



Virtual Presentation Evening

Dear Parents, Carers and Students,

Welcome to the Summer edition of @Oakwood.

As ever, I am most grateful to our brilliant Publicity Team for putting this edition together.

I am incredibly impressed with the wide range of team achievements and individual achievements, even more so given the restrictions that COVID has put on us as a school. Well done to the U13 Cricket team for winning the Kent Shield; our first cricket trophy for many a year, I am reliably informed.

I am sure too, that you would want me to thank on your behalf our incredible staff who have worked so hard this year to keep the school safe by organising Lateral Flow Testing in schools and walking many miles to teach their classes in bubbles!

The annual Presentation Evening was held virtually online this year. Congratulations to all students who were awarded prizes for their outstanding performance. More details can be viewed in the 'News and Events' section on the school website. <https://www.opgs.org/opgs-virtual-presentation-event/>

With best wishes for a safe and relaxing Summer Holiday.



Mr K.W. Moody - Headteacher

BAFTA Young Games Designer Award

The BAFTA YGD Mentor Award category has returned this year, recognising inspirational individuals involved in championing the education of young game creators in the UK.

BAFTA has announced this year's winners, including ex-OPGS pupil and former BAFTA YGD finalist Harry Petch. Watch this video from BAFTA YGD about the awards.

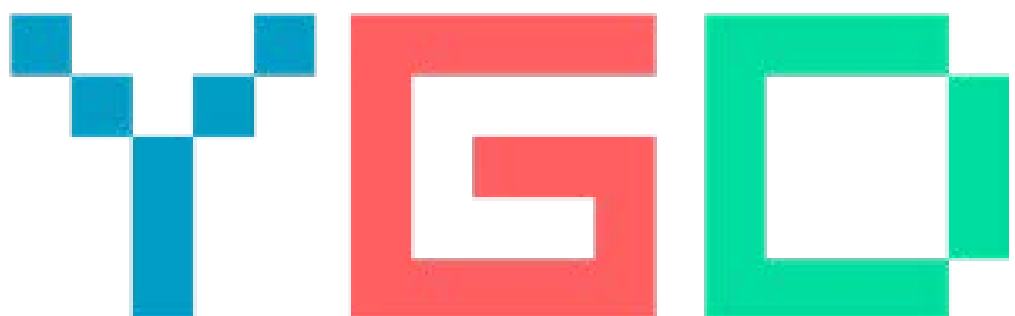
<https://youtu.be/YihPtgKsSkw>

Harry left OPGS in 2020 after studying A levels in Computer Science, Geography and History. He is currently studying at Abertay University completing his first year Game Design and Production BA Hon. Harry had twice been a finalist for the BAFTA Young Games Designer competition in the Games Making category in 2016 and 2019. Whilst in Sixth Form at Oakwood Park Grammar School, Harry set up two games development clubs for Years 7-8 and Years 9-11, creating a safe space for games designing, proving successful with a total of eight students becoming finalists for Games Making and Concept awards through BAFTA YGD. Constantly working on his craft, Harry communicates regularly with previous YGD finalists via Discord to share learnings and teachings to help improve his practice and sessions within the school.

Harry was selected by the virtual jury for his outstanding efforts in inspiring young individuals

and offering supportive and accessible career pathways into the industry. The jury was chaired by Nick Button-Brown and featured prominent British games industry experts and enthusiasts, including Julia Hardy and Melissa Phillips.

Harry will again be mentoring OPGS students for the BAFTA Young Games Designers Competition next year as part of the BAFTA YGD club in school – for more information regarding application for a place in the group, please contact Miss Rowe in September. More information about the competition in general can be found at: <http://ygd.bafta.org/>



Marcus Rashford Book Club's First Choice: A Dinosaur Ate My Sister

Bringing the love of books back from the Jurassic age. The English Department are extremely delighted to announce a selection of gifted and talented students from Year 7 have been chosen to receive a free book for their excellent work in the subject.

Currently, this term, students have been analysing *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. Off the back of their analysis, students are also given time to indulge in their own creative writing, using the key themes and characters from this Shakespearean classic as a springboard for their own stories based on misunderstandings.

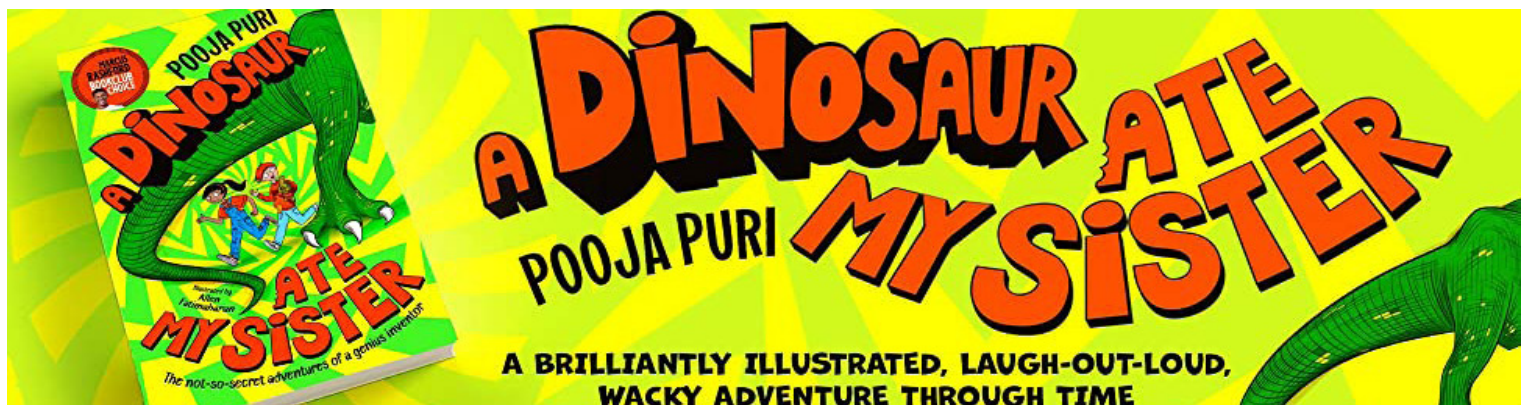
In line with this, 20 students will receive the first choice for the Marcus Rashford Book Club picks of 2021 with a brand-new copy of *A Dinosaur Ate My Sister* by Pooja Puri, and illustrated by Allen Fatimaharan. The books were sent to the school by Macmillan publishers, in collaboration with the Reading Agency. Rashford remarked: "For too long, the joy of reading has been restricted by whether or not a family has the contingency budget to purchase books. The children who often miss out are those on free school meals and users of breakfast clubs, who more than likely need fiction, and non-fiction, to escape reality from time to time. We haven't been affording these children the option of reading for fun but that changes today.

