



From plotting graphs to plotting victory

Dear Parents and Carers

Welcome to another packed edition of @Oakwood. We have had a number of memorable events this term. World Book Day was excellent, many congratulations to Mrs Buckley and the students who participated in The Tempest Shakespeare School Festival, and the Careers Evening was also an excellent event. The photo above shows the enormous number of students gaining awards in the recent maths competitions. Well done to all involved. These are a few highlights and thank you to the Publicity Team for faithfully reporting them.

I hope you enjoy this edition.

Mr K.W. Moody - Headteacher

STRIVE

AND

SERVE

Following national careers week, Oakwood has set out a multitude of opportunities for our young people to network with employers, contact local businesses and get a head start on their futures.

On Friday the 8th of March, all sixth formers attended the annual Maidstone apprenticeship Fair where a profusion of businesses- both local and nationwide- united at Mote Park leisure centre to offer a range of apprenticeships, degrees and prospective careers. From medicine to finance to construction; the diversity of employment sectors was incredible.

Not only do companies value educational attainment, but networking also plays a substantial role in potential placements and employments, and Oakwood consistently shares opportunities with students to secure these types of skills and the opportunities to display them. So, whether you're looking for employment, apprenticeships or university- networking is the stepping stone. (Remember- "it's not what you know, it's who you know")





Platforms like LinkedIn are fantastic tools for networking as you can see the criteria and essential qualifications, or experience needed for your dream job. It also allows you to contact employers and tradespeople in your desired sector of employment; meaning that you can directly request work experience or advice from the experts!

Another fantastic event arranged for our young people was the careers evening on Thursday the 14th of March. Open to both year 12 and year 13, it consisted of talks and presentations by local businesses and ex-students who returned to tell the tale of their successes, and a 'how-to' on climbing their ways up the careers ladder. Whether you're interested in media, science, economics or something completely different- there was no shortage of available professionals to guide you into that specific pathway and explain the further qualifications, experience and contacts which helped them on their journeys!



Ethan Murphy British Gymnastics Championships

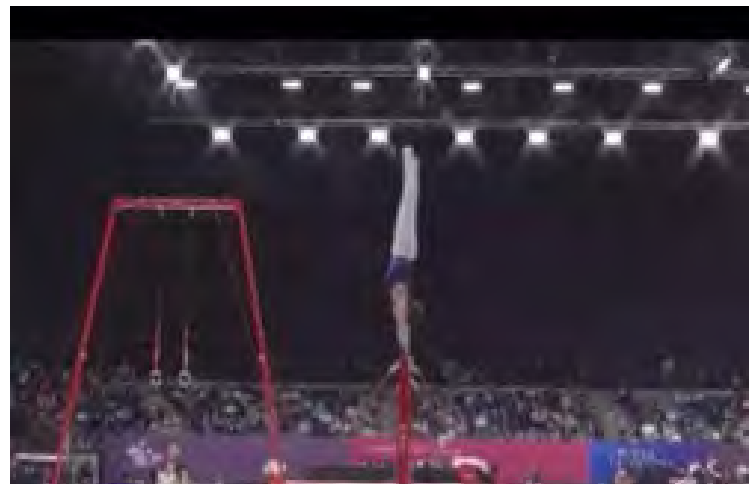
I qualified to compete at the British Gymnastics Championships in Liverpool, which took place on Friday March 16th. The competition featured the top 70 gymnasts in the U14 category, selected based on their performance in three major qualifying events. It was a thrilling opportunity for me to compete at the prestigious venue, which was the setting for the senior Olympic Games selection.

Leading up to the event, I felt confident about my overall performance. However, the first two apparatus didn't go as planned on the day of the competition. I had to gather myself and reflect on my current form to turn my performance around. Despite the initial setbacks, I was able to showcase my skills on the final four pieces of apparatus, which resulted in a significant improvement.

I was particularly pleased with achieving a new personal best on the floor, and my performance on the vault placed me 8th overall. While there is still room for improvement, both my coaches and I

were satisfied with my overall performance.

Looking ahead, my next steps involve working on new skills across all six apparatus and preparing for the GB grades qualifying event scheduled for November. I am determined to continue refining my technique and pushing myself to achieve even greater success in future competitions.



Leo Trandaburu- English Gymnastics Championships

On the 2nd of March I travelled to Shropshire, Telford to compete at the English Championships. On route to the competition, sadly, we hit a pot hole on the M1 and were left stranded on the motorway for two and half hours before the RAC came to change our tyre. It was getting cold and the ground was very wet, luckily it didn't rain!



Feeling hungry, we stopped in Birmingham at Nandos to eat and watch the Senior competition. Mum had bought tickets for us to watch it live, but we couldn't get there.

We arrived at the Holiday Inn at 8.20pm. I got my things ready for the following day, watched a bit of a movie to chill and went to sleep.

I woke at 6.30, ate a good breakfast and got ready for the competition. I registered at 8.15am and we started warming up at 8.30.

I started my competition on Floor and sadly it didn't go to plan. I shook off the fall I had and moved on to Pommel. I felt nervous but confident with my routine and completed it easily. I had two new skills in my Rings routine and I managed to complete them without trouble. I then moved onto Vault and performed a Handspring Front Somersault for the first time in the arena, landed it on my feet and felt a huge relief that I had done it! Next we moved to Parallel Bars, this isn't my favourite piece of apparatus, I find it quite tricky, strangely enough it was my highest scoring routine. Last piece, High Bar! In the past, this was my weakest and the piece I most feared. I have worked very hard in training to make upgrades to this particular routine and was feeling extremely confident in knowing that I could perform it. I stood under the bar, my coach lifted me up, and I started my routine. My routine included new skills

and a double somersault to land as a dismount to stick without a movement.

