



## Class of 2022 Celebrated their last days in school

Dear Parents, Carers and Students,

Welcome to the latest edition of @Oakwood. I am delighted to see the huge range of activities and achievement by our young people over the last term.

It is particularly gratifying to see the school return to a sense of normality after what has been two difficult years for all of us.

I am, as ever, grateful to the Publicity Team who work hard to produce such an impressive set of articles.

I hope you enjoy this edition.

K.W. Moody  
Headteacher

We continue to host children from local primary schools at our Chess Meets which take place every second Tuesday. There is still some space available if you have a child at primary school or know someone who might like to attend. We welcome boys and girls to the meets and have now started our mini league. We have some brilliant OPGS students who facilitate the sessions!

This week we were lucky to witness an intense game between Mr Wathey and Freddie. Freddie has been attending our chess meets since they began and is really developing his game. The match ended in a draw (or 'stalemate' to use the correct chess terminology) and Mr Wathey commented it was an "excellent match." It lasted for most of the one-hour session and we hope to see a rematch soon!

Please contact Miss Prior, [JPrior@opgs.org](mailto:JPrior@opgs.org), if you are interested in our Chess Meets.



## International School Award

OPGS has been awarded the British Council's prestigious International School Award in recognition of its work to bring the world into the classroom.

The International School Award celebrates the achievements of schools that do exceptional work in international education. The plaque and certificate are photographed with Mr Moody and some of the students who travelled to Chile and Easter Island in the last major school trip before the Covid pandemic.

On hearing the news that OPGS had received the award, Mr Moody said: We are delighted that this prestigious award acknowledges the hard work and dedication staff and students from OPGS have put into creating meaningful International Links at this difficult time. These international links are crucial in the development of our students and their appreciation of global issues.



On the Year 8 Creative Arts Enrichment Day, students had the chance to engage in a national competition from the BBFC. Students had to redesign the black card shown at the beginning of a film for the new Jurassic World Dominion.

Students had full control over their final design and could choose from a range of resources and materials for their design.

At the end of the session students were encouraged to submit their designs for the competition with a chance to win tickets to see the film and see their submission on the big screen.

There were many creative and exciting designs worked on through the day, with students exploring a range of styles and materials.

During the session students explored how art can lead to many different career paths in a range of industries and gained an insight into the importance of the creative subjects and the skills they can help you develop.



# Year 8 Paper Towers Competition

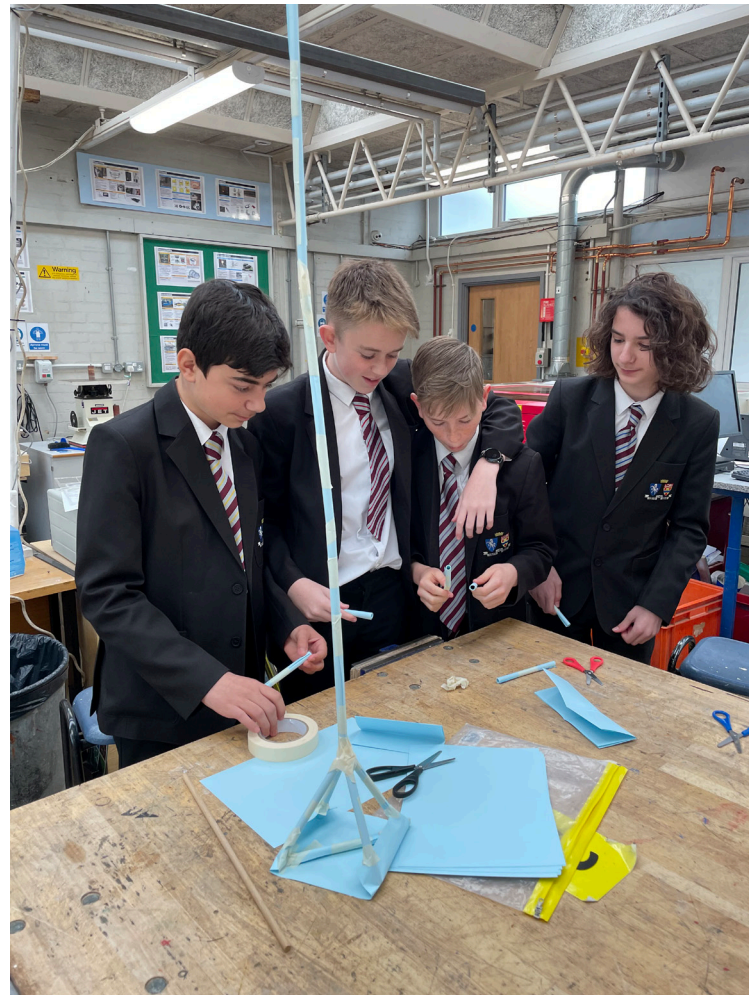
Students in Year 8 Design and Technology were challenged to make the **TALLEST** and most **STABLE** tower possible from only 30 pieces of A4 paper and 2m of masking tape.

Students learnt about forces, structures and how a piece of A4 paper can be turned into something quite strong and rigid.

There were some fantastic team efforts; a range of OPGS Shard designs alongside OPGS Leaning Tower of Pisa designs. Some stayed up and some didn't, but it was all about the experience and learning from the mistakes.

The tallest paper tower of the day reached an impressive 2.82m.

Well done to all who took part.



## Drama Enrichment Day

Year 8 students were devising a piece of VERBATIM drama using a news report about a joyriding incident as a stimulus.

They explored this issue-based piece through various techniques including still image, role-play and thought tracking. The new stage rostra were also put to good use with some fabulous stage configurations!

The stakes were high, and students were competitive to produce a hard hitting piece of TIE (Theatre in Education) There were some compelling performances using realistic style characterisation for the first time this year. Look out for some future TV and Film actors !



## Year 9 MFL Enrichment Day

During the recent Year 9 enrichment day, students had to use their linguistic capabilities to complete an escape room in both French and Spanish.

They had to crack the answers relating to the given language in order to progress out of the room. Luckily we do not have anybody still left in the rooms so well done Year 9 on your French and Spanish skills!

Following such a linguistic mental workout, students were then challenged physically. The MFL department like to provide an all-round experience! Traditional French and Spanish playground games were explained and demonstrated by teachers with students having a fantastic time playing them with teachers joining in too (we are not sure who enjoyed it more!). In the absence of trips due to Covid, this was a great chance to bring a little bit of France and Spain to students. A good time was had by all, with requests from Year 9 to play the games in future lessons.

