



## **Welcome to the final Personal Development newsletter of the year.**

This year has been a challenging one, but we have continued to be committed to offering our students a range of opportunities and experiences to broaden their horizons, raise and support their aspirations, and to give them provision to develop their interests,

This term we continued to offer a range of enrichment options, from House competitions and after school clubs to workshops, virtual work experience and sports fixtures. Provision has continued both virtually and in school.

## **Virtual Poetry Workshops**

We ran two virtual poetry workshops this term for a selection of Year 9 students. On 4<sup>th</sup> May 2021 a selection of Year 9 students took part in a virtual workshop run by Matt Windle, a poet and boxer. The session focused on overcoming obstacles in life; students explored what their voices are and how they can be used appropriately.

The second workshop was run by spoken-word poet Amerah Saleh about finding your voice. All students involved felt that the workshops opened their eyes to poetry. Amerah herself said "I was so impressed with them, it is really hard to create something of that quality, in such a short time."

Well done to all involved!



## **Cookery Club**

Mrs Hyde provided a virtual cookery club for the whole school, using Google Classrooms and social Media across the Spring term. From March 2021 we ran the Year 7 Cookery club in person - inviting students to improve their basic cooking skills. They enjoyed making a range of different dishes including Apple pies, Swiss Roll, Bread, Cheesecake and Fruity Curry. The students progressed rapidly in their self-confidence and it was amazing to see how much enjoyment and relaxation they got from the cooking.



At the end of a long school day they really enjoyed the social and teamwork aspect, and getting to make something they could take home and share with their families. We look forward to welcoming many of them back next year when we will be able to open our clubs up to more year groups with the dissolving of bubbles.



## Science Club

This term in Science Club, we have completed many exciting Science experiments. These have included: fire-writing, chemical reactions that result in a noticeable temperature decrease and the production of CO<sub>2</sub> gas, and chemical reactions of acids and alkalis with a focus on pH. We have also explored ways to generate electricity, including which fruit/vegetable is best (grapefruit) and whether we can light an LED bulb from a stack of 2-p coins - you can! Finally, we finished the term with some fun interactive demonstrations, including methane bubbles and whoosh bottle - both examples of combustion.







"I've really enjoyed running Science Club this year, and well done to all pupils who attended the club this term. Thank you to the science technicians - Ms Mitchell and Mrs Smith for organising our practical work and Mrs Anderson and Mr Frost for supporting the club this term." Miss Welham

## **PSHE and Citizenship \*NEWS\***

**Curriculum Update:** This term we have enjoyed taking part in two Drop Down Days, one in year 8 where we focused on Sex Education and another in year 9 where we focused on First Aid. During PSHE in mentor time we have considered the topics of Celebrating Differences, Identifying Relationships and Sexual Consent and the Law within years 7 – 9 consecutively; we have also discovered more about Relationships and Sex Education in year 10; and across Sixth Form we have considered topics such as Body Image, Alcohol Safety and the Importance of Physical Activity.

**PSHE in Society:** In June we celebrated PRIDE month by wearing rainbow coloured accessories in support of LGBTQ+ rights, this was accompanied by a school wide assembly; whilst Miss Blatch and Miss Murphy continued to work with their respective clubs (Get Up Stand Up, PRIDE and Equality Today) to raise awareness of LGBTQ+ within the school.

On Monday 12<sup>th</sup> July we dressed down and wore football shirts in support of England's performance in the Euros 2020.

## **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](mailto:pshe@ormistonriversacademy.co.uk)



## OAT Competition Success

### OAT Hidden Humanities

OAT held a competition asking students to take a photograph of a site in their local area that held significance for the community in terms of history, geographical changes or religion, and to discuss the significance and personal importance to them. A huge well done to Year 7 student Emily for making it to the final of the OAT Hidden Humanities competition.