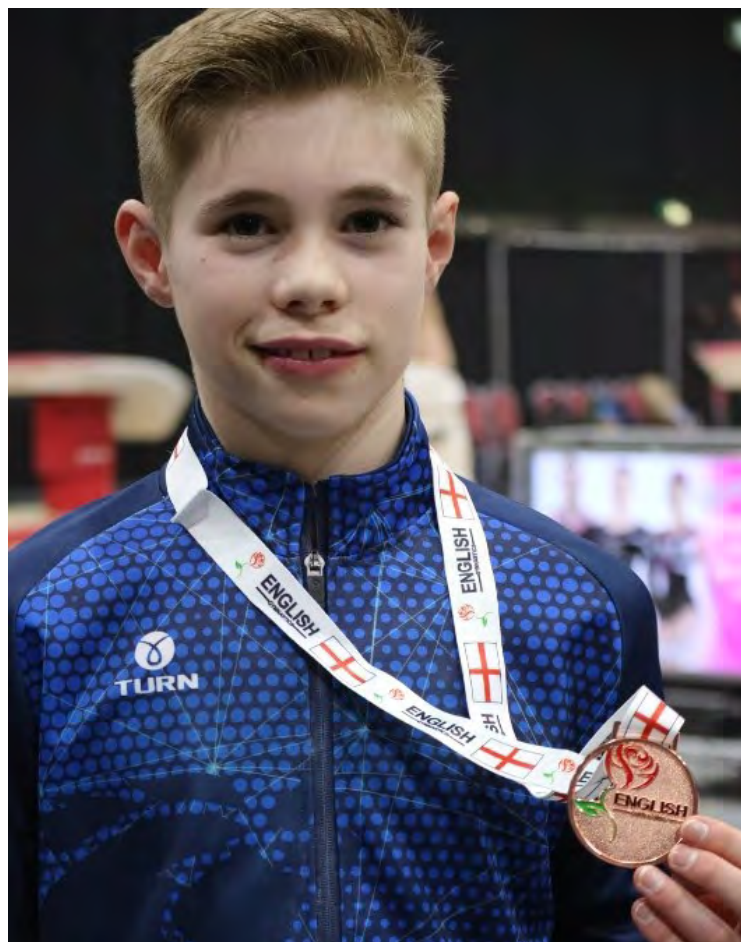
Our round of competition was over, I was in 2nd place on High Bar, another round of my age group to compete, we needed a new tyre, I was hungry but super excited that I might win a medal at my first English Championships.

A quick trip to QuickFit, who didn't have a tyre that fitted, but said we were safe to drive the 200 miles home, I was still in 2nd place! We then blind sided my dad into staying for food just in case I was to still be in medal contention.

3rd place now, someone had gone into 1st place whilst I was eating my burger! We left Wildwood and headed back to the arena for the last rotation. The boys from Leeds were on the bar, they have a good reputation! The last one landed, the scores were in and the bronze was mine!

I had worked hard, trained hard, dreamed hard and it became a reality.

Written by Leo Trandaburu – 7X



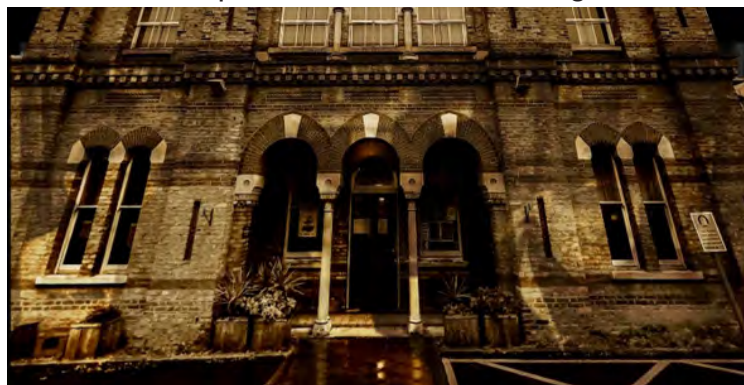


Film Club Exclusive Screenings

On Friday 1st March, students attending Film Club were treated to the private screening of Finley Armstrong, Year 13 Media Studies student, short film, *When the Lights Dim*, which he created with industry experts at the BFI workshop during October half term.

Finley himself acted and produced the thriller, and was proud to be able to exclusively exhibit it to the regularly attendees of the club, who share his enthusiasm for film. Finley plans to go onto to study Screenwriting at University.

Likewise, this spurred on another budding film maker,



Lee Selling X7 to share his homemade short horror film with us. This trailer was fraught with suspense as we learn the haunted house has already trapped his

friends and this only foreshadows his bleak ending as he approaches a tombstone at the end with dreadful anticipation. It is so fantastic to be able to showcase the talent of the students across the school in their extra curricula endeavours linked to the film industry.



Film Club's Latest Review: *Karate Kid* (1984)
Our latest feature length film was from the 1980s, the cult classic, *Karate Kid*.

Daniel LaRusso moves with his widowed mother to a new town, Reseda in LA, where he is harassed by some boys who have mastered karate. LaRusso encounters further harassment from his new bullies, one of whom is Johnny Lawrence, the ex-boyfriend of LaRusso's love interest, Ali Mills. As a result, LaRusso is taught karate by a handyman and war veteran named Mr. Miyagi to help LaRusso defend himself.

When LaRusso decides to learn karate for himself, as a form of defence, he soon learns further



life lessons Miyagi has taught him to strengthen his relationship with Ali. On LaRusso's 18th birthday, Miyagi gives him a Karate gi for the tournament and one of his own cars.

Mr Miyagi negotiates with the head of the Cobra Kai dojo, sensei John Kreese (an ex-Special Forces Veteran from Vietnam), that the members of his club will leave LaRusso alone until they have the chance to fight it out in the Under-18 All Valley Karate Championship. At the final stage of the Championship, LaRusso assumes the 'Crane' stance, a technique he had observed Mr. Miyagi performing on a beach. Lawrence lunges toward LaRusso, who jumps and executes a front kick to Lawrence's face despite his injuries accrued in the semi-finals, scoring the ultimate winning point and becoming the new champion. The film ends with LaRusso having gained newfound respect from his nemesis, Lawrence, who presents the trophy to LaRusso himself, as an enthusiastic crowd carries him on their shoulders, whilst Mr. Miyagi looks on proudly.

The Karate Kid franchise includes Part II and III, as well as The Next Karate Kid. Whilst the original film was remade in 2010 featuring Jackie Chan and Jayden Smith set in Beijing. Furthermore, the Netflix series Cobra Kai has reignited the hype of the original films with a re-examination the Miyagi-Verse narrative from Johnny Lawrence's point of view, his decision to reopen the Cobra Kai dojo, and the rekindling of his old rivalry with Daniel LaRusso. The series draws upon all of the sequels, including clips from them as flashbacks for the characters as well as the original film. The series also pays tribute to Morita, who died in 2005. Much of the original cast appears in Cobra Kai and the story continues with the feud between the old rivals' children including a fight at the arcade and their school.

grounding from Mr Miyagi's unorthodox training methods – wash the car, “wax on, wax off”, paint the fence, “up and down” - that he learns it is more of an art form. Through Mr. Miyagi's teaching, LaRusso learns both karate and essential life lessons, such as the importance of personal balance, reflected in the principle that martial arts training is as much about training the spirit as the body. LaRusso applies the



Local politics and how you can get involved:

Following an interview with Year 13 student Arek Zurawinski and his recent involvement with local and national politics.

The apathetic interest from youths in politics has become significant in recent years and we need to “kindle” this interest to ensure that we nurture the wellbeing of our community and country.

Why are youths uninterested?

It is suggested that we “don’t see the action” initiated by those in power because of the substantial divide of local and national politics, and this seems to have a pivotal effect on both voters and young people- why would we install our faith in movements or improvements should we not see the difference?

