



New OPGS Library

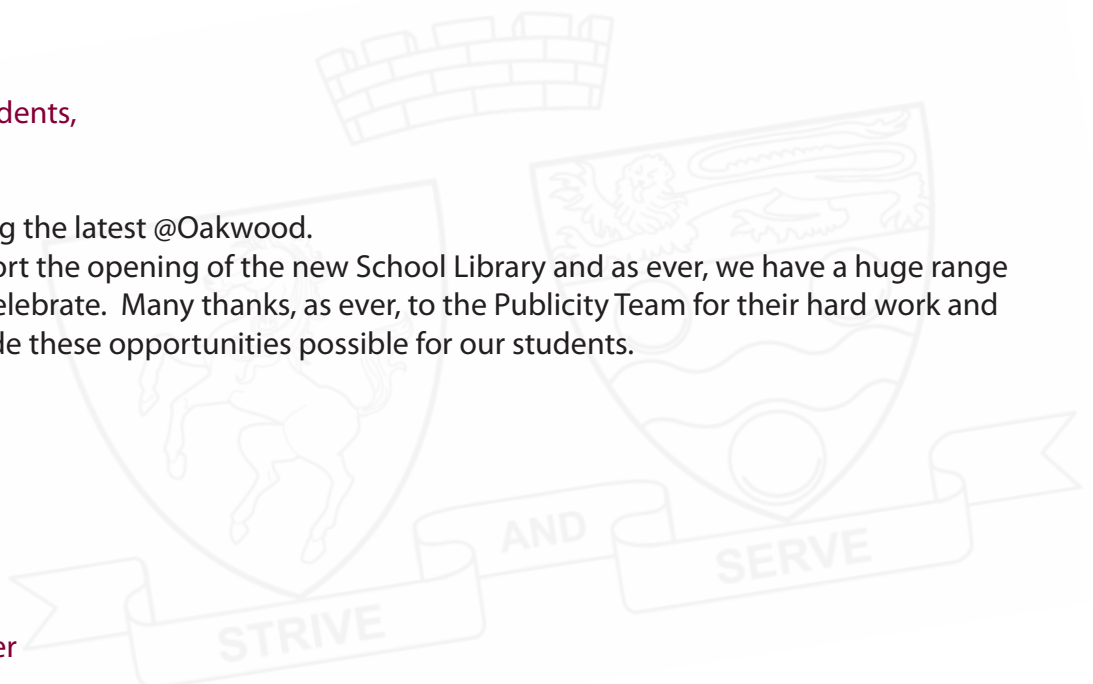
Dear Parents, Carers and Students,

I have pleasure in introducing the latest @Oakwood.

I am especially proud to report the opening of the new School Library and as ever, we have a huge range of articles to publicise and celebrate. Many thanks, as ever, to the Publicity Team for their hard work and to all the staff who have made these opportunities possible for our students.



Mr K.W. Moody - Headteacher



Amnesty International Club at OPGS

Following on from our whole school assemblies at the end of last year, to help celebrate Human Rights Day on 10th December, The students of OPGS were actively involved in the Right for Writes campaign in the lead up to the Christmas holidays and were encouraged to find out more about how to get involved by our Amnesty International guest speaker, Graham Minter.

Since then, our Sixth Formers have worked with Miss Marchant to get a regular in-school club up and running to actively take part in promoting and championing human rights in our school community and wider locality. To begin with, a few students have maintained regular attendance, but we are most definitely expecting this to grow with Faye Gavin and Harrison Clarke who prepped and led the sessions beautifully, as a personal passion of theirs:

“We have been running Amnesty Club every Tuesday Lunchtime for the last Half Term. We were thrilled with the turn out by the younger years and how enthused they were to learn about the importance of human rights. They have been eager to learn as well as contribute in a lot of group discussions; their knowledge has been very impressive! We would encourage anyone who is eager to learn about Human Rights to join up and be a part of our growing community.” Harrison Clarke.



Year 11 Student wins trip to Google in California

Google Code-in (GCI) is a coding competition organized by Google aimed at introducing pre-university students to open source development.

a sister competition directed at university students. Grand Prize Winners get to go on a Trip to Google's Headquarters in Mountain View, California, USA and visit for four days.

Students can complete tasks for different organizations and at the end of the contest, each organization selects 2 students to be Grand Prize Winners (GPW) based on various criteria like community participation, quality and quantity of work. For the 2019 edition, 29 organisations were chosen from organisations that participated in Google Summer of Code (GSoC),

Nils André Yr11 was selected as a Grand Prize Winner for his work with CCEXtractor Development, an organization which maintains CCEXtractor along other projects. CCEXtractor is a tool which extracts subtitles from video files and is used by companies around the world including Comcast.

Apprenticeship Fair

On Friday 7th February, the Sixth Form students at OPGS made their way to attend an Apprenticeship Fair at Mote Park Leisure Centre, as a part of a wider series of events which have taken place across the county to mark the 13th National Apprenticeship Week from 3rd-9th February 2020.

The aim of the fair was to learn more about the diverse options and pathways available to them, in terms of Higher Education. The fair highlighted the fantastic opportunities that an apprenticeship brings to employers, individuals and the economy.

Apprenticeships, which are considered full-time employment, combine hands-on work with classroom learning to train the apprentice. As the apprentice is learning, they are also applying the lessons through working.

The event gave students the chance to meet with potential employers, like Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust, and explore the apprenticeship opportunities available to them. For example, the MTW NHS Trust currently

has 140 apprentices working towards various qualifications so they can either upskill in their current role or qualify to work in a new role. These apprenticeships cover a variety of roles including PR and Communications, Business Support, HR, Midwifery, nursing, healthcare science, and estates and facilities.

The fair provided a great opportunity for everyone to find out about apprenticeship opportunities which are on offer as an alternative to university education. The fair consisted of different companies and organisations such as travel provider TUI and Maidstone Borough Council who offered apprenticeships to students for them to continue their education whilst working in their chosen industry simultaneously after leaving Sixth Form. The Royal Army was also a quite dominant figure at the fair as well. The purpose of the fair was to give students an insight into what career they could go into after their A-levels should they seek an alternative to university.

By Alex Kourtellas. Year 12 Media Studies Prefect.



Biology Olympiad Competition

The following year 13 students have just sat the 2020 British Biology Olympiad examination; Jibin James, Morgan Sands, Shawn Wambari, Fern Kennard, Rayed Ansari, Rughved Brahma and David Evans.

We are awaiting certification as performance across the cohort is analysed by the Royal Society of Biology.

The BBO challenges and stimulates students with an interest in Biology to expand and extend their talents. It enables students to demonstrate their

knowledge with papers based upon a published specification. It also aims to identify, inspire, empower and support the next generation of leaders in the life sciences and to develop their international network. Top performers will compete to represent the UK in this year's International Biology Olympiad in Nagasaki, Japan.