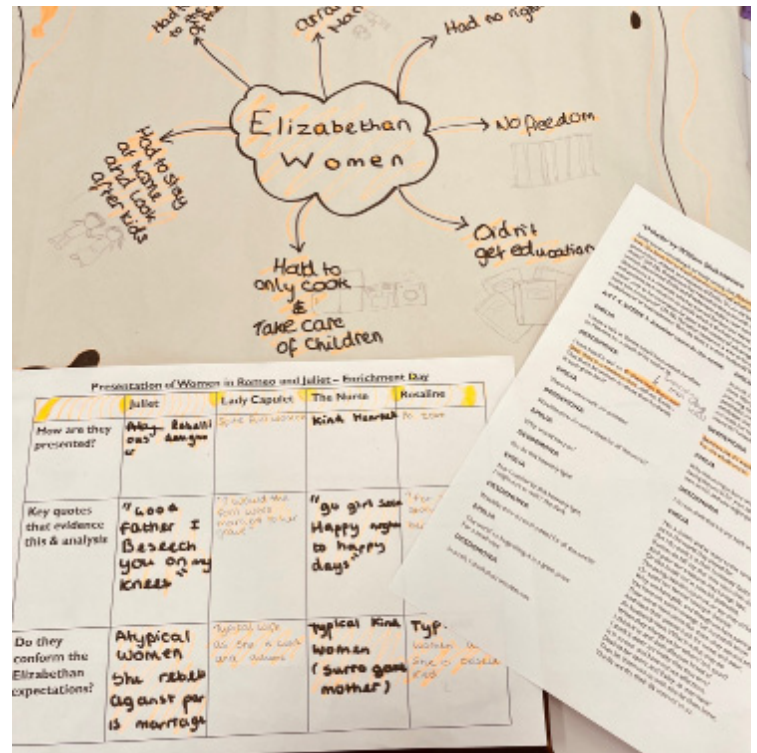
**The MFL Department**



# English Enrichment Day

To enrich their contextual understanding of the GCSE set text *Romeo and Juliet*, Year 10 English students explored the gender roles of the Elizabethan era.

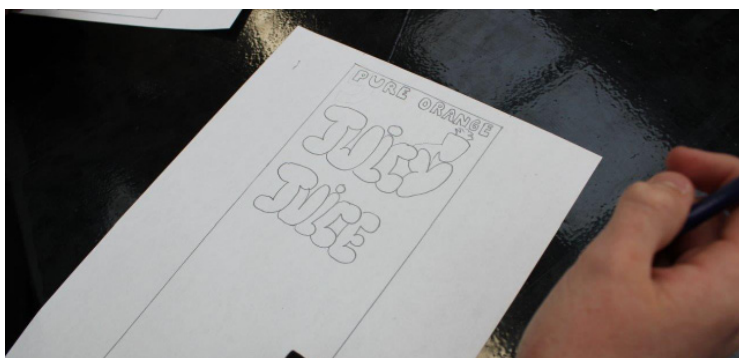
After researching how life was different for men and women in this time period, students worked in groups to examine extracts from classic Shakespeare plays, analysing famous characters such as Lady Macbeth and Ophelia. This close textual analysis was followed by group presentations in which students engaged with a key literary question: was Shakespeare a feminist at heart or did his plays represent women in a stereotypical manner? Students debated these ideas and presented contrasting viewpoints but, regardless of their perspective, they developed some interesting opinions that they can revisit in future Shakespeare essays.



# Graphics Enrichment Day

Year 8 pupils were given a graphic design challenge during Term 5 Enrichment Day.

They were asked to come up with creative ideas for a hypothetical fruit drink brand – 'Juicy Juice'. They were given the dimensions of the front of a TetraBrik aseptic carton and produced designs for the lettering and illustrations, with the aim of making the product appealing and relevant to the target market – school packed lunches. There were lots of attractive ideas generated. Harry Hillier of S8 is highly commended for completing a particularly impressive design. The activity enriched pupil's ability to respond to a brief and problem solve.



# Ethan Murphy- South East Artistic Gymnastics Championships Winner

On Sunday the 23rd May, I competed in the South East Artistic Gymnastics Championships. There was a strong field of elite gymnasts competing in the under 12 category, including a current member of the Great Britain squad.

The competition consisted of 6 events: Floor, Pommel, Rings, Vault, Parallel Bars and Horizontal Bars. My aim going into this competition was to have clean routines for each piece. I knew that if all my routines were executed precisely, that I would be in contention for the title.

I got off to a good start by successfully completing my routine on the Horizontal Bar, which is my most challenging piece. This gave me the confidence boost I needed! After 5 events, the title was to be decided on the Parallel Bar. Whoever got the highest score would win the South East Championships. I successfully executed my final routine, but it was an anxious wait for the scores to be announced.

After 20-minutes, the scores were finally in and I was announced the all-round South East Champion and I placed first on Floor, Pommel and



Vault. All my hard work and dedication to training 19 hours a week had paid off and I was so proud of my achievement.

Due to this result, I have been selected to represent the South East in the British Team Champions to be held on Friday 10th June.



# Students Learn First Aid

This term, all Year 9 Students are learning their basic first aid qualification in Extended Learning. Students are being taught potentially lifesaving skills from trained paramedics to ensure they know what to do in an emergency.

The new 2020 statutory PSHE guidance states that all schools must teach basic first aid with Education Secretary Damian Hinds (at the time of this quote) saying: "Learning the basic skills of first aid and techniques like CPR will give young people the confidence to know that they can step in to help someone else in need and in the most extreme cases - it could potentially save a life." Younger students learn how to contact the emergency services and their responsibilities when dealing with medical professionals and medicines. But we believe such an important topic should be taught through a practical course with accurate demonstrations and opportunities to practice the key techniques.



Throughout the course Year 9 will learn how to deal with minor injuries and burns, to assess a casualty and manage an unresponsive casualty using their DR ABC (Danger, Response, Airway, Breathing, Circulation). Students will be shown the correct way to put a patient in the recovery position and how to save a life using CPR. They will be assessed on all of their newly acquired skills in Term 6 to earn their First Aid certificate and become a qualified first aider for life.





# Tea at the House of Lords

On the 30th of March, the Year 12 debate team received their prize for winning the Debating Matters competition: a cup of tea with cross-bench peer, Claire Fox, at the House of Lords.



We arrived in London a few hours before our meeting with Baroness Fox, so we visited the Supreme Court which is situated next to the Houses of Parliament. Established as recently as October 2009, the Supreme Court is the highest court in the UK. It was an important moment in constitutional history as it completely separated judicial power from parliament. Its ornate architecture, rich history and political significance means I would highly recommend a visit!

We were met by Claire Fox outside the peers' entrance to the House of Lords, where we were taken in as her guests. The most memorable part of our tour was the Lord's Chamber, famous for its red seats and lavish decoration. We enjoyed learning about the quaint traditions, for example you should not cross directly from one side of the chamber to the other and non-peers must not sit on the red seats.

