



**There is a rainbow
of hope at the end
of every storm.**

Dear Parents, Carers and Students,

It has been great to see the list of activities covered in the latest edition of @Oakwood, carried out as ably as ever by the Publicity Team. From exciting Enrichment Day events to sporting success, at last we have had some sort of “normality” for our pupils.

Well done to everybody for their efforts.

Mr K.W. Moody - Headteacher

STRIVE

AND

SERVE

Students from Years 12 and 13 spent the day exploring new ways of working to help extend their skills.

Students performed a series of tasks inside the art rooms and around the school that allowed them to manipulate and experiment with materials and rethink how they approach practical tasks. Students had to record observations from still life, primary sources and their own chosen imagery, creating work that explored multi-media practices. Students had to work in a range of sizes, ranging from a drawing on a post-it note to A0 size drawings. They had to manipulate and rethink how they used materials like felt tips, paint, charcoal, and even created one drawing using bread. The workshop incorporated tasks from foundation and BA Fine Art courses that helped challenge the students' ideas and perceptions of art, allowing them to practice and investigate techniques they could explore further in their coursework.



U14 Oliver Cup Kent Cricket Final vs. Tonbridge School

On Tuesday 7th September the Year 9 Cricket Team became history makers, becoming the first OPGS team to reach the final of a major Kent Cup cricket competition. The team had enjoyed a series of impressive victories against strong cricketing schools to reach the final. This included wins against St Olaves (A and B teams), Sir Joseph Williamson Mathematical School and Bexley GS.

Following a postponement in July (thanks to the great British summer!), the U14 Oliver Cup final was played on Tuesday 7th September at Tenterden CC. This was a stunning venue that added to what was a very special day for the team. Having lost an important toss, OPGS were asked to field/bowl in the heat of the day with temperatures reaching 30 degrees! The boys stuck to the task extremely well, with disciplined bowling restricting Tonbridge to 88-1 from 15 overs. Unfortunately, some powerful hitting from the Tonbridge middle order propelled their score to an imposing total of 254-6 from 30 overs. The standout OPGS bowling performance came from Harrison Scott, returning figures of 3 wickets for 15 runs from 6 overs.

Unfortunately, OPGS lost early wickets due to some fast and accurate bowling from the Tonbridge openers. Having reached 45-4, the OPGS middle order faced the unassailable challenge of reaching the 255 run victory target. Despite this, Henry Campbell (38 runs) and Freddie Fagg put on an impressive 50 run partnership. Batting out the 30 overs, OPGS reached 130-8, losing by 124 runs. Despite the obvious disappointment the

boys should be incredibly proud of this achievement and the season as a whole. With Year 8 also winning the U13 Trophy final in 2020/21 the future of OPGS school cricket looks extremely promising. All year groups now look forward to another year of indoor pre-season training in terms 3&4 to prepare for the 2021-22 season.



1st XV Rugby Report

Following the return to rugby in the summer term of 2021, the squad was able to get some training done in preparation for the 2021/2022 season.

The season's opening game was a friendly against Herne Bay High School where the team was able to secure a convincing 45-20 win, with tries coming from Matt Hill, Matt Wareham, Tom Homewood, and Calum Duffy. Jonny Bentley also finished the game with a 100% success rate from conversions. The second game put us up against Gravesend Grammar School in the first round of the Daily Mail Cup. The game started well with tries from Matt Wareham, Jack Green, and Tom Homewood but Gravesend soon hit back with a converted try and penalty before half time. Mac Leason was able to end the half 22-13

with an intercept try. OPGS remained in control of the second half with further tries from Matt Hill and Mac Leason. A Gravesend try towards the end of the match did not disrupt the flow as Matt Wareham scored, ending the game 39-20 to OPGS. Our success in the first round of the cup led to our second round cup game against a tough opposition in Sutton Valance School. A hard fought and even first half ended 15-5 to Sutton Valance with a try coming from Matt Hill in the corner. Unfortunately, in the second half Sutton Valance's lead slowly extended out of our reach and despite a big effort from the team, the game ended 61-5 to Sutton Valance. Next week's fixture sees us play Beths Grammar School in the first away game of the season where we hope to build on the previous games.