The BBO is open to students in post-16 education studying at school or college. The competition consists of two, 45-minute multiple-choice papers to be taken online under staff supervised exam conditions. Topics covered include Cell Biology, Ethology and Genetics.



Next Events:

Raffle Prizes needed! Please let us know if you can donate a prize.

Second-Hand Uniform Sales

On 2nd and 4th March 4pm – 6.30pm
at the Year 8 Parents' Evenings.

On Tuesday 17th March 4pm – 6.30pm
at the Year 9 Parents' Evening.



Spring Cake Sale

Wednesday 11th March 2020
at break & lunchtime, 50p each

Please send in cakes, doughnuts, cookies etc. homemade or shop bought!

Gather your friends and family for a fun

Race Night!

Saturday 14th March 2020



Race Sponsors needed! Do you have a business
that would like to sponsor a race and advertise?

Help us raise money to fund extra resources for OPGS

For more info email opgspace@gmail.com find us on Facebook @OPGSPA

Thanks for your support!

Celebration of Achievement Evening

The Sixth Form Team and Mr Moody were thrilled to invite our most recent Year 13 cohort back into school for a formal dinner in the school hall on Wednesday 18th December 2019 to celebrate their Summer examination results.

In addition to a three-course meal, students were presented with their A Level/Pre-U certificates and subject prizes were also be awarded. The awards were presented by Mr Matthew Boughton.

The subject prizes were followed by special recognition prizes which included R. H. Voice Prize for Service to the School awarded to Ben Homewood and the Emma Ring Prize for Overcoming Adversity to Ailsa Hellmuth. Lest we forget their excellent work across the last year, the Head Boy Prize was of course given to Tom Place and Head Girl Prize to Nina Lewis, who also achieved the prize for English Literature.

We are always very pleased to see the students again after their first term away from Oakwood Park. So pleased to have the opportunity to applaud the students' successes, in fact, that staff were prepared to wait on them for the night. The menu included Caesar or feta and mint salad to start, with a roasted meal for the main and lemon tart and Chantilly cream for dessert. The dress code was formal yet stylishly pulled off by those which returned to chat to friends they had not seen since their first term at university or with life beyond the Sixth Form. The students worked really hard to achieve the excellent grades deserving of them and to enable them to follow their chosen pathways into Further Education thereafter. It is always a glorious moment to take stock of the incredible alumni of the school and have them recognised for their strengths and passions. Congratulations to the students who attended, and we continue to wish them the very best in the next steps of their educational careers.

The Comedy About a Bank Robbery

Yr11 watched "The Comedy About a Bank Robbery" in preparation for their GCSE written paper in May. Students will be analysing and evaluating the work of the Director,

Performers and Designer and how they work collaboratively to engage and entertain an audience. In the written paper, students answer two essay questions analysing and evaluating the impact the performance had on them as informed audience members. The Year 11 students in attendance of this hilarious theatre spectacle had this to say: "Surprisingly funny" and it was "very clever how they manipulated the stage". Breaking into its third year, the slap-stick physical comedy and fast dialogue help to make it a sure to be classic for the comedy genre. Indeed, What's On Stage suggest it is "a night of spectacular madness".

The comedy masterminds behind five-star hits The Play That Goes Wrong (Olivier Award for Best New Comedy) and Peter Pan Goes Wrong, return to the West End with their latest barrel of laughs on stage.

Mischief Theatre's new play, written by Henry Lewis, Jonathan Sayer and Henry Shields, is already being called the funniest show in London, now playing at the Criterion Theatre. Set in Minneapolis, 1958, and focused on a heist of the City Bank. Under the management of Robin Freeboys, the Bank is entrusted with a priceless diamond by a Hungarian prince. However, the jewel catches the eye of jailbird Mitch, who teams up with corrupt guard Cooper and Freeboys' money-hungry daughter Candice, intent on separating the Bank from its most precious deposit.



2020 OPGS Cricket Season Preview

2019 was another highly successful year for cricket at OPGS!

Teams across years 7-13 entered district and county competitions, with a number of excellent results across all age groups. Standout performances came from our U13 and U14 teams.

The U14 team won a series of hard-fought fixtures against Rochester Maths School, Norton Knatchbull Grammar School and Harvey Grammar School to reach the U14 Kent Plate Final at Tenterden Cricket Club. They faced the Ashford School who had beaten them in the previous two years of Kent Cup. Put into bat on a bowler friendly wicket, OPGS reached a modest first innings total of 88-3 from 20 overs. This was largely thanks to a fantastic 50 run partnership from Matt Hill and Owen Jenner. Defending such a small total, the boys knew they would have to bowl the opposition out to win the U14 Kent Plate Final.

The Ashford School innings got off to the perfect start for OPGS, with Harvey Moore and Tom Lenham

taking early wickets. However, Ashford recovered brilliantly to take their score from 55-6 (from 13 overs) to 84-9 (from 18 overs), needing just five more runs to win from the last twelve balls of the match. Having scored four runs from the first three deliveries, the Ashford batsman attempted a quick single only to find Louis Barden at square leg. He completed a superb two-handed pick up and throw into wicketkeeper Jude Fathome-Hodgson to run out the batsman and win the game for OPGS! In the post-match presentation Bob Green, Kent Schools Cricket Association Chairman, described the game as the most dramatic he had seen in Kent Schools Cricket history. The boys can be exceptionally proud of being the first OPGS cricket team to win a Kent Schools Cricket Association competition in 10 years!

A huge congratulations to the following boys who were part of the U14 Kent Plate winning team- Ben Lyons (captain), Tom Lenham, Harvey Moore, Owen Jenner, Matthew Hill, Jamie Flintan, Joe Flintan, Alex Stone, Jude Fathome-Hodgson, Louis Barden, Leo Broom.

The U13 cricket team were equally as successful



in the English Cricket Board 'Chance to Compete' competition. This is an annual 8-a-side county tournament at the Mote CC, where the winners progress to represent Kent at the South East & London regional finals.

The team won all four of their fixtures against Homewood School, Sir Roger Manwood's School, Folkestone Academy and Kemnal Technology School at the Mote CC to progress to the South East & London regional finals. This took place at the prestigious Reading Blue Coat School in Berkshire. The team played brilliantly throughout the finals day to overcome strong opposition in the form of St Bernard's School (Berkshire) and Isleworth & Syon Schools (Middlesex). Massive congratulations to the boys who have become the first OPGS team to ever win this competition!



regional finals winners - Joe Stone, William Hodgson (captain), Baxter Stanton, Toby Rayner-Thomas, James Tricker, Harrison Scott, Reece Meranda and Toby Clarke.