After our tour, we had tea with Claire Fox and discussed some of her views on modern politics. Our discussion looked primarily at her views on

policing hate speech and increasing diversity in parliament. She argued that you cannot police hate speech as it is subjective and encourages the police to tackle minor issues rather than "real" crime. We questioned how she believed society should instead tackle institutional problems like racism, if not through law. She also said that increasing diversity in parliament invites identity politics and "puts people into boxes of what they must represent", a stance that some may consider controversial and sparked some good discussion.

This trip was lots of fun. We enjoyed learning about the House of Lords and Supreme Court as well as a cup of tea with Claire Fox. It was also an important reminder that debate is as much about listening to opposing ideas as well as presenting your own. Thank you Claire Fox - we learnt a lot!



# OPGS Photography Competition

## RESULTS:

• **Well done** to all students who submitted a photograph.

Year 7 Winner = Thomas Sandman 7P Sadler

Year 8 Winner = Bobby Cope 8X Sadler

Year 9 Winner = Oliver Burns 9T Broughton

Year 11 Winner = Jonny Hill 11S Sadler

Year 12/13 Winner = Saull John 12MKT Fisher

## OPGS Photography Competition

Hazlitt House April Challenge

**Overall Winner: Thomas Sandman**

7P Sadler

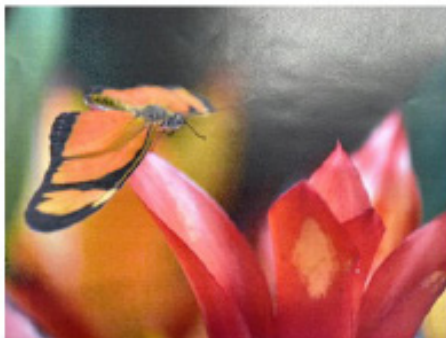
2<sup>nd</sup> overall: Saull John

12MKT Fisher

3<sup>rd</sup> overall: Oliver Burns

9T Broughton

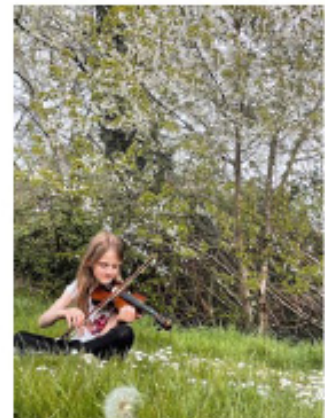
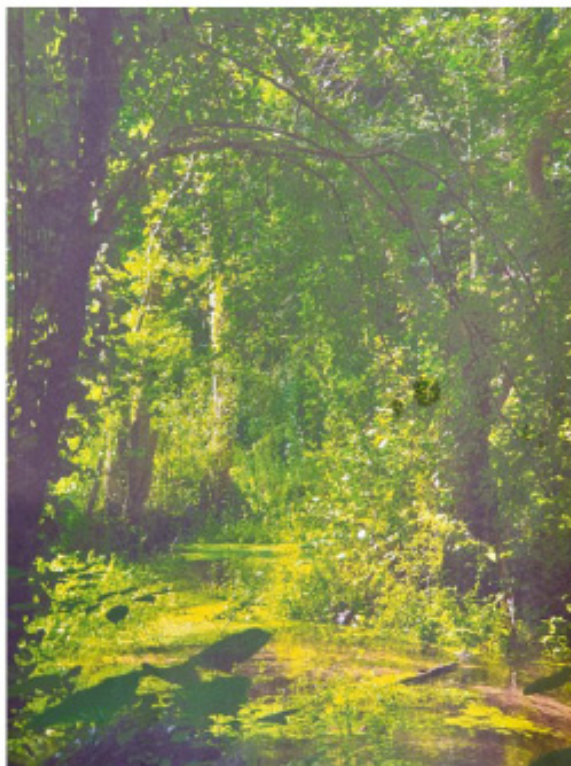
2<sup>nd</sup> overall and Yr12 winner  
Saull John 12MKT



3<sup>rd</sup> overall and Yr9 winner  
Oliver Burns 9T



Overall winner and Yr7 winner  
Thomas Sandman 7P



Yr8 winner  
Bobby Cope  
8X



Yr11  
winner  
Jonny Hill  
11S

# Junior Maths Challenge

On the 28th of April, 66 specially selected young mathematicians, from Oakwood Park Grammar School, took part in the Junior Maths Challenge.

This is a National competition for Years 7 and 8, where the best mathematicians have to answer a series of out of the box questions that test their maths beyond the classroom.

Those students who perform in the top 50% attain a bronze certificate, those who are in the top 25% attain a silver, and those who are in the top 8% get a gold certificate.

Around a quarter of a million students take part in the Junior Maths Challenge, and the top 10,000 are selected to take part in the Junior Kangaroo, which is the next stage of the competition.

This year we have 7 students who have been invited to the Junior Kangaroo, which is an incredible feat. Each student who was selected to take part should be proud of themselves, and a big congratulations to all.

And especially a big congratulations to those have made it to the Pink Kangaroo:

Mattia Dumitrescu, Flynn Hardy, Leo Jones, Angus Kenny, Tom McIvor, Matthew Sandman, and Isaac Wenborn.

Find below the results, if your son is on this list then they have been given a certificate also!

We run a Maths Challenge club for the Year 7's and 8's on a Tuesday lunchtime in room 83. It is great to see so many of those who turn up to these sessions do so well, including 4 of the 7 who have been invited to the Junior Kangaroo.

Keep up the great work, and we will keep you informed of the Junior Kangaroo results!

## The Maths Department.



Year 7		
Bronze		
Yakub	<u>Naemy</u>	C
Bruce	Norton	C
William	Hicks	C
Noah	Halliday	S
Noah	Cruickshank	S
Jenson	Clarke	T
Alan	Jose	T
Year 8		
Bronze		
Henry	Stockham	C
Thomas	Porter	C
Barnaby	Matthews	P
Amine	Najim	P
James	<u>Taylor-Smith</u>	P
Hayden	Gilliard	S
Victory	<u>Ochonma</u>	X

Year 7		
Silver		
Dylan	Fuentes	P
<u>Connagh</u>	Wadman	P
Roman	Wise	S
Tamas	Kovacs	S
Isaac	Planck	T
Philip	Honey	T
Thomas	Rudge	T
Austin	Payne	T
Elliot	Ford	X

Year 7		
Gold		
Isaac	<u>Wenborn</u>	T

Year 8		
Silver		
Jacob	Hammick	C
Vlad	Nicola	C
Connor	Watts	C
Barney	Elliot	P
James	Shepherd	P
Benjamin	Dauncey	P
Finley	Davies	P
John	Robin	P
Ephraim	Abraham	P
<u>Ahhbib</u>	Sesay	S
Andreas	Jarvis	S
Jake	Wells	S
Woody	Lyons	T
Kyler	Barton	T
Bobby	Gondo	T
Jamie	Parish	T
Oliver	Roberts	X
George	Goodman	X
	Llewellyn-Hurst	X
Loki		X
Louis	Holness	X
Adam	Harewood	X

Year 8		
Gold		
Mattia	Dumitrescu	C
Matthew	Sandman	P
Angus	Kenny	P
Thomas	<u>Gwilliams</u>	S
Samuel	<u>Buscini</u>	S
Freddy	Chapman	S
Flynn	Hardy	T
Leo	Jones	T
	Cabeza	
Lucas	Littlejohn	T
Tom	McIvor	X
Jan	<u>Druzkowski</u>	X
Spencer	<u>Wingham</u>	X

# Rise for the World Challenge

The Sixth Form Team have been following the adventures of student Ahmad Sesay with interest over the past few years.

