



OPGS Class of 2021 bid a final farewell

Dear Parents, Carers and Students,

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to the latest edition of @Oakwood. Although, for obvious reasons, we are not able to report on the usual range of activities, it is gratifying to see the first few “green shoots” of recovery. In particular I am delighted to see the return of cricket with many boys participating in fixtures. I am also delighted that this edition recognises the outstanding individual achievements of so many of our students. I do think pride of place goes to Ethan Ford in Year 7 who has raised well over £6,000 for his friend Jared who sadly has cancer. A truly inspiring effort and an example to us all of what we can do if we turn our minds to it.

Thank you also to the Publicity Team for producing this edition.

Mr K.W. Moody - Headteacher

STRIVE

AND

SERVE

Yr 9 - A Glasshouse of Stars

Exciting news! The English Department are delighted to announce that a selection of gifted and talented students from Year 9 have been chosen to receive a free book for their excellent work in the subject.

Currently, this term, students have been analysing a selection of Dystopian Fiction from 1984; A Handmaid's Tale, Oryx and Crake, Children of Men, The Maze Runner, The Road. Off the back of their analysis, students are also given time to indulge in their own creative writing, using the extracts as a springboard for their own apocalyptic futures.

In line with this, 10 students will receive a reading and writing pack to aid their ingenious ideas. The pack will include a bookmark, an engraved pencil with 'You will be a writer' etched on it and a brand-new copy of A Glasshouse of Stars by Shirley Marr. The packs were sent to the school by Usborne publishers, in collaboration with the Reading Agency. Mrs Davies, KS3 Lead in English has said "We are always encouraging students to read widely and these books are a great opportunity for our students to embark on new literary adventures".

You step inside and your world changes...

Meixing Lim and her family have arrived in the New Land to begin a New Life. Everything is scary and different. Their ever-changing house is confusing and she finds it hard to understand the other children at school. Yet in her magical glasshouse, with a strange black-and-white cat, Meixing finds a place to dream.

Told in unique second-person narrative, A Glasshouse of Stars is based on the author's childhood and beautifully illustrates the importance of kindness, resilience and imagination.

"I always describe myself as having a Western mind and an Eastern heart, and I write in that space in the middle where they both meet." Shirley Marr is a first-generation, Chinese-Australian author from Perth and her stories are based on her own personal experiences of migration.

"Heart-twisting and hopeful, bursting with big feelings and gentle magic." Jessica Townsend, New York Times bestselling author of the Nevermoor series

"A rare and beautiful masterpiece; deeply heartfelt, dreamily magical, and glitteringly hopeful. I adored it!" Sophie Anderson, bestselling author of The House with Chicken Legs.



Ben Taylor- Kent Cricket

2021 has seen the emergence of a strong Year 8 cricket team that includes several club and district level players.

This is the first year the team have been able to play school cricket following the cancellation of the 2020 season due to COVID. A huge congratulations must go to the teams' captain, Ben Taylor (pictured below), who has been selected for the 2021 U13 Kent Pathway Squad as a wicketkeeper/batsman. This is a fantastic achievement given the vast amount of competition for places across the county. Ben was first selected for Kent at U11 level having represented Hollingbourne and Kingshill cricket clubs from an early age. He has also played for the 'Western Rhinos' district cricket team for several years, first playing in the U10 team as an 8-year-old!

Playing for school, club, district and county, Ben has made an excellent start to the 2021 season. For OPGS Ben has captained the year 8 side

brilliantly, showing tactical awareness beyond his years whilst taking a series of diving catches in the team's most recent fixture vs. SJWMS. He is now looking to register a first school fifty in the year 8's next fixture vs. Dane Court following May half term. For Kent, Ben has recently scored 50 in an inter squad two-day test match in Tunbridge Wells. He now has a full season of county cricket ahead, playing Wales, Norfolk, Jersey, Hampshire, Essex, Sussex, Surrey, Middlesex, and London Schools in two-day matches. He will also be playing men's club cricket in the Kent Regional League having broken into the Kings Hill CC 3rd XI this year. This will all be great experience for Ben who hopes to continue his early season success as the summer progresses. In addition to cricket he is also a key member of the school football and rugby teams, playing football to high club standard at the weekends. This is a phenomenal achievement given the time and effort needed to balance training/playing commitments for all three sports. As a PE department and school we wish him the very best for the cricket season ahead!



Designs for Hope Art competition

Oakwood Park Grammar School was selected by Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells NHS trust with 7 other schools to take part in a special competition to create Art work for the Outpatients ward at Maidstone hospital. The competition was run during term 4 with Year 7 and 8 students.

The competition was title 'Designs for Hope', and students had to design and create a piece of art work that represented and could give hope to people in the outpatient ward.