### OAT Design competition

Congratulations to Year 7 student Katie for being shortlisted in an OAT design competition. OAT launched a competition in December 2020 asking pupils to design their ideal workstations for a 'blended learning experience' for pupils and teachers. They were asked to consider what equipment, technology, resources, apps/programs and furniture would enhance the teaching and learning experience. At the closing date at the end of March 2021 Head Office had received almost 100 entries. Katie made the top ten shortlist for secondary schools and has received a wonderful goody bag!



### Earth Day

Our students took part in Earth Day this year and were recognised for their efforts by OAT with a voucher and certificate. Each mentor group took part in an environmentally friendly activity to make the school community a better place. Activities ranged from making bird and bug boxes to planting in the school garden and raising environmental issues throughout the school. Our work to support the environment is continuing through our environment leadership group with the school actively working towards achieving the Green Flag Award.





## Duke of Edinburgh's Award

Despite the barriers faced in delivering 'traditional' expeditions and activities for the Duke of Edinburgh's Award (DofE) Mr Lehane and his team have persevered and ensured that the programme forged ahead.

The Duke of Edinburgh's Award is a youth awards programme which recognises adolescents and young adults for completing a series of self-improvement exercises, there are four sections to complete at Bronze level. They involve helping the community/environment, becoming fitter, developing new skills, planning, training for and completing an expedition.

Any young person can do their DofE – regardless of ability, gender, background or location. Achieving an Award isn't a competition or about being first. It's all about setting personal challenges and pushing personal boundaries.

Through a DofE programme young people have fun, make friends, improve their self-esteem and build confidence. They gain essential skills and attributes for work and life such as resilience, problem-solving, team-working, communication and drive, enhancing CVs and university and job applications.

Here is a small selection of some of the work the students have completed this year;







## PE

As we have seen some of the lockdown restrictions easing over the past few weeks ORA'S PE department have jumped straight into action to organise as many sports fixtures as possible for our final weeks of term.



### Summer Cricket Fixtures

Despite the obvious setbacks this year we were delighted to get out for some cricket fixtures against the Brentwood School and William De Ferrers High School.

With many students never experiencing hard ball cricket before it was an invaluable experience for them as they got to grips with the equipment and structure of a competitive match.

We'll look forward to completing many more fixtures next year, keep on practising this summer everyone!





## Essex Handicap Golf Championship. 5<sup>th</sup> July 2021

Five students from Year 10 headed to Colne Valley Golf Club to represent the Academy in the County competition. Despite the 51 strong field we're delighted to announce that Louis G was rewarded with second place overall with 38 points from his 18-hole round.

Special thanks to Burnham on Crouch Golf Cadets Section for all their work with our youngsters.



Many thanks to the PE Department for their continued dedication and flexibility in delivering the best PE enrichment programme possible at ORA!

With special thanks to Stuart Brewer who has given up many hours of his own time to drive the minibus ensuring our students arrive and return safely.



## Make Yourself Heard

Over Spring and Summer Term, KS3 students were given the opportunity to participate in OAT's Make Yourself Heard Challenge. The *Make Yourself Heard* competition is part of the language programme which gives teachers the opportunity to take language in a different direction, teaching students how to use words most effectively. The competition was opened to all OAT academies.

Students were given the task of writing and performing a 3-minute TED Talk on a subject they were passionate about while considering things such as projection of the voice, eye contact, intonation and effective language - all elements that make up a good speech. Our entries included the following topics: 'Why reading is important', 'Exercise and the benefits it has on mental health' and 'accessibility in the arts'.

Our Year 7 student, Lenny Rush, was selected to attend the virtual final, the competition was stiff with lots of excellent entries from across the OAT academies network.



However, we are very proud to share that Lenny has been named the overall, national winner! His speech on accessibility within the arts industry was personal, engaging and relevant.

Very well done to all involved!

## Year 12 Biology Masterclass

On 20th May all of the Year 12 biology class had a masterclass with Isabelle Osuch and Lewis Bell. Both hold a PhD in Molecular and Cellular Biology. Isabelle now works as a research scientist for GSK and Lewis is a patent attorney (for medical research patents). The world-class scientists discussed their careers to date and on working within the scientific community in general with our students. This was an exciting opportunity for students interested in pursuing a career in science to talk to professionals involved in the field.