Ahmad won the Winston Churchill Public Speaking Competition, completed an EPQ arguing that teleportation is possible and has now made it to the finals of an international competition set up by Google's ex-CEO Eric Schmidt. The Rise for the World Challenge takes submissions from around the world from young people who have ideas for improving the lives of others. Ahmad, whose family are originally from Sierra Leone, has presented a plan to address the problem that Sierra Leone faces with rice exports. Ahmad, with support from the community in his family's village, has given land over to a restaurant and football stadium for which the food is produced locally. He developed his idea from this to include the exports of rice from the transport hubs near the village. The project includes reviewing the type of rice grain used in the country. From the 60,000 entries, Ahmad's was selected to go through to the international finals. He now faces the challenge of presenting his idea to the judges. The timing of the award is also a challenge for Ahmad as it falls just before his Further Maths A level! The project demonstrates Ahmad's ingenuity and drive, both qualities that won him the less prestigious Sixth Form Student award of 'Most likely to be a millionaire'. This Rise Project also shows that he has a determination to



help others use resources around them to better their lives. We wish him well.

<https://www.risefortheworld.org/>



**RISE GLOBAL WINNERS**

A large grid of small portraits of diverse young people, representing the winners of the Rise for the World Challenge. The grid is set against a blue background with a white starburst graphic at the top. The 'RISE' logo is visible in the bottom right corner.



**INTRODUCING**

A new initiative for 15-17 year olds which includes a residential program and a lifelong connection to the wider Rise community and many innovative opportunities. Open to young people from anywhere in the world, the program will attract:

- 10,000 applicants
- 1,000 regional finalists
- at least 100 global finalists
- Everyone becomes a member of the global Rise community, creating a network of **100,000 YOUNG LEADERS OVER TEN YEARS**

**THE PROGRAM WILL HAVE A STRONG FOCUS ON CO-CREATION AND LEARNING FROM THESE GROUPS:**

- REGIONAL PARTNERS
- STUDENT AMBASSADORS
- LOCAL COMMUNITIES
- TEACHERS
- PARENTS

**OPPORTUNITIES OFFERED TO MEMBERS OF THE RISE LIFELONG COMMUNITY:**

- Online community and learning
- Higher Education Scholarships
- Innovation Prizes
- Supporting communities locally and globally
- Residential Program for Rise Finalists
- Global Connections for Impact
- Social Investment Fund

# Senior Basketball

This year has seen the resurgence of senior basketball at OPGS, largely thanks to the dedication and organisation of team captains Keran Ekeuh and Archie Cox. Both have done a fantastic job in organising weekly student led training sessions and captaining the team for competitive fixtures in term 4. The first of these fixtures involved a triangular tournament between Maidstone Grammar School, St Augustine's Academy & OPGS. Playing MGS in the first match, OPGS took an early 5-0 lead to silence the MGS support. However, as the game progressed MGS took control to eventually run out 17-5 winners. In the second match vs. St Augustine's Academy the team made a brilliant second half comeback to win 26-15. Two weeks later the team faced MGS in a one-off fixture. Despite showing excellent spirit and character the team lost a high scoring game by 32 points to 20. The squad now look forward to some additional fixtures following the finish of the GCSE and A-Level examinations.

One day in February 2022 Archie Cox and I were running what was then just the basketball club on a Tuesday, afterwards I turned to him and said, "Do you reckon we could make a team?" Through lots of planning with Mr Raye and Mr Devanold, recruiting players from different year groups,



asking Ann-Isabel Olujohungbe to help with the actual management of the team, asking James Tamang and Elijah Oyesanya to help with coaching, etc... By March 2022 we had a full student led squad (from Year 11 – 13) with 2 weekly training sessions in place. That same month we played our 1st games against St. Augustine's and MGS. We beat SAA comfortably but had a very bad defeat against MGS who were better than we expected. After that defeat none of us were happy, especially with the manner they did it in, as we all saw how well they organised themselves on the court and how they played well as a team. This is something we struggled with as we don't have a coach, nevertheless, that next week we trained harder to try and beat them the next time. We played again a week after; we still lost but the two games we played against the two MGS sides were a lot closer and more competitive due to improvements we made together as a team and with help from some stand out performances from the likes of Kai Maxwell, Ashwin Knight and the other members of the team that joined the side that week. As a team we were still gutted with the loss but we came back much happier with our performance, prepared and ready to go again.

In total we have played 4 games this academic year but Archie and I hope that next year when we have gone that the team can become fully established in the school and play regularly. Our only regret is that we didn't start earlier in the year. With both A – Levels and GCSEs and this being our last year at OPGS for many of us, our time together as a proper team was limited. It has been a lot of fun training and playing competitive games so our wish is that the rest of the current Year 11s and 12s can carry on the journey next year bringing in new recruits so that the team remains long after the original members have left.

We would like to thank Mr Raye for helping us make the team, Mr Devanold for providing the kits, Mr O'Neill for driving us to fixtures, Mr Peacock for taking these photos for us and finally thank you to all the students who helped organise and train the team as well as playing every week in training or fixtures. We appreciate you all, it was a lot of fun and we hope to play together again.

**Keran Ekeuh & Archie Cox (Captains)**



# PREFECTS

## 2022 – 2023

**Head Student  
Owen Jenner**



**Head Student  
Lauren Mulvenna**



**Head Student  
Ashwin Knight**



**Head Student  
Izzy Ottembrajt**



**Senior Prefect  
Freddie Crisp**



**Senior Prefect  
Branden Currie**



**Senior Prefect  
Daniel Griffiths**



**Senior Prefect  
Ben Madden**



**Senior Prefect  
Joe Scott**



**Senior Prefect  
Emily Speake**



**Senior Prefect  
Isabelle Stone**



**Senior Prefect  
Millie Swords**



# Senior Sports Celebratory Presentation Evening

This term saw the return of our annual Senior Sports Celebratory Presentation Evening, an event that provided the opportunity for students, parents and staff to review and celebrate the successes of our senior sports performers during the past season.