A large number of Year 7 and 8 students

submitted final pieces showing great creative and imaginative flair and we would like to congratulate everyone from OPGS that entered, on their hard work and creativeness.

The judges from the competition chose 5 winners from across the 7 schools and remarked on the high standard of entries. One of the 5 winners was from Oakwood Park Grammar School, Oscar Cyz in Year 8. Oscar will have his final piece displayed in the Outpatient ward and will be attending a special ceremony for the winners. We would like to congratulate Oscar on his fantastic piece work.

Oscar's work is below.



A Real Life Superhero.

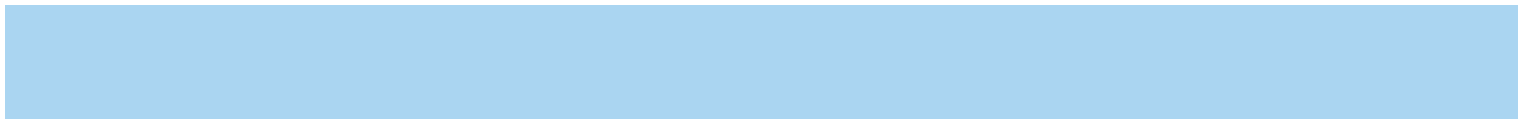
Ethan Ford, Year 7 pledged to run 3 miles every day in the month of April to raise money for his friend Jared who is battling cancer.

Jared is an incredibly brave and inspirational 6 year old boy who was first diagnosed with cancer when he was 4. Since then he has had 34 general anaesthetics, 19 blood transfusions, 137 blood tests, 28 sessions of proton beam therapy, 241 days of chemotherapy, 4 operations, 3 days in ICU and 233 overnight stays in hospital. What Jared has had to endure is more than any child should have to bear but he is a fighter and incredibly resilient. He goes to school as much as he can and tries to live life as normal as possible. With

the love and support of his wonderful family, and the help of the amazing doctors and nurses at the Royal Marsden and Pembury Hospital, Jared will beat cancer again. He is a real-life Superhero.

One of Jared's dreams is to go on a Disney Cruise. Ethan would like to raise money to go towards making this dream come true for him. He ran 3 miles everyday in April, completing his 90mile target. He has so far raised £6,536 which we think is a wonderful achievement. If you would like to donate to this cause, please follow the link below. We are very grateful for any donations.

<https://paypal.me/pools/c/8xTiFvpAoq>



Ethan's Fundraiser for Jared

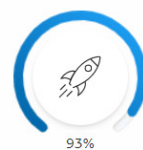
This pool is managed by anthony Ford

Contribute

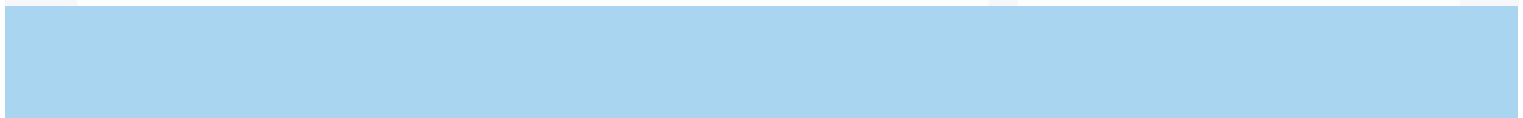
About this pool

Ethan has pledged to run 3 miles every day for the month of April to raise money for his friend Jared who is battling cancer.

Show more



£6,536.00



No Face Masks in Schools

Teachers, parents and students have generally greeted the easing of coronavirus safety measures in schools from Monday 17th May with a mixture of relief and, in the light of concern over the Indian variant, consternation and a measure of confusion.

The government has announced students will no longer need to wear face coverings in schools. However, some areas in the north of England are being advised to continue measures, following rising numbers of cases of the new variant, known as B.1.617.2.

For many students, wearing a face mask is one of many sacrifices they have made in the fight against the pandemic, and they are pleased the rules have changed. They let out a collective sign of relief and it was very pleasant to see everyone's lovely smiles for the first time in months when seated in the classroom. This will allow many students to engage better in lesson, where the speaking and listening interaction of paired, group and whole class discussion make a big difference

when facilitating learning.

The Department for Education said on Saturday 15th May "the latest data shows infection rates continuing to decrease" and that not having to wear masks would "improve interaction between teachers and students".

Teachers' unions have concerns. Kevin Courtney, the joint general secretary of the National Education Union (NEU), said: "We all want to see an end for the need to wear face masks. However, given the advice from Sage and the threat from new variants, it is disappointing the government has lifted the recommendation for them to be worn in secondary classrooms.

"The Department for Education guidance allows for the reintroduction of face coverings if need be, in response to local Covid outbreaks. The NEU believes it would have been more sensible to keep current mask-wearing arrangements in place, with a further review in advance of 21 June.

