

@oakwood

February - 2023



OPGS sporting success

Dear Parents, Carers and Students,

Welcome to the latest edition of @ Oakwood

As ever this edition is full of the achievements of our pupils and the commitment of our staff to make all this happen. There are a number of impressive individual sports achievements as well as continued success in the traditional team sports of football and rugby. I continue to be impressed by the quality of the Enrichment Day activities and the opportunities they bring our pupils.

Thank you to the Publicity Team - Mr Peacock, Mrs Goodhew and Mr Solly for making it happen.

Yours sincerely

Mr K.W. Moody - Headteacher

A Christmas Carol Performance Review

By Callum Tandy 7T

The Year 7s watched a performance of the Charles Dickens novella, *A Christmas Carol*. The story is about a man named Ebenezer Scrooge who detests Christmas and prioritises money over everything (and everyone).

He is soon met by the ghost of his late business partner, Marley in his sleep and later meets three spirits who will present to him his past, present and future. Scrooge comes to realise that if he wants to have a good future then he needs to change his covetous, unsympathetic attitude.

He meets the angelic Spirit of Christmas Past who shows Scrooge his melancholy, solitary childhood. We see how he spent his Christmas at his boarding school instead of with his family. We then see that Scrooge's previous boss, Mr Fezziwig was holding a Christmas Ball. Scrooge recognises that Fezziwig is jolly and selfless and is amazed at how Fezziwig makes others happy and yet can still be happy himself.



Above: Spirit of Christmas Past

Scrooge returns to the present at home and goes back to sleep. He is then met by the merry Spirit of Christmas Present who shows him how his attitude is affecting everyone. He sees his clerk, Bob Cratchit's, family and how his son is very ill, and they can't afford the treatment because Scrooge is underpaying him. Scrooge realises the impact his ways are having and begins to feel sympathy.

Scrooge finally meets the horrific Spirit of Christmas Future who manages to sway Scrooge into changing his ways. He sees the future when Bob's son passes away and how everyone says and remembers the bad things about Scrooge

when he is dead. This is not the fate Scrooge wants and promises to change his attitude.

He wakes up on Christmas Morning and feels determined to be as good as he can. He meets his clerk who is slightly late and is worried he is going to be fired. He is shocked to see Scrooge happy and is given a bonus and a raise in his salary. The clerk is delighted and is given the day off. Scrooge remembers how his nephew invited him to dinner and decides to join them which comes as a surprise to his nephew. In the end, everything goes well, and Scrooge finally sees the good in Christmas.



Above: Spirit of Christmas Future

The performance was performed by only 3 people but the transitions between scenes and characters were seamlessly done. The performance really helped me understand the story because I could see it and visualise it and link scenes in the performance to the book. I think the part of the performance that really stood out was when Scrooge saw his future and realised that he must change if he didn't want to end up being hated by everyone in the future and remembered as a cruel, evil person. My favourite line is, "There was a boy singing a Christmas Carol at my door last night. I should like to have given him something: that's all." because that's when Scrooge started feeling sympathy and began to change.

I would rate this performance 5 out of 5 because it really improved my understanding of the novella, and I liked recognising parts of the performance that I didn't understand in the book.

OPGS Students go for prestigious Arkwright Scholarship Award.

The Arkwright Scholarships Trust searches for excellent designers and engineers and administers the most prestigious scholarship scheme of its type in the UK.

Arkwright Scholarships are used to identify, inspire and nurture future leaders in Engineering and Technical Design. They do this by awarding Arkwright Engineering Scholarships, through a rigorous selection process, to high-calibre students in Year 11. The Engineering Scholarships support students through their A Levels and encourage students to pursue Engineering or Technical Design at university or through a higher-level apprenticeship and to take up careers in the field.

Every Scholarship is sponsored by industrial companies, universities, charitable trusts, trade associations, professional engineering institutions, the Armed Services, Worshipful Companies, industry regulators or personal donors.

Benefits to students include:

- £600 financial award (over 2 years)
- Potential access to mentoring about Engineering and Technical Design through a partnership with STEMNET and other organisations
- Enrichment opportunities including industry-based engineering experience days, magazine subscriptions and technical lectures
- Free CREO design software and training in its use
- Personal development and enhanced confidence
- Arkwright Undergraduate Scholarships available exclusively to Arkwright Engineering Scholars - worth between £10,000 and £12,000 over the duration of your undergraduate degree in Engineering or Technical Design
- Support from your Sponsor may include:
 - o a day visit
 - o work experience
 - o personal mentor
 - o support for your curriculum project



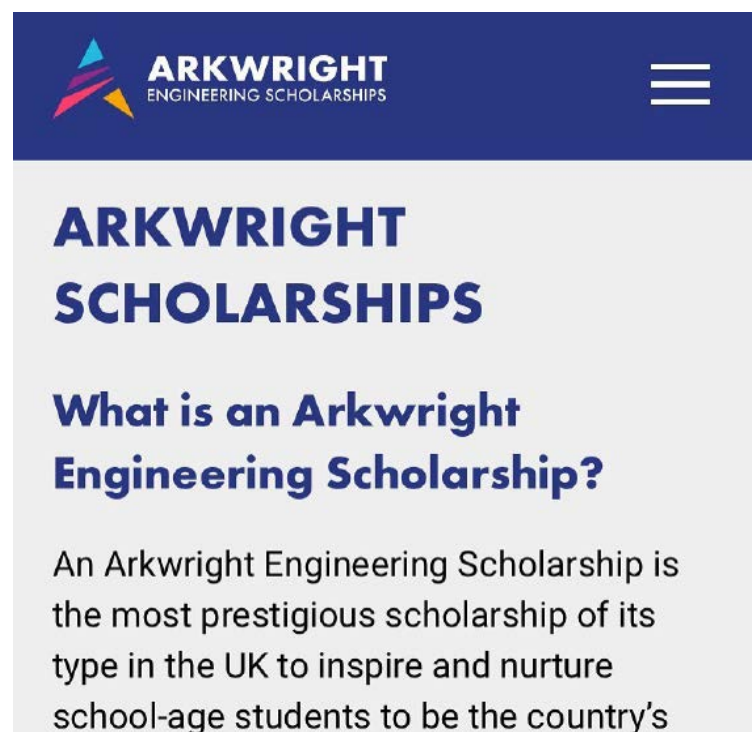
ARKWRIGHT
ENGINEERING SCHOLARSHIPS



part of The Smallpeice Trust

The Design and Technology department has four nominated students for the award for 2023:

Daniel Airey
Isaac Bashford
Cameron Hines
Isaac Pixley-Young.

We wish them luck with their applications, exam and interviews. We will keep you updated with how they get on.



 **ARKWRIGHT**
ENGINEERING SCHOLARSHIPS 

ARKWRIGHT SCHOLARSHIPS

What is an Arkwright Engineering Scholarship?

An Arkwright Engineering Scholarship is the most prestigious scholarship of its type in the UK to inspire and nurture school-age students to be the country's

Christmas Literacy Advent

We are working hard to promote literacy and a love of reading at Oakwood Park Grammar School and hope that your child has mentioned how much the school library has been improved over the last 12 months.

This year, we wanted to use the days of advent as an opportunity to further promote literacy and decided that for the 24 days of advent, usually celebrated with sweet treats and chocolate, we would award 24 students with a beautiful reading book.

Lucky winners were selected based on how they had committed to and demonstrated our key behaviour principles in school. Kindness, tolerance and respect, striving for excellence and a commitment to the school community were all rewarded.

We made sure that all the books were age appropriate and were identified as texts which we thought would challenge and inspire our students. The full list is below and acts as an excellent recommended reading list for our students. Our hope is that the winners read the book and then pass it to a friend they think will enjoy the book also.