The U12, U15 and U18 teams also enjoyed successful seasons. Playing a large number of fixtures, all of these age groups made good progress ahead of the 2020 season. A number of students in these year groups had not played the game before and have developed considerably due to dedication of Mr Devonald, Mr Smith & Mr Keeling-Jones in providing



regular lunchtime training and fixtures. They have also benefitted from the school-club link created with Linton Park CC and Leeds & Broomfield CC.

With daylight improving, teams are now looking forward to the 2019-20 season! Squad players from last year's teams have been receiving indoor coaching from Invicta Cricket Coaching (see pictures). This has been a fantastic opportunity for students to refine their core skills and train together as a squad ahead of the outdoor season. This will continue into term 4 and make a huge difference in preparing our students for competitive fixtures in the summer term.

The school has also re-established the school-club links with Linton CC and Leeds & Broomfield CC. This is a fantastic chance for students who are not currently a member of a cricket club to try a new sport and develop their core skills. Year 7&8 students have the opportunity to receive high quality indoor training prior to the outdoor season beginning. Information has been shared with students in PE lessons and sent out via email to parents.

Outdoor fixtures will begin following the Easter break, where students will have the opportunity to represent OPGS in friendly, district & county competitions. Lunchtime training will run for years 7-10, delivered by PE staff & external coaches. This proved very popular with over 50 students attending this club last year. Students will also enjoy competitive experiences within PE lessons and enrichment days through inter-house cricket competitions.

I look forward to some improved weather and another successful year of cricket at OPGS during the summer terms!

Mr Raye. -Director of Sport, OPGS

Race Night



Saturday 14th March 2020 at 6.30 – 10pm
At Oakwood Park Grammar School



Gather your friends and family for a fun night at the races.

Adult entry is £3 each, under 16s free!

On the night we will have 8 races each of 8 horses, bets cost £1 each, watch a random race on screen to see if you backed a winner!

Also a Loser raffle for another chance to win!

Buy a Horse £3, to win a chocolate prize & enter £40 draw!

Find us on  Facebook @opgspa

Do you have a business?

Sponsor the event (£150) and we will name the Event after your business and advertise on our posters, emails, facebook adverts.

Or Sponsor a race (£25) to advertise on our posters, emailed adverts & on facebook.

To sponsor the event or a race email opgspa@gmail.com

See your logo here

in our emails

& on facebook

Splendid Productions present a new creative adaptation of an all-time classic: a man who makes a deal with the devil.

Kerry Frampton and Ben Hales are revisiting Christopher Marlowe's famous morality tale, which sees the brilliant scholar Dr Faustus sell his soul to the devil. Faustus uses his fabulous intellect to summon the actual devil to grant his every wish, like an evil genie, except will his bargain for a lavish life be worth the perpetual torment of his soul in the afterlife? The devils bring the audience closer than ever to the demonic temptations of Lucifer, Beelzebub and Mephistopheles.

Splendid's devilish cast of three pack a timeless tale into a thrilling hour where the audience are forced to question their own morality and temptation to sin in

this ingenious reinvention of an Elizabethan drama that couldn't be more contemporary. The audience were continuously invited up on stage to take the devil's card, each one with a different message from Lucifer.

Theatre practitioners Splendid Productions are studied by Yr12 students as part of the A Level course. During the workshop prior to the theatre visit, Yr12 students worked with Splendid's Artistic Director, Kerry Frampton, practically exploring the "Splendid Style" and devised theatre which was a force for social, cultural and political discussion. Watching the performance gave students the opportunity to see Splendid's theory in action and offer them inspiration for their own devising work as part of the A Level course.

History and Geography Masterclass

22 students took part in the very successful Humanities Masterclass on 30th January.

Students worked on a theme of 'Settlement', imagining it was AD55 and they were creating a settlement for 500 people. Over a series of activities, students learned why settlements develop in certain locations and then designed their own by choosing the location, systems of defence and which resources to use. Students successfully used contour lines and 6 figure grid references. Some of the locations and designs

were very carefully thought out – well done to the students who took part!

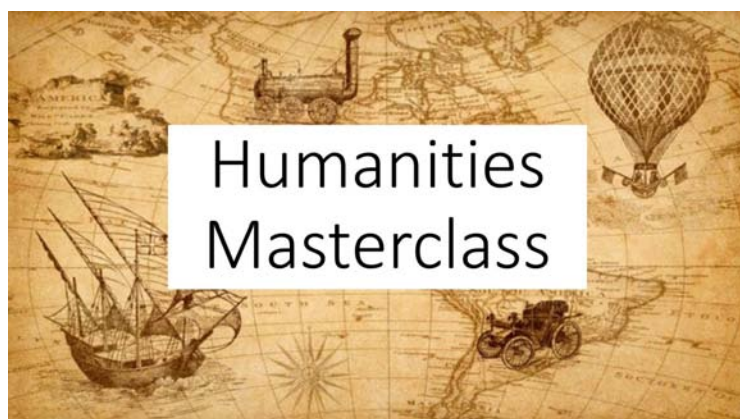


What is a settlement?



A settlement is a place where people live. The land was previously uninhabited.

The site describes the land on which the settlement is built.



What weaponry was used in AD55?



Sword

How will this information affect the location of your settlement?