This year's event was extremely successful with over 130 guests in attendance. This included special guest of honour, former Paralympic Team GB wheelchair rugby player, Steve Brown. Steve gave our students, parents and staff a truly inspirational talk that covered his incredible life story and sporting experiences.

A huge congratulations to this year's award winners who have all made outstanding contributions to senior school sport this academic year.

## Outgoing Senior Captains

- Ben Perks (1st XI Football)
- Jamie Sturrock (2nd XI Football)
- Calum Regan (1st XV Rugby)
- Amelia Jessop (Girls Sport)
- Keran Ekeuh (Basketball)

## Clive Thompson Award (Most Improved Player)

- Jack Wilkins (1st XI Football)
- James Eckley (2nd XI Football)
- Robert Roe (1st XV Rugby)
- Tom Burnett (1st XV Rugby)

## Managers Player of the Year

- Louis Wood (1st XI Football)
- Jake Wright (2nd XI Football)
- Jonny Bentley (1st XV Rugby)



### Players Player of the Year

- Harvey Baxter (1st XI Football)
- Reece Merenda (2nd XI Football)
- James Cripps (1st XV Rugby)

### Top Goal/Points Scorer

- Louis Wood (Senior Football)
- Bradley Martin (Senior Rugby)

### Outstanding Achievement Award

- Matthew Hill (Saracens Rugby)
- Reuben Caley (Saracens Rugby)
- Tom Larchet (National Badminton)
- Jude Fanthome-Hodgson (Kent U17 Hockey Captain)



### Housden Hall of Fame (Academic & Sporting Excellence)

- Callum Regan
- Jonny Bentley
- Tom Homewood
- Matt Wareham
- Jamie Sturrock
- Joe Hart
- Ben Perks

### Team of the Year Award

- 1st XV Rugby

### Service to School Sport Award

- Tom Beale
- Joe Scott
- Tom Dunk
- James Cripps
- Dan Brookes
- Mackenzie Leason
- Matt Hill
- Luke Burt
- Tom Lenham
- Harvey Moore
- Daisy Allistone
- Alex Stone
- Ashwin Knight



A massive congratulations to our musicians at Oakwood Park for their fantastic performances at our Spring Music Concert on 30th March.

This was the first public performance at Oakwood since Covid19 restrictions, in front of a packed audience. It was a pleasure to invite our audience back into school to support our students.

The concert was primarily to showcase the solo performances from our GCSE and A-Level music students. But to also give our Year 10 music students their first chance to perform ensemble work; and other talented students from other year groups. Every single student really gave their all to their performance and it was a pure pleasure to watch them enjoy and discover the emotions experienced when performing live. Well done everyone!



# Term 5 Cricket Report

Both the U12 A&B cricket teams got their season underway at the start of May with games vs. Bennett Memorial and Norton Knatchbull GS respectively. Being their first competitive matches for the school it was encouraging to see the boys play with the spirit and desire needed to be successful in school sports.

Despite the results not going our way there was plenty of promise in the performances. Notably from Noah Thompstone, Oliver East and Tom Campbell. Both teams will now compete in the shield competition, where they will face Kent College and Gravesend Grammar school (at home) next term.

The U13 team were drawn away to MGS in the second round of the Kent Cup and went into the game full of confidence. Batting first they set the hosts a total of 127 to win. An excellent 94 run opening partnership between Oliver Thorneycroft (21) and Harrison Fryer set the tone and it was Fryer who went on to top score with 55.

MGS lost wickets early in their innings, thanks to Harrison Fryer's excellent spell of 4 overs 3 runs and 3 wickets.

The hosts made a contest of the game with some good middle order batting, but they failed to reach the total set by OPGS meaning the team would progress to play Tunbridge Wells GS in the quarter finals.

On a hot day the team decided to bat first and lay down a marker for the opposition whilst tiring them out in the field before their innings. Ticking along at 6 runs per over after 10, things were looking good for the team before a flurry of wickets put pay to any chances of setting a target above 100. Finishing on 89 (at least 20 runs shy of where they wanted to be), the team took to the field looking to build pressure with tight bowling and sharp fielding and for the first 8 overs things were looking good. A couple of missed chances gave TWBGS the momentum and a flurry of boundaries put the game beyond the team. A

late rally saw 4 more wickets fall but it wasn't enough to snatch the win away from TWBGS who got to their target with 8 balls to spare.

The U13's will now turn their attention to the shield competition where they face Chatham & Clarendon GS (AWAY) on Tuesday 7th June. The U14 team entered the current season with high expectations having won the Kent U13 Thunder Trophy in their first year of school cricket. Given a tough draw away to Langley Park Boys in round 1 of the U14 Oliver Cup, OPGS won the toss and decided to bat. Thanks to an attacking 100 run partnership between Ben Taylor (71 not out) and Will Aldrich (50 not out), OPGS scored an impressive 175/2 from 20 overs. Regular wickets from Ben Taylor, Jude Wigmore and Ryan Ward restricted Langley Park to 135 all out from 19.4 overs.

Following an outstanding performance in round 1, the team were then drawn against Gravesend Grammar School (GGS) in the second round. Bowling first, a lack of discipline and fielding errors allowed GGS to reach a total of 113/4 from their 20 overs. On a difficult pitch for batting, OPGS then lost four early wickets that proved to be the difference. Despite some middle order heroics from Harvey Lowe, scoring numerous boundaries in a score of 45, OPGS fell 21 runs short of victory. The team will now regroup in a bid to challenge for the U14 Tony Church trophy. They look forward to a fixture against local rivals Maidstone GS 'B' or Beths GS in round 1 of this competition following May Half Term.

The U15 team have made a strong start to this season, winning against Beths GS in round 1 of the U15 Miskin Cup. Having elected to bat first, OPGS scored a respectable 112/5 on a pitch that was offering plenty for the bowlers. Charlie Razey showing great composure to anchor the innings with 24 runs from 34 balls. Beths GS made a strong start with the bat, reaching 73-2 from 15 overs. Two wickets in the 16th and 17th overs then turned the game on its head, with some accurate death bowling then restricting Beths GS to a total of 96/4 from 20 overs. The U15 team now look forward to a challenging round 2 fixture against Simon

# Term 5 Cricket Report cont...

Langton GS (AWAY) on Thursday 25th May.

This term has seen the reintroduction of U18 cricket at OPGS, with 'COVID bubbles' not making it possible to field a team during the 2020-21 season. The exciting new look squad consists of students in years 9-12, all of whom play club, district or county cricket for their respective age groups. Despite playing opposition teams with students 3-4 years their senior, the team have been more than a match for any school in both the Kent U18 league and cup competitions.