By Callum Regan (1st XV Captain)

Senior Football 1 XI & 2 XI

This year is a period of transition following the last 3- 4 years success at senior level and the last 2 years in particular where we have won the double treble winning the League, Kent Cup and League Cup in back-to-back years.

1XI Started strongly against Dover Grammar School in the first game of the season and quickly took the lead against a physical and direct opposition. A couple of controversial decisions ultimately changed the course of the game late on and with Oakwood encamped in their box as Dover pressed hard, Oakwood conceded from a long throw set piece with the last kick of the game. The second fixture again brought an excellent performance but without the result in a 1-1 draw against Harvey Grammar School. Louie Wood from Year 11 being the standout player in this game. A heavy defeat against our local Maidstone rivals was quickly put right with an excellent 3-1 win against Norton Knatchbull at home with Louie Wood scoring 2 goals. Mr Smith is excited about

the future prospects of the team and consistency in performances is going to be the key for this season.

2XI team have a number of new faces and is currently giving plenty of opportunities for lots of players to be selected with 30 players representing the team over the first few games. The start of the season could not have been more difficult with matches against other strong Kent Grammar schools inflicting defeats both home and away. The most recent couple of matches have been more promising and the addition of new players strengthened the teams resolve and this resulted in a 2-2 draw against a physical Norton Knatchbull school and an impressive 2-0 win against Queen Elizabeth Grammar School last week. The team currently sit mid table in 6th position and Mr Devonald hopes that the team continue to progress and develop throughout the season and with Freddie Stone and Jake Wright (both year 11) now sharing things up in defence the future looks bright.

Design and Technology Students visit Design Museum in London

On Wednesday 6th October, students studying Design and Technology visited the Design Museum in London to view the 'Sneakers Unboxed – Studio to Street' and 'Discovered: Designers for Tomorrow' exhibitions.

From trainers originally designed for specific athletic activities like the Converse Chuck Taylor All Star, the Puma Disc, and Nike Air Zoom Alphafly Next%, students discovered how sneakers such as the Reebok InstaPump Fury, the Vans Half Cab and the Asics Gel Lyte III have become cultural symbols of our times.

The students then visited the 'Designer, Maker,



User' exhibition which features almost 1000 items of twentieth and twenty-first century design viewed through the angles of the designer, manufacturer and user, including a crowdsourced wall. The exhibition covers a broad range of design disciplines, from architecture and engineering, to the digital world, fashion and graphics.

Students at OPGS will use the knowledge and resources they gain from this trip to inspire and develop their own projects.



Junior Football Report Term 1

Year 7

The Year 7 squads are starting to take shape but there will always be opportunities for players to break into the two teams that we have. It was a tough first fixture for the U12 A team as they were drawn to play Ravenswood, traditionally a strong footballing school, in the first round of the English Schools Cup (ESFA). The team started brightly and took the lead which they maintained until half time. In the second half, Ravenswood showed why they will be a tough team to beat as they scored 4 unanswered goals before a late consolation for Oakwood when Oliver East converted a penalty to make the final score 4-1.

Since this game both teams have managed to improve and have recorded impressive wins in the Maidstone Football League (MSFA) as well as the Kent Cup competitions, most recently, an away win vs Norton Knatchbull in another ESFA cup where the team won 2-1.

There will be more fixtures in all competitions for both teams next term.

Year 8

The U13's had the painfully long wait to represent their school having not been able to play last year. When they finally did play, they didn't disappoint. The B team started the season off with a well fought and deserved win vs St Gregory School in the ESFA



Picture courtesy of L.Hackett, in the 5-4 win vs St. Gregory School

Cup and the A team followed that up a week later against the same opposition in a back-and-forth game that ended up 5-4 to Oakwood after extra time with Iwan Cronk slotting the winning goal.

The A team also won both of their MSFA League matches convincingly 3-0 and 4-0 vs St Simon Stock and St Augustine's respectively.