Trebuchet



Dagger

Year 11 English Enrichment: Unseen Poetry

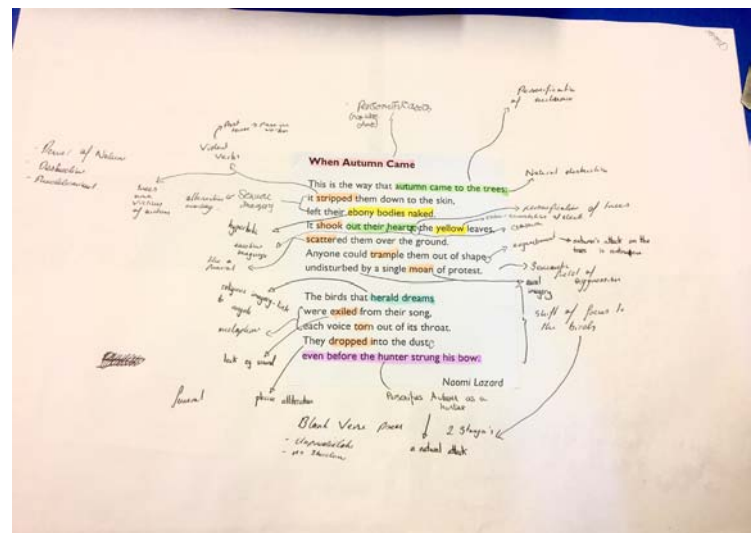
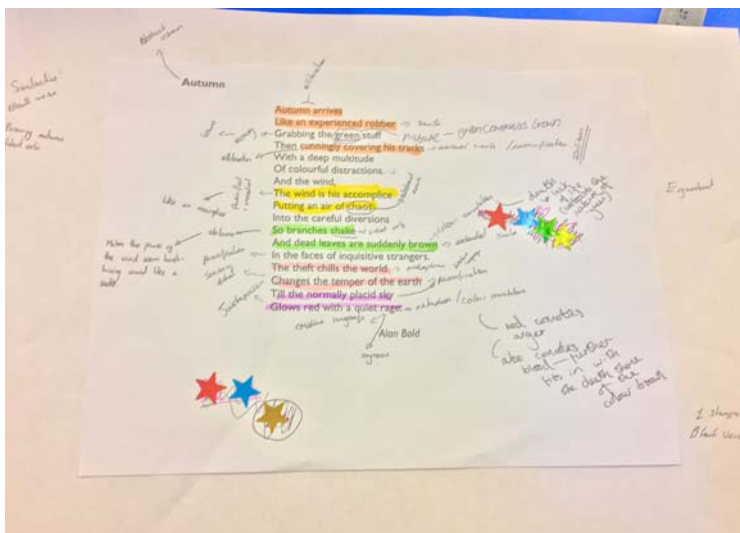
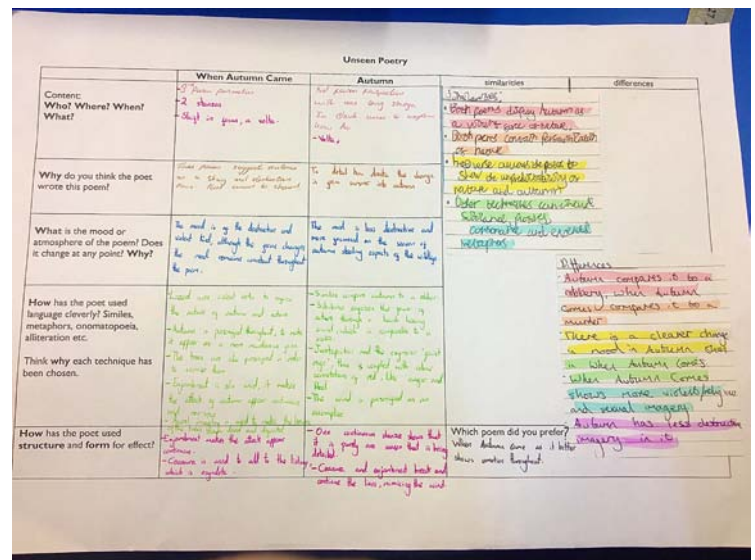
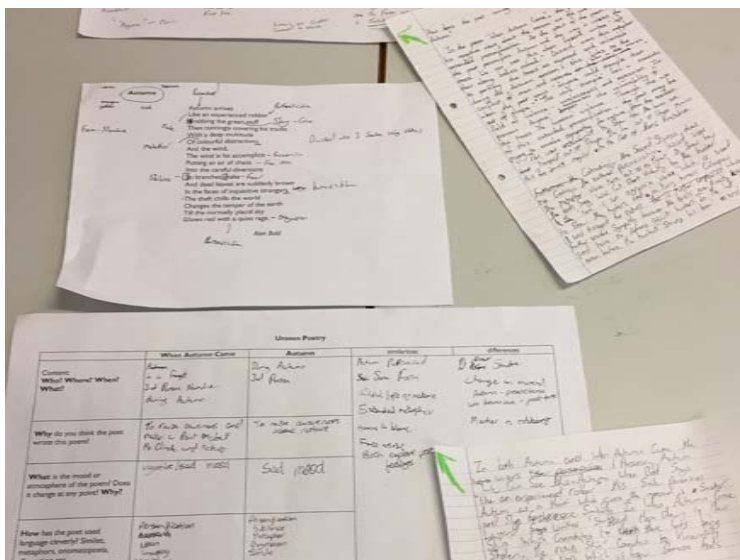
In preparation for their up-coming exams, Yr 11 students spent a full day with the English department to perfect their skills when it comes to examining and comparing unseen poems.

This directly relates to their GCSE Specification with AQA in which Literature Paper 2, Sections B&C will ask them to analyse and compare poems which they will not be familiar with until they sit the exam. As a result, students are not expected to have any prior contextual knowledge for this part of the paper but instead to be able to infer and deduce the writer's intended message through analysis of the literary, structural and poetic devices they employ to convey their thoughts and feelings on a particular topic to the reader.

In this instance, students were comparing 2 poems about seasonal change and the poem of nature in two

poems entitled 'Autumn' and 'When Autumn Came'. From a literary perspective, the benefits of being able to read poetry and develop a personal response are numerous with improved verbal skills so students can discuss and justify their interpretations of the text to their peers. It also helps to improve empathy and vocabulary, alongside critical thinking particularly in the comparison section as it encourages students to elicit meaningful points of contrast between the two.

Mr. Taylor Richardson, who is head of KS4 English said: "The day was a great success as students demonstrated real engagement with challenging unseen poetry. Furthermore, they were able to translate their original and perceptive ideas into strong, developed exam style responses. This experience was crucial in preparing them for this Summer's English Literature exam".



33 students from Year 9, Year 10 and Year 11 attended a special live viewing of an interview with Susan Pollock MBE, a Holocaust survivor.

The students said it was a privilege to hear her story, an eyewitness to such a dark time in history. She told the 60,000 students who were watching about how she was deported from her home in Hungary in 1944 to Auschwitz where she was used as slave labour to make armaments and struggled to survive diseases and malnutrition. She said, "there was no food, we were always thinking about food". She was then forced to take part in the Death March to Bergen-Belsen at the end of the War before being liberated by British soldiers who carried her to an ambulance when they reached that camp. She built a new life, marrying young and raising a family of her own. After being so dehumanised by the Nazi regime, she now speaks out to warn of the dangers of anti-Semitism and singling people out in any society. Her powerful message, as a witness to this horror,

was "Each and every one of us is responsible for the others". The Nazis tried to hide this genocide and the students who watched felt that in listening to her, they would be able to pass her story on, and therefore stop this aim from being realised. This was a unique opportunity and one the boys will remember for the rest of their lives.

"I remember being made to wear the yellow star, I made my own. We had to make it a certain size and wear it outside..."

We had no idea where we were going in 1944, we were deceived. There was nothing said about other countries. We were the very last ones to be transported. Where could we have gone to? Even if we had known?"

We thought "Where are we? Is this the world we contributed to? From the moment I stepped into Auschwitz, I did not exist anymore. There was no possibility of protest. Which is why I speak; this is about looking back and forward".



This term Year 12 students Luke Mount, Louis Callaghan- Inge and Josh Ball have been organising inter-house table tennis for the Year 7's.