Embarking on this change:

The goal proposed by Arek is to bring local members of parliament into schools and have them explain their advances in a language native to that of the young- in a way that will resonate with them and remove the stigma of stale or aging politics. He attended a networking meeting where he met a multitude of people involved in local politics- like Kent County councillor Tom Cannon. From this he concluded that what is needed is the voice of the young people: and he intends on using his fresh perspective to rejuvenate local politics and “use the voices of the ward”. This is a supposed “first step” to incorporating politics into youth culture and educating students so that we can reconstruct this negatively labelled tattered subject into a passion for many.

“Raising a notion. Getting them in schools” is a principal focus for Arek in which he suggests that by them kindling “an interest in their local communities” they will increase the now “ridiculous” number of youths missing out on voting and having an informed understanding simply due to a lack of political awareness and education regarding local and national politics.



He believes that by connecting the powers of both local and national politics, we can strive for an “intwined voice” for the UK- providing a better future for the prospective students to come.

Maidstone Warriors Basketball Team

On Saturday 3 February at Medway Park, the U14s Kent County Junior Basketball Team played in a league full-time game where Maidstone Warriors won against Kent Panthers 46 - 31.

Theo Glee in S9 is Assistant Coach at Maidstone Warriors.

Oscar Wharton from Year 8 also plays for the team.

It was their first Full-Time game and we are really proud of them!



National Junior Indoor Rowing Championships (NJIRC) 2024

The day began with an early start, meeting at school for 7:15am. This did not bother anyone as we were all excited and ready to attend NJIRC 2024 at the Copper Box in London.

This is the first time attending the competition since 2019. With a young squad, we were all ready to compete against some of the country's best indoor rowers.

We arrived at the venue at about 9:00am. As we entered the building the squads faces were an absolute picture, they had never seen that amount of rowers in one space.

To squad took their seats for the day as we registered the team and got out race times and rower numbers for each event.



At 10:00am the races began, the excitement could be heard all around the arena. Cheers and shouts of encouragement could be heard in all corners of the venue.

It was now time for the singles and the boys heading down to the holding pen. You could tell they were excited and nervous at the same time. This was the first time for whole squad experiencing something like this. As they queued up ready to take their seats, the nerves turned to a determined focus to achieve their best for themselves and the school. 120 rowers at a time moved to the rowing machines





and after a quick warm up row the announcers asked the rowers to prepare to row. Handles poised and at the ready, eyes focussed on the screens, those three words were announced, 'Ready, Attention, Row'. With a clatter of chains and an eruption of noise the first round were off, 2 minutes of high energy, trying to row the furthest they ever had in that time. How

would they fare against the best in the country.

After an hour of exciting rowing and competition, cheers and support, the Year 7 competition had finally finished and the results were in.

Jane Salida, the OPGS coach's, words sum up just how well the squad had done in their first competition.

"I just want to add how proud I am of them all. Most of them did personal bests on the day. They supported each other well with cheering on, and for rowers that only started in October, they were amazing"

Noah Morrissey was our top scorer and highest placed student in the squad, coming an amazing 18th in the country, rowing an amazing 507m. Finnley White and Jasper Lloyd both performed amazingly as well, placing joint 34th. Whilst these students have a special mention, the whole squad achieved personal bests on the day. This is an amazing achievement and one they should all be extremely proud of. Following the official release of the results, Jane followed up her initial comments with this statement, "I smiled all day and was proud to be there as their coach".

Later in the day our lone Year 9 performer was ready to row, so with the full support of 15 OPGS rowers Matthew took his seat

The noise once again was amazing and Matthew's





determination meant he was able to finish in a respectable 113th nationally.

With the singles now over, we had a short break to take in the atmosphere and explore the venue whilst watching some of the other competitions and checking out the opponents for the second half of the day, the team rows.

With three squads for the team events the pressure was really on, will all the training pay off on the day? How will the teams perform? Will the rotations work to ensure a smooth transition between rowers. With all three teams rowing at the same time it was down to Jane and Mr Keeling-Jones to offer their support. Competing against teams who were predominantly Year 9 rowers, each team finished respectably with the best team coming 39th Nationally.

We asked Jasper, who was our most improved rower to comment on the experience and this is what he said:

“The rowing tournament in London was a thrilling experience to behold with single and team races leaving me exhausted and amazed. We all had a single race; I was one of the first to race which left a lot of time for me to understand how good my peers were when they raced as well. The stadium was an amazing place to race as there was a brilliant row of cheering and chanting for each school. Overall, I loved the entire experience with my friends and the

other representatives of Oakwood.”

It was great to finally be back at NJIRC and the squad are already looking forward to preparing for next years event. The school are so proud of this squad and hopefully the success of the team will drive others to push for a sport in the team next year. Well done to all involved.

Friday 1 March 2024

crew	event	race	lane	time	pos.
DPG Alex Allegeme Oakwood Park Grammar School	Yr 12 B	2000 meter	(11)	did not start	
DPG Nicolo Conda Oakwood Park Grammar School	Yr 7 B	2 minutes	(21)	did not start	
DPG James Crouch Oakwood Park Grammar School	Yr 7 B	2 minutes	(9)	466m	39th
DPG Adam Szatkowski Oakwood Park Grammar School	Yr 7 B	2 minutes	(19)	442m	104th
DPG Ronnie Probyn Oakwood Park Grammar School	Yr 7 B	2 minutes	(25)	461m	75th
DPG Jasper Lloyd Oakwood Park Grammar School	Yr 7 B	2 minutes	(11)	487m	36th
DPG Joseph Crawley Oakwood Park Grammar School	Yr 7 B	2 minutes	(10)	484m	46th
DPG Charlie Manning Oakwood Park Grammar School	Yr 7 B	2 minutes	(28)	453m	82nd
DPG Dariusz Golder Oakwood Park Grammar School	Yr 7 B	2 minutes	(30)	442m	104th
DPG Freelzy White Oakwood Park Grammar School	Yr 7 B	2 minutes	(5)	487m	36th
DPG Noah Morrissey Oakwood Park Grammar School	Yr 7 B	2 minutes	(10)	507m	18th
DPG Dominik Snykowski Oakwood Park Grammar School	Yr 7 B	2 minutes	(24)	467m	68th
DPG George Hughes Oakwood Park Grammar School	Yr 7 B	2 minutes	(13)	422m	134th
DPG Matthew White Oakwood Park Grammar School	Yr 9 B	4 minutes	(28)	1005m	113th
DPG Oakwood Park Grammar School B	Junior Relay B	2112 meter	(1)	08:38.9	39th
DPG Oakwood Park Grammar School A	Junior Relay B	2112 meter	(24)	09:06.2	76th
DPG Oakwood Park Grammar School C	Junior Relay B	2112 meter	(6)	09:05.8	70th