Everyone is aware of my experiences with breakfast club — it brightened up the start of my day, it stabilised the school day for me, allowed me to engage in reading and allowed me to form life-long friendships. I'm really happy to be partnering with Magic Breakfast to get our books in the hands of children that need them most." Other praise for the novel comes from Maz Evans, author of *Who Let the Gods Out* "A brilliantly illustrated, side-splitting, time travel adventure."

What is the story about? Esha Verma, her snotty apprentice Broccoli and his cunning pet tortoise have a dream. They are going to win the legendary Brain Trophy – the ultimate inventing prize. This year's entry: *A TIME MACHINE*. But the day before the competition, Esha's *IGNORAMUS* big sister hijacks the time machine and is lost in the Cretaceous age. With help from a new recruit for The Office of Time, Esha and Broccoli will have to face hungry dinosaurs, mysterious black holes and malfunctioning inventions to get them back in time.

The students at OPGS can keep their copies of the book, but have been asked by Macmillan to read and review the novel, so they know which age group, genre etc to best market it towards moving forward. Therefore, we hope they read with pleasure but also offer honest reviews on the title which we can send back to the publishers, to help them target the books accordingly in future.

Written and illustrated in a style reminiscent of *The Diary of the Wimpy Kid*, Rashford's first book club title, now in the hands of OPGS, was part of an initiative in which 50,000 books were given to students across the country in collaboration with Magic Breakfast, which offers healthy breakfasts to around 170,000 children each school day. What a fantastic and exclusive initiative to be a part of.



Wildwood Fieldtrip

Recently, Year 12 Biology students went to Wildwood Trust- a zoo focused on educating people about the animals that currently live in the UK or have done in the past.

They conducted two experiments while they were there: the first was on species diversity using quadrats and the second was a trap and release practice. They also got to look at the amazing animals that they have at Wildwood such as wolves, elks, and bison.



Science Books 2 Africa

Oakwood Park Grammar School's science department have cleared out many of their old science textbooks and donated them to charity!

Mr Watts and Mr Rice took 32 boxes (about 180 books) in total by minibus to the 'Books2Africa' processing centre in Canterbury where they will be shipped and distributed to African schools, teachers and students in need. Nearly 13 million books are sent to landfill every year with another 26 million books getting recycled. Books2Africa collects these books and sends donated books to help increase the quality of education in

Africa. This allows individuals and communities to access literature and in addition extends the life and impact of books by increasing book 'recycling'. Books2Africa have donated nearly 2 million books to African schools, and OPGS is proud to be a part of this effort in supporting our global community.

The school will be receiving impact reports from the charity and will be able to track exactly where these books will go and the impact they have on these communities.

To find out more visit www.books2africa.org

Volunteering at the Dandelion Time Charity Shop

As part of Year 12's 'Futures Week', between Monday 28th June and Wednesday 30th June 2021, a group of eight senior and subject prefects volunteered to aid Dandelion Time in setting up the charity's latest shop branch on Week Street in Maidstone.

Dandelion Time was founded in 2003 by Dr Caroline Jessel when a cycle ride through bluebell woods provoked thoughts regarding the accessibility of child and adolescent mental health services. Since then, the organisation has been offering help to children challenged by trauma, violence or family health issues with three key peaceful venues for emotional rehabilitation around nature and animals in Maidstone, Ashford and Boughton Monchelsea.

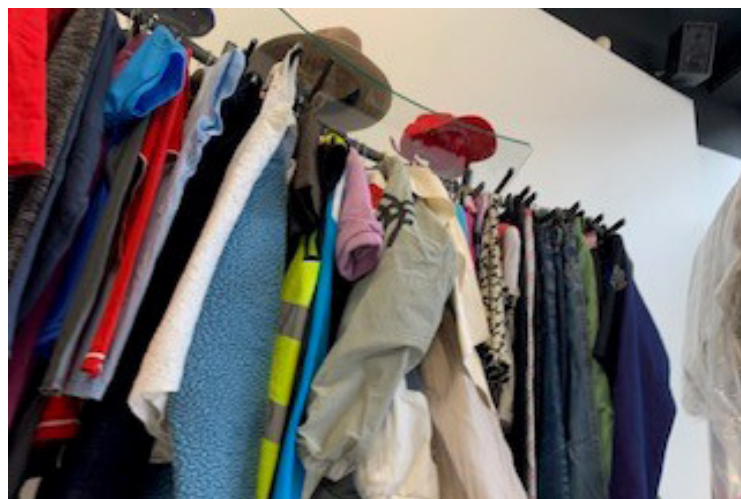
We were absolutely honoured to be able to play a role in turning around the dilapidated site of which had originally been 'T-Reds' to aid such a meaningful cause. The team arrived on Monday to boxes and boxes of generous donations, collections of clothes rails to be constructed, a floor that needed to be scrubbed tile-by-tile and a (to say the least) interesting smell from the front-left section of the customer floor.

Much of the first day was spent constructing storage facilities and getting accustomed to the stock and – whilst this was taking place – many members of our volunteer team also spent time coveting certain items of donations. For this reason, we are sure when the store opens in September it will have no shortage of customers! On this first day the hunt for the source of the mysterious smell began, leading to the clearance of the under-stairs cupboard and discovery of a horror film-worthy trapdoor leading to a basement. It safe to say we left it a day to venture down.

On the second day, we indeed went down. Anyès Reading, the Dandelion Time member working with us was more thrilled by the locating of the utilities meter whilst the volunteers were more occupied by the untouched abandoned artefacts and traditional stove among the rubble. Some of the Year 12 team also indulged in imposing jump-scares on their fellow teammates much to the

dismay of their victims in the dark. And the events of the second day did not stop there at all. Whilst the team cracked on with labelling, cleaning and enjoying kind refreshments from the café next door, a small group successfully uncovered the source of the smell – unfortunately our worst fears were met by the discovery of a dead rat. It's fair to say further details on the matter will be spared.

The last day came and a great effort was made in the beginnings of shop-floor arrangements and the scrubbing of the floor on hands-and-knees. Whilst the team ended the three-day project with a little more work to do, they are all raring to offer further help over the summer in order to carry the endeavour through to opening day. However, already a huge thanks must be given to Year 12s Ryan, Sangam, Lorraine, Dylan, Beca, Niamh, Selina and Fran for their wonderful work in the shop towards such a super cause. Thank you also is owed to Anyès for her hospitality and kindness during the project. We hope there will be further updates around the time of opening and that the location will create plenty of volunteering and shopping opportunities for our students and wider local community.



