competition. Led by Mrs Gibson, students undertook the challenge in early November. The Bebras competition is run by Oxford University, in conjunction with the Raspberry Pi Foundation. The Bebras Computing challenge introduces computational thinking to students and is organised in over 50 countries. It is designed to get students all over the world excited about Computing.



Our students performed fantastically with 17 students achieving scores in the top 10% in the UK. These students will now be offered the chance to take part in a further challenge set up and run by Oxford University. Congratulations to:

Ella Barrett	Oliver Harris	Will McCracken	May Spence	Joslyn Berry	Izzy Joslin-Groom
Imogen Locke	Zachary Plumb	Zachary Smith	Finley Ashworth	Beth Hainsby	Archie Burgess
George Hall	Merry Bills	Adam Feakins	Sam Rhodes	Cate Stewart	

Anti Bullying week

On the week starting 16th November 2020, our Academy joined schools across the UK in supporting anti-bullying week. Mentor groups were invited to take part in a competition to produce the best anti-bullying video message they could. The winning entries were 8CCR and 7JHA!

Students also wore odd socks on Friday 20th November to show their solidarity with the anti-bullying message and to express that all of us are individuals, which is to be celebrated.



6th form Study and Exams Workshops

On 9th December 2020 Year 12 students took part in a study skills workshop run by Elevate education. The session is designed to not only equip students with skills to use in their study time, but also to get the students actually applying these skills independently to make their study time more effective. Year 13 took part in a session aimed at preparing them for their examinations. This session took students through the highest value exam preparation tasks, how to achieve constant improvement, allocating time effectively and techniques for managing stress and time pressure in exams.



Validate – Science Talk

On Wednesday, 9th December 2020 Year 9 Elite Scholar students took part in a virtual talk and Q&A session hosted by VALIDATE, an international network of researchers developing vaccines, including work on the Oxford Covid 19 vaccine. The world-class researchers discussed their careers and research with our students. This was an exciting opportunity for students interested in pursuing a career in any STEM field or biomedical research in particular to talk to professionals involved in the field.

The Speakers



Prof Helen McShane is the VALIDATE Network Director; Director of the Oxford NIHR Biomedical Research Centre; Professor of Vaccinology at Oxford University; Deputy Head (Translation and Personnel), Medical Sciences Division; and an Honorary Consultant Physician in infectious diseases.

Since 2001, Helen has led a TB vaccine research group at the University of Oxford. She collaborates with several research groups across Africa in TB vaccine clinical trials.



Dr Rachel Tanner is a member of VALIDATE's Network Management Board and a Postdoctoral Researcher at the Jenner Institute, University of Oxford. Rachel is also a VALIDATE Fellow and a Lecturer in Human Sciences. Rachel's research focuses on the antibody response to TB vaccination and she has an interest in finding ways to reduce the use of animals in TB vaccine testing. She has also been helping recently with the Oxford COVID-19 vaccine trials.

Christmas Dinner

On 8th and 9th December 2020 students enjoyed a delicious Christmas dinner with their friends in Year group bubbles. Students thoroughly enjoyed the food cooked by the canteen staff and took time to share stories, enjoy each other's company and take in the Christmas spirit. Once again the staff provided a fantastic experience for the students and allowed our school community to share in the joy of Christmas together.





Christmas Jumper Day – Upcoming event

On 16th December 2020 we will be taking part in Christmas Jumper Day in support of Save the Children. Students will be able to wear a Christmas jumper over their normal school uniform, in place of a blazer, for a contribution of a £1 or more to the charity. All contributions need to be made on ParentPay as we are unable to handle cash in the current climate.

Student Council News

This academic year the Sixth Form Leadership Team have been given the exciting opportunity to take on a significant role in the running of student voice across the school. As well as having the usual year group committees we will each head up a committee of about 10 students from both key stage 3 and 4 that will focus on 5 key areas within the school.

We will be working alongside students from the Year 11 Prefect Team to chair meetings, discuss important issues and make suggestions for changes that can be made. This week we are writing to share with you our aims and a little bit of information about our plans for the year ahead.



I'm Joseph Murray and I help lead the safeguarding, anti bullying and wellbeing team within the student council working alongside Miss Goodfellow. This team was set up with the main goal of ensuring that all students within the school community keep safe and healthy, and as we return back to normal after the coronavirus pandemic, this goal has only become more important. As a team, we will ensure that all students know the signs of poor mental health and wellbeing and know who to talk to if they need help. As well as this, we will teach both staff and students to be able to spot bullying not only in school but in their personal lives and online. All members of our team will also be fully trained to become anti-bullying ambassadors in order to create an even safer environment within our school.



My name is Ellie King and I will be helping to lead the community team within the school along with Miss Victory. As a school we are proud to be part of the Dengie community and aim to strengthen our links with the community that we serve. Therefore, it was important to us that the student council had a strand that focused on community liaison and links to allow us to build on our current interactions with the local community. Our aim is to get the school involved with events, opportunities and organisations in the local community, this can be charitable events, sporting events, interactions with local organisations and supporting local businesses etc. We hope to build good relationships with people in the Dengie area so that students can get involved. This will help them to improve their life skills such as communication, confidence, organisational skills and many more. In addition, the team is currently working towards setting up an awards scheme in the Academy called Active Citizens, that will recognise and reward students who are undertaking work within the local community. I am looking forward to leading the Community team and working in collaboration with students and external stakeholders.



I'm Kate Frost and I help lead the teaching and learning team within student voice. I will be working with Mrs Bennett to share student opinions and feedback on this important area. As part of this, we aim to improve lessons across the school by taking input from students from all year groups, responding to their feedback on what will help them learn more effectively. I am particularly interested in ensuring that higher ability students are being stretched enough to reach the high grades they are capable of achieving. The teachers in school all work hard, and use their years of experience and training to plan and teach the high quality lessons they do. It is important that students feed into this process as they know what works for them and how they learn best. I believe that if this can be implemented into lessons through feedback from student voice, it will have a big impact on the students' school experience. This means we can target individual subjects or lessons overall in the school to try and ensure the best possible outcomes for all students across the school.



My name is Nadine Warner and I am working with Mrs Mahoney to improve the school environmental awareness. One of our first aims is to remove the sale of bottled drinks in the school, from the 1st January 2020. We have already started our journey towards this by giving out refillable Ormiston Rivers Academy bottles to all students which can then be refilled at the touch free filling stations. This will significantly reduce the amount of single-use plastic consumed within the school. However, we are not stopping there, with our next goal to find alternatives to plastic products that we use in catering. We are also currently in the process of launching a clothing recycling program with a "kids fill the bag!" initiative. We will be asking students to donate clean clothing and paired shoes in order to help others in poorer communities in the UK and overseas. This will not only help others but it will also reduce the idea of 'fast fashion', which ultimately is one of the growing contributors to mass amounts of greenhouse gas emissions.



I am Tegan Naunton and I am the sixth form student council lead for Equality and Diversity within the school, working alongside Mrs Crump. Our aim is to raise awareness of equality within the school, and help to make a difference in ensuring every pupil has an equal opportunity to make the most of their lives and talents. We will do this by exploring opportunities to develop school-wide social action clubs focussed on celebrating differences and diversity. We will consider how we can recognise Equality through special focused events throughout the school year, and aim to create and publish interesting case studies that can be shared across the school to highlight the role of Equality in society and in our school. I am looking forward to leading the Equality team and making a real difference here at ORA.

I hope you have enjoyed this insight into our students' perspectives on academy life. We are very proud of each and every one of them.