This is a great opportunity for all Year 7's to experience competitive table tennis and represent their House and would not be possible without the hard work and dedication of the 6th Form students, who give up their free time to act as volunteer coaches and officials.

The past two weeks have seen over 80 Year 7's competing during Friday lunchtimes in a fiercely competitive but friendly environment. Some fantastic individual and team performances show the strength of this up and coming sport here at Oakwood Park. The Sixth Form are developing invaluable leadership and organisational skills








whilst testing patience and communication skills in delivering the sessions with the guidance of Mr Devonald. The aim is to promote opportunities for all boys to experience competitive Table Tennis whilst developing skills of all participants. The hope is that some boys will use this as a pathway into clubs and increase participation across the school either as coaches or performers. The Oakwood Park Table Tennis Club can be accessed by any student and runs on a Monday 2.45 – 3.45pm – all you need is your indoor PE kit to attend!

Year 7 Results
1st Broughton
2nd Hazlitt
3rd Fisher
4th Wilberforce
5th Sadler



MUSIC CLUBS 2019-20

1.15 – 1.45

Monday Lunch	 Choir Yr7-13	Music Studio Yr11 only
Tuesday Lunch	Junior Band Yr7-9 	Music Studio Yr13 only
Wednesday Lunch + after school	Keyboard Club Yr7+8 	Exam Work 3.30-4.30pm Yr11 + Yr13 
Thursday Lunch	Keyboard Club Yr9-11 	Guitar Club Yr7-13 
Friday Lunch	Yr11 + Yr13 Practise Space	Senior Jazz Band Yr10-13 

Go on, have a go.....

Intermediate Maths Challenge Feb. 6th.

The Intermediate Maths Challenge took place on February 6th in the main hall.

This nationwide competition takes place annually and is run by the UKMT (UK Maths Trust) based at Leeds University. 120 students from Years 9, 10 and 11 from Oakwood Park took part in the challenge which involves answering 25 multiple choice questions in 1 hour and was taken in school under normal exam conditions. Some sample questions are given.

Which of the following has the largest value?

- A: 26
- B: 35
- C: 44
- D: 53
- E: 62

or the more challenging!!

As a decimal, what is the value of $1/9 + 1/11$?

- A: 0.10
- B: 0.20
- C: 0.2020
- D: 0.202020
- E: 0.2020202020.....

Answers on final page

Results will be known in about 3 weeks. The top 60% of students nationally receive a gold, silver or bronze certificate in the ratio 1:2:3. The top performing students are then invited to take part in follow on rounds and the very best can represent their country in the International Mathematical Olympiad.



Kent Police- Is it Worth it Tour Year 7 enthralled by e-safety roadshow

On Tuesday 4th February Year 7 students were treated to a talk commissioned by Kent Police on e-safety.

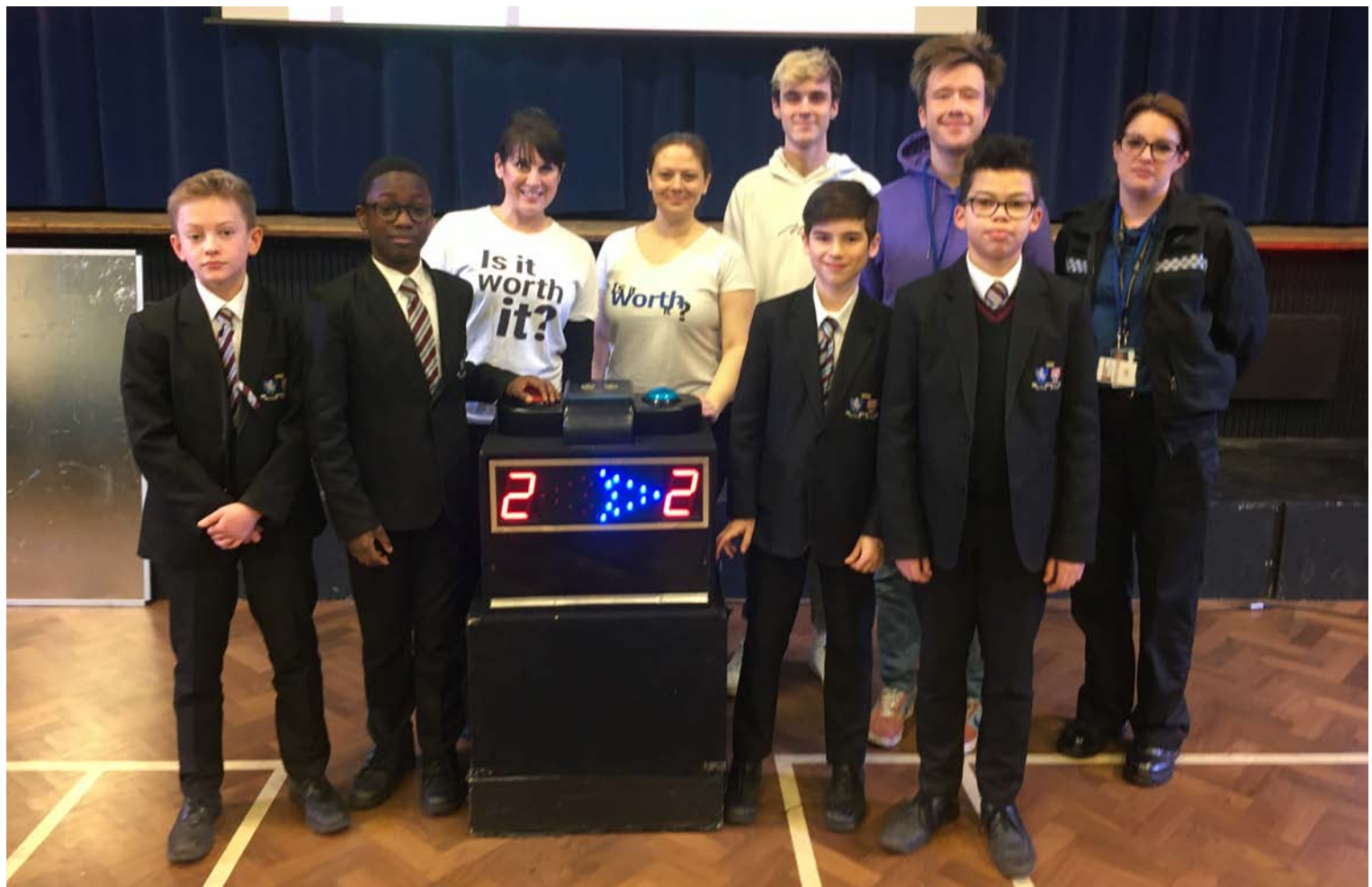
The show kicked off with a statistics raffle, each student eagerly holding their raffle tickets hoping to win the big prize but there could only be one winner. The raffle had a more serious purpose than prizes, each elimination round was based on current data which highlight the issues of being online. For example 1 in 3 internet users are children and 75% of young people in the South East have shared an image of themselves online. The host looked at the implications of this data and how important it is for our students to think carefully before posting anything online.