"This would keep staff and students safe and avoid more children losing out on face-to-face education because of virus outbreaks."



Joe Stone- Kent County Athletics Championships

One of our promising athletes, Joe Stone (P9), competed in the Kent County Athletics Championships at the Ashford Julie Rose Stadium on the 8th and 9th May 2021.

On the Saturday, Joe competed in Long Jump, Triple Jump and 80m hurdles. He is the 2021 County Champion in Long Jump and Triple Jump with jumps of 5.76m and 12.69m respectively. Along with a silver medal in the 80m hurdles with a time of 13.11s

On the Sunday, Joe ran in the 200m sprint winning his heat and then in a closely contested final, finished with a silver medal in a time of 24.70s.

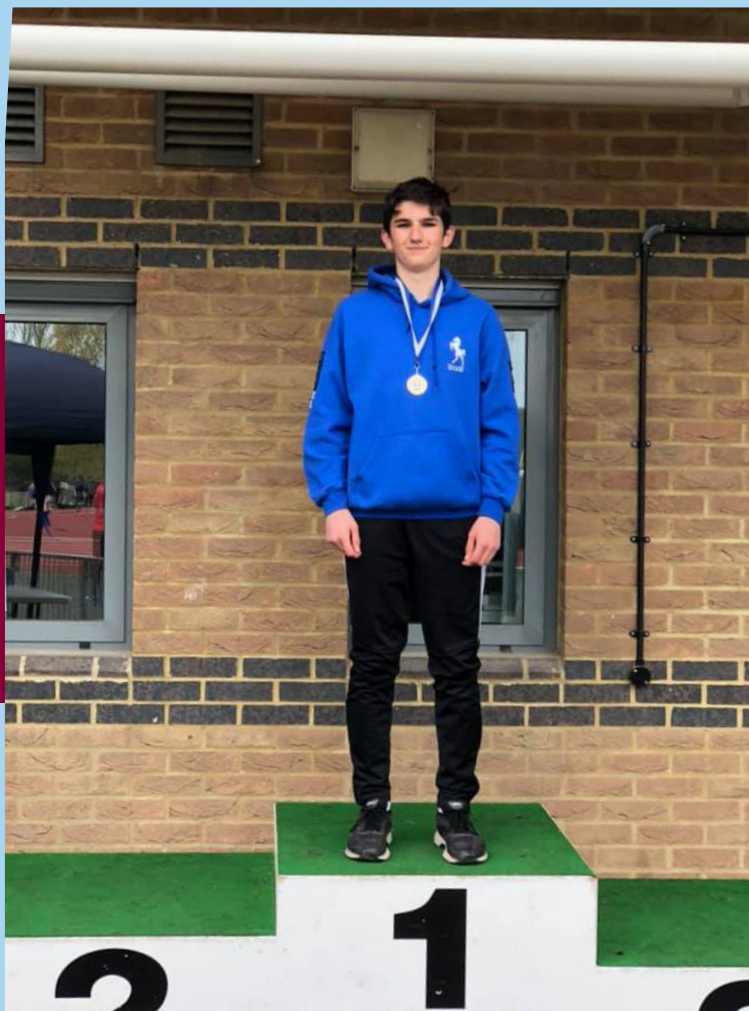
This has now ranked Joe 1st in the UK for Long jump (6.03m) and Triple Jump as an Under 15 boy, along with 7th in the 200m and 10th in the 80m Hurdles. All these achievements are ranked against boys who could also be a year older than

himself. This is a phenomenal achievement at this stage of his athletics career. It shows his dedication and application to developing his passion for athletics and is clearly one to watch for the future.

Joe will next be competing under the school's name in the following competitions:

- Kent Schools and London Schools Combined Events competition at Lee Valley Athletics centre, London on Wednesday 26 May 2021
- Surrey Schools Combined Events at Kingston on Monday 31st May as a guest Athlete for OPGS
- Kent Schools Championship in Ashford on the 12th June, competing in Triple Jump.
- Kent Schools Combined Events Regional Championships on the 26th and 27th June

We wish him well for all these up coming events.





Revision Tips



Set up the perfect study space

Make sure it's well lit, not too hot or cold and is quiet enough for you to work.



Start with the biggest or most difficult

It might seem easier to start with the smallest and easiest bits but by tackling the biggest, most challenging topics first you'll feel more confident in the long run.



Take regular breaks

It's important to ensure you take regular breaks, you need to rest your brain to process the information you're learning. Arrange time with friends and family or watch a bit of Netflix (just be sure not to binge-watch a whole series).



Eat healthily

Make sure to eat three healthy meals a day and limit your caffeine and sugar intake. Power foods for your brain include blueberries, salmon and nuts, so be sure to stock up!



Look ahead and make a plan

Look at your exam timetable and create a revision plan based on it. It'll help keep your revision organised.