Both teams have matches next term with the A team facing Aylesford/Bennett in round 3 of the KSFA Cup and Hundred of Hoo in the ESFA competition and the B team face Shoreham (at home thankfully) in the ESFA cup, all fixtures are yet to have a confirmed date.

Year 9

The U13 team have had the luck of the draw for the major competitions as they have secured safe progress into Round 3 of the ESFA cup where they will play a very strong Hurstmere team. In the KSFA they play John Wallis on Tuesday 19th October looking to safely navigate the away fixture and move into round 3.

We are also awaiting confirmation of the MSFA leagues to see which leagues they will be playing in next term.

Year 10

The U15 squad have started well but have been unlucky so far with their results, narrowly losing 1-0 to Norton Knatchbull in the ESFA Cup. They are looking to bounce back in the Kent Cup where they travel to the Isle of Sheppey Academy in round 2.

With several new faces in the squad we are looking to develop the boys this season so that they are ready to make the step up to senior football in year 11, where there are opportunities to play in the 1st & 2nd XI football squads, in the U19 league and cup competitions.

Frederic's Trip Review

By Bailey Barnett

The day began with a jovial (and not exhausting) walk into Maidstone with the entire of Year 10 French. Once we had arrived in Maidstone, we passed Frederic's, it had a scent full of matured fromage and racks of wine.

We reached the intersection between the Fremlin Walk and Week Street, and were given a quick yet important briefing and set on our way; we had previously been given work booklets that we had been asked to complete. So, we began, my group consisting of myself and four other people aimed to finish this booklet – or, at least most of it.

The clock ticked and as soon as we had got there, it was time to enter Frederic's glorious restaurant. Fredricks Patesserie and Bistro is a French restaurant in Maidstone town centre. We went to Fredricks and learnt about all of the things a restaurant must be sure of when serving customers with allergies.

Now, unfortunately due the Covid restrictions, we could not taste any of the cheese, but we enjoyed a thorough explanation on allergens and 'the making the cheese'. After an interesting and inquisitive discussion, it was time to leave Fredrick's; overall, the restaurant was really nice and the food smelt delicious, even if I couldn't eat

any of it. Alas, after Frederic's the day was not done, we had another forty minutes left.

We hastily completed out booklets and gained one last look at the legendary Frederic's before trudging back to school. As a whole this trip was extremely fun, I learnt a lot about French fromages and furthered my knowledge on locations and prepositions in French. I would love to go again sometime and even try some of the food!



Helen Grant VS OPGS A-level Politics

OPGS students were delighted on Friday to have the opportunity to have a Q&A session with local Conservative MP Helen Grant (Special Envoy on girls' education and Trade Envoy to Nigeria.)

Covid was addressed at the start of the meeting and Helen agreed the Conservative party are still working and functioning but are "not all together". While the vaccine is currently keeping people safer and helping the public to feel more confident she demonstrated an authentic empathetic approach towards the challenges Covid has posed not only for the government but each MP's constituents.

Something that is clearly important to her is her Nigerian heritage. She described similarities between the UK and Nigeria; how we have the same legal systems, languages, and time zone as well as an "intertwining culture". As trade envoy she promotes new opportunities for investors and people which is evermore important in a post-Brexit UK. Nigeria and its newly emerging economy is encouraging new investments and can lead to building trade sustainability for the future.

After her introduction, the class opened up to questions that were relevant to current news and

affairs.

One of the major questions of the meeting: was she “concerned with the decision to raise National Insurance?” Ms. Grant’s response to the question was that “Funding social care properly was a manifesto pledge”. However, she did vote to raise national insurance, “sometimes you have to review.” This approach by government is sometimes referred to as ‘the doctor’s mandate’. However, concerns have been raised about the fact that young people will be funding social care that they will not use for years on their early earnings, with a 1.25% tax increase? Protecting the NHS at this time is a huge priority for the government, it is a “pearl of our society.” We can see Labour MP Zarah Sultana advocating for alternatives rather than breaking manifesto promises. We shouldn’t be taxing the young people that help our society to function but “we can simply tax the rich.” It is without doubt that social care needs funding, but many have called raising NI a regressive tax, rather than using a progressive tax, like income tax.