Another highlight of the roadshow was the Truth or Lies quiz. Students were picked to represent their teams and competed for yet more prizes. A tense moment ensued when Team Nina lost a valuable point over social networking privacy settings. But

a key lie was uncovered here, every time a social networking site does an update they undo your privacy settings and it becomes the responsibility of the account holder to go back and reset them, this was a an important life lesson for our online users and also a turning point in the quiz.

The tour ended on a serious note, students watched a cartoon of a relationship, during which the female was pressured into sharing indecent images, these were then shared across social media and taken by a company and used by an advertising campaign. The host explained how your rights to the image are lost as soon as the photograph has been given away and as children they would be sharing indecent images of children which is an illegal act. They must always remember to think before acting- Is it worth it?

If you would like to find out and more information or advice on online safety the Think you Know website offers a wide range of video clips and top tips <https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/>



Library Opening Ceremony

On Monday 27th January, Mr Moody, Headteacher at Oakwood Park Grammar School, was delighted to officially open the school's new library as a central hub of literature to foster the ethos of reading for pleasure throughout the school and with a growing collection of subject specific resources for the students to use for academic research.

His address to staff, governors, and students, as well as members of the Letchford family who the library is named after was read alongside tea, coffee and cake in amongst the freshly stocked bookshelves with:

"I am delighted to be able to say a few words about the opening of the school library.

First, there are people to thank for making this idea a reality.

The staff were very supportive in giving up their current staffroom and swapping it for a new space. Mr Rice and his site team worked exceptionally hard in the summer to carry out the necessary work. Mr Heathfield has taken on responsibility for the

running of the school library with a team of eager prefects [many of whom were there to man the shelves and explain the layout to everyone]. Finally, Mrs Lewell has project managed the process with her customary efficiency and diligence.

I am also delighted to name the library in honour of one of our longest serving members of staff, Mr Leonard Letchford, who worked at the school for 40 years. He has a unique link with the three "incarnations of the school"; starting as a young teacher in 1919 in Faith Street, moving to the Tonbridge Road in the 30s and as Deputy Headteacher, being involved in the move to the current site before retiring in 1959.

We have some 17 relatives of the Letchford family here today, including Chris and Nick who were both former pupils of the school.

A school that has as sense of history is something I believe passionately in as well as the importance of having a library at the centre of the school."

As a result, the library shall continue to grow in the coming months, with the prefects taking their role in monitoring the correct use and loan schemes, with due dates, very seriously from the off. The ability to have a central bank of resources and a growing stock of titles from both the classical and contemporary literary cannon is of course something to be excited about. The library will directly benefit the students who seek some solitude in the pages of a book and help them to understand more of the world around them by becoming increasingly well-read individuals.



On Wednesday 29th January, two Sixth Form students, Zac Cuff and Kajal Knight, came to model how to debate for our lower school team who have just been invited to attend the regional championships.

They were working with the already winning debaters to perfect how to structure their argument and articulate their points in a cohesive and persuasive manner. The motion they set out was to provide an opposition and proposition to "This House believes there should be more referenda".

The lower school debate team have been meeting up at Monday lunchtimes regularly since the Summer term in the last academic year. The topics they have covered to date have included motions covering Trump's state visit, abortion laws, euthanasia, whose responsibility is it to tackle plastic pollution, child labour can be justified, violent video games should be banned, everyone should be vegetarian and many more.

As a result of their increasingly well skilled ability to articulate and frame their lines of argument clearly, the debaters have continued to work on their oracy skills in time to attend the regional championships at Alleyn's School, London on Wednesday 1st April.

The teams we enter will find out which side of the motion they will be arguing for when they arrive on the morning of the regional championship. The two potential debate topics are as follows:

'This House believes there should be increased use of referenda' OR 'This House believes we should only imprison violent criminals'. Students will also be given an impromptu debate topic on the day with roughly 20 minutes to prepare their lines of argument before competing. Teams will also watch an additional two debates from other competing schools and will have the chance to pose audience questions.

This is an incredibly exciting opportunity as the highest-ranking teams will go through to that day's grand final. We are already very proud of what the debate club has achieved in its first few months up and running but would love for the students to experience debating teams in other schools and really think this is fantastic opportunity for them to hone in on their public speaking skills.

If you wish to attend debate club, please do come along to room 24 on Monday at 1.15pm (you may bring your lunch) or to find out more, speak to Ms Goodhew or Mrs Davies.



Oakwood Park Grammar School

Proudly Present:



Logo Created and Designed by Maggie Taft and Harry Bogosian

Monday 13th July 2020

Tuesday 14th July 2020

Wednesday 15th July 2020

Tickets on sale in May 2020

Enrichment – 9th January 2020

This enrichment day started off with a talk from the Fire service about Arson and how 7/10 fires started by arsonists did not need to be started and was mostly started from peer pressure.

They also talked about how easy it is to accidentally get involved and get a criminal record for just walking by these incidents and not doing or saying anything about the situation. They also spoke to us about how regularly to test a smoke alarm (once a fortnight) and how to prepare a fire escape plan, so in case of fire, you know the quickest escape route for most situations. She also talked to us about easy fire risks such as charging your phone at night, plugs getting too hot etc.

Then, for the second period, we had a talk from Murray Letham who talked to us about internet safety on social media and other online platforms. He explained how hackers could easily get onto your account and see what you have been doing and looking at. He also spoke to us about VPNs and how they can protect your location against IP snatchers. Then he talked to us about how everything we had ever done on the internet could be tracked to our location and everything we've done could be seen by people with the right power. This was surprising for everyone and quite scary

as people got worried if they'd accidentally done something they shouldn't have done.

After break we had a visitor from Natwest bank come in and talk to us. She gave us a task of coming up with a pitch that could raise money for a charity of our choice (in a group of 2/3/4). At the end she judged which team had the best pitch by their charity, idea and name. The team that won was Fred and Al's Breakfast Parlour with their Omelette Sandwich and the money going to Maidstone Mind Charity (although most of the groups had good ideas). Some groups came up with food pitches such as popcorn, cakes, waffles whilst others used ideas like fund raisers. At the end of the day we were given a Bag For Life and a certificate for our participation in Natwests Money Sense Scheme.

Other classes had talks from the emergency services. They learnt about the importance of the air ambulance and how to respond to a difficult situation. The policewomen explained the risks involved with knife crime and how to react when approached by the police. An Army Sergeant advised how you could get a career in the armed services and how he had served in a combat zone.

