

This year we have continued to strive to provide a wide range of opportunities for students to develop their interests, embark on new endeavours and experience cultural opportunities. It continues to be our aim to ensure that every student at the Academy is supported to take part in enrichment and to develop key skills and characteristics.

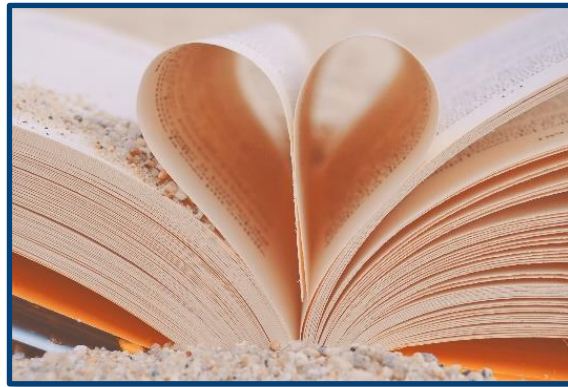
Remembrance Day

On 11th November the whole school took time to pay their respects to serving military personnel both past and present and to remember the sacrifices that have been made so that we can live our lives free today. Students who are members of the local cadet forces and Brownies took part in a parade and accompanied by our Vice Principal, Dijana Prialic, laid a wreath to commemorate the occasion. The school community paused for a 2 minute silence at 11am.



No Pens Day

On No Pens Day, our entire cohort of students spent their lessons learning through talk. The focus was on developing the debating and oracy skills and developing their listening skills too. This kick started some healthy conversations and debates and has allowed students to continue to understand the importance of talk in their learning.



National Poetry Day

On National Poetry Day, every lesson celebrated poetry in some way; in ICT students created poems based on their learning and in English they explored meaning created through poetry. At lunch and break, students took part in poetry workshops, creating their own poems. Students enjoyed this and said that the poetry was "fun and exciting to create"!



Children in Need day

On 19th November we held a non-uniform day to raise money for Children in Need. It is an important aim for our school to continue to support both national and local charities, especially as the past few years have been so difficult for them in terms of raising money for their causes. Students rallied behind the day with a range of colourful outfits, donating via ParentPay in order to partake. The canteen also produced a range of mouth-watering treats from cake to waffles with ice-cream with all profits going to Children in Need.

Elite Scholar Programme

In November we re-launched of our “Elite Scholar Programme” for both Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4 students. The programme is not intended just for the highest academic achievers, but rather to encourage all students to strive for their own excellence, to have high aspirations for themselves and their futures, and to understand that achievement and success require hard work, dedication, and a commitment to “going the extra mile”.

It was a delight to read the applications from students who applied for the programme, and I am certain that the 86 students across both Key Stages will achieve magnificent things going forwards.

Key aims for the programme are:

- We want students to attend the best universities.
- We aim for the highest grades we can achieve.
- We want to have access to any career we choose.
- We will make a difference in the lives of others now, and in the future.
- We are prepared to go extra mile because we know dreams don't work unless we do.

Students are meeting once per week and working on specific project. Next year we are going to arrange a University trip and undertake in-school projects as well as work in the community. We will be holding careers meetings for students to get more familiar and aware of different career paths.

If you have any queries regarding this programme, please contact Mr Madajczyk, Assistant Principal, on: rmadajczyk@ormistonriversacademy.co.uk

Senior Mathematics Challenge

At the beginning of November two of our Sixth form students have successfully progressed to the next stage of the prestigious “Senior Mathematics Challenge”. This is an annual competition, organised and run by the University of Leeds, where Sixth Form students from schools across the UK are invited to participate in a university level mathematics challenge. The responses are then evaluated and the top 5% of students are selected to proceed to the next stage. This is the first time that Ormiston Rivers Academy has participated in this event, so it is fantastic that, not only have two of our students progressed to the next stage, but that 3 other students achieved Silver, and a further 8 achieved Bronze. Very well done to all involved. I would also like to give a special mention to Ellen in Year 11, who also participated in the challenge “unofficially” a year early, and performed exceptionally well.

As always we endeavour to give all students the best possible opportunities and experiences, and we never cease to be amazed at what they continue to achieve; they are truly inspirational.



We have been very fortunate and grateful to have been able to run our numerous school clubs, trip and enrichment activities in person this term. The in school clubs proved very popular, we had a wide variety on offer this term and hope to run additional clubs in the Spring.