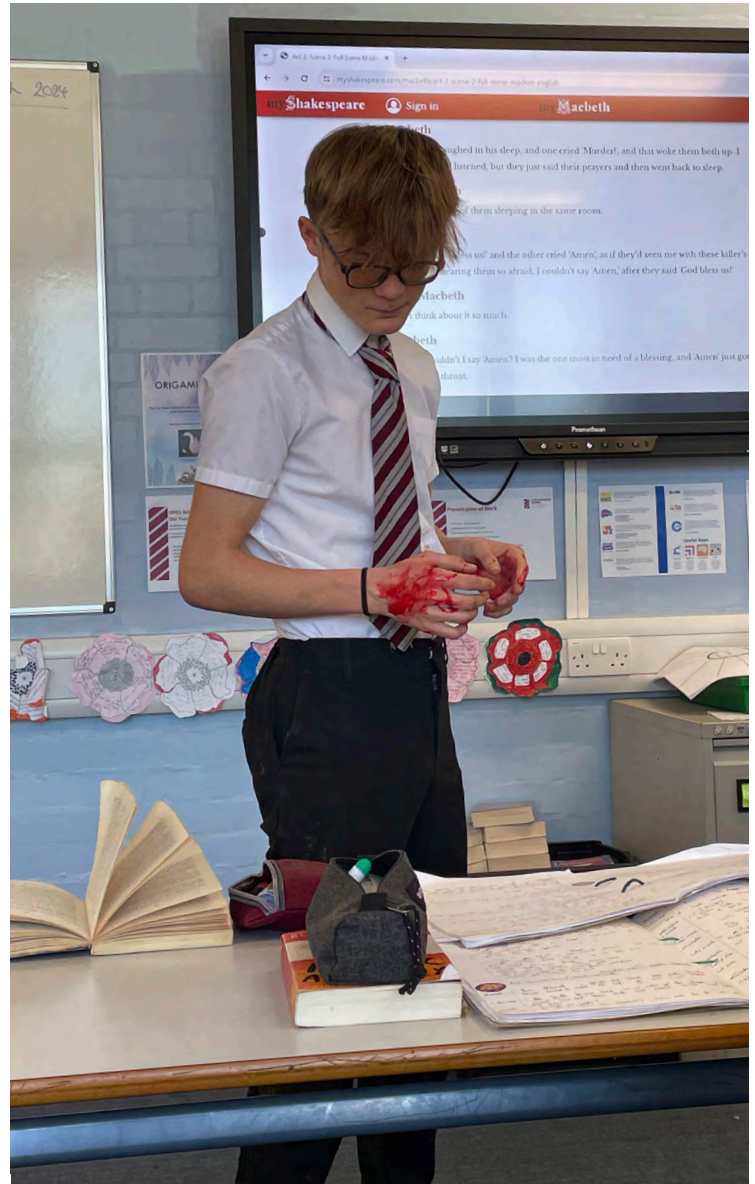
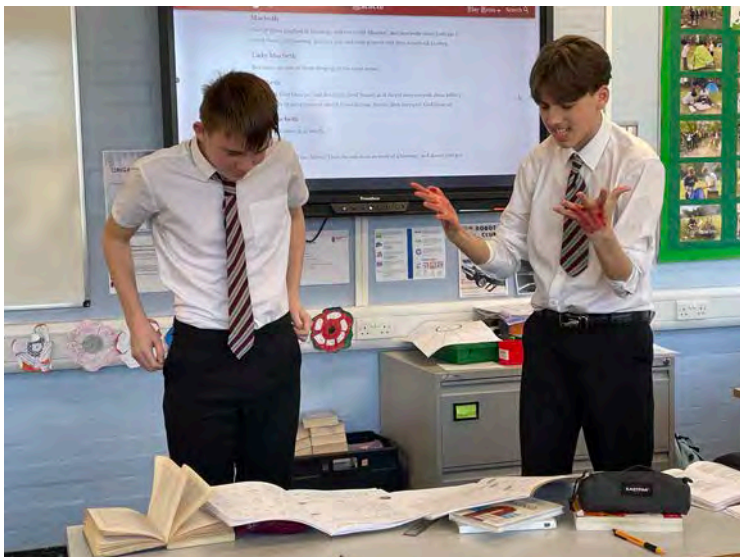
P9 became playwrights for the afternoon for which they wrote their own versions of Act 2, Scene 2 from Shakespeare's, Macbeth.

Shakespeare wanted to caution the populace against abuses of power and the instability which follows from political violence. He wrote Macbeth in support of the kingship of James I of England and James VI of Scotland, thus, Macbeth also being set in Scotland.

In this scene, Macbeth returns from murdering King Duncan, alarmed that he heard a noise. Lady Macbeth dismisses his fears and sees that he has brought the guards' daggers with him, rather than planting them at the scene of the

crime. She tells him to return the daggers but he refuses and Lady Macbeth goes to do so instead. In previous scenes, both Macbeth and Lady Macbeth have appeared resolute in their desire to kill the benevolent King Duncan and seize the throne, but in this scene, we see the first traces of guilt and regret in both characters.

A few pairs were selected to perform their pieces to the class with the addition of fake blood to give a visual representation of their heinous crime! There were stand out presentations from Callum Hamilton, Elliot Davies, Reece Robertson, Ryan Kent, Lewis Keeling, Connagh Wadman, Joshua Ijekpa and Romell Buliyani. Well done for your excellent efforts!



OPGS Parents and Friends Association

Pre-Loved Uniform and PE kit

Donations needed: blazers, jumpers and black PE shorts. Please wash and leave in a bag at reception.

The Parents Association will be selling Pre-Loved at the parent consultations:

Weds 8th May 4:00pm-7:00pm	Year 8 Consultation Evening
Thurs 9th MAY 4:00pm-7:00pm	Year 8 Consultation Evening
Thurs 23rd MAY 4:00pm-7:00pm	Year 10 Consultation Evening
Tues 25th JUNE 4:00pm-7:00pm	Year 7 Consultation Evening
Weds 26th JUNE 4:00pm-7:00pm	Year 7 Consultation Evening

To keep volunteer travel costs to a minimum, please would Parents and Carers purchase their pre-loved items at the Parent Consultation Evenings - dates above.

If you are not attending the scheduled consultation evening and require pre-loved, please email Chair@opgsa.org.uk and we will get your order ready for your son to collect at 3.20pm from the school hall, just before consultations begin.

We do understand uniform and PE kits gets lost and damaged. The PA really appreciates families ordering pre-loved outside of the consultation evenings only in emergency situations.

Volunteering with the PA

As a volunteer you can make a positive impact upon the lives of young people whilst giving something back and making a positive impact to the heart and soul of our community – OPGS!

'Many hands make light work, and funds more resources and enrichments opportunities for all OPGS students'.

Being a volunteer for OPGSPA will significantly support your core professional development. Research shows volunteering is highly beneficial for both volunteers and their employers because it shows commitment, the ability to think strategically and engage with local community, making you a

valuable asset to any organisation. Volunteering for OPGSPA will help strengthen, develop and sharpen your skills, bring new experiences and perspectives to your workplace, and meet people from different professional backgrounds.