Year 7

1. Wolf Brother, by Michelle Paver – RRP £7.99
ISBN: 9781842551318
2. The Last Wild, by Piers Torday – RRP £7.99
ISBN: 9781780878300
3. The Boy at the Back of the Class, by Onjali Q. Rauf – RRP £7.99
ISBN: 9781510105010
4. The Dark Horse, by Marcus Sedgwick – RRP £6.99
ISBN: 9781858818849

Year 8

1. Evernight, by Ross Mackenzie – RRP £7.99
ISBN: 9781783448319
2. Evernight, by Ross Mackenzie – RRP £7.99
ISBN: 9781783448319
3. The Colour of the Sun, by David Almond – RRP £7.99
ISBN: 9781444941135
4. Cherub: The Recruit, by Robert Muchamore – RRP £7.99
ISBN: 9780340881538

Year 9

1. Contender: The Chosen, by Taran Matharu – RRP £7.99
ISBN: 9781444938944
2. Satellite, by Nick Lake – RRP £7.99
ISBN: 9781444936773
3. Contender: The Chosen, by Taran Matharu – RRP £7.99
ISBN: 9781444938944
4. Satellite, by Nick Lake – RRP £7.99
ISBN: 9781444936773

Year 10

1. One Day, by David Nicholls – RRP £8.99

Year 12

ISBN: 9780340896983

2. Cloud Atlas, by David Mitchell – RRP £9.99
ISBN: 9780340822784

3. Shantaram, by Gregory David Roberts – RRP
£10.99
ISBN: 9780349117546

Year 11

1. The Seventh Cross, by Anna Seghers – RRP £8.99
ISBN: 9780349010410

2. Midwinterblood, by Marcus Sedgwick – RRP £7.99
ISBN: 9781780620206

3. The Crow Road, by Iain Banks – RRP £9.99
ISBN: 9780349139159

1. Small Island, by Andrea Levy – RRP £8.99
ISBN: 9780755307500

2. Flowers for Algernon, by Daniel Keyes – RRP £8.99
ISBN: 9781474605731

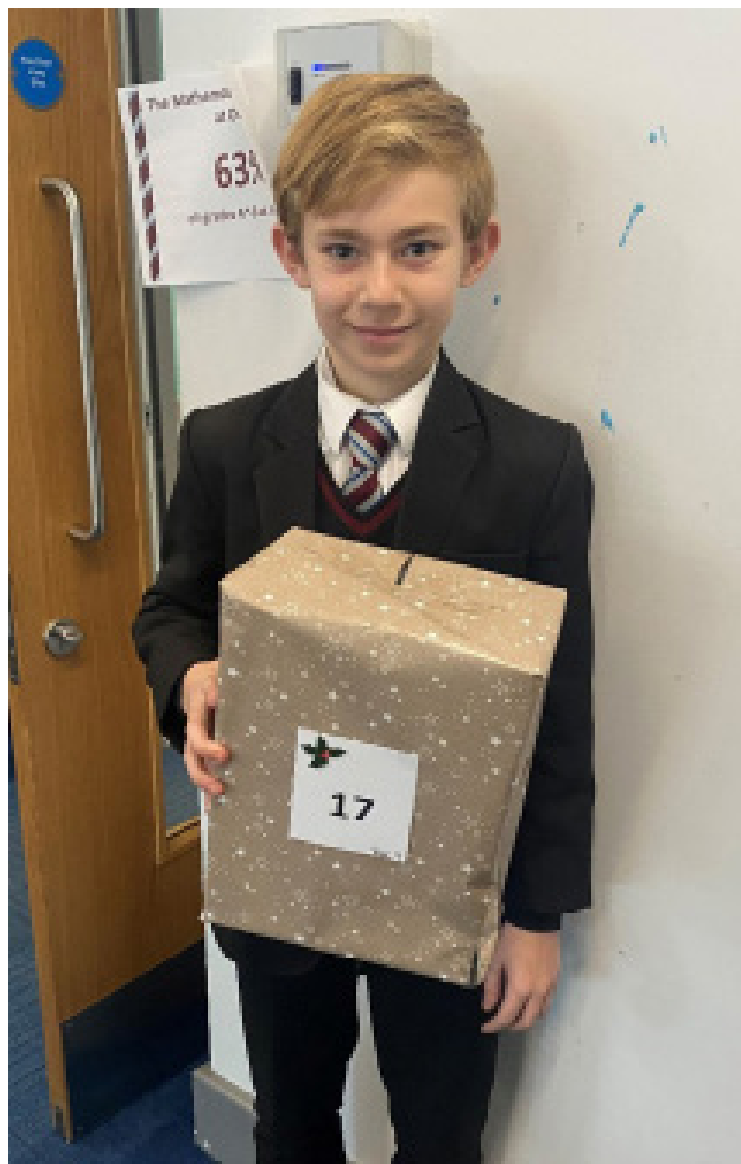
3. After the Fire, by Will Hill – RRP £8.99
ISBN: 9781474924153

Year 13

1. Ada, by Julia Gray – RRP £7.99
ISBN: 9781839130076

2. King of Scars, by Leigh Bardugo – RRP £8.99
ISBN: 9781510104464

3. Colour Me In, by Lydia Rose Ruffles – RRP £7.99
ISBN: 9781444937688

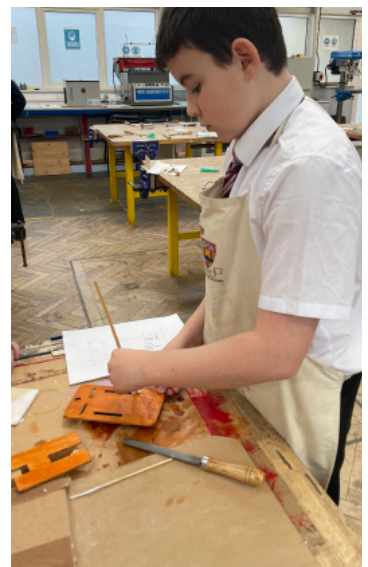
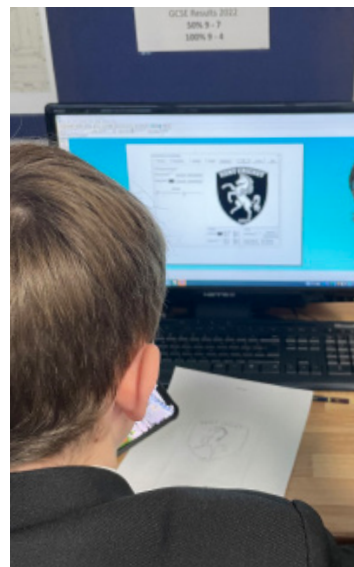


Year 9 Design and Technology Enrichment Day

Year 9 students took part in a Design and Technology workshop to create mobile phone stands from acrylic and plywood.

The designs had to be creative and fun. Students used a range of CAD / CAM, tools and equipment during the workshop to develop their practical knowledge.

The students took on the design challenge well and produced some good results. Examples of the students finished products can be seen below.



Ethan Sparks Star of the Future

Congratulations to Ethan Sparks who won 'Star of the Future' in the Motorsport Awards which was voted for by over 20,000 people.

He won against some of the best riders currently in the UK who ride at much higher levels and just their social media following alone is 10-fold to Ethan's.

We are proud of him and its certainly something to pop on the CV for the future.



Holocaust Memorial Day, 2023

The theme this year was 'Ordinary People'.

A Level History Prefect Zachary J designed the activities for Years 7 to 11 to reflect on in their Awareness sessions in the week commencing 23 January.

Miss Aldous: Students watched powerful testimony from Holocaust survivor Dr Martin Stern MBE. His school teacher had tried to protect him, lying to say Martin was not in his class, but as a child Martin had not understood and raised his hand to show he was present. With his sister he was then moved across Europe. He explained that he survived because an 'ordinary' Dutch woman, Mrs Catharina De Jong, looked after Martin and his sister at Theresienstadt concentration camp. She stole food for them and would have boarded the train to the death camp with them, but they were missed off the list that day.