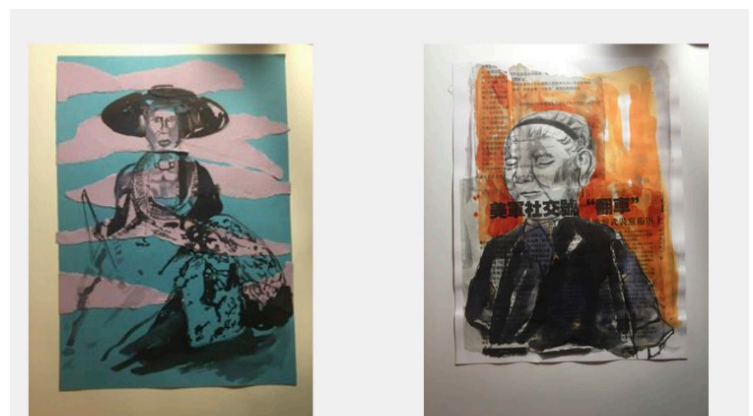
The Extended Project Qualification is a way for Sixth Form students to develop their creativity or interests beyond their A level subjects. Many students choose to produce a university style 6000-word dissertation on a hotly debated topic.

For Matt and Isobel, both completing their projects in July, this included whether vaccinations should be mandatory and the thoroughness of police vetting. Both have chosen topics that, since they began research, have become increasingly relevant in society: there are a variety of ways we have been encouraged to get our Covid vaccinations, for example, and that complaints made against the murderer of Sarah Everard appear not to have been taken seriously by the Met.

This article, however, focusses on those Year 12 students who have taken a more artistic route. All the students pictured have produced EPQs with only a tenuous connection to their A level choices. Lorraine, one of our Economics, Geography and Religious Studies students, sought to embody the metaphysical in her two art pieces. Keran, a Biology, Psychology and Drama student, used his musical talent to produce the soundtrack to a film script he had written. John Sheba, who combines English Literature, Media and Design and Technology as his A level programme, produced an animated social education film on drug abuse. The carnival poster featured, is one of three produced by Scarlett who studies Geography, Sociology and Graphics. Perhaps most surprising was Logan's choice. He studies Biology, Psychology and Maths and plans to study Business and Finance at university but chose to produce an installation art piece after researching his family's diverse heritage. He said 'he learnt a lot about himself' through the process'.

Therefore, the message goes out to those students currently choosing their A level subjects that, although you may not take a subject at A level, there is plenty of room with the EPQ to either specialise or to try something new.

Ms A Hern
Director of Sixth Form



History Competition

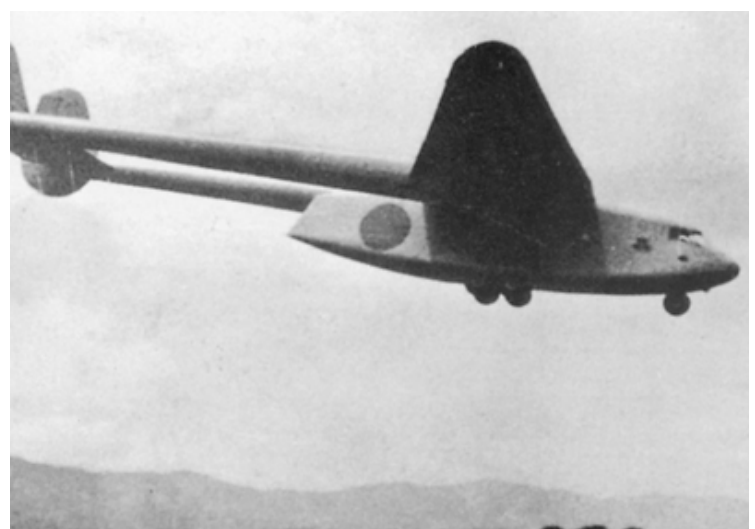
In May the History Department ran a competition for Year 8 students called 'Thinking Hard in History' and requiring students to research and present, in a format of their choice, the story of a local soldier from the First or Second World Wars. Two outstanding entries were achieved by Luca Fernandez (P8) and Ifan Banbury (S8).

Luca wrote a detailed report on the wartime experiences of his ancestor Sam Murray, a member of the Glider Pilot Regiment involved in dangerous missions whose motto was 'Nothing is Impossible'. Sam had flown in France but his most famous mission was on a return journey from North Africa when he crashed near the French border in poor weather and then had to try to make his way to safety in enemy territory. With other downed servicemen they eventually came to a river but while crossing it by raft, were spotted and shot at by an enemy plane, with only Sam surviving to

make it back to the coast. In return to Britain he was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross.

Ifan created a video on Wing Commander Guy Gibson who flew from RAF West-Malling, who lived locally and took part in the famous Dam Busters Raid (Operation Chastise), flying a Lancaster bomber. In September 1944 his mosquito airplane crashed and he was killed. It is possible this was due to lack of fuel or friendly fire. His legacy has been established over the past 70 years. Ifan also researched features which remain in the local area as a reminder of the link with the military, such as a control tower and pillboxes. The video was very well-presented with helpful images and photographs.

Overall, two very impressive projects and the students were awarded their certificates as joint-winners by Mr Moody and Miss Aldous in June. They also received small prizes to reflect their effort on this project.



Joe Stone Athletics Championships

Joe Stone has shown dedication to training in all weather during the lockdown and his hard work has paid off. Below is a report from Joe on his achievements so far. Well done Joe and best wishes for your future events.

On the 8th of May, I started my most successful season so far with the Kent County Track and Field champs where I won the Long Jump and Triple Jump. I also came 2nd in the 80m Hurdles and 200m sprint. On the 26th May I won the Kent Schools' Pentathlon, then I won the Surrey Schools Pentathlon as a guest on the 31st of May. My next big competition was on the 12th of June where I won the Kent Schools' Champs in Triple Jump allowing me to be nominated by Kent Schools to compete in the English Schools National Championships. On the 26th of June, I won the English Schools' Southeast Regional Pentathlon allowing me to be selected to represent Kent in the English Schools' Pentathlon Final at Bedford in September. Then I won the

South of England Pentathlon in Oxford on the 4th of July. My most recent major competition was last weekend on Sunday the 11th of July, at the Manchester Regional Arena, where I was part of the Kent team competing in the English Schools' National Championships. As this was the biggest competition I have competed in so far, I was quite nervous going in as the favourite to win knowing that all the pressure was on me; but thankfully those nerves didn't affect me as not only did I win the Junior Boys Triple Jump, but I also got a new personal best of 12.78m. From the data on the Power of 10 website (a website that displays the results and rankings of all athletes in the UK), this places me 1st in the U15 boys Triple Jump for 2021; I am also 1st in the U15 boys Pentathlon with an overall score of 2995 and 2nd in the U15 boys Long jump with a jump of 6.43m.