By Josh Douglas, P8



Year 7 Enrichment Day The Real Game

The Real Game delivers PSHEE and the National Careers Education Framework 7 - 19 learning outcomes that contribute to a range of subject areas, and offers an opportunity for enrichment as it gets students thinking about potential career paths, information, advice and guidance available to them en route to their dream job!

The game is designed to provide links between the school and the wider community; and show students the importance of adaptability by introducing the concept of transferable skills.

Mrs Williams said: "As part of their Careers Education, Year 7 students took part in the Real Game, an interactive digital game played within a classroom setting.

In the game, students role-played as single adults in occupational roles, discovering how schoolwork

relates to career choices and therefore to lifestyle and income. Within their job-role, students had the opportunity to explore adult realities, such as budgeting (taxes, mortgage or rent, other bills and transport), work life balance, different work and family roles and career making decisions.

The job profiles included in the game reflect a broad range of employment opportunities and the game introduces Year 7 students to different career ideas and options available. Students also took part in quizzes and puzzles, competing in their house teams."

Students learn that if they plan and make the most of their school years they may avoid this eventuality. By the end of the Real Game, students realise that satisfaction in work is a priority issue in life and that it is an outcome that they can achieve by making the choices that are right for them.



UCA EPSOM – Uni Open Day

On Wednesday 27th November, I attended the open day for UCA Epsom for the Advertising undergraduate course.

Not only was the campus and accommodation gorgeous, the staff were incredibly friendly creating a niche, quirky and family-like atmosphere and immediately I felt at home. This specialised university for the creative arts promotes individuality and that you express yourself, which really made the university feel inclusive of everyone and created a very comfortable environment. The university is placed 13th on the Guardian league table for universities 2020 and has been awarded TEF GOLD for its excellent standard in teaching and student outcome along with many other outstanding titles including 'Modern University of the Year' and No.1 arts Specialist Arts Institution in the UK.' As soon as I arrived there were staff and current students ready to greet you and answer any questions you have (along with giving you some free gifts!) There were campus tours and accommodation tours running every half an hour and we even got free drinks in the canteen. From the accommodation tour I discovered their various facilities including: a photography and production room with red and green screens; a virtual reality room; various sewing machines, rows and rows of MACs and PCs, a 3D printing room; a graphics printing room and so much more. Additionally they had a room full of various equipment that you can hire out for campus and out of campus use and every single facility is open for any student's use not just for courses which I think is particularly exciting as I can develop my skills in various areas not just my course. They also have a programme for non-EU citizens which really helps promote diversity within the campus and teach students about various cultures and how they can influence and improve their work. The support system they are able to provide due to the smaller size of the university I think is particularly fantastic and you can see this through their 96.9% graduate employment rate after 6 months. This is important as it alleviates some of the stress of what to do after graduation and the staff work intensely to aid you with this rather than just letting you go and work out your future for yourself. However, independent and life skills are encouraged and taught as well as just your chosen subjects. After visiting UCA, I am excited for the next stage of my future and it has helped me feel keen to get through my A-levels with a more committed and

dedicated attitude. I would really recommend visiting open days whether you're in year 13 or year 12 as they really help enforce a better attitude and outlook on life and allow you to take a glimpse of what your future could be rather than being stuck in the present, something I was struggling with.

For more information about UCA visit: <https://www.uca.ac.uk/>

To find out more about universities and open days visit: <https://www.ucas.com/>

By Niamh Cooper. Year 12 Media Studies Prefect.



The Warhammer Club

The Warhammer Club, after a brief advertising campaign with posters across the school and in form room notice boards last year, has now increased its membership by 25%.

It is now planning to go to the U.K Championships in March 2020. The club is held weekly in the Art rooms of the school and the championships will be held at Warhammer World in Nottingham.

The decision to mainstream the club was taken when most of its members decided that we wanted the club to continue after we are gone (as most of the club's members are now in the Sixth Form) and hoped to leave a lasting legacy for the younger generation who maintain a passion for gaming.

The decision to go to the U.K Championships is not new one and was taken last March after the club went to the semi-finals. The club has been training for the tournament for the past couple of weeks through a series of short games mainly between its A-Team members. It is the intention of the club to take a B-team and A-team to the tournament to maximise inclusion as well as success.

The A-team so far includes Alex K and Ben J in the Sixth Form. With Ben being the oldest member of our club who is still in school and Alex, the advertising manager who led the advertising campaign late last year. The B-Team consists of Tom F, Luke W and Ben K. Although these current placings are not determined.

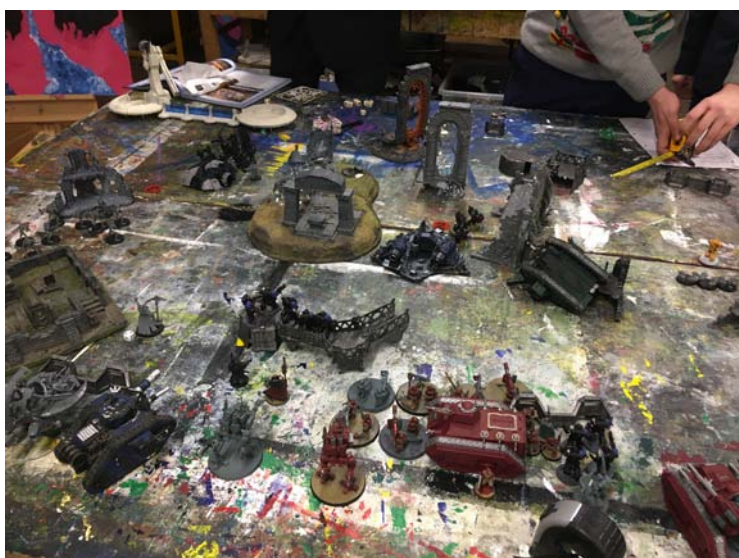
The benefits of participating in the championship

competition is proven to boost learning performance and teaches a variety of skills useful to employment. The UK Championship events also help club leaders develop links with other school clubs, whilst encouraging young people to make friends with other players. It can also:

- Provide a fun environment in which to learn life lessons
- Help young people perform at a higher level
- Teach the importance of setting goals
- Develop emotional intelligence
- Build self-esteem and confidence
- Give the chance for learners to travel and experience new things

If you are interested in getting involved in the Warhammer Club, be sure to attend to check it out! The club runs every Friday afterschool 3.25-5pm in the Art Rooms.

By Alex Kourtellas. Year 12 Media Studies Prefect.



Before Christmas, the English department at OPGS successfully won a pitch for 10 copies of a book pre-released called Wranglestone.

As a result, as an early Christmas present, 2 gifted and talented students from each of our Year 8 classes were given the book to read (and keep!) with the only caveat being that they complete a book review over the holidays so we could pass their feedback onto the publishing agency Stripes.