Use the best methods for you

By now, you'll know which revision techniques work best for you but don't be afraid to use a new one if you're struggling to absorb a topic. Do whatever works best for you.



Move distracting apps out of view

Your phone can be a huge help for revision, but also a distraction. Move any apps that are likely to distract you to the last page, so you aren't tempted. Add apps that can help you (like the GCSEPod app) to your phone's home screen as a reminder to keep up your revision.



Exercise

A healthy body = a healthy mind. Try to do at least 20 minutes of physical activity a day to help improve focus and stay relaxed.



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More effective revision

Top 10 Revision Tips



Rise and shine

Starting your revision by 9am will help you get into a routine that you can stick to.



Breakfast

Having breakfast before revising is vital as it helps you to concentrate for longer.



Log off

Switch off all devices, a five minute peek at Facebook turns into an hour so easily. Use internet time as a reward on a break.



Past papers

Past exam papers are a perfect way to get used to exam pressure. Time yourself and use past papers to improve your confidence.



Get colourful

Keep your notes organised and bright. Use different fonts, pens and diagrams. Colour coding your areas also helps.



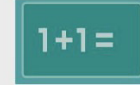
Stick to the plan

Make a revision timetable, it will help you prioritise your areas. Plan for different ways of learning (mind maps, essays, fact cards)



Take breaks

Take a short break (5-10 minutes) after every half hour - It's important to get away from your work area. Adding breaks into your timetable is vital.



Teach

If you are confident with a subject, teach it to your friends and they can do the same for you.



No last minute revision

Cramming 10 minutes before an exam doesn't work, planning your time and working hard does!



Breathe!

You'll be great!

Term 5 Junior Cricket Report

This term's Kent Cup cricket fixtures marked the long awaited return of inter-school sport at OPGS. This was particularly exciting for students given the cancellation of the 2020 season due to the COVID lockdown.

A big focus for the department in recent years has been the development of the school cricket programme. January 2020 saw the introduction of the first 12-week pre-season training programme led by Kent's premier coaching company, Invicta Cricket Coaching. This made a huge difference to the development of both individual players and the squad's at OPGS. Player numbers have also increased significantly in recent years due to the success of both lunchtime clubs and the improved delivery of cricket within PE lessons. Links with local clubs have also been strengthened. Students new to the game have been identified on a yearly basis and directed to external coaching programmes at Linton, Mote and Leeds and Broomfield cricket clubs.

Results in from a successful term's fixtures are as follows-

The year 7 team received a bye in the first round of the U12 Ford Cup. Drawn against The Howard School in round 2, OPGS bowled first and took control of the game with four wickets in the first six overs. This restricted the Howard School to a small total of 59 runs. Other excellent bowling performances came from Harrison and Oliver Fryer. Chasing 60 runs to win, the Fryer twins lead the way as the OPGS opening batsmen and remained unbeaten, showing composure to reach the victory target and win the game inside 10 overs. This was an excellent start to the season for a very promising year group that have several club and district players. The team now faces either Norton Knatchbull or Kent College in round 4 of the U12 Ford Cup.

The Year 8 team have been extremely unlucky with weather this term. Drawn against Sir Joseph Williamson Mathematical School in round 2 of the Thomas Thunder Trophy, OPGS won the toss and scored 140 in the first innings thanks to an excellent 54 runs from Ryan Ward. SJWMS were 92-3 after 9.1 overs before heavy rain caused the game to be abandoned. This was unfortunate for the Year

8 team who looked in control of the run rate and game at this point. Rescheduled to the following week, OPGS again won the toss and decided to bat first. Having lost the top 5 batsmen for 30 runs, the team struggled to 71 runs from their 20 overs. This was a respectable score having been 30-5 from 10 overs. Finn Holmes showing fantastic maturity and running between the wickets to finish on 18 not out. Defending this total seemed a near impossible difficult task against a strong SJWMS batting line up. Harvey Lowe and Will Adrich made a brilliant start to the innings, taking three and two wickets apiece to reduce SJWMS to 31-5 after 10 overs. Wickets were still needed as SJWMS had plenty of overs to reach their victory target. Ryan Ward then produced an inspired spell of bowling to take three quick wickets, leaving just one wicket needed with SJWMS still requiring 11 runs. SJWMS then batted extremely well to bring the scores level before Ryan Ward took a tough caught and bowled chance to tie the game. This then led to a 'super over' where OPGS batted first and scored a respectable seven runs. Unfortunately the SJWMS opening batsmen hit successive boundaries to win the game in what was an extremely tense and exciting fixture. The year 8 team now face Harvey GS away in round 3 of the competition.