I'm now looking forward to the English Schools' Pentathlon Championships in September where I am competing for Kent and hope to win another medal.



Year 8 Cricket Team Kent U13 Thunder Trophy Winners

Following an unfortunate departure from the Kent U13 Thomas Cup to Sir Joseph Williamson Mathematical School in term 5, the Year 8 cricket team were drawn away to Dane Court GS in round 1 of the Thunder Trophy competition. This competition featured several strong cricketing schools that were either first or second round losers in the U13 Thomas Cup.

Having won the toss, OPGS elected to bat first on an inconsistent wicket that offered plenty for the bowlers. Opening batsman Ryan Ward was unlucky to receive a ball that kept low and bowled him in the second over of the match. Ben Taylor and Harvey Lowe then took advantage of any loose deliveries from the Dane Court bowlers to put on a second wicket partnership of 39 runs before the later departed for 12 runs. Good contributions from both Woody Hall (17) and Will Aldrich (22 not out) supported Ben Taylor (66 not out) in propelling OPGS to a fantastic score of 172/3 from 20 overs. The team then delivered a faultless bowling and fielding display to dismiss Dane Court for just 35 runs in 15.4 overs. Excellent contributions were made by all the OPGS bowlers to share the wickets.

The team then faced another away match to

Sir Joseph Williamson' B team in round 2 of the competition. Playing on a quick artificial wicket, OPGS lost the toss and were asked to bowl first. Despite an attacking start from the SJWMS B batsmen, the team soon gained control of the game thanks to a fast spell of bowling from Harvey Lowe, taking season best figures of 5 wickets for 12 runs. This was a brilliant effort in just 4 overs of bowling. Ryan Ward (3-18) and Luke Allen (1-2) were also excellent with the ball, hitting great areas throughout to put continuous pressure on the SJWMS B batsmen. This eventually told as a series of wickets dismissed SJWMS B for just 38 runs inside 11 overs. In reply, Will Aldrich was promoted to open the batting with captain Ben Taylor. Both boys looked calm throughout, rotating strike and capitalising on the bad balls to reach the victory target quickly in just 5.5 overs. The team now looked forward to a semi-final fixture against Skinners B team.

Playing their third successive away match of the competition, OPGS won the toss and decided to bat first. Ryan Ward (21) and Ben Taylor made a steady start to the innings against some excellent fast bowling from the Skinners School bowlers. Despite surviving one or two scares, the opening pair reached 81 runs in 11.2 overs before the first wicket fell. Woody Hall was then unlucky to go cheaply to a fantastic diving catch from the Skinners School



wicketkeeper. Harvey Lowe came in at number 4, playing a selfless innings in which he rotated strike throughout. This gave Ben Taylor the opportunity to accelerate his and the teams' innings in the final 8 overs, playing a fantastic range of attacking shots around the ground. Reaching 89 runs from 18 overs, Taylor needed 11 more to reach his first century in school, club, or county cricket. He did so with ease, finishing 104 not out at the end of the OPGS innings. This left the team in a very strong position, knowing a disciplined bowling display should be enough to reach the county competition final. Despite a strong effort from the Skinners School batting line up, they reached 100/7 in their 20 overs. Louis Merenda and Finn Holmes were the standout performers for OPGS with the ball, taking 3 wickets each.

The team had now reached the final of the U13 Kent Thunder Trophy. This was an outstanding achievement in their first season of school cricket together. The boys faced a strong St Olaves A team at the picturesque Rodmersham Cricket Ground. This was an excellent venue for such a prestigious final. Having lost the toss, OPGS were asked to field/bowl first on a what was an excellent wicket for batting. Ryan Ward and Harvey Lowe set the tone with accurate opening spells, limiting

any run scoring opportunities for the St Olaves openers. The pressure eventually told as a mix up led to the huge wicket of Kent top order batsmen and wicket keeper, for just 8 runs. Will Aldrich and Woody Hall then maintained this pressure, taking regular wickets in the second half of the innings to dismiss St Olaves for a below par score of 71. Despite knowing that the victory target was within our reach, the team had to cope with the pressure of batting second in a Kent competition final. The St Olaves opening bowlers produced a brilliant spell to dismiss Ben Taylor, Ryan Ward and Harvey Lowe cheaply, reducing OPGS to 22-3. With the game in the balance, Woody Hall and Will Aldrich kept their composure superbly to find the perfect mix between resolute defence and attacking stroke play, punishing any loose bowling from St Olaves. Edging ever closer to the 72 runs required, Will Aldrich began to attack, hitting several boundaries over both midwicket and extra cover. OPGS eventually reaching the victory target in just 12.2 overs to complete a comprehensive performance and win the 2021 Kent U13 Thunder Trophy. The PE department are extremely proud of the boys and would like to congratulate them in becoming the first OPGS team to win a county competition in their first season of school cricket.



MEET THE YR 11 PREFECTS!

Each house and Year 7 form has 2 Yr 11 prefects: A senior Prefect and a deputy Prefect. They're there to help you and will be running form and house activities.

HOUSE PREFECTS:

FORM PREFECTS:

Hazlitt: Senior: Archie Farmer

Deputy : Mayvin Gurung

X: Senior: Archie Farmer

Deputy : Mayvin Gurung

Wilberforce: Senior: Joel Thomas

Deputy: James Cooper

S: Senior: Joel Thomas

Deputy: James Cooper

Fisher: Senior: Josh Alchin

Deputy: Luke Breytenbach

T: Senior: Josh Alchin

Deputy: Luke Breytenbach

Broughton: Senior: Oliver Kane

Deputy: Owen Hurley

P: Senior: Oliver Kane

Deputy: Owen Hurley

Sadler: Senior: Freddie Harper

Deputy: Joshua Couchman

C: Senior: Freddie Harper

Deputy: Joshua Couchman

Meet the Lower School Prefects

Sadler

Hello, we are the Sadler prefects. I am Freddie Harper, the Senior Prefect for Sadler house. I look forward to continuing as a prefect into year 11 and contributing to certain aspects of the school -notably Charity work and Student voice. I am a hard-working individual who can be relied upon and trusted. I am hopeful I will do well being a Prefect, and I will try my hardest to succeed at it, I hope everyone in Sadler will follow my example.