Debut author Darren Charlton is a talented new voice in UK young adult fiction. His first novel Wranglestone positively shivers with a chilling, creeping sense of disquiet, and the need to hold those you love close, against all odds. A wonderfully atmospheric and clever commentary on a society in survival mode, with themes of love and acceptance at its heart. In a post-apocalyptic America, a community survives in a national park, surrounded by water that keeps the Dead at bay. But when winter comes, there's nothing to stop them from crossing the ice.

Then homebody Peter puts the camp in danger by naively allowing a stranger to come ashore and he's forced to leave the community of Wranglestone. Now he must help rancher Cooper, the boy he's always watched from afar, herd the Dead from their shores before the lake freezes over. But as love blossoms, a dark discovery reveals the sanctuary's secret past. One that forces the pair to question everything they've ever known.

Zombie lore meets a gay coming of age tale that defies genre expectations at every turn. An action-packed and thought-provoking debut, for fans of Patrick Ness, Marcus Sedgwick, Dread Nation and The Walking Dead.

The students who read the book gave some thoughtful and honest review comments for us to feedback to the publishers which included:

"It was incredible, after the first few pages, I was hooked and the story was very intriguing, producing characters you loved or hated, or were suspicious of. My favourite part was learning of the Pale Wanderers and finding out there was more than meets the eye with people hiding in plain sight and others abandoned and unacknowledged." Xander Anthony

Wranglestone Reviews

"I thought it was a great book. A great storyline, very original, and with good character development; a good twist on a zombie apocalypse theme." Alex Younger

Certainly, the writer, Darren Charlton prefaced the book with the following:

"Thank you so much for your interest in Wranglestone, a love story between two boys set in the American wilderness fifteen years after a zombie apocalypse. When I was growing up in the 80s, the only way I stood a chance of seeing myself (or future self) reflected in books or films, was in [...] troubled adult worlds.

For my debut I wanted to give LGBTQ+ teens not an issue based or coming out story, but their very own adventure and for other readers, a coming of age thriller and mystery that just happens to have a gay relationship at its heart".



Thanks to everyone who came to our Bingo and Pizza Evening.

We had a great time. Martyn and his Assistant Ben expertly called the numbers and gave out the cash prizes. There were some chocolates and sweets given out during one of the games, to everyone who got a line before the full house was called. This had Jane running to and fro with the prize tub! Huge Pizzas arrived just in time for the break, then eyes down for more bingo. We finished with a raffle, helping to bring the total raised to £475.

We are looking for helpers for the second-hand uniform sales in March. Let us know if you can help for an hour or two between 3.20 and 7pm on 2nd, 4th, or 17th March.

If you have any spare, clean blazers, ties, jumpers, or PE kit you can donate before the sale, please drop off at school reception. Thanks for your support.

If you have a business and would like to advertise and support the school, become a race sponsor for our Race Night. Email opgsa@gmail.com as soon as possible so we can add your logo to our adverts.



OPGS win Gold Medals at Kent Rowing Championships

OPGS won Gold Medals at Kent Rowing Championships, following the Year 9 and 10 qualification at the West Kent Championships.

The Oakwood Park rowing club continues to offer students a chance to experience a new sport that differs from football and rugby and is a sport which most would never have tried before.

The School rowing club runs most of the year on a Monday, offering the students a chance to improve their fitness and learn the correct technique on the rowing machine in the winter and a chance to move onto the river in the summer months at our partner club, Maidstone Invicta Rowing Club.

Following the success at the West Kent Championships, our Year 9 and 10 squads qualified for the Kent Championships on Friday 31st January at Medway Park. Here the teams had the opportunity to compete against the best in the county.

The West Kent Championships were held in November and we entered a Year 7, 8, 9 and 10 team. This would be the first opportunity for our new students in Year 7 to compete at any level, whilst providing the older teams another chance of proving themselves in the local area.

The Year 7 and 8 squads challenged well and ended up just missing out on the qualification standards for the Kent Championships. A special mention to Cade Breytenbach rowing up an age group in his first competition.

The Year 9 and 10 squads, traditionally strong age groups across the county, achieved great scores and were placed 2nd and 3rd respectively. This, as mentioned, allowed them the opportunity to compete at the Kent finals in January, competing against the best in the area.

The Year 9 squad, Oliver Kane, Luke Breytenbach, Joshua Couchman and Charlie Reynolds all arrived with optimism and desire to challenge the other schools. Unfortunately, the opposition were strong this year and they were unable to achieve any medals. This was a good showing for this team, and one they will learn from.

Our Year 10 squad, Alex Knight, Kieran Evans, Louis Cole and Scott Bain, all experienced club rowers, were confident of both individual and team medals. Scott Bain was looking to better last year's second position, and was again up against the same huge opponent! He battled hard, and for the first time managed to out row his nemesis and achieved a distance 24 metres further than him. This is a great achievement for Scott and places him in a great position to go to NJIRC and defend his individual title later this month.

Pleasingly, the team performance meant that they positioned 1st in the team event. This was due to the strong individual performances combined with winning the relay event by a large margin! The team won by over 100m, no mean feat!

A huge congratulations to all rowers and some of the rowers are looking forward to next months NJIRC competition.



1st XI Season Review

The 1st XI Football squad are celebrating 'Back to Back' U19 League titles for the first time in the school's history after topping the table on 21 points.

The season has seen many changes in personnel, with at least 8 regular first team starters leaving at the end of last year and we were looking at this season to develop the younger players in the squad. Under the leadership of the new captain, Sonny Cook, the players were not willing to live off the successes of last year and instead have looked to create their own legacy at Oakwood Park.

It hasn't been all plain sailing, but the occasional bump along the way has refocussed the group and made them determined to learn and progress as a team, which they have done brilliantly. Noteworthy wins vs Simon Langton (6-1) and Harvey 4-3, both away from home shows the tough character of this side.

With the league confirmed earlier this week (4th February) the team turned their focus to the Kent Cup

where they had to travel to Thomas Tallis in the semi-final. It was a hard-fought match on a difficult playing surface but the boys managed to grind out a 2-1 win after a rare header from Luke Angus and after great work down the left from Max Eldridge, Sam Harris and Sammy Tansill. With the game level at 1-1 it took a moment of brilliance from Sammy Tansill, this time from a free kick which he expertly curled around the wall and into the back of the net.

The win in the semi-final means that the senior team will have a chance to defend their Kent Cup title as well later this year and also look to complete the 'double double'.

There is also the small matter of the League Cup semi-final, which is being played on Wednesday 12th February vs Hayes. If the boys manage to win this game then they will also have the chance to defend the League Cup, which they won last year and (whisper it quietly) a shot at completing the treble, which would also turn out to be a Double Treble (back to back trebles). Now that would be something to print on the back of a t-shirt.