The Year 9 teams have made an excellent start to the season in the U14 Oliver Cup. Two teams have been entered into this year's Kent Cup given the strength in depth of this year group. The U14 B team were given a very tough draw away to a strong Ashford School side. Bowling first, excellent seam bowling from both Nate Turner and Lucas Dick restricted the home team to 127/5 from their 20 overs. This was a great effort by OPGS given that several Ashford School players represent club and district teams. Chasing 128 runs to win, opening batsmen Lucas Dick and James Tricker built a 90-run partnership that took the team within touching distance of an upset. Having made the breakthrough wickets then began to fall as the required run rate reached 10 an over. This eventually proved too much as the team fell to a narrow 15 runs defeat. The U14B's have now been drawn in the U14 T20 competition that will start in term 6.

The U14A team have made a brilliant start to the

season and are currently undefeated. The U14's started their cricket campaign with a hard-fought win over St.Olaves. Putting the visitors into bat the bowlers restricted them to 83 runs from their 20 overs. Toby Clarke 2 for 4, Joe Stone 3 for 15 and Henry Campbell 2 for 18 were the wicket takers for OPGS. In reply the U14's started well with both openers scoring well and setting up the innings for the team. James Tricker and Bobby Myers combined for 25 runs, OPGS managed to pick off the runs with 4 balls to spare after a lovely flick down to fine leg from Charlie Razey (13 not out).

Playing Sir Joseph Williamson Mathematical School in round 2 of the U14 Oliver Cup, OPGS decided to bat first having won the toss. Excellent contributions from all top 5 batsmen saw the team compile 148/4 from 20 overs. This proved far too much for the SJWMS batting line up who were restricted to 66/7. This was thanks to some accurate bowling from all the OPGS bowlers. Standout figures for captain Toby Clarke who claimed 5/2 from three overs. The U14A team now face a tough game against Hurstmere or Bexley GS in round 4.

The U15 team played their Kent Cup match away to Cranbrook school at the idyllic setting of Sissinghurst CC. The game was low scoring, mainly due to the brilliance of the Oakwood Park bowlers who managed to restrict the hosts to 87-9 from their 20 overs. Key spells from Joe Stone 3 for 19 from 4 overs and Bobby Myers 2 for 18 also from 4 overs, as well as a 2-wicket maiden from Henry Campbell really piled on the pressure for Cranbrook.

A run rate of just over 4 per over seemed

achievable, an overly cautious approach saw the U15's quickly fall behind the required rate and with eight overs remaining they still had only scored 24 runs, leaving them 64 runs from 48 balls to win. James Tricker batted nicely throughout but it was the introduction of Harry Scott with a quickfire 24 runs that swung the momentum back in our favour. Another stutter when Harry lost his wicket meant that captain Toby Clarke had to come in with the team 56 for 3 from 16 overs. With 12 balls remaining and still needing 23 to win it looked as if the slow start would cost the team, but a captain's innings saw Toby hit a huge 6 which would be the shot that changed the outcome of the match. Toby when on to score an unbeaten 19 and with the last ball of the game the U15's needed 2 to tie, and 3 to win, Toby showed his class by hitting a four off the last ball to seal the win.

The team then faced SJWMS in round 2 of the Miskin Cup. Losing the toss, OPGS were asked to bat on a damp and soft pitch following heavy rain. After a steady start from openers James Tricker and Bobby Myers, the team reached 25 runs before the first wicket fell. The middle order then batted well with runs from Harrison Scott, Charlie Razey and Henry Campbell taking the team score to a respectable 131 runs from 20 overs. With a strong OPGS bowling attack, SJWMS never looked likely to reach their victory target with wickets falling at regular intervals throughout their innings. This was due to constant pressure from all OPGS bowlers who maintained a great line and length throughout. Some fantastic catching also helped with Nate Turner taking a screamer at mid off during the closing stages of the game! The team now face a tough AWAY trip to play Sevenoaks school in round 3 following May half term.



Lifting of Lockdown

From Monday 17th May, in England, the restrictions in place to help protect us against COVID are beginning to lift into another phase, so we can try to return to a 'new normal'. Step 3 of the government's roadmap out of lockdown means that hospitality (hotels and holiday accommodation), museums, theatres, pubs, restaurants and cinemas are allowed to operate indoors.

The relaxation of the government guidelines mean that we can now hug our loved ones again; all the friends and family we have missed over the passed tough months. Although the government has issued advice on how to hug safely, such as be selective, still be wary of hugging strangers over close family and friends; so you are not wrapping your arms around everyone you see. When hugging, turn your face to the side and keep it fairly short, wear a mask if the person receiving the hug is vulnerable. Boris Johnson has said people should take a "cautious and common sense" approach.