My name is Joshua Couchman. I am the deputy prefect for Sadler, I am passionate about Maths and Physics, I enjoy Drama and public speaking. We will be managing C7/8 forms and monitoring Homework club.



If you have any ideas for improving the school, feel free to tell me!
Sadler is the best house :)

Hazlitt

Hello, We are the prefects for Hazlitt. my name is Archie Farmer, and I am the new Senior Prefect for Hazlitt 2021/22. I am hardworking, conscientious, and easy to approach.



Hello my name is Mayvin Gurung and I am the deputy prefect for Hazlitt. I am a committed, enthusiastic person and will tackle any challenges to the best of my ability. In addition to this I am very determined to help students cherish as well as love their time at Oakwood.



My deputy and I will be buddying up with form X and we are looking forward to meeting everyone. One of our roles will be hosting homework clubs on Fridays in the library at lunch where anyone can come to work and we will offer our full support to anyone that may want it. Finally, feel free to talk to us about any ideas you may have, we are friendly and easy to talk to.

Wilberforce

Hello, we are the prefects for Wilberforce. My name is Joel Thomas, and I am the Senior Prefect of Wilberforce. As a Senior Prefect I am here to help you out. As Prefect we would really like to help the younger years such as Year 7s and 8s and so if you would like to tell us anything, make sure you do!



Hello, My name is James Cooper and I am the deputy prefect for Wilberforce. I will be working with Joel to run Wilberforce activities and I will also be working with forms S7, S8, S9, S10, and S11. I will also be helping with the student voice. Unfortunately, we have missed out on a lot over the last 18 months so it will be great to have some house activities happening again! I look forward to working with you as the deputy prefect for Wilberforce and the S forms.



As prefects we would like to concentrate on Sports day to encourage each and everyone to play to the best of their abilities, to showcase team spirit!
Thank you!

Fisher

Hello, we are the Fisher prefects. My name is Josh Alchin and I am the senior prefect for Fisher and next year we will be helping T7 and T8 during form times. We will be running pm form time activities, as well as running monthly house competitions and I look forward to working with the lower school.



My name is Luke Breytenbach, I enjoy computing and like to help others. For year 11 I looking forward to helping the year 7 form T get settled into their classes and supporting them with homework. We will also help run homework club for anyone who wants to or needs to do homework instead of doing it at home and hopefully earn lots of achievement points for their house. Come on Fisher!



Broughton

Hello, we are the prefects for Broughton. Hello my name is Oliver Kane and I am the senior prefect for Broughton. My partner and I will be buddying up with form P and bring good skills to the table.



My name's Owen Hurley and I am the deputy prefect for Broughton House which I am very proud of, as I am looking forward to making my impact on the School Community throughout the next year.



Our roles as a prefect involve helping Year 7 and 8 forms during form time helping them to learn how the school works and about world issues. We will also be helping with Homework Club on Friday and we are looking forward to mentoring students who struggle to aid their learning. Every Month there is a selected House Competition you can take part in. Each month is a subject and will be run by every prefect, its really important you take part to help Broughton win the House cup next year!



After a long period of time away from the game, we are hoping that September 2021 will allow Oakwood Park Grammar School to begin its rugby programme again.

After a number of years developing our fixture list and commitment of students to training the Covid period has slowed down the progress, and with this terms focus being on engagement and numbers of students attending clubs, we are hoping that our rugby programme will be back and fully supported by staff and students alike.

The season is now planned and as a school we are looking forward to a challenging set of fixtures running from September to February half term, whilst adhering to all of the RFU guidelines for returning to rugby.

We have taken the opportunity this term to begin work with the senior squad (current Year 11, 12 students). A number of boys have been attending weekly training sessions with Mr Housden and Mr Keeling-Jones. The sessions have included working on core skills, non-contact games whilst also having some fun with rugby rounders, robbing the nest and touch rugby. It has been great to be back and we are hoping that the offer of weekly training through the summer will see more students return. To ensure that our players at this level are back we are fully adhering to the return to rugby summer framework

([R2R_SummerGuidanceOverview_2.pdf \(EnglandRugby.com\)](https://www.EnglandRugby.com))

	JUNE	JULY	AUGUST
TRAINING			
FREQUENCY	1-2 SESSIONS PER WEEK (INC GAME)	1-2 SESSIONS PER WEEK (INC GAME)	1-3 SESSIONS PER WEEK (INC GAME)
INTENSITY	LOW – MEDIUM	MEDIUM	MEDIUM - HIGH
TYPE	GENERAL FITNESS AND SKILLS MAX 20 MINUTES CONTACT PER WEEK	RUGBY FITNESS AND SKILLS MAX 30 MINUTES CONTACT PER WEEK	POSITION/ GAME SPECIFIC SKILLS MAX 40 MINUTES CONTACT PER WEEK MAX 20 MINUTES CONTACT PER SESSION
TIME	45 – 60 MINUTES + ACTIVATE	45 – 75 MINUTES + ACTIVATE	45 – 90 MINUTES + ACTIVATE
FIXTURES			
TAG	U7 – U18 BOYS & GIRLS	U7 – U18 BOYS & GIRLS	U7 – U18 BOYS & GIRLS
READY4RUGBY	U9 – U18 BOYS & GIRLS	U9 – U18 BOYS & GIRLS	U9 – U18 BOYS & GIRLS
X RUGBY	X	U14 - U18 BOYS U15 & U18 GIRLS	U12 - U18 BOYS U13, U15 & U18 GIRLS
ADAPTED FORMAT	X	X	U14 – 18 BOYS U15 & 18 GIRLS
FIXTURES/FESTIVALS	1 X FIXTURE/FESTIVAL PER FORTNIGHT	1 X FIXTURE/FESTIVAL PER FORTNIGHT	3 X FIXTURE/FESTIVAL

THIS SHOWS THE MAXIMUM ACTIVITY PERMITTED EACH MONTH. FESTIVALS ARE LIMITED TO A MAXIMUM OF 4 TEAMS. ALL MATCHES ARE FRIENDLIES DUE TO BEING OUT OF SEASON

Therefore a reminder to all students, Mr Housden and Mr Keeling-Jones will be running sessions every Wednesday @ 2:00pm for two hours. Come along and join us to enjoy a summer run around and prepare for the season ahead.