Debate Club

Over the past term, students in the debate club have been working on preparing defence and prosecution arguments for the Young Citizen's Mock Trial that is coming up in March.

"Debate club is underrated; we work hard to explore different mind-sets and different beliefs."

"I very much enjoy debate club because it is a fun, energetic and stimulating environment where we learn about each other's opinions." - Finley A - Year 10

Environmental & Ecological group



Children learn a lot about themselves and others through volunteering. Even the youngest of children can make a difference. By choosing a project and following it through, children develop a sense of accomplishment. Whether planting flowers or planning ways to save water, students can see the results of their hard work and have the satisfaction of knowing they are making a difference.

Clubs that focus on volunteer work encourage developing leadership skills, problem-solving skills, setting and achieving goals, working in teams, and communication skills.

Extra-curricular Clubs

Academic clubs recognize children's academic achievements and give students the opportunity to explore an academic area in more depth.

Groups that focus on math, science, and computers, for example, encourage leadership skills while helping students learn to work as a team. They are also place for kids to meet like-minded friends who share their passion for certain subjects and learning. Our subject based clubs Include; Digital media & school magazine club, Drama club, French film & TV club & Choir.



STEAM and Computing Club



On Wednesdays after school, students are creating projects of their own for various challenges.

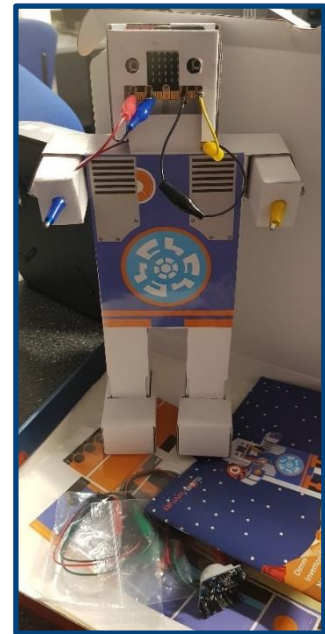
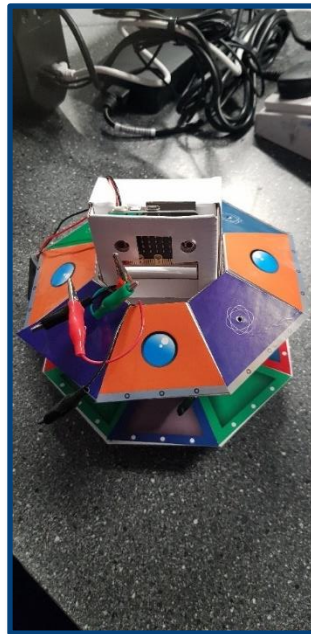
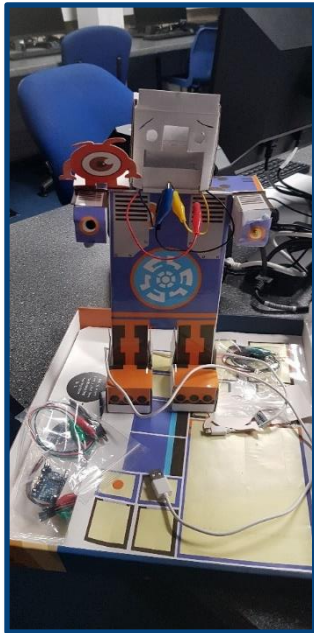
One of the challenges is for STEMFEST which is organised by the Ormiston Academies Trust, students need to come up with an idea that will solve a real-world problem. Some of the problems addressed by the students are homelessness and the impact of transport. Students needed to research into an issue and then create a short film describing how they would help solve it. Students will use some of their ideas to also take part in the Teen Tech Challenge that finishes in March and also addresses real world problems.

TEENTECH®

Anglian Ruskin University has also invited us to take part in a Fresh Air Project in conjunction with the Chelmsford Society of Engineering and Science (CSES) this will start in the new year, we have been allocated STEM ambassadors to help the students.