'Kristallnacht' 1938: Wave of anti-Semitic violence across Germany encouraged by the Nazis. Year 9 students examine the impacts of this in their Holocaust Unit. Year 10 students consider this escalating persecution as part of their History GCSE.

Students reflected that persecuted people, rescuers and perpetrators can all be 'ordinary people'.

'We are all ordinary people today who can be extraordinary in our actions. We can all make decisions to challenge prejudice, stand up to hatred, to speak out against identity-based persecution, to shop responsibly' – HMD Trust



Dr Martin Stern MBE's teacher also tried to protect him from the Nazis



Intermediate Maths Challenge

The best day of the year: The Intermediate Maths Challenge, where 120 top mathematicians from Year 9, 10, and 11 have the amazing opportunity to partake in UKMT's maths challenge.

The questions are not your standard maths questions, but test their innate problem solving and critical thinking skills. The problems require creativity and outside the box thinking – the students were even talking about some of the problems the day after the challenge, because of how much they made them think and how much they enjoyed them!

To give you an idea of the problems, one question involved thinking about the possibility of an equilateral, but non-regular pentagon. Here is the problem below:

How many of the following polygons could exist?

A triangle with all three sides the same length, but three different interior angles. A quadrilateral with all four sides the same length, but four different interior angles. A pentagon with all five sides the same length, but five different interior angles.

- A) only the pentagon
- B) only the quadrilateral
- C) the quadrilateral and the pentagon
- D) all three
- E) none of them

What do you think? I will share at the end one of our student's solutions to this problem, which he shared with me the day after the challenge. The fact that our students are going home and thinking further about these problems, for their own enrichment and enjoyment says a lot about the calibre of our students and their love of maths and learning.

This problem in particular really made our students scratch their heads.

I asked a few students what they thought of the challenge, Bailey Barnett, having sat last year's challenge too, said that it was 'very mentally challenging this year compared to other years. Still great fun'. Ed Scarr described it as 'a

stimulating challenge that tested a wide range of my mathematical skills', and Alan Jose, a year 8, agreed with Bailey that it was 'harder than the past papers', having been practising the last few weeks preparing for the competition.

We will find out how they have performed hopefully by the end of term 5. High performers may be invited to the next rounds, though it is very competitive – historically you must get 23/25 to get into the highest round of the competition. But we know our students are capable of it, and we look forward to getting their certificates and invitations. We wish them the best of luck and congratulate them all on their hard work.

I would like to take this time to also talk about another problem:

How many squares are exactly greater than a prime?

- A) 0
- B) 1
- C) 2
- D) 3
- E) 4

I encourage you to have a think about this. Then let's think about a similar question: How many squares are exactly one greater than a prime? This is solved with the same method. But let's slightly change the wording: How many squares are exactly one less than a prime? I would say give this problem a go, but this would be cruel since I would be asking you to try to solve an unsolved problem. Despite the similarities to the previous question, there is no known solution to this problem. Some wagers there are infinitely many, but there is no proof. There have been cases historically in maths where a conjecture appeared true, but then turned out to be false, for an absurdly large or specific example.

One instance was Euler's Conjecture. Euler is perhaps one of the most famous mathematicians in history, and he greatly enjoyed Fermat's Last Theorem. He got a little carried away, and tried to extend the theorem. Fermat saw Pythagoras' theorem that $a^2+b^2=c^2$ and then stated $a^n+b^n=c^n$ where a, b, c are all positive whole numbers, and n is specifically greater than 2. Euler,



liking this idea, stated that $a^n+b^n+c^n+d^n \neq e^n$ for $n \geq 5$, and made a much more generalised statement. It appeared to be true! ... Until: $55^5+3183^5+28969^5+85282^5=85358^5$, which are all absurdly large numbers. How was Euler to know?

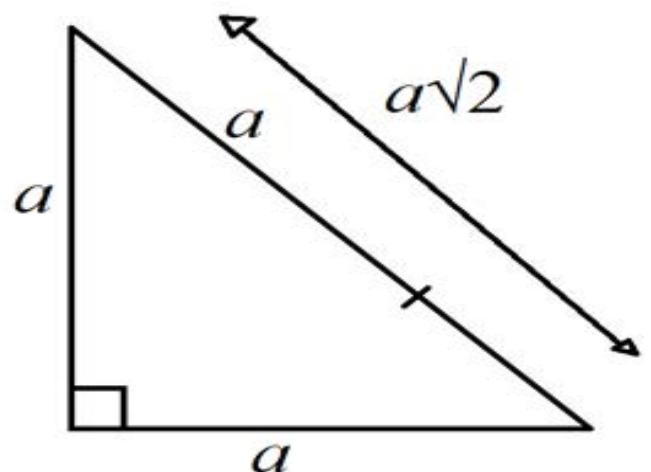
And it is unsolved problems in maths that drive passionate young mathematicians to want to be the one to prove what no one else could. This is what Andrew Wiles did in 1995, solving a problem that couldn't be solved for over 3 centuries. The students at Oakwood Park Grammar School are exactly the kind that will be pushing the boundaries of mathematics in the future. Perhaps one may even prove or disprove there are infinitely many squares that are one less than a prime, and look back to the 2023 Intermediate Maths Challenge and remark how they proved a simpler statement.

If you are a lover of mathematics, or know someone who would be interested in problems like the above, then I would recommend looking at some of the lists of unsolved problems: Hilbert's Problems, Millennium Prize Problems, and Landau's Problems are all famous lists of unsolved problems. Or one might want to look at the Collatz Conjecture, which is not on any of the lists, but still a simple statement but with remarkable depth. We look forward in the

future to seeing your name as the solver of one of the problems that stumped the rest of the world for years.

Aston's Pentagon

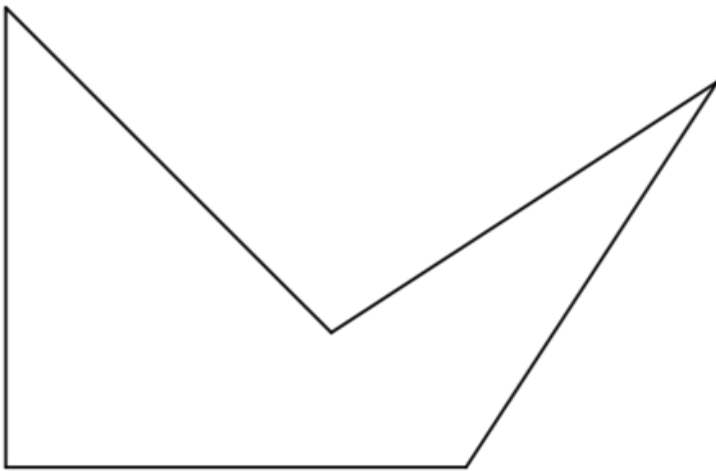
Returning to the pentagon question from the maths article from earlier. Aston Cheng, in year 9, came up to me the day after the Intermediate Maths Challenge and said he thought of a way of constructing an equilateral, non-regular pentagon by: drawing an isosceles right-angle triangle with lengths a , a , $a\sqrt{2}$. Then, on the hypotenuse, mark a point a distance 'a' along.



Intermediate Maths Challenge cont...

He then drew an isosceles triangle of length 'a' on the hypotenuse.

His method has been carefully constructed on graphing software, and this is the result: The way he has constructed this ensures that all lengths are indeed the same – given that we started with an isosceles right angle triangle, drew an isosceles triangle, and carefully measured the length along the hypotenuse to also be 'a' also.