The Parents Association (PA) are all parents and carers of OPGS young adults, and we fundraise to enhance pupils learning experiences and enrichment. We are all volunteers, doing this valuable work around our jobs and family life. If you can offer any time to help support fundraising activities, please email Chair@opgsa.org.uk

We really appreciate any time you can give: setting up or putting away pre-loved sales, selling pre-loved and refreshments, helping at fundraising events and fundraising ideas. If you can spare any time volunteering with us, please email Chair@opgsa.org.uk

Other ways you can support the PA

It is really easy to sign up for Easy Fundraising and nominate OPGSPA.

You can earn free donations for OPGSPA every time you shop online. Online stores include Amazon, M&S, Tesco/Morrisons/Sainsburys groceries, John Lewis, Ebay, Just Eat, Argos - there are 100s of stores.

Get the app on your phone and do all your online shopping via Easy Fundraising to raise free donations for OPGSPA.

<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/oakwoodparkgrammar/>

You spend, brands donate to Oakwood Park Grammar School Parents' Association. Help us when you shop with 7,000+ brands. Join now.

www.easyfundraising.org.uk

Facebook

OPGSPA has two Facebook pages, where we advertise our fundraising. These groups are for parents and carers of OPGS pupils, only members can view posts.

Oakwood Park Grammar School Parent's Page

https://www.facebook.com/groups/3430770273641249/?multi_permaLinks=7172079079510331¬if_id=1694168813765152¬if_t=group_activity&ref=notif

OPGS PA Pre-Loved

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/396344910819608>

Group Rules

1. The OPGS PA Facebook groups are only intended for the parents and carers of OPGS pupils and is for advertising OPGS Parent's Association events.

2. The OPGS PA Pre Loved group is for the purposes of selling new or used items, in good, clean condition which relate to uniform, school clothing, school excursion equipment or study books. Please use the many other selling sites available for advertising anything that does not fall into these categories. Items sold may have signs of wear. This is reflected

On Thursday 22nd February, four pianists took part in a regional competition against Maidstone Grammar School with the chance of progressing to the final stages at Canterbury Christ Church University in June.

The following categories were: Pre-grade 1 to grade 1, grade 2-4, grade 5-7 and grade 8+. The competition winners and runners up were as follows:

Pre-grade 1 to grade 1 winner: Sacha Baker
Grade 2-4 runner up: Rohan Delaffon
Grade 5-7 winner: Angus Wong
Grade 8+ runner up: Dominic Teodorescu.

Angus and Dominic will now progress to the final stage at CCCU in June. Good luck to them both!

in the price. All items are sold in good faith. OPGS PA welcomes uniform and PE kit donations, please wash and leave in a bag at the school main reception.

3. The groups are not intended for discussing any aspect of the school other than the PA and its activities. Inappropriate posts, including any derogatory comment, will be removed by the administrators. The PA retains the right to ban any user who continues to make inappropriate use of the group.

4. Please do not promote any business other than where this is done for the benefit of the PA and with its permission.

5. By using the OPGS PA Facebook groups you are accepting the group rules. If you do not agree with any of the rules, please remove yourself from the groups.

Thank you for supporting OPGS Parents' Association. All funds raised are donated to OPGS, providing further educational and enrichment opportunities for OPGS pupils.

With best wishes

Sarah Harewood
Oakwood Park Grammar School
PFA Chair

Chair@opgsa.org.uk

Music Competition



Using flashcards

- Using flashcards is a repetition strategy.
- They are a simple 'cue' on the front and an 'answer' on the back.
- Flashcards engage "active recall".



PiXL

There are many reasons why flashcards can help you learn. Let's explore them....



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Why do flashcards help you learn?

- When you make and use flashcards, you take control of your own learning.
- You have to decide what to put on each card, how often you're going to use them and then evaluate how well you know the information on each card.
- By doing all these things, you are using 'metacognitive processes' which have been proven to enhance long-term learning.



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You need to 'be smart' when making & using flashcards to make sure you are effective....



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How to make flashcards

2. Ensure the right questions and knowledge are on the cards.
3. Keep information as short as possible.
4. Write clearly. You should be able to read what you wrote at a very quick glance.



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Using Flash Cards for Revision:

With Year 11 and Year 13 students soon to embark on their exams, here is some guidance on how you can use 'Flash Cards' to help you revise.

Why flashcards help you learn

- They help you to 'recall' information – this creates stronger connections for your memory.
- They promote self-reflection which ingrains knowledge into your memory.



PiXL

Why do flashcards help you learn?

- They help you to memorise facts quickly.
- Drilling - flashcards help you to practise the same information over and over again - and as we know, practice makes perfect!



PiXL

How to make flashcards

1. Ensure that the flashcards have a question or key term on one side and the answer or definition on the other.
 - The flashcard must work the memory.
 - If flashcards only contain notes then no retrieval practice will be happening.



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How to make flashcards

5. Use different coloured cards or pens to categorise your flashcards. For example, use a different colour for each subject or topic. This can help your brain to categorise information better.
6. Make your flashcards as soon as you've learnt the topic in class.



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Being smart when using flashcards

Studies have found that it's more effective to review a whole stack of cards in one sitting rather than to carry them around with you and glance at them every so often.

Flashcards are not an effective method for last-minute cramming!

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Being smart when using flashcards

- Use spaced repetition - Review your cards at specific, increasing intervals: for example on Day 1, Day 2, Day 4, Day 8 and so on.
- Spaced repetition works because it activates your long-term memory, while leaving small breaks in-between studying uses your short-term memory.



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Being smart when using flashcards

- Make sure you have a 'thinking pause' after picking one up and reading the question, then turn the card over to read the information.
- Once you get an answer right using your flashcards - **DO NOT DISCARD IT!** You need to keep repeating the questions even if you get it right multiple times otherwise it will fall off your memory.



Being smart when using flashcards

- Try writing the answer or definition in your own words and giving examples. This will help your learning and recall.
- Try 'interleaving'. Once you have several decks of flashcards for different subjects and topics, try mixing them up. This will test your knowledge across subjects in a single session. Make sure you are confident enough to do this every so often.



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Using a system to revise with flashcards

The Leitner system is a well-known and very effective method of using flashcards. It's a form of spaced repetition that help you study the cards you don't know more often than the cards you already know well.

In the 1970s, a German populariser of science, Sebastian Leitner, developed the method.

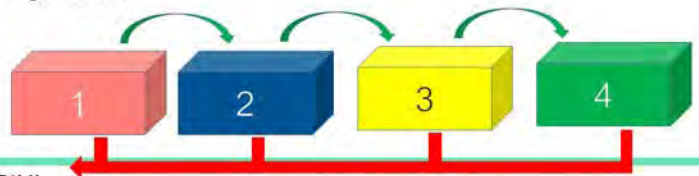
Leitner System – The Method

All flash cards start off in Box / Stack 1.

If you give the wrong answer the card stays in box 1.

When you review cards in Box 2, if you still get it right you move the card to box 3 and so on until all cards are in Box 4.

If you get a card wrong in any box, it goes back to Box 1.