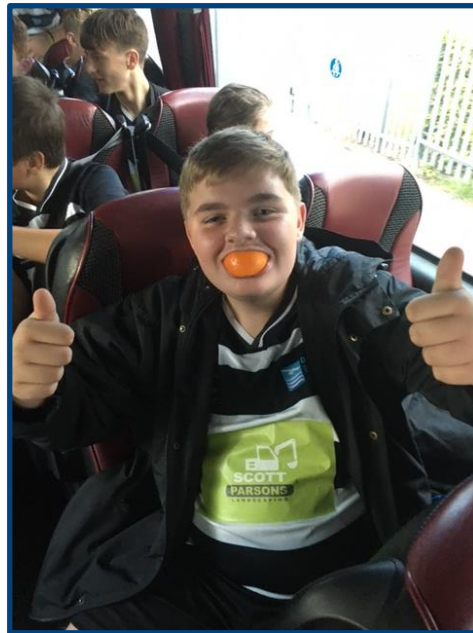
Students have also been building Lego Mindstorms to then learn how to program them as well as using Microbits to make various games using Visual code. Some students have attempted building Binary Bots and Space Ships, which they also do on Monday Lunchtime

Once completed they will then program the Microbits to make lights and sounds happen! We have a mix of year 7, 8, 9 and 10 students attend both clubs- Room for more!



Sports Clubs

Sports give children a chance to engage in physical activity, make friends, develop skills, learn teamwork, and build self-esteem. Our sports clubs this term have included; Badminton, Rugby (girls and boys), Football (girls and boys), Netball, Basketball, Weights room, Elite Dance and Hockey.



Sporting Success this term;

- Essex Rugby Festival U15's - won 2 games against St Clere's and William Edwards and drew one against St. Thomas Moore in the first round of the festival.
- The first round of the Essex Cup sees us drawn against the Brentwood School in January, watch this space for those results.
- National Cup -Year 10 are the first year group to represent the school in the National Cup. Sadly, we lost 17-12 to Bishops Stortford despite our team's sterling effort.
- **54 fixtures due to be completed by Christmas. Thank you to everyone involved in that - particularly the PE staff.**



- Callum Clarke was our strongest finisher in the District Cross Country with a 13th place finish in the inter boys category. Isla Goulding was our strongest girl with a 32nd place finish in a field of over 150 runners.
- Congratulations to Blake Winfield who will be representing the district football team for a third year running.
- Well done to the Year 9 girls netball team for a combative and successful season so far. They are setting the standard for other year groups to aspire to.
- We're very proud of our student, Harrison Crowther, after he qualified for the Karting World Champs in Bahrain after a 4th place finish in the British Championships.
- Massive congratulations to Amy Meeten for being accepted into the West Ham Academy for football.



Community outreach

This year we have formed a Community Outreach Committee as part of our student leadership opportunities. The Committee is led by Miss Victory and Liam Morrow from the Sixth Form Leadership team. Representatives from all year groups have become members of the Committee. We are proud to be working with two amazing charities and to be supporting their important work in the Dengie. Our first charity is Bankthefood.org which is a charity aimed at supporting the local food banks. They have designed an app to allow people to get up-to-date information about the food required each week by the food banks. They have been trialling the app for Dengie Food Pantry and we are going to be running the app for them. We also aim to become a donation point from January. Our second charity is the Essex Dementia Alliance. We are working with them to set up an intergenerational project and to become a Dementia friendly school.

Cookery Club



The Year 7 and 8 cookery club has provided a valuable and sociable opportunity for students to continue developing their cookery skills this term.

Students have cooked a variety of dishes in the after school club including banana and honey breakfast loaf, fruity curry, Swiss roll, risotto, mini Christmas cakes and gingerbread houses. Each week the students have gained independence and resilience to solve problems as they arise and improved their confidence in the kitchen while also developing their skills in communication and teamwork.



All students who took part in the club this term have received a "masterchef" badge for their efforts. Well done all!

Mrs C Hyde



Year 7 trip to see Beauty & The Beast pantomime

Year 7 students had a magical afternoon at The Civic Theatre watching Beauty & The Beast. The show was packed with witty humour, energetic audience participation, water guns and even a star role for our very own Mr Anderson. Year 7 have been studying the genre of pantomime in their drama lessons this half term, and this production has had a positive effect on their practical assessments this week. We want to congratulate students for their wonderful behaviour and for spreading Christmas cheer!



