



This year we continue to introduce more activities and extra-curricular experiences for all year groups, in order to ensure that they have as wide and rich an educational journey as possible. Our extra-curricular programme is designed to strengthen and support our students' learning experiences.

AlterEgo Creative Solutions

Monday 9th January, we kicked off our new year's enrichment programme by welcoming a visiting theatre group; "AlterEgo Creative Solutions", who will deliver a performance to our Year 9 students, aimed at raising awareness, kick-starting conversations and promoting cultural change around Sexism, Sexual Harassment and Sexual Violence.

Details of our PSHE curriculum can be found [here](#) for KS3 and [here](#) for KS4 and KS5.



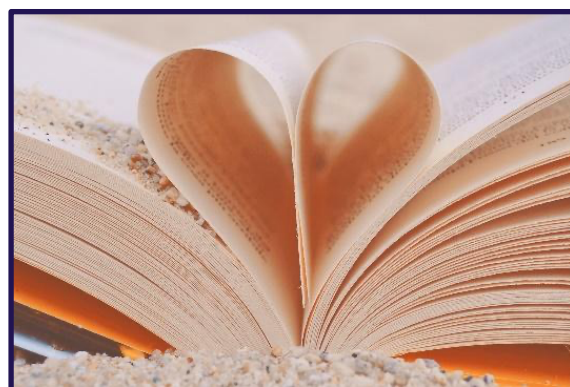
Sixth Form

Our Sixth Form Parents' Evening was held in January and was well attended. We also saw the introduction of our Sixth Form Rewards scheme, designed to recognise students' efforts, independence and activities above and beyond the taught curriculum.



Word Multi-Millionaire

Week beginning 14th Jan saw our first student "Word Multi-Millionaire", as part of our Accelerated Reader Programme. Well done to Keira in Year 8 for this achievement.



Blind date with a Book



Students were invited to select a "mystery" book, based just on the general theme and a short description. They were encouraged to read the book and then submit a short review "Rate your date". All entries were entered into a weekly draw with a chance to win some Amazon vouchers. This initiative was introduced to encourage students to try a range of different books to expand their reading.

World Book Day

Several imaginative activities took place, including "Dress a potato as a character", "Judge a book by it's cover", "Share your favourite book" and "Pets reading books". In addition, Year 8 student, Lenny conducted an online interview with author Joanna Nadin.



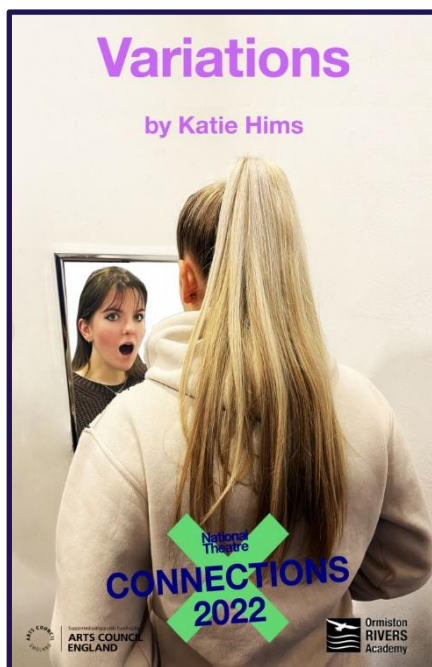


Jack Petchey Speak Out Challenge

The workshops give our Year 10 students the opportunity to develop their oracy and debating skills and to express their opinions on a wide variety of topics. The programme culminates in the Grand Final event, usually held at a West End theatre. Students share inspiring, thought-provoking and uplifting speeches to an audience of a thousand people and a prestigious panel of judges, and stand a chance to win a significant cash prize for themselves and their school.



National Theatre Connections



Students from a range of year groups worked together to create a truly impressive finished piece; "Variations" by Katie Hims as part of The National Theatre Connections project. Their effort, commitment and talent was clear for all to see, and was thoroughly enjoyed by all those that attended the performance in March this year. They went on to perform at The Queen's Theatre, Hornchurch, on 6th April, and I hope that many of you were able to attend to support our students and enjoyed a great show.





Elite Scholar Programme

In January our key stage 3 Elite scholars were given the task of preparing a presentation around the topic "The freedom of speech", and delivered their presentations to their peers. The standard of these was extraordinary, and all of the students involved should be extremely proud. The topics and styles of the presentations varied widely, from discussion and debate around LGBTQ+ issues, the creation of posters and resources drawing attention to racism and equal rights, to the creation of an entire song, which was then delivered by the group.



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

Mathematics Challenge

Our Year 10 and 11 students undertook the Intermediate Maths Challenge this week. This is a national competition organised by the University of Leeds, which encourages students to use mathematical reasoning, precision of thought and fluency to solve interesting mathematical problems. Students who achieve the highest scores progress on to the International Maths challenge going forwards. Our students' efforts and hard work was rewarded with 27 Bronze and 11 Silver awards, and 3 students qualified to go on to the national "Pink Kangaroo" challenge – the highest-level Key Stage 4 challenge for all students across the U.K.