With regards to our junior programme, 2021-2022 will see one of the fullest fixture lists we have seen for a while. Each year group (under 15-under 12) have a minimum of 8 fixtures organised, with more expected to be added when we return due to cup fixtures, the annual grammar league and 7's tournaments. So, it really is an exciting time to be part of the rugby programme at the school.

Upon our return, we are hoping that guidelines will allow us to return to weekly training sessions for all year groups working with experienced coaches and teachers to ensure we have plenty of support for all squads. We will also be developing our senior squad members to becoming coaches and work with the junior teams, giving something back to the sport they love and enjoy so much. Whilst providing direct role models for the juniors, something to aspire to be like.

Full details of all fixtures will be published on the school sports website, which will be updated over the summer. But to get the excitement the basic information can be found below:

With regards our Under 16 programme, this is still being developed. Traditionally all under 16 players would step up and train/work with the Senior squad and play a few of their own fixtures. However, due to Covid and the return to rugby guidelines, we are not able to play the students up with the 1st XV. Further details will be issued once I have completed the plans for this age group to ensure that we do not lose players who will be valuable to the school and who enjoying playing the sport and representing the school.

I do hope that you are all looking forward to a full season as much as we are at the school.

If you are interested in either of the following, please do not hesitate to contact me at school 01622 726683 or mkeeling-jones@opgs.org:

1. Coaching a rugby team – if you would like to be involved in coaching one of the teams we have, please get in contact or
2. Refereeing matches – if you would like to referee any of our games, again please do get in contact

Thank you again in advance for your ongoing support with school rugby, and let's hope that September will allow for us to get 'back to normal'. Enjoy the remainder of the British and Irish Lions Tour and see you in September.

1 st XV	Ur 15	Ur 14	Ur 13	Ur 12
Wed 8 th September Herne Bay High School (H)	Tuesday 7 th Sept Gravesend (H)	Tues 7 th Sept Gravesend (A)		
Wed 15 th Sept Daily Mail Cup Gravesend_GS (H)	Thurs 16 th Sept Herne Bay High (H) DMC			
Wed 22 nd Sept				
Wed 29 th Sept Daily Mail Cup	DMC fixture TBC			
Wed 6 th Oct Wilmington (H)	Tues 5 th Oct Norton Knatchbull (H)		Thurs 7 th Oct Norton Knatchbull (A)	
Wed 13 th Oct Beths (H)		Tues 12 th Oct Norton Knatchbull (A)		Thurs 14 th Oct Norton Knatchbull (H)
Wed 20 th Oct Simon Langton (A)	Thurs 21 st Oct Simon Langton (H)	Tues 19 th Oct Simon Langton (H)	Thurs 21 st Oct Simon Langton (A)	Tues 19 th Oct Simon Langton (A)
Wed 3 rd Nov Canterbury Academy (H)				
Wed 10 th Nov Chatham House (H)	Fri 12 th Nov Chatham House (A)	Thurs 11 th Nov Chatham House (H)	Tues 9 th Nov Chatham House (A)	Tues 9 th Nov Chatham House (H)

Sat 13 th Nov MGS (A) Potential 2 nd XV as well				
Wed 17 th Nov Sir Roger <u>Manwood's</u> (A)	Fri 19 th Nov St Lawrence (A)	Thurs 18 th Nov Sir Roger <u>Manwood's</u> (H)		Tues 16 th Nov Sir Roger <u>Manwood's</u> (A)
Wed 24 th Nov	Fri 26 th Nov Sir Roger <u>Manwood's</u> (H)	Thurs 25 th Nov St Lawrence (H)	Wed 24 th <u>Nov</u> Sir Roger <u>Manwood's</u> (H)	
Thurs 2 nd <u>Dec</u> St Lawrence (A)	Fri 3 rd Dec Hayes (H)	Thurs 2 nd Dec Hayes (H)	Tues 30 th Nov Hayes (H)	Thurs 2 nd Dec Hayes (A)
Wed 8 th Dec Hayes (A)			Wed 8 th Dec St Lawrence (H)	Wed 8 th Dec St Lawrence (H)
Wed 15 th Dec				
Wed 12 th Jan Trinity (H)	TBC Herne Bay High (A)	TBC Herne Bay High (A)		
Wed 19 th Jan Beths (A)			TBC Herne Bay High (H)	TBC Herne Bay High (H)
Wed 26 th <u>Jan</u> Wilmington (A)		Thurs 27 th Jan Dover GS (H)		Tues 25 th Jan Dover GS (A)
Wed 2 nd Feb Dover GS (H)	Thurs 3 rd Feb Dover GS (H)		Tues 1 st Feb Dover GS (A)	
Wed 9 th Feb <u>Bucksford</u> (H)				

Afterschool Sport Activities

During the Covid19 lockdowns it is clear that society as a whole had a reduced level of physical activity in their lives. The worry about social mixing and the obvious dangers presented in the new and unfamiliar world has had a negative effect on all our children's lives, both socially and physically.

The obvious question that the PE dept asked was, 'How can we reengage all pupils in a fun way that promotes physical activity and its associated benefits'?

Weekly activities for each year group bubble, was one of the suggestions. We arranged weekly competitions for Year 7, 8 and 9 on a rotation basis and included alternative sports, such as Nerf Howler, as well as the more traditional rounders and football. We had over 500 pupils join us for these weekly afterschool activities which provide an inhouse competition. The format was generally group stages followed by some final play-off matches and we provided the winners with a choice of sports prizes which were presented on the night of the competition. We found the prizes gave an added incentive for pupils to attend and

benefit from the physical activity they were doing.

Those that have attended have enjoyed the competition and they have been run within a lovely atmosphere and with competitive spirit, whilst always demonstrating respect, teamwork, cooperation, honesty and integrity at the fore front of the session.

We would like to thank all the pupils who have shown commitment, participated and enjoyed the opportunities. We look forward to returning to 'normal' in September and already have a comprehensive list of sports clubs and fixtures awaiting for your return to school.

Mr Devonald & Mr Keeling-Jones



Virtual Presentation Evening

The video started with an aerial shot of the school's sports field and an apology from Mr Moody that the presentations could not take place in person.