This became clear in the first league game of the year vs. Sir Roger Manwood's, where OPGS were extremely unlucky to fall 9 runs short in an exciting run chase led by opening batsman Ben Taylor (year 9). Despite Taylor scoring 54 not out, this wasn't quite enough to chase the 118 runs required for victory. Looking to bounce back from this defeat, our next league fixture was a home match vs. Chatham & Clarendon GS. Batting first, the OPGS top order struggled, all falling within the first 10 overs to leave the team in trouble at 56-4 from 10.4 overs.

Joint captain Harvey Moore then batted with great composure to steady the innings, scoring 22 runs (from 30 balls) which allowed the team to reach a competitive total of 115 from 20 overs. In the second innings, tight opening spells from Harrison Scott and Toby Clarke controlled the opposition run rate and led to an early breakthrough for Scott in the third over. Harvey Moore then starred again, taking

4 wickets for 16 runs in 4 overs to give the team their first win of the season by a margin of 12 runs.

A day later the boys faced arguably their toughest fixture of the season to date against Ashford School in round 1 of the U18 Kent Cup. Not daunted by this prospect, Ryan Ward (year 9) and Tom Lenham (joint captain) batted beautifully to build a solid foundation for the middle order to attack from. Tom then increased his strike rate in the final five overs, scoring an outstanding 68 runs from 53 balls. This included several sixes the sailed into the ancient oak trees that surround the OPGS playing field! This lifted the team to a competitive total on another challenging wicket for batting. Buoyed by a strong finish to the batting innings, OPGS took early wickets to reduce Ashford to 76-5 from 16 overs. Following four more wickets, Ashford required 7 to win from the final over with only one wicket in hand. The Ashford School tail remained calm under huge pressure to score the winning run from the final ball of the game. This was extremely hard on the team having played the better cricket for large periods of the match.

The final U18 league game of the term was disappointingly conceded by Harvey GS who were unable to field a team. This confirmed the team's place in the semi-finals of the U18 Kent League. A great achievement given the inexperience and youthful makeup of this year's squad. We now look forward to a home fixture vs. MGS on Wednesday 25th May. Please come along and support the team if you can!



# Thank you – Donations for Ukraine

Like everyone else, I was shocked when Russia invaded Ukraine back in February. However, I was unsure how I could do anything to help those suffering.

That was until, through my mother's work, I heard about QP, a small company a local group of Ukrainians worked at who were organising bringing donations to refugees of the war in Poland. Whilst helping my mother get donations from her school to them, I believed it was a good cause for the school to be involved in. Talking with Ms Hern and Fran, one of the head students, they agreed and helped me set up running donations at Oakwood. Thanks to their help, a donation scheme was set up. Other Sixth formers such as Abigail Greener, Taylor Goodson, Ben Bowden-Brown, Saull John, and Ethan Cornish, among others, also helped collect the many donations. One volunteer, Nathan Gates, believed, "It was brilliant to see that unity within the school, helping to contribute to a greater good." The response was terrific – altogether, we were able to collect 25 cartons of donations for those in Poland. These donations now will go towards helping those affected by this horrific crisis survive and return to



some degree of normalcy, impossible without the assistance of the students and family of Oakwood Park Grammar.

Thanks are due to the other sixth form students not yet named who helped collect donations: Kieran Evans, Isadora Morse, Ben Madden, Raghon Beadle, Aidan Burgess, Joshua Ingram, Joseph Castle, Joshua Bendon, Rhys Wenborn, Owen Jenner, Troy Botha and Jack Sands.

And a special thanks is due to the students, family, and teachers at Oakwood Park Grammar School. Without their donations, we could not have done anything to help those affected by this crisis.



# Light in a Trance

## Clifford Chukwuka Okoh

Clifford Chukwuka Okoh was born in Ekuku-Agbor, Nigeria in 1966. He studied Performing Arts in the University of Ilorin, Nigeria and Creative Writing in Birkbeck University of London. He presently lives in London, United Kingdom

## About the Book

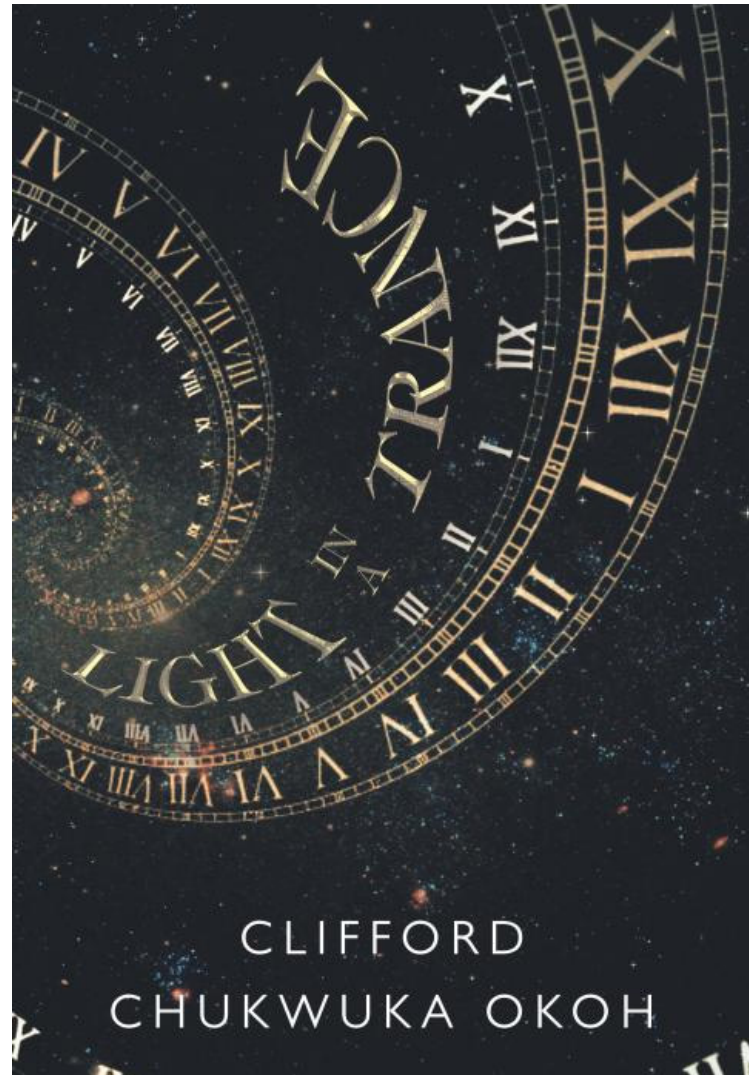
Light in a Trance by Clifford Chukwuka Okoh is a story of schoolboy Nkemcho, who is fascinated by the bedtime stories that his mother tells him each night. His friends enjoy stories too but they all understand that the stories are fictional whereas Nkemcho seems to believe that they could almost be real.