Following the devastating death of Sarah Everard, women around the UK felt even more cautious when walking alone. Upon being asked the question “How has the Conservative party demonstrated commitment to improving safety for women?” Ms Grant referred to her notes and told students about government schemes that were initiated after this incident: “Doubling the size of the safer street fund to £45M” is to provide a safer environment for women in a public domain. Project Vigilant was brought up briefly by Ms. Grant confirming that government supported the use of plain clothed police officers attending areas around night clubs and bars to “provide better security for women in these locations.” While this is an encouraging way to monitor the night time economy, Sarah Everard was not on a night out and was a victim of a Metropolitan police officer. Ms Grant confirmed that the Kent Police and Crime Commissioner, Matthew Scott is focused on ensuring the safety of women in Kent. OPGS Sixth Form has, as a result, invited Mr Scott into school to talk about the issue of safety on the streets of Maidstone for young people.

A student drawing from personal experience addressed the pressing question: ‘What support



are we going to see for the Afghan people who have papers to come here but are still stranded in Afghanistan?’ Ms. Grant’s answer reflected the sense of helplessness many in West feel in the face of events in Afghanistan “We really just have to hold the new Afghan government to account” . She felt that if the situation did not improve, “sanctions” would be employed. Helen demonstrated empathy towards this situation and showed her deepest sympathies, proposing “we need to have a more open and deep relationship with other countries which perhaps in the past we haven’t been as close to.” The idea that we need to help these countries and work with them rather than against them would perhaps create more of a mutual interest in helping conflicted countries. To many, the schemes like the ARAP (Afghan Relocation and Assistance Project) scheme put in place by the government seem inadequate to cope with the demand. Ms Grant could not give a policy for those waiting to come and explained that it was “Dependant on each individual circumstance,” As our MP, however, encouragingly, she took the details of the student who had a personal connection with people seeking asylum.

We could see Helen Grant’s clear passion for Maidstone and its Constituents. Many of the class may not agree with her own personal opinions but would agree she showed integrity and honesty throughout our discussion. She presented some good qualities when talking to the students and taking specific interests in who we are and our own beliefs. We asked her many questions and for some she admitted that she genuinely did not know an answer, but would pass it on to someone who would. Her time was much appreciated by the A-level Politics classes. Without time constraints, we hope to hold our MP accountable in further Sixth Form meetings.



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History Enrichment Day

Year 11 GCSE History students took part in a study day called 'War, what is it good for?' which focused on the Vietnam War and the Afghanistan War.

This was excellent contextual knowledge for their Superpower Relations and the Cold War 1941-91 unit which explores these themes of proxy wars, ideological struggle, military dominance, spheres of influence and propaganda.

Students created a class timeline of the background and main phases of the conflict, from French colonial rule, Japanese occupation, post-World War Two division, Domino Theory through to the American combat troops arriving in 1965, the Tet Offensive, anti-war protests and the final peace settlement. They worked in pairs to categorise and prioritise the

causes for the outbreak of the war. Using Google Maps, students virtually toured ten significant sites including the Pentagon and Washington to Hanoi, Hue and Saigon (Ho Chi Minh City).

Students also had a one hour briefing on the Afghan War and Campaign 2001-2021 including primary sources such as President George Bush's 2001 address announcing war had begun and Tom Tugendhat MP's speech to the House of Commons in August this year reflecting on the departure of Britain from Kabul. This was followed by a debate on whether the American foreign policy of containment justified the war in Vietnam.

Students showed empathy and maturity in their handling of these complex, troubling and ethical issues around war and their immense effort and focus on the day impressed all the History teachers.



Howletts Trip

Recently, Year 10 went on a trip to Howletts Wildlife Park, just outside of Canterbury.