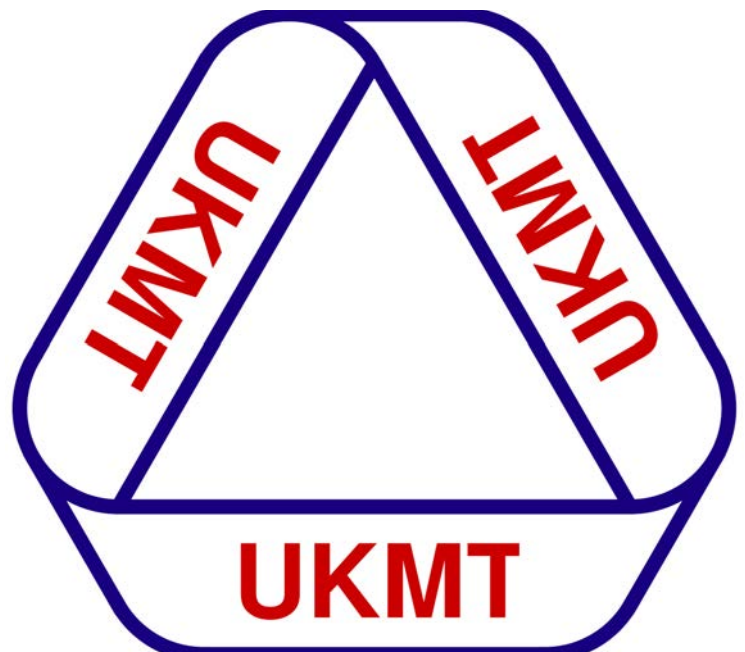
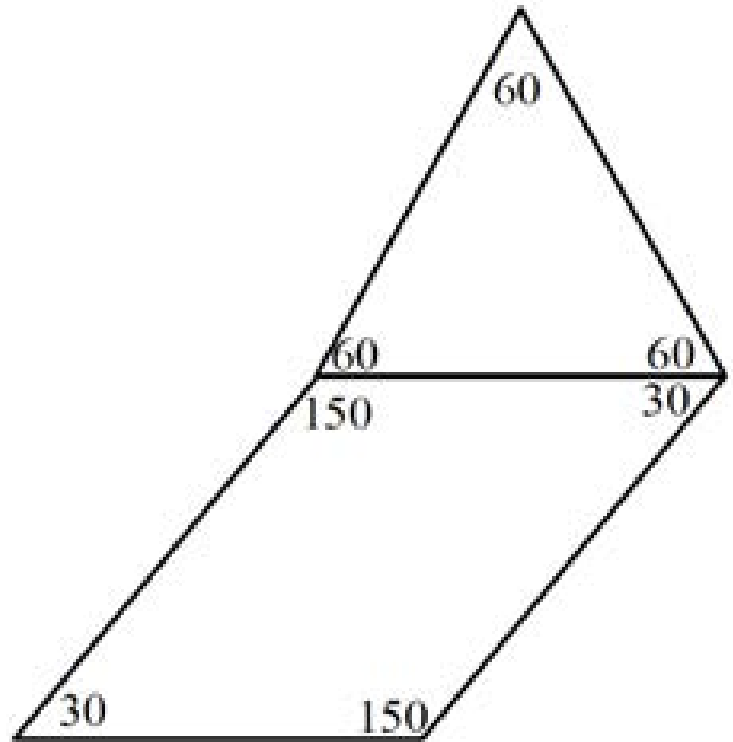
I then asked him if he could guarantee me that all the angles were indeed different. Of course, visually, we have a right-angle, an obtuse angle, and the angle making the polygon concave. The only culprit would be the two remaining angles (the tips of the crown). Of course the leftmost angle is 45, but what of the rightmost one?

If you want an idea then you could split the isosceles triangle in half and have hypotenuse 'a' and base $a \cdot (\sqrt{2}-1)/2$, and some trigonometry can you get the answer. You can then think: Will the angles remain the same in the pentagon for any chosen values of 'a'?

Another way to do this would be to consider the equilateral triangle and rhombus you would have investigated from the previous parts, and to combine them. An example is below. You might notice the right-angle in this pentagon, and consider if you could construct in a similar way to Aston using an isosceles right-angle triangle. Another method you could use is considering the intersections of 4 congruent circles. The examples you have seen here are all concave pentagons. Can you construct a convex, equilateral, non-regular pentagon? If you

come up with a solution, then be sure to let your maths teacher know!

It's problems and thinking like this that you see from our students inside and outside of the maths classroom that generates this creative thinking and love of problem solving. We have many students even attending maths club for extra hard problems and preparation for these competitions – leading to successes such as winning the semi-finals of the Invicta Maths Challenge, of which the finals are to take place in March. Details to follow.



British Mathematics Olympiad Round 1 Highlight

The BMO is an invitation-only round of the maths challenge. Back in October, the top maths students across the country, up to the age of 18, took part in the Senior Maths Challenge. Those who did well were invited to the Senior Kangaroo, as we talked about in a previous publication. However, the top 1000 students across the UK and British regions are invited to take part in the BMO. Thomas Lenham was one of these students.

The paper is a whopping 3 and a half hours long. Now, I'm sure you are thinking 'wow, how many questions is that?' Six. There are only six questions. And the beauty of the Olympiad, is that these problems are not long. They are simple and clear in what they are asking, but to come up with a strategy to solve, and then write a full solution that shows you have fully solved it, and you can prove you have fully solved it... Well, that's a challenge in itself. Being able to understand the problem, devise a method, carry out this method, ensure this method covers all bases, and then communicate your solution perfectly – it really is the ultimate mathematical test.

Tom got a Merit certificate, which only the top 41% of students achieve. This is a phenomenal achievement and we are very proud of him.

Find below a couple of the problems in the paper, that do not require any advanced maths to solve, just good, old-fashioned problem solving. Perhaps even the second one you might want to do with a friend, with a chessboard in front of you. Enjoy.

A road has houses numbered from 1 to n , where n is a three digit number. Exactly $1/k$ of the numbers start with the digit 2, where k is a positive integer. Find the possible values of n .

Alex and Katy play a game on an 8×8 Square grid made of 64 unit cells. They take it in turns to play, with Alex going first. On Alex's turn, he writes 'A' in an empty cell. On Katy's turn she writes 'K' in two empty cells that share an edge. The game ends when one player cannot move. Katy's score is the number of Ks on the grid at the end of the game. What is the highest score Katy can be sure to get if she plays well, no matter what Alex does?



Dominic Teodorescu Kent Swimming Championships are Calling

Dominic began swimming approximately 15 months ago and has strived for excellence since he began.

He feels so at home in the water and particularly when he is swimming his favourite stroke, breaststroke. His dedication, commitment and focus for achieving his potential has been seen through his training and competition schedule. He trains for 2 hours every night and at weekends, combining this with schoolwork and an active home life. The opportunities for Dominic in the past 15 months have led to him now training at the London Olympic Aquatics Centre, a great experience for someone of his age, not many people get to train in an Olympic pool.

Later this month Dominic will be competing against some of the best swimmers in the county at the Kent Championships. He will compete over 3 events; 50m, 100m and 200m breaststroke. Again, to already have reached the standard in three different disciplines is an outstanding achievement and demonstrates the passion he has for the sport.

We wish him well for this event, and of course



will look forward to reporting on his future goals and achievements, he certainly has not set his sights low, already stating he wants to compete at the regionals championships next and then he has set his sights at a national level!

Good Luck

Year 9 Creative Arts Enrichment Day

For the Year 9 Creative Arts Enrichment day students were selected to take part in an intensive work shop in one of the creative Arts - Music, Fine Art, Graphics, Design Technology or Drama.