There is a new 30-person limit on meeting people



 <p>29 March Rule of 6 and outdoor sport</p>	 <p>12 April Shops, beauty, gyms and outdoor hospitality</p>
 <p>17 May Indoor: pubs, restaurants and entertainment</p>	 <p>21 June All limits on social contact lifted</p>



outdoors but the rule of 6 or two households is now applicable indoors. Organised indoor adult sport is back too; gyms, leisure centres, and fitness classes can all resume.

In terms of travelling further afield, domestic overnight stays are permitted. In addition, international travel, including a dozen, mostly European countries are on the government's green list.

Having said that, the government has warned outbreaks connected to the Indian variant of COVID could delay the phase of easing restrictions, currently expected to go ahead in June. As a result, the second vaccine doses could be brought forward and local restrictions introduced to help tackle the Indian variant in the worst-affected areas, the UK government has said. Minister Nadhim Zahawi said steps could also include vaccinating younger people in multi-generational households. Meanwhile, a top scientist has warned lifting restrictions on 21 June is in doubt because of the Indian variant. As it stands, new data has shown the B.1.617.2 strain - originally found in India - had more than doubled in the UK in a week to over 1,300 cases, according to Public Health England Boris Johnson has said people need to be wary until they have more data in, but the Indian variant could "seriously disrupt" the plans before the Summer.

OPGS Afterschool Sports Competitions

On Thursday 22nd April 2021, some normality returned in the PE department! Yes, we held our first school competition! Finally COVID restrictions allowed us to offer the chance for our students to take part in extra-curricular activity. It was decided that we would offer the following sports as a 'turn up and play' opportunity, in the hope that we would be able to engage a large amount of our students.

The afternoon was a warm day and 87 of our Year 7 students were eagerly getting changed ready for Nerf Howler, a beach game we had adapted to be able to play in school.

The game is a mix between Ultimate Frisbee, Netball, American Football amongst others. The students

play in teams of approximately 8 and have to score as many 'Nerf Touchdowns' as possible.

Mr Devonald, Mr Keeling -Jones and Mr Smith all escorted the boys to the field and organised them into fair teams for the competition.

Some interesting team names were chosen, Team Bob, Red Pepper, Team We Need a Name, Team Ermmm, Scrambled Eggs, We Can't Catch, The Boys, Trojan Lettuce, and Denominators:

We split them into two groups for the initial phase, all teams in each group playing off for the top spot in the group. Once this was completed we played a finals round for the final positions of the afternoon, last in each group playing each other all the way through to the top team playing the top team.

Group Stage Group 1:

Team Bob	won 3, lost 1	First place
Red Pepper	won 2, lost 1 drew 1,	Second place
Team We need a name	won 2, lost 2	Third place
Team Erm	won 1, lost 1 and drew 2	Fourth place
Scrambled Eggs	won 0, lost 3, drew 1	Fifth place

Group 2:

We Can't Catch	won 3, drew 1	First place
The Boys	won 3, drew 1	Second place (went down to goals scored)
The Pythons	won 1, lost 3	Third place (better goal difference)
Trojan Lettuce	won 1, lost 3	Fourth place (Trojan beat Denominators)
Denominators	won 1, lost 3	

Finals:

9th/10th place	Denominators v Scrambled Eggs	Denominators won
7th/8th place	Trojan Lettuce v Team ERM	Team Erm won
5th/6th	The Pythons v Team we need a name	Draw
3rd/4th	The Boys v Red Pepper	Red Pepper won
1st/2nd	We Can't Catch v Team Bob	Team Bob won 2-1

The first ever Nerf Howler winning team were each able to choose a football or rugby ball as their winning prize.



Year 8 was held on the following week, and whilst not as well attended, only 24 students, it was just as much fun and entertaining, whilst also being competitive.

We split the students into four evenly matched teams, and they all played each other in the group phase, allowing then for semi-finals and finals to be completed. Le J2 Trappy were fighters all the way, and when they replayed teams in the semi-finals and 3rd/4th play offs, they ensured the deficit of Nerf Touchdowns was better the second time around.

The group stages ended up as follows:

Da Wood	1st
Da T8	2nd
Super 8	3rd
Le J2 Trappy	4th

The finals then consisted of the following games:
We played 1st v 3rd and 2nd v 4th, with the final results below:

Da Wood v Super 8	4 - 1
Da T8 v Le J2 Trappy	3 - 0

3rd/4th Play off, surprisingly was a draw, Le J2 Trappy upped their performance and Super 8 became a little despondent and lacked a little cohesiveness towards the end.

Super 8 v Le J2 Trappy	2 - 2
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And then the Final was eventually between the best two teams of the event being,

Da Wood v Da T8
With a final score of 3-1 to Da Wood.