Having said that, he went on to commend the school students for the challenges they have faced this year and praised the strong sense of "thriving community" that has been maintained at OPGS. The Headteacher then went on to applaud the resilience of students who have lived through the bizarre reality of the pandemic, and all the restrictions put in place to protect us from it, including more than a thousand lateral flow tests conducted by the Support Staff in school; as well as staff and students alike having to adjust to the demands of remote teaching and long-distance learning during the latest lockdown. The students have been presented their awards in person by Mr Moody each morning across form times in the week beginning Monday 5th July, alongside the Director of Study for each year group, in the safety of their bubbles and respective school zone.

This was followed by a heartfelt keynote speech from the outgoing Chair of Governors, Julie Murton, who has been a part of life at Oakwood Park for 18 years, initially as a parent and then as a governor, a role which she has served for the last 14 years. Mrs Murton said "it is wonderful to see so many students being rewarded for their hard work and endeavour in an unpredictable year" in which the "determination of students" has shone through as they continued to persevere, to overcome the obstacles they have faced, in such novel times for everyone. Mrs Murton suggested this was made possible by "The culture at OPGS



[which] encompasses respect, honesty, integrity, humanity and compassion". She then concluded by congratulating the students for their successes and hopes they continue to enjoy the opportunities presented to them.

This was followed by a jazzy music recital by Yr 12 student, Dillon Pinder, who played Chega de Saudade, João Gilberto on the trombone.

Then Mrs Lewell, Deputy Headteacher, read the announcements for prize giving beginning with new Senior Prefect Team including the Head Students for the coming academic year, Tom Homewood and Francesca Ward. These will be working in collaboration with Deputy Head Students Matthew Wareham and Ann-Isabel Olujohungbe.

Notably, we also had:

The Cameron Sturge Memorial Prize for Outstanding KS3 Linguist, **Luke Samson**

The Stevens Award for Outstanding Community Service, **Ethan Ford**

The Stockwell Prize for Outstanding Achievement in DT, **Fayaz Al-Ahbab**



Then, the presentation gave an overview of everything the OPGS community has achieved with a Review of the Year 2020-2021 starting with the Design Technology, Art, Graphics and Media Exhibition. Normally, we would host an exhibition across 2 evenings in the Summer term, where staff, students and parents could come and walk around the collection of the best project work produced by students conducting their GCSE and A Levels.



care”

Tim Davis, DT Technician “a hard working and kind member of the support staff”

Mike Stevens, Former Chair of Governors. Mike was a governor of the school for well over 30 years, “he was a devoted and inspiring individual”.

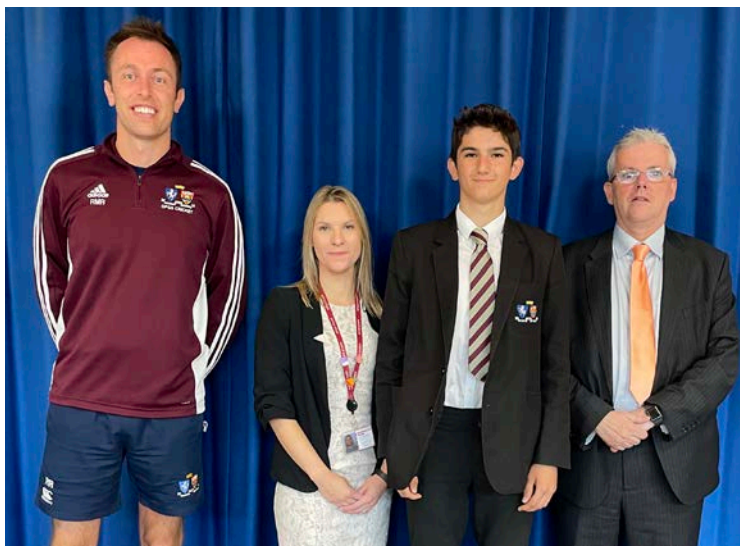
Finally, Mr Moody ended by thanking departing staff for their contribution to the school, with the most long standing member of staff to leave being Senor Herrera, who after 17 years of outstanding service to the school as Subject Leader for Modern Foreign Languages and as a Director

Unfortunately, not being able to have a physical exhibition, this too has had to move online, due to ongoing coronavirus restrictions. However, it was such a joy to see their work displayed as part of this celebration of achievement. We have also created a video of past work from each of these departments.

All of the Presentation Event Films can be viewed here:

<https://www.opgs.org/opgs-virtual-presentation-event/>

The slideshow offered a compilation of images which showcased all the trips, sports competitions, charitable donations and enrichment activities



of Study, goes to join an international school in South Korea.

The presentation finished on a happier note, looking forward to a “less fraught” September ahead. A massive congratulations to all the students who received an award for their excellence across this academic year.

Congratulations to all of the students who have won awards this year.

students have been involved in across the curriculum.

Mr Moody then closed the Virtual Presentation by remembering those members of staff we have very sadly lost:

Sue Browne, Learning Support Manager who “transformed the lives of so many people in her



Oakwood's Readathon

Read for Good is the charity behind Readathon, a marathon of reading that the students at OPGS are taking part in across the last 2 weeks of the Summer term this July. The aim of this is for all children in the UK to be given the opportunity, space and motivation to develop their own love of reading. As a result, Oakwood Park Grammar School will be joining the 3,000 schools involved in Readathon every year. This equates to a nationwide challenge that encourages almost one million pupils to read for pleasure.

Why take part? Well, the benefits of Readathon are numerous, including the fact that the money raised goes to some extremely worth while charitable causes. For example, due to the work carried out by Read for Good, all of the UK's major children's hospitals now receive regular deliveries of brand-new books and storyteller visits, reaching 150,000 hospitalised children each year. On top of that, schools receive 20% of whatever they raise back in book vouchers to stock their own libraries. This is particularly exciting for students at Oakwood, whose library is going to have an exciting re-launch in September. Moreover, a multitude of studies show the long-term benefits of reading as a life-skill with improved educational outcomes, advances in one's social mobility and better emotional well-being.

The students are taking this very seriously, with inter-form competitions for who can raise the most money. So far, over £200 has been raised within the first week and this is a running total, the full amount we will not know until September. Individuals who raise the most, will of course get the feel-good factor of donating money to a very worthy cause, but also 10 students will get a brand new copy of Luis Suarez from the series, Ultimate Football Heroes. This title is from a selection of biographies telling the life-stories of the biggest and best footballers in the world. Written in fast-paced, action-packed style it will detail Suarez's incredible journey from childhood fan to super-star professional player.

Ms Davies, Head of KS3 for English said "I am immensely proud of the determination shown by the Y7 and Y8 students this week. They have shown a great level of empathy and thoughtfulness towards children in vulnerable situations. Not only are they working on improving their reading and literacy skills but they are working on improving the society in which they live through their charitable endeavors."