OAT Awards

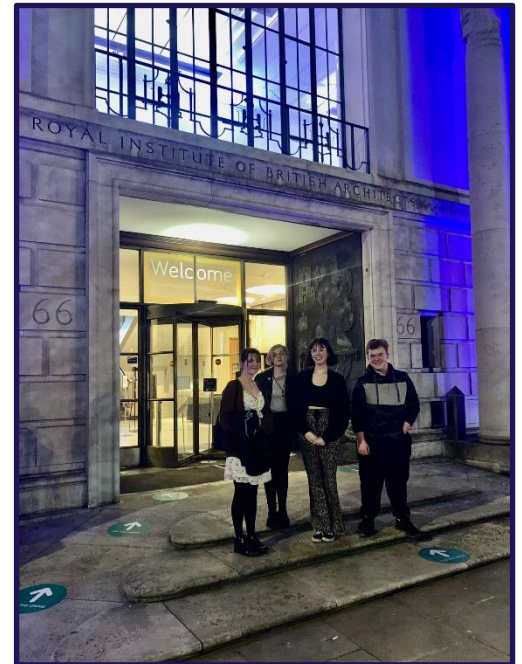


We were delighted that our students were successful in two categories at the OAT Annual Awards – "Budding Linguist" for Emily Welton in Year 13, and "The Eco Award" for our amazing student Environmental Group. These are fantastic achievements, as they were up against nominations from the entire OAT family of 40+ schools. Emily was nominated as a result of her significant achievements and dedication to languages. She began to independently study Korean in Year 8 and quickly developed a real passion for the language.



She is also currently studying French at A Level, and has received university offers to continue her study of Korean, alongside non-specialist Japanese.

Several members of the cast of Grease were thrilled to be invited to perform at the annual OAT Awards at the RIBA in London. Students performed a medley of songs from our up and coming musical and were an absolute credit to the school, showcasing their talent, professionalism and our values as a school.



Environmental & Ecological group

In January our Environmental Group participated in the National Garden Bird Watch, run by the RSPB.

Our Environmental Group have continued to work hard this week, building a bug hotel and clearing rubbish from the wild meadow and pond area, ready for future refurbishment.





The student Environmental Group were nominated for the OAT awards because of their relentless drive and determination to raise awareness and effect real change in terms of all things “environmental”. They have successfully installed planters throughout the school grounds, have created a rain garden, cleared the kitchen garden in preparation for growing produce to share with the local community, and are currently designing a wellbeing garden and an outside quiet reading area.

Sporting Success this term;

- Well done to the Year 10 boys football team who have qualified for the semi-final of the Mid Essex Cup. We're waiting to see who our opponents will be as we bid to make the finals for the first time in the Academy's history.
- We'd also like to congratulate the Year 10 rugby team for their incredible season. They have been the Academy's first Year group to be entered into the National and Essex Cup. They also finished their league campaign with 3 wins from 4 in the Mid Essex League.
- Mid Essex athletic trials.
- Numerous students from years 8, 9, 10 and 11 will represent the Academy at the Mid Essex trials on the 12th May. Should they qualify, they'll represent Mid Essex at the Essex Championships later in the summer. Best of luck to them!





Theatre Trips

In February a group of Year 10 and Sixth Form Drama students enjoyed a trip to The Bridge Theatre on London's South Bank to see Philip Pullman's acclaimed "The Book of Dust", the trip was thoroughly enjoyed by all.



Our A Level drama students have been fortunate to have been able to experience two shows; 'Five Characters in search of a good night's sleep' at the Southwark Playhouse in London. And 'Daddy' at the Almeida theatre in Islington. It was a fabulous evening shared by both students and Ms Goodfellow.

Careers Fair

Our Careers Fair was held in March and aimed to guide and support students in their future choices, introducing them to the many opportunities available to them. This was very well attended and enjoyed by all involved. We hope that those who attended found this event helpful and informative, and that we aim to hold many more in the future.





Duke of Edinburgh

Here at ORA we are proud to provide the opportunity for our students to participate in the Bronze, Silver and Gold levels of the Duke of Edinburgh (DofE) award.

"Young people's education, mental health and social lives have been massively affected by the pandemic, with those experiencing marginalisation hardest hit. Non-formal educational opportunities like the DofE, which are open to all young people, are needed now more than ever. They offer young people the chance to develop vital skills, confidence and resilience to help them take on challenges and fulfil their potential." DofE Website



Our Duke of Edinburgh students have enjoyed getting back into the swing of the programme and are preparing for their practice and full expeditions in the Summer term.

Honours Assemblies

At the end of term we hold our Honours assemblies for every year group, to celebrate students' individual successes and efforts in relation to our core AIRR values of Aspiration, Independence, Resilience and Respect. The Principal attends each assembly to give out the awards and to congratulate our students on their superb achievements and attitudes; something that we genuinely encourage and applaud. A huge well-done to all students that received these honours.