## Dora Love

Dora Love Club have been amazing and finished filming their final piece for the Dora Love Project which aims to highlight the social injustice that certain groups experience within communities around the world with reference to the Holocaust.

This is a huge achievement these students have worked on this project since October 2020 and throughout the lockdown in Spring.

Dora Love, a Holocaust survivor, spent much of her life raising awareness that the attitudes which made the Holocaust possible.

Dora Love died on 26 October 2011, but the Dora Love Prize continues her work.

It is awarded each year for the best Holocaust awareness project by an individual pupil or group of pupils of a school in Essex or Suffolk – primary, secondary or sixth-form college.



The prize goes to the project which expresses best that which was most important to Dora Love: 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.

The ORA's contribution this year was titled 'Hope' you can see the final piece on our school website.

Congratulations to all the students and staff involved, you should all be very proud.

## Year 9 Work Experience Week 5th -9th July 2021

Our students were not able to go out on work experience this year, so we brought work experience into school.



Each day Year 9's worked in a different department of the Ormiston Academies Trust, including; finance, estates, education, HR and Marketing. Tasks included, planning an awards ceremony, writing an assembly,

Mock Job Interviews, CV bingo and looking at what a CV looks like, designing and writing a new eco-policy for the academy, along with live Q and A session from the employees at OAT every afternoon, where students can have their questions answered. We hope to have Year 10 and 12 students going out on Work Experience next year in the summer term.



## Careers

Throughout this year an external member of the OAT academies trust, Louise Brazier, has been attending the school to complete one to one careers interviews with individual Year 10 and 11 students. During these interviews the careers adviser discussed the student's ambitions and helped them explore the progress they had made, or would have to make, in order to achieve these goals. The adviser also fed back to staff if there were any students did not have an intended destination, this allowed staff to intervene and provide these students with more focussed guidance and additional support.

During a guidance interviews the careers adviser helped students to;

- identify personal qualities and skills
- identify skills they would like to develop
- come up with ideas for study and work
- explore specific career areas open to them
- explore current and future job opportunities
- understand the process of job search, writing a CV and going for interviews
- explore their interests, likes and dislikes, family influences, personal barriers and work experience
- think about how study, work experience, and home-life can all contribute to your employability





Benefits of a guidance interview;

- increased motivation and self- confidence
- greater self-awareness
- identification of more achievable ambitions
- improved decision-making skills
- increased awareness of opportunities

### Science Booster Sessions

Science booster sessions for year 9 and year 10 have been covering some of the more difficult concepts in our science curriculum each week. We have reinforced student knowledge over the year, focusing on vital skills such as maths and rearranging formulas and recalling the difficult facts needed to excel at GCSE science. We have practiced exam questions and encouraged students of a wide range of abilities to engage with science content. We have provided an environment where students can explore their interest in science. I am incredibly grateful to all the students who have attended this year. - Mr Dawson





## Accelerated Reader; Around the World in 80 Days Competition

Students in Years 7 and 8 took part in the Library Reading Challenge to read books and pass Accelerated Reader quizzes during the 80 days from 12th April to 30th June 2021. There were word count targets to travel to different countries such as 50,000 to Asia and 500,000 to Australia.

We are excited to announce that 243 students took part in the challenge and 17 achieved over half a million words!

Well done to everyone who participated - certificates and prizes were presented to all participants.



## Oundle School Scholarship

We are so proud of Jessica who is through to the next round of the Ormiston Academies @oundleschool scholarship for Sixth Form studies. To make it through to the final 8 is a wonderful achievement, we are wishing you the best of luck for the next stage in September.







### Pride Month - June 2021

As a school we support diversity and equality in our community and were proud to support Pride month in June. As part of this students had assemblies on Pride and LGBTQ+ rights, plus our Equality and Pride clubs promoted equality topics through their year groups. Alongside this, students were encouraged to show their support and join in celebrating Pride month by wearing a multicoloured accessory on Friday 25th June.