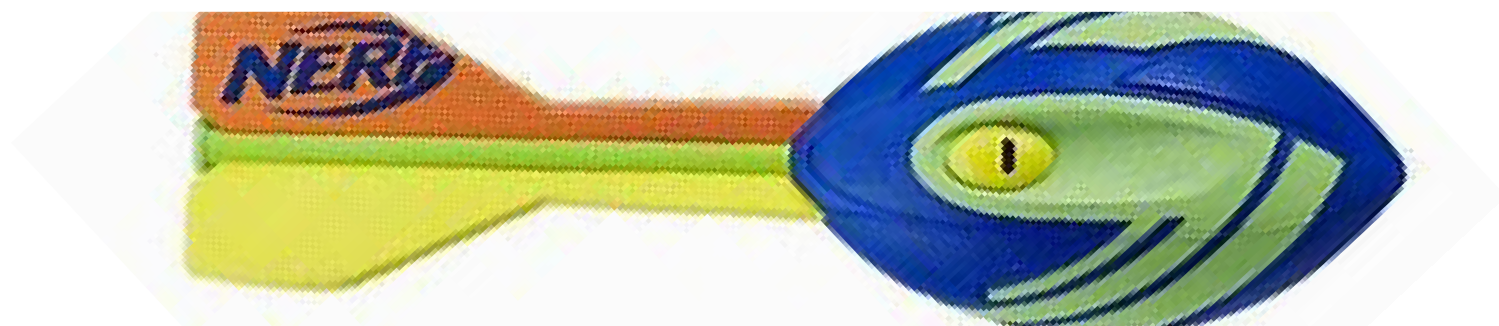
Year 9 was the final Nerf Howler competition of the year and we saw only 16 students attend, but what a competition we had. Yes, C9 did dominate the group phases, and ultimately were the most cohesive and competitive group out there.

All teams continued to play and enjoyed the afternoon despite the scores at times being quite heavy. As C9 felt they were so superior, we did set one final challenge to win a class Nerf Howler, which was to score against all other players. So, they began playing only 5 other players – even in numbers. As soon as they scored we included another opposition player.

This continued each time they scored, and this would continue until either all opposition players were on the field or the opposition scored against them! Well, C9 being as competitive as they were, they played their hearts out and carried on scoring and scoring until, yes, you guessed it was 5 v 11! To achieve their goal though they had to score one final winner!! Which they did in a great play up the pitch and it finally being scored/caught by Tom Ansell.

Congratulations to the Winning team – they ook on all other students and won!! Also, a well done to the Runners up.

As a department we have continued with this format but opened out to Football this term and then Ready4Rugby and Rounders next term.



Year 7 football was held on 13th May, again attended by 87 students, a great competition that ended on a penalty shoot out after two group stages and a finals, much like the Nerf Howler competition. Due to the time of the evening and numbers of boys, we learnt from previous experience and only called the teams 1 – 5, makes life much easier.

A great standard of football was played, Mr Devonald offered tactical advice in between games whilst all staff supported the teams whilst they were playing.

We are following this up with Year 8 on 20th May and Year 9 on 27th May.

It has been great to see so many faces at the competitions, and such a wide range of abilities. Well done to all.



Year 8 Young Writers

In line with teaching *Animal Farm*, picking up on some of the key themes from the novella, during our literacy lessons,

Year 8 students were invited to write their own short creative writing piece on the theme of being 'Trapped'. These budding students put their creative energies into crafting a thrilling mini saga in just 100 words. As a result, we are delighted to announce that Joshua Bruce and Josiah Edada will have their SOS mini sagas published in the next Young Writers Anthology. Read it at your own peril!



Matt Hill, Mackenzie Leason & Bradley Martin- Saracens Academy

A huge congratulations to year 11 students Bradley Martin, Matt Hill (pictured below) and Mackenzie Leason for progressing to the 2021 Kent & Saracens Rugby Players Development Group (PDG). This is a phenomenal achievement given that 44 players are selected from a range of tiers across Kent, Essex, and Hertfordshire.

The trials process is extensive with each club and school across these counties nominating 2-3 players for the initial trials. From this process approximately 150 players in the county are taken through into the Kent & Saracens Developing Players Pathway (DPP). Following further trials and training, 50 players from the DPP are elevated to

the Kent & Saracens Players Development Group (PDG), with the same process taking place in the other two counties. 44 of the best PDG players across the three counties are then taken forward to form the Saracens Elite Player Development Group (EPDG).

In 2020, Mackenzie Leason and Matt Hill made it through to the final 44 players and became part of the Saracens Elite Player Development Group (EPDG). This season, Matt, Mac and Brad have already made it through to the PDG. Their assessment and training is ongoing to see whether they will make it into the final Saracens Squad. If successful, players that make the final squad will represent Saracens v Wasps at the end of May. We wish all three boys the best of luck in the final stages of the selection process.