Sadlers Wells Nutcracker

The Year 11 dance class took a trip into the city to the home of dance, Sadlers Wells. The streets of Angel and the theatre itself were glistening with Christmas spirit and our dancers sported festive jumpers themselves. Matthew Bourne is arguably the most successful British choreographer ever and students study him and his work in Year 10. His Christmas performances sell out each year and this year was no exception for his adaptation of The Nutcracker! It was a fabulous evening shared by both students and Mrs Wilkins and Miss Dallard (Team Dance). We look forward to bringing the year 10 class next year!

Year 11 and 12 Drama

In October the KS 4 and 5 Drama students went to The National Theatre on London's Southbank to watch their latest production of Ayub Khan-Din's East is East. The play is both laugh out loud funny and tragically thought provoking, making the students both laugh and cry. The students really enjoyed the trip and can't wait for the next one.

Careers

Careers masterclasses have commenced again. This half term students have had talks from a cardiology Doctor, medical scientists and the construction industry.



Year 10, 11, 12 and 13 have had awareness Assemblies from AIM Apprenticeships and Year 13 a follow up session on how to apply and where to find degree apprenticeships.




Year 10 and 12 have been given the opportunity to do a Work Experience week in the summer next year and are being encouraged to find their own placements.

Today's programme:

10 – 10.15am	Welcome
10.15 – 10.45am	Interview skills with Katie Doran (School Engager, AIM Group)
10.45 – 11am	Break
11 – 11.30am	Job Descriptions

School	11.30 – 12.00	12.00 – 12.30	12.30 – 13.00
Notley High School	Campus Tour	Group Mock Interview (MAR104)	CV Writing (SAL004)
The Appleton School	CV Writing (SAL004)	Campus Tour	Group Mock Interview (MAR104)
Ormiston Rivers Academy	Group Mock Interview (MAR104)	CV Writing (SAL004)	Campus Tour



The Raising Aspirations Programme with Anglia Ruskin University is underway with years 10-13 participating in University campus tours and monthly mentoring sessions from the University.

Elevate Education Workshops - Sixth Form

On the 21st September our Year 12 & 13 Students attended 'Study Sensei' & 'Ace your exams' workshops, provided by Elevate Education <https://uk.elevateeducation.com/>. Elevate's study skills workshops and seminars are designed to achieve behavioural change amongst students. It isn't enough that students simply understand what they need to do in their study: the challenge in any study skills programme is getting students to use and apply the skills they learn.

The Study Sensei seminar covers:

- Utilising the syllabus to frame study
- Structuring and reviewing organised notes
- Conceptual learning to develop deep understanding
- Utilising practice exam papers
- Standing out through independent learning

The Ace Your Exams seminar covers:

- Highest value exam preparation tasks
- Fixing mistakes to ensure constant improvement
- Time allocation during exam preparation
- Techniques for managing stress & time pressure in exams

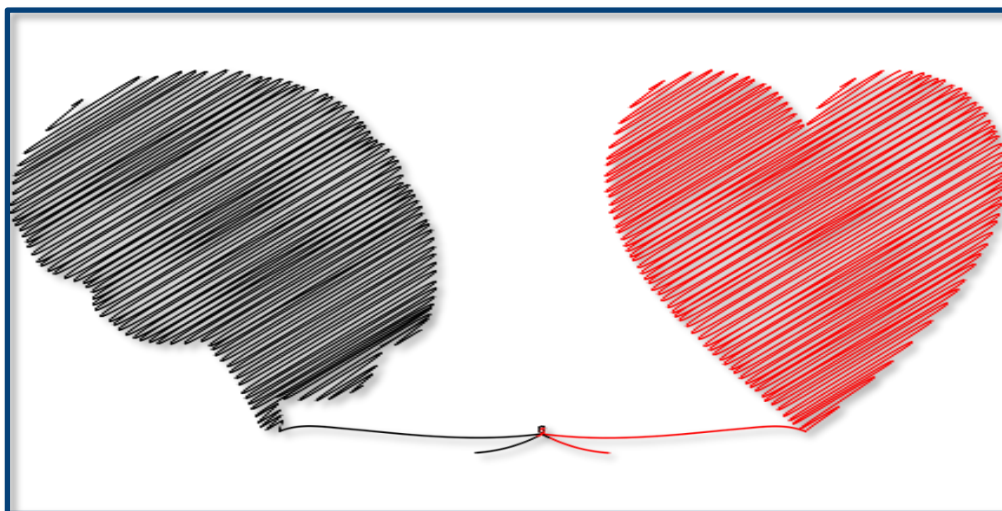


Year 9 PSHE

Earlier this term we had Chelmsford City Theatre's production of 'R4J' come into school. This was a modern dress, abridged version of Shakespeare's Romeo and Juliet. The modern dress allowed the students to see the themes of youth violence and knife crime within the play that are relevant to them as a contemporary audience. This performance was accompanied by a workshop led by KeepIt100 who spoke to the students about their own experiences of knife crime. This was really powerful and made the students reflect on their own choices and friendships.