The story of Light in a Trance describes life in native, rural Africa and how neighbouring communities can either live together in harmony or be in competition with each other. The story follows Nkemcho's family and community and describes how the communities prosper.

Details of traditions and beliefs are shared and the book gives an interesting insight into how people in communities completely different to those in the UK live and survive. An enjoyable, relaxing,

My latest publication titled 'Light in a Trance' was officially released on the 28th of April 2022.

The details can be found on Olympia Publishers website and the book is available on major platforms like Amazon, Waterstones, WHSmith, The Book Depository, Foyles, eBay, and it's been released in some countries like The Netherlands, Belgium, Spain, Portugal, Norway, U.S.A, New Zealand, and Germany.



Here's the link:

<https://olympiapublishers.com/authors/clifford-chukwuka-okoh>

Title is also available at the following outlets

1. Waterstones
2. WHSmith
3. Foyles
4. The book Depository
5. Browns books
6. Hugendubel.de
7. Platekompaniet.no
8. Broese.nl



# Wilberforce House Challenge

In March, Wilberforce house challenged the whole school to 2 challenges:

Our first challenge was a game of '2 truths, 1 lie', where students had to research 2 interesting historical facts, and mix it in with a believable falsehood. The most interesting facts mixed in with the hardest to detect fib, was the one deemed the winner. To decide the winners, the Wilberforce prefect team joined up with the history department for some quizzing – and a hard decision it was!

There were many fascinating facts, and we learned a lot – we could probably release a fact book based on the interesting facts our Oakwood history students found! Because of this, we awarded 2 3rd places, 2 2nd places and one winner. The answers will be at the end of the article!

**Two of the following facts are true, one is a tall tale.**

3rd place: Adam Hewetson (C8)

'Fact 1': After Anne Boleyn's execution for failing to give Henry VIII a boy, doctors discovered she was in fact pregnant and carrying a boy.

'Fact 2': The Anglo-Zanzibar war is the shortest war ever recorded in history. The war, which was between the United Kingdom and the Zanzibar sultanate, lasted 38 minutes.

'Fact 3': It is reported that Genghis Khan once ordered his starving army to eat every tenth man.

Joint 3rd place: Leon Pearce (T7)

'Fact 1': Shrapnel is named after its inventor. British Army Officer Henry Shrapnel was the first person to invent an anti-personnel shell that could transport a large number of bullets to its target before releasing them.

'Fact 2': Charles Darwin invented his own wheeled office chair. The famous researcher found that in his study area, he would have to go through the hassle of walking about the office from bench to desk and back again. So, to maximise his productivity and save him some valuable study time, he decided to attach wheels

to his favourite armchair.

'Fact 3': A British fighter pilot, Tom Arnold, was amazingly saved by his map in a WWII dogfight, whilst flying over the English Channel. He was attacked by a German fighter plane and a bullet lodged in the thickly folded map atop his thigh and allowed Arnold to continue his sortie and land safely at Biggin Hill.

**For second place:**

Ifan Bambury (S9):

'Fact 1': A man named Leroy Sheen caught polio as a child and was paralysed in his spine. He managed to fight the Battle of Britain in a specially modified Hurricane and was awarded 3 medals for exemplary bravery.

'Fact 2': Charles Lightoller survived the Titanic, survived a Zeppelin attack on a ship and survived the Dunkirk evacuation as a private boatowner, saving the life of over 100 men.

'Fact 3': Lauri Törni fought in the Finnish army, the German army, and the American army.

Joint second: Nathan Peake (P9)

'Fact 1': During World War II, a Great Dane named Juliana was awarded the Blue Cross Medal for extinguishing an incendiary bomb by urinating on it.

'Fact 2': When forks were first invented in Italy, they were seen as sacrilegious. They were considered an offence to God as they were seen as 'artificial hands.'

'Fact 3': The first ever ice rink was built in 1876 after Queen Victoria fell in love with the sport during her holiday to Switzerland in 1868.

**And for our winner:**

Morgan Taylor (C9)

'Fact 1': In the early 90's, Pepsi owned 17 submarines, a cruiser, a frigate, and a destroyer.

'Fact 2': In 1853, a man blew up his house and 15 other people's houses who had paid for the service, believing it could open a portal to heaven.

'Fact 3': At US President Andrew Jackson's funeral, his pet parrot had to be removed, because it was swearing loudly.

All the facts were extremely interesting and amusing, and to try to spot the lie really showed the creativity of our students.

For the riddles, there were some very historical ones such as Isaac Lynch's 'I was born in France in the 1700's, I was buried in 6 different coffins, I played a key role in the French Revolution and I won over 70 battles. Who am I?' to some very amusing ones, such as Tom Mclvor's 'I only ruled for nine days, why are you so angry at me?'

But our top 3 were:

3rd place: James Stirling (T7)

'I am heir to the throne, yet I will never be one, but I married the queen. Who am I?'

2nd place: Nathan Peake (P9)

'This Tsar caused much frustration,  
And fell victim to assassination,  
He was rather small,  
And knew nothing at all,  
About how to rule a nation.'

1st place: Ifan Bambury (S9)

There once was a man from Siberia,  
Who, with the Queen, got familiar,  
He would terrify,  
And just wouldn't die,  
Which was a little peculiar.'

It's wonderful to see the imagination and creativity our students have to create such poetic riddles.

We hope you enjoyed these riddles and facts as much as we did.

On a final note, we would like to thank Joel Thomas and James Cooper for their work over the year with the prefect duty, especially with creating these enjoyable house challenges, which have been very successful and have so many students across the school taking part in learning outside of the classroom. We wish them the best of luck with their exams, and to the rest of Year 11 and 13 also.

# HISTORY HOUSE COMPETITION

- **2 Truths, 1 Lie**

**Find 2 unbelievable facts about history, and make up one lie! The most amazing fact, and most undetectable lie wins!**

- **Riddle!**

**Come up with a riddle about a historical figure! Whether it's a poem, haiku, limerick, cryptic, anything! The more creative, the better!**

- **Create an artpiece (painting, model, etc.) of a historical figure/event**

Below are the answers:

Fact 1 is false, although it was rumoured, there is no foundation for it. It is also illogical given the circumstances surrounding hers and Henry's relationship at the time.

Fact 3 is false, as an amazing a tale as it is!

Fact 1 is false – but perhaps we will see it turned into a screenplay in a couple of years!

Fact 3 is false – which makes it more amazing that the first two were true. The falsehood is rooted in fact as there is some evidence that Victoria did make a trip to Switzerland in 1868!

Fact 2 is false (and terrifying!) Everybody was in tears over the third fact in the discussions we had over these, so we are very thankful for it to turn out to be true!