Congratulations to the Senior Prefect Team 2021 – 2022

Head Student
Tom Homewood



Head Student
Francesca Ward



Deputy Head Student
Matthew Wareham



Deputy Head Student
Ann-Isabel Olujohungbe



Senior Prefect
Mairead Brophy



Senior Prefect
Selina Ghebremeskel



Senior Prefect
Rebecca Godsmark



Senior Prefect
Ryan Harvey



Senior Prefect
Edward Hodson



Senior Prefect
Wiki Motylewska



Senior Prefect
Angel Rai



Senior Prefect
Johnathan Sheba



Sustainability Club and their Reading Journey

Students from the Sustainability Club have been given the task of receiving a book straight from the publishers to read, review and offer their feedback on the extremely topical title *Guardians of the Planet: How to be an Eco Hero*. The Reading Agency, whose motto is “Help us tackle life’s big challenges through the proven power of reading”, sent the publications to coincide with the release with the celebrations of the natural world for Earth Day on 22nd April.

Buster Books have delivered a non-fiction book that is packed with compelling facts and creative activities to encourage the students to engage with environmental issues of all kinds in everyday situations. It’s aim, to strive to protect our incredible world with its natural environment before it is too late. Head of Sustainability at Oakwood, Mrs Alltimes said “This was a wonderful opportunity for our young students interested in sustainability, it was fantastic to see them engage in finding out new facts, and using it as inspiration to come up with ideas for around the school.”

Created in partnership with Client Earth, an environmental law organisation and charity committed to securing a healthy planet. From reusing old clothes and composting food waste, to reducing water use and giving wildlife a helping hand, the unique ‘Guardian’ theme of the

book shows the students how they can take an active role in protecting particular areas of the environment.

With beautiful artwork by Jonathan Woodward popping up on every page, the book is printed in full colour using special environmentally friendly waterless inks on FSC paper, and includes a foreword written by Client Earth trustee, Brian Eno.

Some of the student reviews are:

“It was really informative and had very nice illustrations. It has something for everyone, experts or novices and had loads of different things that you could do. The text was really nicely positioned, it was in little bubbles not one huge block on each page. It made the message on climate change etc. really clear. GREAT BOOK”#
“My favourite part of the book was the useful information throughout and absolutely outstanding illustrations”



We'll Meet Again

OPGS Class of 2021 bid a final farewell to their school this week with a sunny outdoor assembly, accompanied by an ice-cream van.

Head Students presented Year 13 with 'Most Likely' awards for their skills and notable achievements during their Sixth Form. Here is a flavour of the student roll of honour:

Most likely to be the next Doctor Who - Mussa Ahmed.

Most likely to overthrow the government - Campbell Hanley.

Most likely to become a millionaire - Callum Smith.

Most likely to be an influencer - Izzy Golding.

Most likely to join the circus - Teagan Evans.

Most likely to get married in Vegas - Charlie Burton.

Most likely to join MI5 - Freddie Mercer.

Most likely to win an Oscar - Jas Hill.

Most likely to win the Nobel peace prize - Kajal Knight.

Staff also received recognition for their academic abilities. For example: 'The most smiley' - Mr

Edwards and 'Most likely to become a rapper' - Mr Lewis.

Joking aside, the students in the Class of 2021 have endured a Sixth Form of disruption and uncertainty. Looking at their young sun-lit faces as they listened to their Prefects' farewell speeches, the Sixth Form Team felt huge sense of respect for them. These Year 13 OPGS students have shown resilience, patience and determination in the face of uncertainty and social isolation. For them, taking A level exams in a normal year, would have been the easy option. However, they go on to their next destinations stronger and more able to cope with the challenges that life will throw at them. So, the Sixth Form Team will forgive their horrendous lockdown hair styles. We look forward to greeting them at OPGS in December for our black-tie dinner in celebration of their outstanding achievement.

The OPGS Sixth Form Team





Year 8 Competition: Thinking Hard in History

How were people from your street affected by the First and Second World Wars?

1. Search online for 'CWGC Who lived on your street'



2. Enter a postcode to find local First and Second World War casualties

3. Research them online using the information record you are given

4. In a format of your choice, either:

Make a connection with that person's experience of war. For example: Which battle might they have fought in and where?

Compare the local casualties from WW1 and WW2 – from your research, what might those men leaving the same street have experienced which was the same or different to each other?

Extend your research on the individual and their family. Were they awarded a medal? What regiment did they join and what happened to that unit?

Aim for a side of information. You can include images, maps etc.

Email your finished piece to Miss Aldous
aaldous@opgs.org by

Deadline: Monday 14 June 2021

Useful websites:

The search / database tool: <https://www.cwgc.org/who-lived-on-your-street/>

WW1 battles with dates: <https://www.iwm.org.uk/history/10-significant-battles-of-the-first-world-war>

WW2 battles with dates: <https://www.history.com/topics/world-war-ii/world-war-ii-battles-timeline>