In Fine Art students explored Gargoyles looking at their history and meaning and then creating a number of designs of their own gargoyle, carefully considering details. After creating and colouring these, design drawing students made their own gargoyle from clay, carefully moulding and adding details following their designs. Having realised these designs, students spent the last part of the day, imagining what their

gargoyles might look like if placed in context on a church or cathedral, creating more drawings of their gargoyle on site. Students finished gargoyles will be used in the upcoming School production of Addams Family as decoration for the Set. The art department was very impressed with the standard of the students work and their engagement with the tasks.

In Graphics, students were given the brief to design a logo for a Space Travel Company. Students started the day collecting resources of space travel, drawing images in different mediums to gain ideas for their logo. They then create a range of designs for their logo, picking the best one to digitise. The final part of the day

Year 9 Creative Arts Enrichment Day cont...

was spent learning how to use professional graphics software Illustrator to draw out their chosen design, and Photoshop to add colours and text. Students engaged really enthusiastically with the task, creating lovely designs and learning a lot about the graphic design process.

The Year 8 students really enjoyed their experience and produced some fantastic work.



Knight Vince- Kent U14 Golf

The PE department would like to say a huge congratulations to Knight Vince (8C) who has recently gained selection to the Kent U14 golf team.

Having only started the game 2 years ago, Knight's handicap has plummeted from 28 to 11 in the last few months. He has been receiving lessons and enjoyed success in competitions at both his home club (Tudor Park GC) and across Kent, leading to his nomination for the U14 Kent Golf trials.

This process involved a series of playing challenges including playing 9 holes in front of the Kent coaching team. Knight performed brilliantly and subsequently received confirmation of his selection to the Kent U14 golf team for the 2023 season. He now looks forward to a number of competitions at Sene Valley GC, Sittingbourne GC and Broome Park GC to qualify for the finals of the 'The Race to St George's' Championship at Royal St Georges GC, host to the 2021 Open Championship. Knight will also receive regular coaching sessions with and represent the Kent U14 golf team this year. We also look forward to him representing OPGS in the 2023 Kent Schools Golf Championships. We'd like to wish him the very best of luck for the upcoming season.



The Ocean at the End of the Lane

GCSE and A Level students went to The New Victoria Theatre, Woking to see the award winning stage performance of Ocean at The End of The Lane in preparation for their Live Theatre examination.

This was 360 degree Theatre at its best. It was a pleasure to see year 10, 11 and 12 fully immersed (excuse the pun) in this magical adaptation on Neil Gaiman's beautiful novel about how children use imagination as a coping mechanism when faced with traumatic experiences. The stage was a living organism, the actors and production values working symbiotically, living, breathing and metamorphosing in front of us.

Miss Buckley

Quotes from the students:

The Ocean at the End of the Lane was a masterpiece within its own right. The incredible combination of sound, lights and acting create a atmosphere which is indescribable. The deep dive into the boy's and Lettie's life and emotions, the Hempstock family's powers and the evil nature of Ursula were outstanding and caused us, the audience, to really disassociate themselves from the fact they were watching a piece of theatre. The complicated, but well performed use of set, sound and lights gave the audience a deeper understanding of what was happening, and enhanced the play significantly. The performance really puts you through a rollercoaster of emotions, and you felt as if you weren't watching it, instead being there. The storyline was very complex, but the characters took us on a journey through multiple threads, indulging us in the fantasy realm, struggles, grief and friendships that the characters experience throughout the play. Overall, an amazing piece of theatre, an easy 10/10.

By Oliver Kane

The Ocean at the End of the Lane was such a gripping production and seeing this piece of live theatre is an experience I will never forget. The fluidity of the performers and set moving in harmony was incredible to watch. The play stands

as a metaphor for dealing with grief whilst exploring friendships as well as fears of these characters with intense imagination and intriguing fantasies.

By Molly Mordecai-Woolf

Ocean at the end of the same was a phenomenal experience live. The combination of lighting, set, sound, and design, along with superb performances, made this a truly unique experience. Watching it was like being transported to the world of the play. Allowing for a exciting, scary, amazing production. The design aspects were the most unique I've ever seen in a play, truly elevating the story and theme, and not simply telling it. Along with performances that make the play a magical, emotional event, that no theatre connoisseur should miss.

By Finley Crowe

You truly haven't experienced live theatre unless you have seen Ocean at The End of The Lane. The compelling action and atmosphere created by lighting, sound, set and acting will leave you at the edge of your seat. Throughout every twist and turn of the play, there is always something to catch you off guard, like the thunderous booms of the theatre's speakers, mysterious otherworldly creatures, bright blinding lights or even complete darkness. The show follows the journey of an unnamed boy as he struggles to cope with reality and discovers new friends and powers along the way.

By Lennon Cox



Term 3 Football Report

Year 7 – Mr Smith

The teams have had limited fixtures this term due to other age groups having to fulfil their Kent and National cup matches. They will be returning to action in term 4 where they will be competing for a chance to win the MSFA Cup.

Year 8- Mr Devonald

The year 8 football teams have had another successful season and continue to produce remarkable performances and results.

The B Team have had a recent English Schools PlayStation Cup fixture and lost to a strong Ravenswood side 2-0. They can now rightfully claim to be one of the best 16 teams in England at that age group, which is something to be proud of. They also had a semi-final of the Kent Cup against Hurstmere and again lost 2-0. Kent is one of the biggest and strongest counties in England for football and again they should be proud of their achievements. In both matches the boys did not perform to the extremely high standards they have set themselves, but still produced some good football and strong individual performances. The physical side of the game is becoming increasingly important as the boys mature and at times being able to play good football is not enough. We continue to ask the boys to play out from the back and retain possession of the ball under pressure and not play a more direct style of play. We strongly believe at OPGS that as the boys mature and grow bigger and stronger, they will not only be a match for opponents physically, but they will have developed a better skill set and the ability to apply these skills in numerous positions and formations. This better tactical and strategic understanding of the game will benefit them in future as the boys progress through the school. Attention now turns to the Maidstone league, and I hope to be able to report more positive outcomes in the next edition!

The A Team have recently played a quarter final of the Kent Cup against Simon Langton. I am pleased to report that they fought a well-earned 3-2 win and now play Wrotham in the Semi-Final this Saturday (4th February). The move to 11-aside this year and bigger goals again highlights the need to develop physically. Ayman Azeez has been a valuable

addition to the squad this year and his athleticism has enabled us to stretch the opposition and create space for players such as Marli Collier to thrive in the number 10 position. Both combined in the last few minutes against Simon Langton to score the winning goal. Outstanding performances from Reece Robertson, William Minchin and Freddie Gibson provided a firm foundation for the team's success on the night. The pressure is now on to make a second final in a row and to defend our title which would be a fantastic achievement again.

Year 9 – Mr Smith

The year 9 team have had an excellent run in the Kent Cup this season. Their game vs MGS has already gone down in school folklore as one of those afternoons they will never forget. Trailing 2-0 away at MGS with a partisan crowd, the year 9 squad found a new level of resilience to claw themselves back into the game. A goal from Teddy Wood just before half time was the spark that lit the fire inside the rest of the squad to come out determined to turn their fortunes around in the second half. After constant pressure from the team, they eventually got their rewards when a corner, taken by Ethan Ford, was whipped in from the left causing panic in the MGS box. Oliver Fryer, recently back on the pitch, found space and the deftest of touches to guide the ball into the net.

With the score at 2-2 the game headed into extra time and it was Oakwood who looked the stronger, they might have sealed the game earlier when Harrison Fryer broke through only to be cynically fouled on the edge of the area when he only had the keeper to beat. A sin bin for the offending Maidstone player and a let off as the free kick sailed wide of the post. Frustrated but not discouraged the team pushed for a goal that would surely take them into the semi-final. With a free kick in another dangerous position, up stepped Ethan again, delivering another wicked ball into the MGS area which was crying out for one of the big centre halves to win it. But before they could challenge for the ball, it nipped James Grey, who leapt like a salmon and glanced the ball into the top corner of the net. Elation for the travelling Oakwood supporters, who never lost faith in their team. 3-2 and into the semi-finals where Hurstmere would be waiting.