## House Results 2021

Over the year there has been a variety of opportunities for students to take part in House competitions which earn points for their Houses. The competitions have ranged from individual competitions in History and Art to more recent team competitions in PE.



In combination with the competitions, students have also received merit points from their classroom teachers. Merits can be awarded for a range of reasons such as kindness, exceptional effort towards classwork or home learning.



Competitions included football, dodgeball, postcard competitions in French and a cooking competition. We endeavoured to include a broad range of topics and interests in order to provide opportunities for a range of students to represent their Houses in different events.







Each event was a roaring success and everyone involved should be very proud for representing their Houses so enthusiastically and to such high standards.

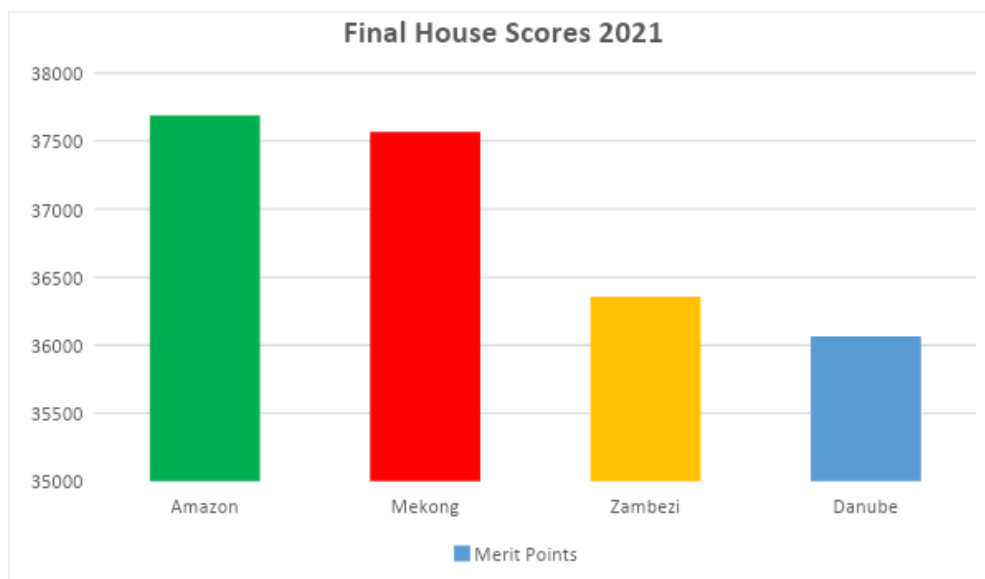


However, this term has concluded the competition for the academic year with all the Houses in the Academy battling for the House Cup.

After 23 competitions, endless accounts of outstanding effort and work in class as well as attendance at extracurricular clubs, it was indeed **AMAZON** that retained their crown from 2019 – congratulations!!



The scores couldn't have been closer though and **Mekong** only narrowly missed out on the title by only 122 points.



Well done to each and every single student for their involvement, we can't wait to get started again in September!



## National Theatre Connections

Miss Goodfellow, and a dedicated group of Sixth Form dramatists, performed their National Theatre Connections project live on stage Friday 18<sup>th</sup> June at the Queens Theatre, Hornchurch. 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. The play this year was titled *Like There's No Tomorrow*, it concerns climate change which many of our Sixth Formers are passionate about.



Huge congratulations to our AMAZING students who performed. Many of our Sixth Form Drama students are hoping to progress to Drama degrees; this opportunity will facilitate and enhance their applications!







## Alumni

We are pleased to announce the launch of our school alumni. The ORA Alumni is open to all former students who attended Ormiston Rivers Academy or St Peters school. We would like to hear from any past students to celebrate their success and progress since leaving the school. We aim to make a community who are involved in school events. If you would like to join the alumni please go to the school website in the Our academy section. The alumni page is in the Community sub section.

<https://ormistonriversacademy.co.uk/our-academy/community/alumni>

## Enrichment Provision

With the restrictions lifting, we are all looking forward to September and re-starting our many clubs, sports fixtures, house competition's and much more. 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.