We saw all kinds of animals: there were larger animals such as elephants, rhinos and lions, as well as smaller ones, like lemurs and gibbons (and many more!). We also listened to a fascinating talk on conservation and the significance of looking after all types of creatures. They also told us about the amazing work that the park does all over the globe, in locations such as Java and Congo, to protect wildlife. It was a brilliant day out and a great opportunity to learn about and observe lots of different species.

Edward Scarr



British Council International School Award success for OPGS

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. Fostering an international dimension in the curriculum is at the heart of the British Council's work with schools, so that young people gain the cultural understanding and skills they need for life work in today's world.

OPGS's international work includes exciting cultural trips with distinct volunteering and charity aspects to places such as Chile, Easter island and India before the onset of the Covid pandemic but also working with an orphanage in Peru and a school in rural Ghana.

On hearing the news that OPGS had received the award, Mrs Bevan, Deputy Head 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. We are especially proud of our volunteering work in both Peru and Chile and the fact that our young people are consistently interacting and learning from other cultures. These international links are crucial in the development of our students and their appreciation of global issues.



Scott McDonald, Chief Executive of the British Council, said: 'The school has earned this prestigious award through its inspirational international work and links with schools abroad. The International School Award is a chance for schools to be recognised for their important work bringing the world into their classrooms. This is especially commendable when schools have been deeply affected by the global pandemic. The desire to build on their international work shines through and it is with upmost pride that we celebrate their achievements.'

By embedding an international dimension in children's education, these schools are preparing their students for successful lives in the UK or further afield, empowering them to be global citizens, and are creating vital opportunities in an increasingly global economy.'

The Award is now available worldwide in countries such as India, Egypt, Lebanon, Nigeria, and Pakistan. Over 6000 International School Awards have been presented to successful schools in the UK since the scheme began in 1999.

The International School Award encourages and supports schools to develop:

- An international ethos embedded throughout the school
- A whole school approach to international work
- Collaborative curriculum-based work with a number of partner schools
- Year-round international activity
- Involvement of the wider community

<http://blog.britishcouncil.org/>.



OPGS Parents Association

The Parents' Association welcomes all our Parents and Carers as members and would like to invite you to our AGM on Thursday 11th November at 8pm, via MS Teams.

RSVP to secretary@opgspa.org.uk If you would like to join the committee or be a volunteer please send your contact details to chair@opgspa.org.uk

We are selling preloved uniform and PE kit online. You can message us via our Facebook group <https://www.facebook.com/groups/opgspa2ndhanduniform> or email opgspa@gmail.com if you have any donations of current Uniform and PE kit, we have

a collection box in reception.

We would like you to help us raise funds by signing up to Easy Fundraising. This gives us donations when you shop online. Just visit the site or use the App before shopping in the usual way. Last year we raised a donation of over £300 from Easy Fundraising.

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

Thanks for supporting us.

Jane (Chair)

Charity cake sale

On the 23rd September the senior prefect team organised and ran a charity cake sale. We were collecting for two charities, one national and one local. We chose to support Dementia UK and Demelza.

Dementia UK helps those with dementia and their families, they provide information and support.

Demelza is a charity that helps children with serious or terminal illnesses by providing them with clinical care and therapies.

We are proud to say we raised a total of £206.88 to give to these great charities and hope to organise more events like this in the future.



Year 9 PSHE Enrichment Day 'Making the Right Choices'

On the 6th October Year 9 students were visited by a wide range of organisations to get them thinking and talking about important social issues and responsibilities they will encounter as they become young adults.

Metro Charity talked to students about the importance of Sexual Health, Consent and STIs. Students discussed what makes a healthy relationship and the pressures of sex. They also explored the different types of contraception and witnessed a condom demonstration, to understand the correct way to use barrier protection, an essential life skill to avoid unwanted pregnancies and sexually transmitted diseases.

Maidstone's Switch Café also gave up their time to speak to OPGS students. Nick Batchelor engaged students by talking about his own experiences of knife crime and working in a gang. He showed the boys the consequences of that life and students discussed how to avoid gang culture, staying safe in our community and why people become involved in knife crime. Nick invited any students that have concerns to the Café Youth group open on Maidstone High Street until 7pm everyday.