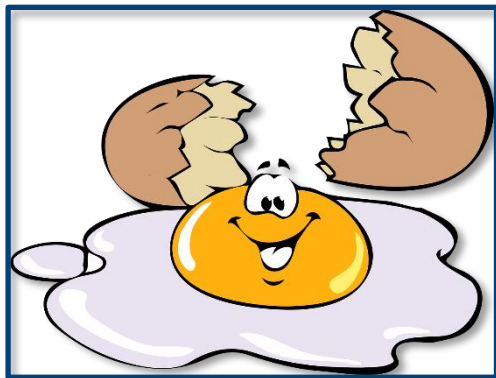
Mental Health Awareness Day

On the 8th of October the SSA team brought students together to recognise Mental Health week. A stall was set up in student reception with information of mental health services and posters. Students were encouraged to write a promise to themselves how they will support their own or friend's mental health. Students wrote messages like "I will go for a walk everyday" "I will eat and sleep better" "I will ask how my friends are doing" and so on. Over 100 messages were wrote and covered a display board within student reception. Every student who wrote a message received a packet of love heart sweets to spread kindness to all. Students were buzzing in reception and really enjoyed writing the messages. Students were also asked to write messages to their teachers if they would like to make their day. This showed that appreciation for adults can have a positive impact on their mental health and when they spread kindness they will feel good too.



House Update December 2021

Starting back into the new school year we have been able to offer 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 English, History and Art to team competitions in PE and Science.

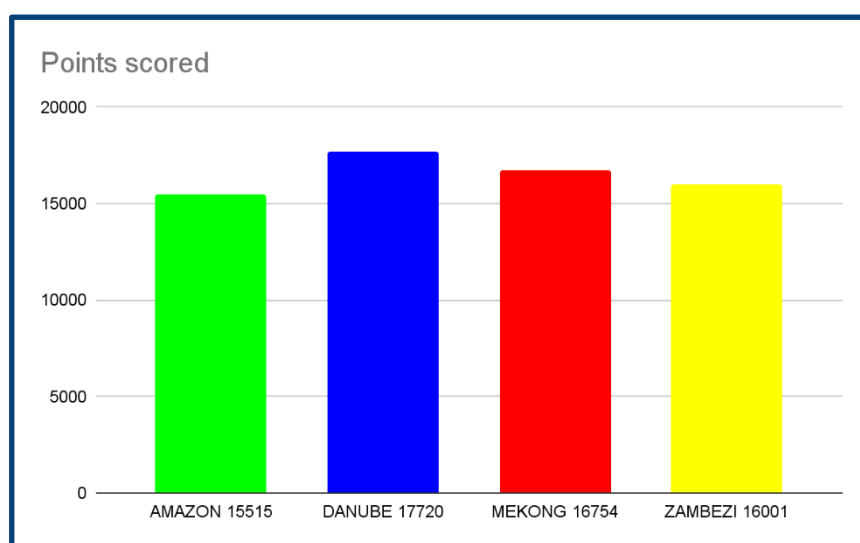


In combination with the competitions, students have also received merit points from their classroom teachers. Merits can be awarded for a range of reasons such as kindness, exceptional effort towards classwork or home learning.

Competitions included European Day of Languages Quiz, Design the Programme Cover for Grease, Spooktacular stories, Egg Drop Parachute

competition and Bebras. We endeavour 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.

House points total to date;



Well done to each and every single student for their involvement so far, we can't wait to get started again in January with our upcoming competitions;

CyberFirst Girls
3D Cell Model
Digestion Story

Christmas lunch and Christmas jumper day reminder.

On Wednesday 15th December students celebrated Christmas by having Christmas dinner. The canteen staff did an amazing job providing a fantastic meal for students. Staff served the students and everyone had a fantastic time.

Our final day of term is 17th December and we will be supporting Save The Children charity by holding a Christmas jumper day. Donations can be made by via your online ParentPay account.