1st XI Football- Mr Smith

The senior team travelled to Norton Knatchbull this week to play their postponed Kent Cup 1/4 Final match. Knatchbull, who finished as the league runner up this season had already beaten the team 3-0 back in September so it was always going to be a tough game.

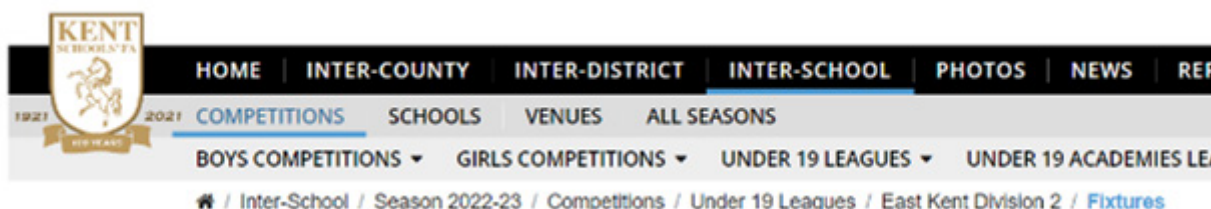
Playing a counter attacking system was the strategy and the squad implemented it to perfection in the first half, creating three or four good chances and taking two of them, courtesy of Jack Falconer and Joe Scott. With a 2-0 lead going into the break, the squad knew that they would have to show every bit of determination they had in the first half.

Within a minute Knatchbull had halved the deficit and the semi-final appeared like a long way away. 'Bend but don't break' came the cry on the pitch, a message that was said during the half time team talk and an ethos of the team since they went on a run of games after half term to get them into this position.

2XI- Mr Devonald

The 2XI football team have now completed the season with a 10-0 victory over Cornwallis academy and we have just been confirmed as East Kent Division 2 champions following an unbeaten run throughout the whole season. The only team to take points from us were Simon Langton where we drew 3-3 and they finished second behind OPGS on goal difference which highlighted the importance of the win against Cornwallis. This is a fantastic achievement for the players and for the school who have claimed five U19 Kent Cup League titles in the last 5 years (excluding Covid 20-21 season).

The 2XI also played in the Kent Cup Quarter finals against Haberdashers Aske in Crayford and were able to secure a semi-final against Beths Grammar school to be played next Wednesday 8th and it would be a fantastic to complete the double and claim the third U19 Senior Cup in 5 years.



FIXTURES EAST KENT DIVISION 2

LEAGUE TABLE

Pos ▲	Association	Pl	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	GD
1st	Oakwood Park GS	8	7	1	0	30	5	22	+25
2nd	Simon Langton GS for Boys	8	7	1	0	23	5	22	+18
3rd	Maidstone GS for Boys	7	5	0	2	16	6	15	+10
4th	Borden GS	7	4	0	3	26	8	12	+18
5th	Harvey GS for Boys	8	3	1	4	14	12	10	+2
6th	Norton Knatchbull School	7	2	1	4	6	15	7	-9
7th	Beech Grove School	7	1	2	4	5	20	5	-15
8th	Queen Elizabeth's GS	6	0	0	6	3	19	0	-16
9th	Cornwallis Academy	6	0	0	6	0	33	0	-33

Parents' Association News

Save the Date: Saturday 17 June
2023 10am to 1pm

OPGS Parents Association Summer Fair

If you have a small business and would like to sell your products/crafts/cakes at the Summer Fair for an agreed donation to OPGSPA, please email Chair@opgspa.org.uk with details of your wares.

If your business or employer would like to donate a raffle prize to the Summer Fair, please email Chair@opgspa.org.uk with details.

The Big Cash Draw

Just WOW! We sold 586 tickets and made £879! This is incredible amount; your generosity is amazing. Thank you so much!

Pre-Loved Uniform

This week we held another very successful pre-loved uniform sale, receiving lots of lovely comments of thanks and praise from our families for our volunteer and sustainability work. Equally, thank you so much to all the families who support our Pre-Loved uniform, whether you are donating or buying, you are all contributing to enhancing pupil's learning experiences and enrichment at OPGS.

We will be holding a pre-loved uniform sale in the school hall once a term and at parent consultations.

If you need uniform but cannot attend the sale, please email your order to Chair@opgspa.org.uk and we will get your order ready for your son to collect at 3.30pm on the sale day.

If you are in desperate need of uniform - lost PE kit on the bus or a ripped blazer playing football - please email Chair@opgspa.org.uk and we will do all we can to assist you.

You can pay by cash, card or bank transfer.

All the money we receive is donated to OPGS for enrichment, extracurricular activities or additional learning equipment for our young adults.

We need more donations - We take all uniform and PE kit! We are expanding what we can offer, so please donate any stationery and PE accessories which still have life in them: clear folders, calculators, dictionaries, maths set, shin pads, bags, football boots. Please leave clean uniform, PE kit and accessories, and stationery at the school office.

Other ways you can support the PA

It is really easy to sign up for Easy Fundraising and nominate OPGSPA. You can earn free donations for OPGSPA every time you shop online. Online stores include Amazon, M&S, Tesco/Morrisons/Sainsburys groceries, John Lewis, Ebay, Just



Eat, Argos - there are 100s of stores. Get the app on your phone and do all your online shopping via Easy Fundraising to raise free donations for OPGSPA.

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

Donate a prize which we can raffle/auction?

Anyone or a business can make a donation to OPGSPA. Do you make lovely crafts, as we welcome items for raffle prizes. Or can your business donate a gift voucher. Perhaps your employer is able to make voluntary donations as part of their Community engagement/ CSR programme.

Contacting the PA

We really appreciate any time you can give helping: setting up or putting away the uniform sales, selling uniform, selling refreshments, helping at the summer fair. If you can spare any time volunteering with us, please email Chair@opgsa.org.uk

The Parents Association (PA) are all parents and carers of OPGS young adults, and we fundraise



to enhance pupils learning experiences and enrichment. We are all volunteers, doing this valuable work around our jobs and family life. If you can offer anytime to help support us in our fundraising activities, please email Chair@opgsa.org.uk

Thank you to the PA team for your continued dedication supporting OPGS, its families and community.

With best wishes

Sarah Harewood
Oakwood Park Grammar School
Parents' Association Chair

Chair@opgsa.org.uk

**Sign up to support us
Shop with your favourite brands
We get a bonus £5 donation**

It's not magic, it's easyfundraising!



Primary Links Detectives and Mysteries

OPGS welcomed Year 4 and 5 students from local primary schools on the 19th of January for an exciting lesson experience centered around the theme of Detectives and Mysteries.

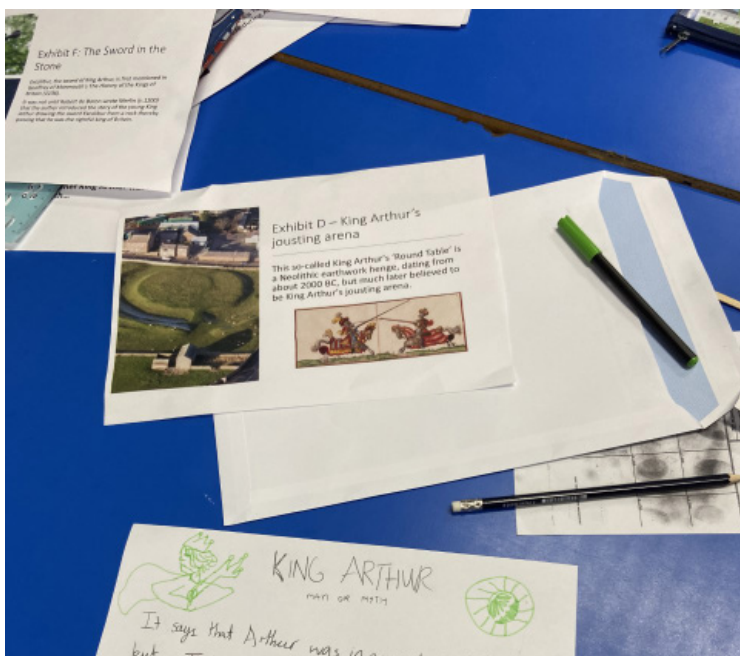
Miss Aldous delivered a 'history mystery' on the myth of King Richard and students had to use their investigative skills to uncover the truth about this famous king. Students were given a range of sources and had to uncover which ones they believed were true and how they came to that conclusion.