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<https://www.parent24.com/Learn/School-exams/watch-how-to-study-using-flashcards-20160825>

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Leitner System – The Key

The key is that the cards you know less well are reviewed more frequently than the cards in the higher boxes.

Box 1: Every day
Box 2: Every 2 days
Box 3: Every 3 days
Box 4: Every 4 days

You now must choose the frequency at which you review each box.

Remember...

Flashcards should be used to test your knowledge, not just as a way to condense your notes further.

Rereading notes is a passive learning activity so is not an economical use of your revision time.

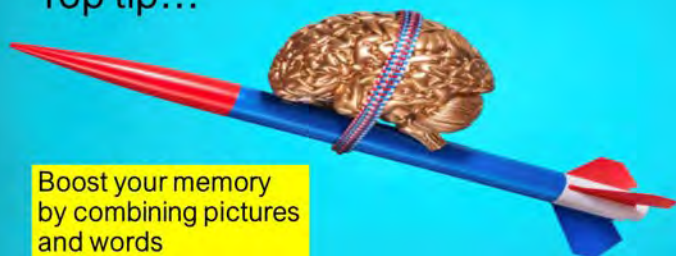


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Top tip...

Boost your memory by combining pictures and words



Top tip...

Flashcards are a great revision tool and they should be used along with other revision techniques such as mind maps, quizzes, exam questions.



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Freddie Gibson- English Schools' Cross Country at Pontefract Racecourse

On Saturday 16th March I competed for Kent in the English Schools Cross Country Championships at Pontefract Racecourse. I was selected to run in this event after winning the Kent Schools cross country a few weeks before.

I travelled up to race on Friday 15th March with the rest of my Kent team on a coach. After a 5-hour drive, we arrived at our accommodation in Nottingham. It was a lovely place with a swimming pool and a large expanse of well-kept gardens and fields with seating areas. We arrived quite late so we went straight to dinner at the restaurant to have a good pre-event meal, making sure I was eating healthy for my race the next day. I then spent the rest of the evening with my team around the hotel. When back at my room I got my kit ready for my race the next day as I was due an early start to get to the racecourse.

The following morning, I woke up and went to breakfast following my normal race day routine. We left the hotel early and after an hour on the coach we arrived at the racecourse. I did my usual warmup and I felt really good for my race. This race was meant to be the penultimate race for a brilliant 2023-24 cross country season and I wanted to end on a high note in the top 10 finishers, but I never expected for my race to turn out like it did.

I went to the starting line and as the gun sounded 340 of the country's best athletes shot off down the first straight. The race started very quickly and as it was over 3.2km and I knew there wasn't time to wait to get into position. However, I ended up 20th after 1k, which was frustrating, but I didn't let it affect my race plan. I knew the race would start quick so I had adapted a plan for this. I stayed in 20th for another kilometer knowing many people would slow down after the fast start. I began to work my way through the field with a gap of over 30 seconds off the race leader, that I knew I had to start closing in on. I was feeling strong and my pace was increasing when everyone else was slowing down. I moved into 10th position and I was flying through the field so I kept on going. With roughly 400 meters left I had caught up with the chase group (the

group behind the leader) and I found myself in a sprint, the momentum I had built from my earlier acceleration allowed me to keep pushing and finish in 2nd place, earning me a national silver medal. A place I only dreamt of coming in prior to the event, it was a surreal moment as I ran over the finish line.

As a result of my great race, I have now been selected to run internationally for England on Saturday 23rd March for a competition in Dublin against Ireland, Wales and Scotland. I'm really looking forward to the event and I hope it won't be the last of my international running experiences.



The Big Book Swap

To celebrate World Book Day, on the 7th of March, students and teachers alike dressed up as their favourite book characters: Miss Hance, Miss Davies, and Miss George dressed up as the three witches from the Shakespeare play Macbeth.

On this day, at 10:50 am, the whole of our school took part in a DEAR session (Drop Everything And Read). This allowed for all students and teachers to cram in an extra ten minutes of reading and to relax in a world of their own. There too was a World Book Day Quiz where students had to guess which characters their teachers dressed up as.

To celebrate World Book Week, on the 15th of March, students gathered in the library to

promote reading and reuse books. This was a fun, exciting, momentous occasion where students swapped and donated books with the rest of the community to spread their admiration of reading. In addition, at the end of the three weeks, the team of librarians hosted a scholastic book fair where a large selection of brand-new titles were on sale in our library. Students were able to bring in money and buy themselves a contemporary book to add to their collections. Overall, these weeks have been fruitful, fantastic and fulfilling in order for our imaginations to run wild vividly.

By Bobby Cope
Oliver McCarthy
Noah Halliday
Angus Wong
Maximilian Patton



On Wednesday 13th March, Oakwood opened its doors to local primary school students to host a Primary Links event for French and Spanish.

In the French session, students had to use key vocabulary to 'escape' from the Centenary block. The students had an enjoyable time hunting down key clues to help to release them from the building. Alongside this, students had a wordsearch to complete or to take home to help them consolidate their key learning. Once students had cracked the code in French, it was onto Spanish in the gym. Students had to be on high alert for the Spanish playground games which was an energetic and fun activity. Alongside learning new words and numbers, students had to listen carefully to their numbers being called in order to grab the scarf and try to avoid being caught from the opposing team. Students revelled in the competition and were desperate to take the victory for their team. Overall, it was an engaging session which students thoroughly enjoyed. Thank you to Ms Roux, Miss Hicks and Ms Moreira, alongside the student helpers: Dean Spooner, Dylan Taplin, Bobby Cope and Maximilian Patton, for their efforts and help in running an enriching event for the students.



Stem challenges on offer (all years welcome!)

Whether your passion is space, engineering, mechanics or algebra- these competitions are a great way to get your foot in the door of the competitive STEM industries.

We have recently received the results of the national physics competition where 3 students across the country received a gold award, and we are very proud to announce that one of the gold award winners was our very own year 12 student Hallee Lou! Congratulations for your well-deserved success; Oakwood are very proud to have you as part of our school.

Following an interview with Hallee, he revealed his secret recipe for success: reading. He showed an impressive reading log of books both relating to maths and physics. If you're struggling with either physics or maths, here are some great recommendations:

Physics:

- How to Teach Relativity to Your Dog - Chad Orzel.
- A short history of nearly everything - Bill Bryson.
- Fabric of The Cosmos – Brian Greene
- The Universe in Bite-Sized Chunks – Colin Stuart

Maths:

- Fermat's Last Theorem – Simon Singh
- Infinite Powers – Steven Strogatz
- Podcast: "The Joy of Why" by Quanta Magazine (hosted also by Steven Strogatz
- A Mathematical Sorcery – Calvin C. Clawson

As well as being a physics titleholder, Hallee is also co-hosting a maths club and termly challenge. All years are welcome, and despite it being a newly found club, there are already 13 members across year 7 to year 13. So if you either have a knack for maths or are interested in developing your skills in time for exam season; this club is for you!