If friends and family are keen to get involved, to encourage students to Read for Good, you are able to sponsor students online at:

<https://readathon.secure.force.com/sponsor>



Read
for Good®

Science Poster Competition

In Science, all our students from Years 7, 8 and 9 completed a research project on a selection of topics across the Biology, Chemistry and Physics disciplines.

The standard of entries was extremely high and students across these year groups were awarded certificates for Gold, Silver and Bronze standards of work.

A special congratulations needs to go out to our year group winners, who are also being awarded a Headteacher Commendation for their work:

Year 8:	1st Prize	Charlie Downland	8C
	2nd Prize	Cayden Lohead	8C
	3rd Prize	Oscra Cyz	8S

Year 9:	1st Prize	Daniel Rose	9P
	2nd Prize	Cam Hines	9P
	3rd Prize	Roderick Meriyan	9T

Well done to all our winners. Make sure you look out for your work on our new Science displays next year. Your Science teachers are really excited to be hopefully returning to laboratory teaching next year with all students!

Year 7:	1st Prize	Jack Finch	S7
	2nd Prize	Flynn Hardy	T7
	3rd Prize	Favour Ochonma	P7

Miss Limer
Head of Science



The Coronavirus Pandemic what's next for UK and restrictions?

Maintaining the current Covid restrictions through the summer would only delay a wave of hospitalisations and deaths rather than reduce them, the chief medical officer for England has warned. Professor Chris Whitty told a Downing Street briefing that while scientific opinion was mixed on when to lift the last remaining restrictions in the government's roadmap out of lockdown, he believed that doing so in the Summer had some advantages over releasing in the Autumn.

The government has laid out plans to scrap mandatory mask-wearing and lift social distancing requirements despite scientists warning ongoing measures will be needed to control a resurgence in infections, PA reports.

Documents released by the Scientific Advisory Group for Emergencies (SAGE) state as current measures are lifted, transmission will "almost certainly increase".

So, what does this mean for schools?

In June 2021, the number of students sent home from school for Covid-related reasons quadrupled - but only about 4% were confirmed cases, with most sent home because of a potential contact at school. Similarly, in the first week of July, the bubble system saw more than 375,000 children sent home. It has meant missed days of lessons for thousands of students and frustration for parents juggling work and childcare. However, the Labour party, trade unions and some scientists have warned that now is not the time to change the rules on masks as case numbers continue to rise rapidly, driven by the new, more infectious Delta variant.

Meanwhile, Health Secretary Sajid Javid said on BBC Breakfast: "We will have a more proportionate system of test, trace and isolate and it is absolutely right that those that have been double jabbed, that we can take a different approach than the one we can take today."

Echoing this, Education Secretary Gavin Williamson added: "Obviously the way forward is with testing rather than by sending the bubbles home."

What does this mean for school enrichment and extra curricula activities in the future?

This means, following the government's next announcement due on Monday 19th July, most schools will have broken up for the Summer holidays, or will be in their last week of term. Therefore, the updated restrictions in schools will come into effect from September with a view to the bubble system changing or being disbanded and instead more emphasis being put on testing. Indeed, all staff and students currently undertake 2 x lateral flow tests a week but if a positive result is shown through testing at home, this needs to be followed up with a PCR test.

Enrichment trips, speakers in schools, competitive sport are all things we hope will return in the next academic year but nevertheless, these will need to be conducted slightly differently, a new normal – rather than reverting back to how things may have been done in pre-Covid times.

Certainly, this is something hinted at by Catherine Mallyon, the executive director of the Royal Shakespeare Company, who said: "We are delighted that the government announcement feels the progress of the pandemic is such that they are trailing the likely easing of restrictions post-July 19. We are heading towards the opening of our new outdoor theatre; the Lydia and Manfred Gorvy Garden Theatre." Such open air venues will make it easier for English and Drama departments to consider taking students outside of school to experience live performances, whilst still being mindful of their students' health and safety in the process.



Scott Bain British Rowing Champion

Scott Bain has rowed himself to success this term in the Great Britain Rowing Team trials. He competed in a series of tough events to get there.

First was the National Schools Regatta where he raced in the 'Open Junior Single Scull' category for under 18's. He managed to finish an impressive 5th in the older juniors event.

Next was a unique J16 GB trials event (the Great British Rowing Team summer trial event), which takes place every year and the winner goes on to race in France representing Great Britain.

Unfortunately, with COVID, the event in France was cancelled, but they still ran the trials in Nottingham. Scott proved he is a top performer, finishing 1st in the final and winning it by a second. In a normal year Scott would be in France at the moment representing GB in the international event.

Scott will be back at the National Water Sports Centre in Nottingham this weekend to compete in the British Rowing Junior Championships. He has a very good chance of placing highly in the single scull (J16). We wish him all the best for this and his successful career in rowing.



Summer Open Days Sixth Form

This summer, we have had the pleasure of inviting future Sixth Form students to the OPGS campus to engage in fantastic taster lessons, lectures and competition tasks. The Senior Prefect Team, as well as staff and special guests all worked together to ensure that potential sixth formers gained a valuable experience throughout the 6 days.

At the beginning of the week, we had all of the creative students on site to learn about their potential A level subjects in more depth. From English Literature to Graphics and Art, a combination of internal and external students got stuck in with some taster sessions. Later in the week we also had two STEM (Science Technology Engineering & Maths) and two Social Science days, which provided an opportunity for all our future scientists and politicians to interact with each other and compete within groups.

Competition and collaboration were certainly important aspects of the open days, with different groups of students having to work together to solve a problem presented to them;

to later go on to present this to the class and judges. Therefore, we thank our judges and special guests like Peter Cooper & Katherine Nesbitt who used their relevant expertise in the industry to help groups in the 'cultural festival' competition. All the ex-Oakwood students contributed brilliantly to the days and we thank them for their enthusiasm.

Some honourable mentions include the winning team 'New Greenland' who presented the best solution to the challenge of designing their own sustainable and economically stable city, as well as team 'City Chris' who were noted by the judges a 'an enthusiastic and engaging group, albeit if some of their ideas were bizarre!'. We congratulate, of course, the winners of the 3 competitions, and all the other teams who contributed to the busy and vibrant atmosphere in each room filled with debate and discussion.

With frequent COVID-19 testing and social distancing, the open days were carried out in the safest way possible. However, I am sure that the Sixth Form Team are all looking forward to things getting back to normal once the circumstances allow, so that the event can be managed in its usual lively way!