Miss Limer, Mr Kedzia and Mr Lindsay ran an exciting session on forensics. Students were

tasked with using lab equipment to discover who the 'murderer' was and even had the opportunity to do some finger printing and examine and decipher their own fingerprints under the microscope.

Overall, the students had a fantastic evening building on the essential skills of an OPGS student whilst having a great time cracking the codes of the mysteries.

A huge thank you to the History and Science teachers and technicians, as well as the sixth form science prefects and our Year 9 students, for their help and efforts in making this a memorable evening for the students.



PSHE Enrichment Day

A heavy burden rests upon the shoulders of our youth; the path of ruination ploughed by the self-destructing nature of addiction. Many, despite warning, fall into the bear trap of dipsomania at an early age - when coherent thinking is reduced and the mind is brimming with reckless impulses.

Through infant-hood, exposure to the outside world was painstakingly drip fed. Therefore, at the cusp of secondary school, we are yet strangers to the world. Upon our entry through the school gates, a barrage of alien knowledge both enlightens and corrupts the innocent heads of young teenagers.

For some, they are swept down a precarious route. The intense force of peer- pressure leads many into the hazardous field of adolescent compulsion. The widely attainable and therefore widely consumed vapes have turned many to the perils of nicotine addiction, steering many into more pernicious and adverse substances in later life.

As a school, the responsibility lies in the education of pupils, exhorting the avoidance of such materials. Therefore, Enrichment Days provide a

crucial stepping stone in reducing the temptations of younger members of society.

Recently, my class and I were graced with a captivating and intriguing day of PSHEE. During this, the Kenward Trust came and spoke with school pupils. In the hour-long time slot, those addressing us proved staggeringly effective at deterring the class away from drinking, smoking and taking drugs.

Once this had ended, we moved onto the other charity, Beyond Equality. In the two-hour long period that we had with the programme, we discussed issues revolving around Toxic Masculinity and the male treatment of women. This invoked meaningful and profound discussions between my classmates, voicing opinions never before uncovered.

For me, these scholastic events are greater than a day of solely educating. They are days of expanding knowledge, a day for broadening minds. I would like to, on the behalf of myself and my peers, express sincere gratefulness for the charities and the school for their time in protecting the younger generation. Thank you.

Ifan Bambury T10



Why All Schools Should Be Discussing Masculinities

1 in 3 girls experience unwanted sexual touching whilst in secondary school

76% of suicides in the UK are carried out by men

86% of violent crime is committed by men (with men twice as likely to be victims of violent crime)

71% of all 16-18 yo boys and girls said they hear the terms 'slut' or 'slag' used towards girls on a regular basis

Rowing Club Review

by Noah Cruickshank S8

I didn't quite know what to expect when I joined OPGS' Rowing Club. I had taken quite a large step as I probably don't exercise as much as I should; I always told my PE teachers that I hadn't found my sport yet. But that was before I went to Rowing Club. Immediately, I began to enjoy doing something completely new and meeting new friends. Combined with my love of water and swimming, it was a perfect match.

I enjoy the elements of competitiveness; we are set fun challenges each week on the rowing machines. The swimming test has only just happened and it was an experience to remember. We had to swim 75 metres and tread water for three minutes whilst wearing clothes, rather than swimming gear. Along with the other members of the club, we wanted to show our ability, and for me this was something I wanted to strive for.

Rowing is a sport that everyone can enjoy, an opportunity I have very much taken advantage of. Paired with the guidance of the expert instructors, rowing is a fun way to exercise my time.

The photo below is what I am looking forward to after Easter, a chance to put into practice what we have been learning.

As I have pursued this new-found fondness for rowing, I have a much better view of sports in general. Unlike my previous opinion, I now understand the greater picture and feel determined to do my best in every way. In addition to pushing myself, I have now seen different angles of rowing: what can I do to improve? How can I change my technique? And ultimately: what should I try next?



U13 Kent Schools Individual Table Tennis Championships

Term 3 has given our students the opportunity to represent OPGS in the annual Kent Schools Individual Table Tennis Championships. This followed the team championships in November that saw the U13 OPGS squad win a bronze medal in the Plate competition. Another strong field of players from across schools in Kent attended at the Howard School in Rainham.

All students played in groups of 3 players to determine their qualification to either the cup or plate competition. From there students played

knockout matches in a bid to reach the final of each competition. All students representing OPGS performed well in the group stages with George Cleverly, Oliver East and Elkan Agyei-Foku topping their respective groups to enter the main cup competition. All other players came second in their group and were entered into the plate competition. Oliver East faced a student from Tunbridge Wells GS and used a good blend of attacking and defensive play to win by 3 games to 0 and progress to the quarter-finals. George Cleverly also played brilliantly to overcome a student from Hadlow College that had a strong defensive game,

U13 Kent Schools Individual Table Tennis Championships cont...

winning by 3 games to 1 and progressing to the quarter final stage. Elkan was unfortunate to face one of the top seeded players who is currently representing Kent Girls, losing in his first-round match to exit the cup competition.

In the quarter final matches George was unlucky to play against a student from Rochester Maths GS who is currently representing the England Table Tennis team. Despite playing well George was knocked out of the cup competition. Oliver faced the Kent Girls number one ranked player from Dartford GS. Having lost the first game Oli was under pressure to bounce back in this best of 5 game match. He did so in a nervy second game, winning by 11 points to 9. He then struggled for consistency in the next two games eventually

losing the match by 3 games to 1.

Our students who entered the plate competition enjoyed success with Ralph Dimmock, Flynn Kemp, Oliver Roots and Jakub Druzkowski all winning their first-round knockout matches. Well done to Oliver Roots for going the furthest in this competition, winning three consecutive matches before losing in the semi-finals.

Congratulations to all the students who represented OPGS in this prestigious county tournament. This includes Oliver East, George Cleverly, Elkan Agyei-Fokuo, Marli Collier, Freddie Gibson, Daniel Mulvenna, Flynn Kemp, Jakub Druzkowski, Oliver Roots, Alfie Pearson, Khanyo Ndlovu and Ralph Dimmock.



U16 Kent Schools Individual Table Tennis Championships

Our years 8-11 students were in action the following week at the U16 Kent Schools Individual Table Tennis Championships. This year saw a record 71 students competing from a range of traditionally strong table tennis schools across Kent that included Tunbridge Wells GS, Skinners School, Sevenoaks School and Norton Knatchbull GS. With 12 OPGS students entering the competition we had the highest number of players from any school. This is a credit to the commitment of the boys below who have reached a high standard of play from both club table tennis and the GCSE PE club at OPGS. All students played in groups of 3 players to determine their qualification to either the cup or plate competition. The first round of the competition saw each student play in a group of three players with only the top placed student progressing to round 1 of the knockout phase. Strong performances from Josh Klein, Oliver East and Callum Gannon saw them top their respective groups and progress. All other players were unfortunate to miss out and were entered into the Plate competition. Josh progressed to round 2 with a hard fought 3-2

victory against a student from Tunbridge Wells GS. Oliver East and Callum Gannon were unlucky to go out having both lost tight games against students from Sevenoaks School.