This term, one of the high achievers was year 13 student Krishna Sookun who celebrated his triumph (along with a few other students) with an easter egg. The prizes vary but can be guaranteed to always be a sweet treat- so if you're interested in partaking in the termly maths challenge (or just really like chocolate), please speak to Mr Handy who runs the club alongside his students and help them to "continue this little tradition" within the maths department.

You can find the questions for the challenge on EduLink where they will be posted at the start of each term. Solutions should be handed in to Mr Handy in room 81- incomplete solutions will be





accepted and rewarded, nonetheless. Good luck to all participants and competitors!

Some words of wisdom from a few of the maths challenge winners on how to be a high-flyer in maths place a heavy importance on the benefits of reading outside the curriculum.

Another exciting competition to partake in is the Intermediate Maths Challenge, an annual national competition full of potential prizes, medals and certificates. 5 of Oakwood's students got through to the Olympiad- so a very special congratulations to Arthur Mak, Nathan Peake, Marcus Choi, Isaac Wenborn and Mathew Sandman! They were in the top 1000 of participants across the country. Another shoutout to the superstar year 8's who despite contending against their senior peers still achieved impressively high. Take a bow- Alfie Wagon, Jakub Druzkowski and Kishan Paranthaman, Oakwood are incredibly honoured to see your success.

Invicta teams challenge:

An annual challenge held at Invicta Grammar School; it invites the highest performing schools

in Kent and Oakwood is a yearly contender. We strive for victory each year- with last year being our most recent triumph; however, unfortunately, Tonbridge School overtook us this year by a measly one point, but we still celebrate it as a step closer to reclaiming our 2023 winners' trophy (hopefully!) next year.

Pink Kangaroos maths challenge:

Although competitors are only able to participate through merit-based invitation, it is an incredible opportunity to partake in and would be a great asset to your CV, university applications or just a conversation topic with prospective employers. To reach that milepost, you can access past papers on the UKMT website, and later, potentially receive recommendations to send to the hosts of the competition. So- get in contact with teachers, complete the practice activities and the best of luck to anyone either in preparation or with aspirations to participate!

So, whether you're gearing up for GCSEs or A-level exams, pursue these maths challenges to apply and practice your mathematics skills.

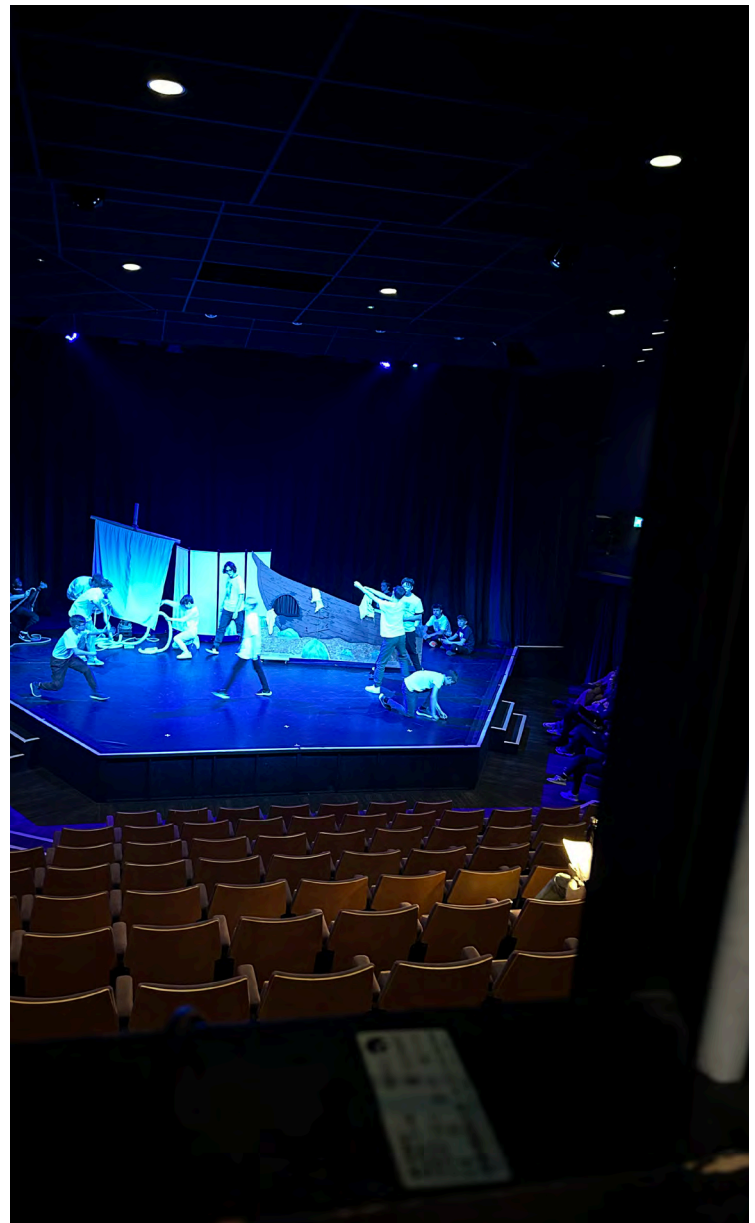
The Tempest Performance

On 12th March 2024, students from SHAKE A SPEAR CLUB from year 7-13 toured to The Gulbenkian Theatre, Canterbury with their production of The Tempest. The production was directed by Miss Buckley and the set was designed and constructed by Mr Edwards.

We were so excited to be performing on a professional stage. Our nerves were fizzing, and we knew we had to use the adrenaline to fuel explosive and powerful performances. We had our own 'green room' and were even allowed to have a rider (that's a list of what we would want in our room!)

Our set crew constructed our "legendary" reversible ship which was "trucked" onto the stage with castors. After a momentary issue with Health and Safety requirements, Mr Dalzell used his survival training to lash the mast using complex knots. Panic averted!

The lighting crew went straight into motion like a well-oiled machine. They were met by the Theatre technicians who soon worked out that they were prepped and skilled so left them to do the Cue-to-Cue rehearsal with the producer. Miss Buckley relayed our needs via the "cans" and all went smoothly.



My Experience Performing the Tempest at The Gulbenkian Theatre

It all started on the coach to Canterbury when me, Henry and Aristotel all sat at the back getting ready for the show that awaited us.