Riddles:

Arthur Prince of Wales (Son of Henry VII)

Tsar Nicolas II

Rasputin

How many did you get right?

All the best from the Wilberforce Team.

# Year 11 Leaver's Day

It is with mixed emotions that the school celebrated the previous 5 years of Education at Oakwood Park Grammar School and the passing out of young men who, it seemed, had only just walked through the front doors as little boys.

The day started in Form Groups, and I know the form tutors appreciated the kind words, cards and even a football shirt for Mr Taylor Richardson.

On arrival to the hall the students were greeted by many staff who had come to give their best wishes and congratulations. Mr Devonald had collated all the photos from trips and school visits and Mr Peacock had produced an excellent video which was well received and provided many laughs throughout and challenged some boys to identify themselves. However, there were a few boys who don't seem to have changed much at all!

Each form sat together and enjoyed a full English breakfast and collected their leavers t-shirts. It was lovely to see the boys interacting and sharing moments, reminiscing on the journey they have all made together over the last few years. They all signed each other's shirts and many staff commented on the lovely positive atmosphere.

Mr Devonald then awarded some fun certificates supported with some amusing anecdotes much to the enjoyment of the year and the boys receiving the awards did so in the good spirit in which they were given.



A more serious, emotional and reflective speech followed with Mr Devonald, acknowledging the struggles the year group have faced over the last couple of years. A mention of the teacher's role in supporting the boys both academically and pastorally was acknowledged with a warm round of applause.

The main message was centred around the schools wish for everyone to continue to experience success in life, to be fulfilled in all that they choose to do in life, in whatever form that may take. It concluded with some advice for the future and the need for students to cherish the values and beliefs they have developed in their time at Oakwood Park.

Mr Moody took time to provide his own words of wisdom around the theme 'the harder I work the luckier I get' – Samuel Goldwyn, before the boys were dismissed for the final time as a cohort together and made the final journey out of the front doors.

We wish you all the best with your exams and look forward to seeing many of you back in the Sixth Form.



# Year 13 Leavers Day

The Class of 2022 celebrated their last days in school last week. The final day of lessons was rounded off by a mass shirt signing to celebrate the end of having to wear school 'uniform'. Students who joined us from other schools for the Sixth Form turned up in their old uniform or borrowed OPGS ties from brothers or friends. This rite of passage went some way to make up for their hasty departure from Year 11 in March 2020.

The following day Year 13 joined us at break for a final assembly where the Head Students handed out awards voted for by Year 13 to students and staff. Notable winners from students were Angel Rai voted 'Most Likely to be Prime minister', 'Most Likely To Be a Millionaire' went to Ahmad Sesay and 'Most Likely to Cure Cancer' was won by Tom Rose. Less laudable awards such as 'Most Trips to Tesco', 'Student with the Most Questionable Hairstyle' and 'Most likely to get ID'd at 30' were greeted with mixed emotions by the recipients, but hilarity from the audience. Teachers were rewarded for their passion for their subject, their life advice and their sarcasm. Students will surely see the winners proudly displaying their award certificates in their classrooms.

After the awards ceremony, Year 13 were rewarded by brilliant sunshine as they went out onto the field for a barbeque, superbly cooked by Mr Lewis, Mr Keeling-Jones, Mr Ramkhlawon and Mrs Cornes (parent of Logan). The food was unwisely followed by races on the bouncy castle and a grand scale football game.



The Sixth Form Team wish Year 13 success in their exams and a fulfilling and happy future.



# British Biology Olympiad

The British Biology Olympiad is a national competition for Sixth Form students that challenges them to apply their existing knowledge of A-Level Biology to a series of new and challenging contexts ranging from genetics to microbiology.

Students are assessed through two multiple choice papers completed electronically. This year seven Year 13 students were entered with all achieving awards.

Sangam Thapa – Gold Medal (awarded to only 5% of students nationally!)  
Tom Rose – Silver Medal  
Taylor Grundy – Bronze Medal  
Matthew Wareham – Bronze Medal

Jamie Sturrock – Bronze Medal  
Joe Hart – Bronze Medal  
John Paulose – Highly Commended

Congratulations to all students for taking part! If any Year 12 students are interested in entering next year please speak to Mr Wathey.



## Warhammer Club

The first edition of Warhammer 40,000 was published in 1987 and the popularity of the game has continued to grow since then.

In recent years even celebrities such as Henry Cavill have spoken publicly about their passion for the game. Warhammer is a tabletop wargame where players control opposing armies of hand-painted miniature models with each having individual statistics and special rules.

After a hiatus last year, the OPGS Warhammer Club has once again been able to meet. Students from all years attend weekly sessions to paint their models or battle each other's armies. Warhammer Club meets in Room 42 from 3:30pm to 4:45pm every Thursday. You don't need any prior knowledge or experience and new members are welcome. For more information, please speak to Mr Wathey.




**Student voice meetings take place every second Wednesday lunchtime. Form Captains from every form attend.**

These are the class representatives of each form. Form Captains are recognisable by their red pin badge and are open to suggestions for the school from fellow classmates. You can also speak to them about anything you would like to see change in the school. Your Form Captain will then take your suggestions to the next meeting where the subject will be discussed and we can decide on an action plan.

One thing the Student Voice has done so far is to buy a dedicated football for each form. We thought it would be good if every form had their own. To achieve this, the finance office gave the Student Voice some money to buy these footballs. A ball has been given to each form captain who will be responsible for it. It will be stored in their locker. The form and room numbers have been written on each ball with a marker so they

can be identified should it get lost or mixed up. The Form Captains are glad to have given their forms a brand new football and are planning to make more positive changes to the school in future. Please feel free to speak to your Form Captains about anything you would like to see change in the school!

**By Oliver Robison and Dean Spooner**



**OPGS**  
Parents'  
Association

## Pre-Loved Uniform PE Kit



All items are advertised on our OPGS PA Pre-Loved Facebook Shop [OPGS PA Pre-Loved Facebook Shop](#)

Prices are stated in the advert.

Payment by bank transfer within 24 hours.

Please keep in mind that when buying from us, you are purchasing something that is pre-loved / second-hand. Most items show some signs of wear. We do our best to photograph and explain the condition of the item as best we can. All items are sold in good faith.

If you have any questions about a particular item, please leave a comment on the Facebook advert.

We are always happy to take donations of uniforms and equipment. Please leave items with the school reception.

Thank you for supporting us, all proceeds from our pre-loved sales are used to support OPGS pupils.

### Contact Us:

[OPGS PA Pre-Loved Facebook Shop](#)

[Chair@OPGSPA.org.uk](mailto:Chair@OPGSPA.org.uk)

### Mission Statement

Environmentally friendly fundraising, supporting our school, families, community, for our pupils and future generations to achieve an exceptional learning experience