In his next match Josh played in a three player semi-final against strong opposition from Tunbridge Wells GS and Mascalls Academy. In his first match he made an amazing comeback from 2 games down to win by 3 games to 2. He then lost in his second match to the eventual winner of the competition (a year 11 student from Tunbridge Wells GS) to finish 2nd in the group and go into the 3rd/4th playoff match. Josh did brilliantly in his playoff match winning by 3 games to 2 against a highly ranked county girls player from Dartford GS. In the Plate competition Jacob Pelc, Lucas Dick and James Tricker all won a series of three matches to progress to the semi-final stages. Like Josh Klein in the main competition they were part of a three players semi-final. Unfortunately none of the boys progressed against extremely tough opposition. Congratulations to all the students who represented OPGS in the Kent U16 Individual Table Tennis Championships. This includes Josh Klein, Lucas Dick, James Tricker, Charlie Razey, Jacob Pelc, Tom Ansell, Oliver East, Ryan Ward, Logan Baxter, James Roots, Callum Gannon and Harry Cornwell.



RS and Geography Enrichment Day

The year 8 Enrichment Day on 10th January focused on the theme of the Environment. Students took part in sessions delivered by both the RS and Geography departments.

The Family Trust came into school to deliver one of the sessions looking at Christian views on the environment. Students looked at passages about why the environment is important to Christians and then discussed this in relation to materialism and consumerism. Students ended the session by creating a visual representation of what they had learnt on a small piece of material, which will be sewn together to create a display.

Students also spent a session of the day looking theologically at creation stories and how they can be used to understand humans relationship with the natural world. Good discussions took place around the concepts of dominion and stewardship.

For the Year 8 Enrichment Day, students looked at two environments they had not looked at before in their Geography lessons. These were Coral reefs and Tropical Rainforests. In the first lesson students learnt what a coral reef was, where they were located and what they needed to survive.

They then looked at the threats posed to them and why human impacts have the potential to impact this environment more than any other on the planet. With a huge loss of biodiversity and the collapse of food chains in the ocean this will then impact the people who rely on this environment for survival.

The second lesson looked at Tropical Rainforests and how we exploit them for everyday materials. The lesson looked at the rapid increase in deforestation for Palm oil. Students learnt how this product was in over 50% of food and cosmetics and how with even the best of intentions it's extremely hard to avoid using it in our everyday lives. They looked at the impact this brought to local species in Borneo, specifically the Orangutan. Year 8 students showed great understanding and empathy to the plight of these ecosystems which can feel far removed from us here in the UK, and the Geography department looks forward to developing their knowledge of these topics as they move higher up the school.

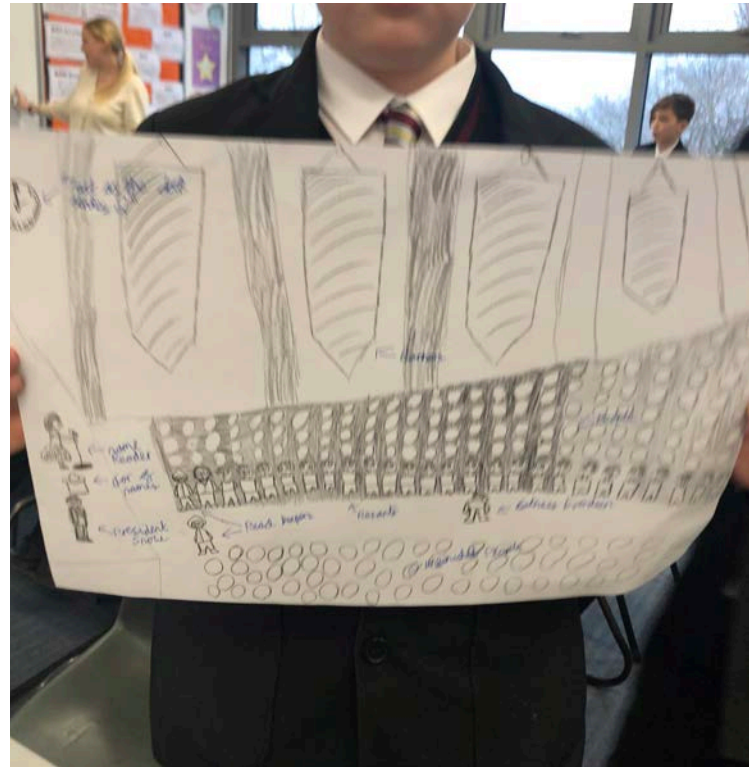


During the Y7 English Enrichment Day Y7's were exploring the harrowing and exciting world of dystopian Literature.

During the day Y7's read, annotated, discussed and presented their ideas on a range of Dystopian novels. The novels consisted of; 1984 by George Orwell, The Hunger Games by Suzanne Collins, Brave New World by Aldous Huxley.

In addition to exploring these fantastical worlds the students were able to create their own version of a dystopia. The ideas produced were incredibly detailed and thoughtful. This was then transformed into a short piece of creative writing-the students really enjoyed taking on the role of novelists and shared their writing with their peers.

Many of the students have now decided they would like to read more Dystopian Fiction!



Term 3- Years 7&8 Rugby Report

The year 7 rugby team have experienced a disjointed season due to fixture cancellations and poor weather at the end of term 2. Despite this the boys have made outstanding progress in core PE lessons and the Tuesday lunchtime training. This was reflected in the team's first game of the season against Norton Knatchbull GS, a team they had lost to in Term 2. With improved tackle technique, game understanding and organisation, the boys matched NKS for every step of the first half, unlucky to be trailing by 5 points at half time. The second half then developed into an open game with both teams scoring two tries to leave OPGS trailing 15-10 with 10 minutes to play. Despite eventually losing the game 25-15 the boys showed a huge improvement as a squad which bodes well for remaining games this year.

The team now look forward to the Maidstone District Rugby Competition in the final week of this term. With good numbers at Tuesday lunchtime training, we will look to field an A&B team for this competition, giving our boys valuable experience for their upcoming Term 4 fixtures.

The year 8 rugby team have enjoyed another successful half term, building on notable performances prior to Christmas that included wins against local rivals MGS and the Trinity School in Sevenoaks.

The team welcomed a physical and imposing Norton Knatchbull GS team to OPGS for the first match of term 3. Playing up hill in the first half, the boys did brilliantly to limit NKS to a 5-0 lead at the

break. Spurred on by an early try in the second half the team played the majority of the second half in the NKS half, unlucky not to score on more occasions through dynamic and physical forward play. After weathering some late pressure the final score finished 10-5 to OPGS.

The team began their defence of the Maidstone Schools Rugby competition title at Aylesford RFC. Having taken a big squad of 23 players the competition organiser split this into an A&B team. This gave all students plenty of rugby throughout the afternoon. The A team were victorious in all three of their fixtures and the B team were unfortunate to lose against The Malling School.

The boys recently faced their toughest game of the season (on paper!) against Sir Joseph Williamson Mathematical Grammar School, a traditionally rugby focused school in Medway. Not daunted by the sheer size and presence of the opposition team, the team showed tremendous spirit to defend aggressively and then score three early tries through fast forward play that SJWMS couldn't defend against. Dara Adesanya and Kian Thorn doing a brilliant job of 'picking and going' from the base of the ruck to exploit gaps in the SJWMS defence. Despite a try from SJWMS at the end of the first half (to make the score 15-5 at half time) the boys continued their dominance, mixing both backs and forward play to exploit space and go on to win by 60 points to 10. This was a tremendous result showing how far the boys have progressed since many of them first started the game in year 7 at OPGS.