When I arrived at the theatre, that was the time when nervousness started kicking in. Before going into the theatre, we sat outside the building and had some lunch. Afterwards we all went for a walk to a viewing point where you could see a massive cathedral peeking through the mist that surrounded it. Once taking it all in we then made our way into the theatre. Every step I took, my heart started racing faster than ever. Before going onto the stage, we went into our back-stage room where I felt like I was a celebrity waiting to perform in front of so many people. We then dropped our bags and made our way onto the stage. My jaw dropped in shock, realizing how many people are going to be watching our show. In one of my ears, I could hear deep breaths of everyone trying to stay calm and keeping the nerves away. The stage was bigger than I imagined it was and there were so many more seats than I thought there were going to be. I looked from side to side across the stage noticing the layout of the seats were different because everyone could see you, even the seats furthest to the corners of the stage. After getting ready, we then made our way back to our room where we got prepared and dressed into costumes for our dress rehearsals. The dress rehearsals ran smoothly giving me more encouragement for when performing in front of everyone. There were two schools performing at

the Gulbenkian, Oakwood Park and another, both giving outstanding performances. When our long break was finally over, we were told to go for a briefing where the people running the festival gave us an extra boost of encouragement. Afterwards it was time to get ready for the big show, our hearts faster than they were before. Hands dripped with sweat like a waterfall. And our breath louder than a storm. It was time. There I stood in front of countless people as Antonio, performing with all my heart and passion. OPGS put on an unforgettable performance that we will remember for a very long time. This was an experience that will certainly live long in my memory.



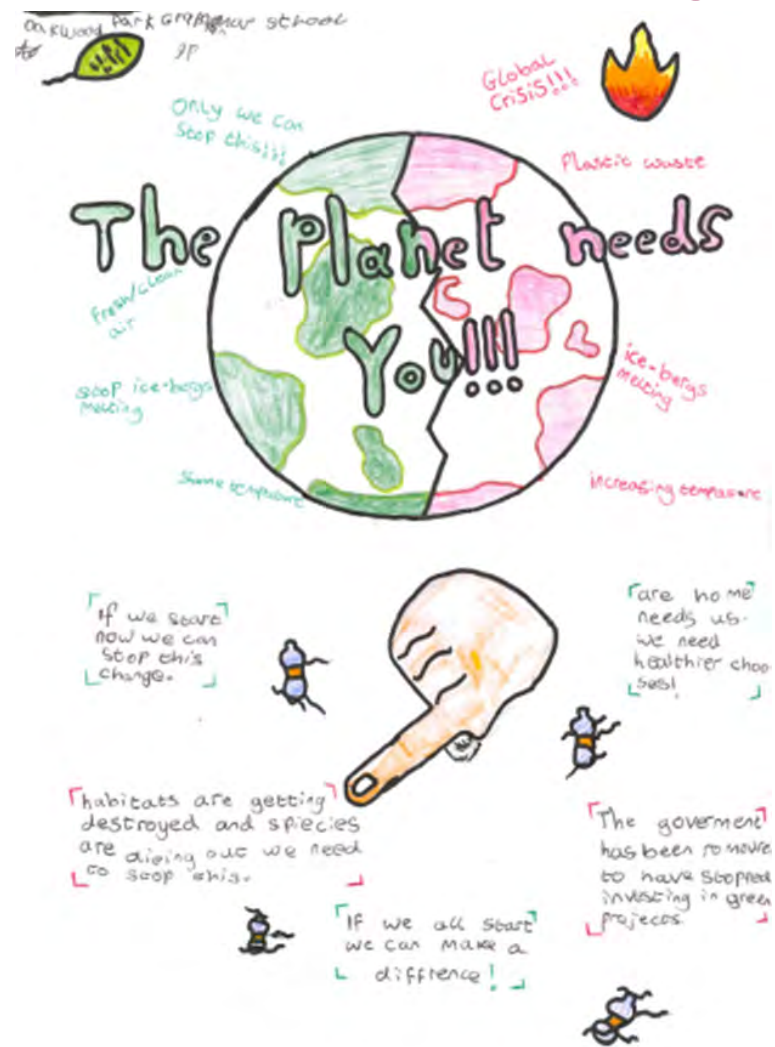
Entries for Wicked Writer's Competition: Be the Change

We would like to celebrate the excellent entries to the National Literacy Competition Wicked Writer's:

Be the Change. Students were tasked with writing on an issue of the climate crisis, anything ranging from pollution, to natural disasters, to endangered species and inspire their readership for the need to change. Our entries from Year 9 were truly astounding with advertisements to raise awareness of the issue, speeches and letters to people in power suggesting they take the action needed to make the future better for everyone. Here is a selection of their fantastic entries below.

Good luck to them when facing the judging panel now the deadline has passed. The National Literacy Trust will inform winning entries in April of their success, so we have our fingers crossed in the meantime.

For their fantastic efforts, the students were awarded with a Reading Agency exclusive of *Beast Lands*. Jude Monks received a copy of the book, whilst the others that took part also received a free bookmark for their participation. The formal certificates of participation will be presented to the students in the end of term Easter Celebration of Achievement Assembly for their year group on Thursday 21st March.



World Book Day Celebrations at OPGS

This year's World Book Day fell on Thursday 7th March. Teachers dressed up as their favourite book characters, with the three witches of Macbeth in English, Where's Wally theme in Science, Lord of the Rings theme in Humanities and Heroes and Villains such as Cruella De Vil and Wonder Woman in MFL. Historically, the most popular character to dress as on World Book Day is Harry Potter. This trend was kept up by Mr Taylor Richardson as Acting Subject Leader for English dressing as a wizard. In response to such, students were encouraged to correctly identify 10 x teachers book characters with a quiz on the day. The winners of the quiz are:

Freddie Palmer P7

Ayman Elmsallati X7

Josh Russel X7

Students also held a non-school uniform day, wherein they could dress up as their favourite book character or in their own clothes. The money raised from their £1 donations going to the Sixth Form charities, Dandelion Time and Doctors Without Borders. Dandelion Time is a nature-based charity that works with children and their wider family to overcome issues and difficulties. They help find opportunities for change and ways to rebuild relationships, while creating hap-

py memories along the way. Doctors Without Borders sends teams of doctors to the areas across the globe that need them most; acting fast to save people's lives in conflict zones, natural disasters and epidemics.

World Book Day was created in 1995 to celebrate books and encourage young people to read, with the first World Book Day taking place in the UK and Ireland two years later. Celebrated annually on the first Thursday in March, it is known for fun, book-themed events in schools, libraries and other community settings that often include children dressing up as favourite book characters and other reading-related activities.

The National Literacy Trust report shows how World Book Day welcomes children into the world of books and reading in two ways: by helping all children become book owners, many for the first time, and by supporting a variety of activities and experiences essential for building life-long readers.

World Book Day is a much-anticipated date in the calendar for the students, also associated with venturing beyond usual reading choices for many, supporting them in developing their reading identities. As one child said, "World Book Day made me want to move out of my comfort zone."

The National Literacy Trust research also found World





Book Day stimulated rich and varied discussions around favourite books and book characters, particularly among classmates and friends. These discussions deepened children's engagement with reading by encouraging them to reflect on their reading and giving them insights into peers' reading discoveries and preferences.

On the day, the whole school (students and teachers) was engaged in a Drop Everything and Read activity (DEAR) at 10.50am. So, students were encouraged to make sure they had a book with them to take part in the challenge. The eerie silence as every class became engrossed in the world of their novels was truly something to be cherished for the duration of the activity.