The Kenward Trust led a talk on their Think Differently campaign. This is aimed at educating students on Drugs, Alcohol and the Law. Andy spoke to students about his previous addiction issues, how he overcame these and the impact Drugs had on his life, and the criminal activities he got involved in as a result. Students discussed how family, friends, jobs and health can all be affected by drugs and alcohol addiction. The Kenward Trust runs a helpline for anyone affected or in need of help on 01622 812603.

During the day Year 9 were also visited by the Kent Magistrates Team. They learnt about the role of criminal courts and what happens if an offender is taken to the crown court. Then were given a real life case to solve, and discuss how the law would punish the defendant. The magistrates showed students what the consequences could be for certain actions.

The final volunteers to visit Year 9 were from

Homeless Care. The team discussed with students why people become homeless and addressed some misconceptions about poverty and different types of homelessness. OPGS contributes to the Homeless Care charity every Christmas with the food collection, an essential supply of resources for the charity. Students were encouraged to think about how their own acts of kindness and how they can contribute to the wider community.

We would like to thank all the volunteers that visited our Year 9 pupils, for sharing their valuable advice and unique life experiences which should aid our OPGS students in making the right choices in their own lives.




Kenward Trust

HOMELESS CARE



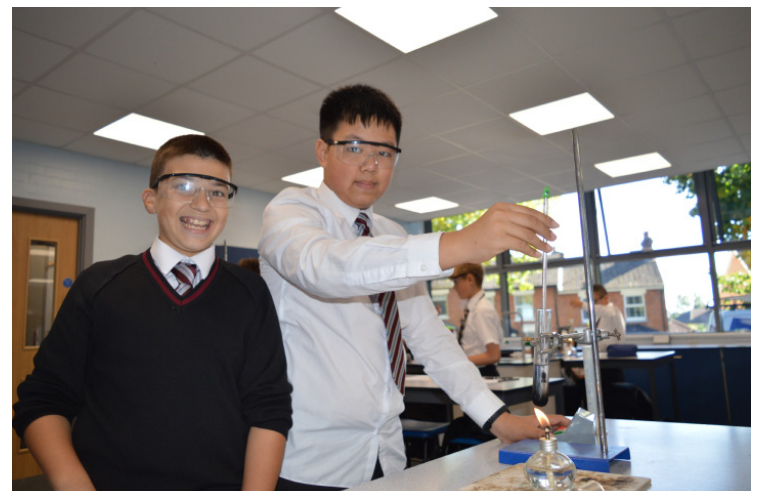

METRO
Embrace Difference

Year 7 Science Enrichment Day.

The enrichment day, on Wednesday 6th October, saw the Year 7s have a space-themed science day filled with exciting and informative activities.

The various activities included an astrodome - where we all sat inside a black dome and projections of space, planets and constellations were shown all around us. This was a fantastic experience and we all learned a lot about our galaxy. A highlight of the day was the building and launch of our own paper rockets using pressure. We used a pump to fly the rockets and saw which shape of rocket launched the highest. Another

fantastic experiment was when we burnt various fuels to see which was the most effective - we put different fuels into their own glass containers and set them on fire to see which fuel would get to the highest temperature within 100 seconds. Finally, we created our own egg landers - the eggs were placed in small containers which were attached to newspaper parachutes. We surrounded the eggs with materials that were laying around the classroom to give the eggs a safe landing, intact (and it had to leave the container on its own) - this was extremely tricky! We can all agree that this was the best enrichment day ever.



September House Competition Winners:

In September, Head of Sadler, Mr Smith and his Prefect team challenged the school to make their own games on Scratch.

Well done to our joint winners -

Ewan Tweddell 9X (Wilberforce) AND Lucas Older 9X (Hazlitt).

You have earned your house 5 points each and we enjoyed playing your car game.

Notable entries from the following students also earned each house a point per entry.

Tye Martin 9S - Sadler

Adam Hewetson 8C - Wilberforce

Jacob Pelc 8C - Wilberforce

Joshua Allen 8C - Fisher

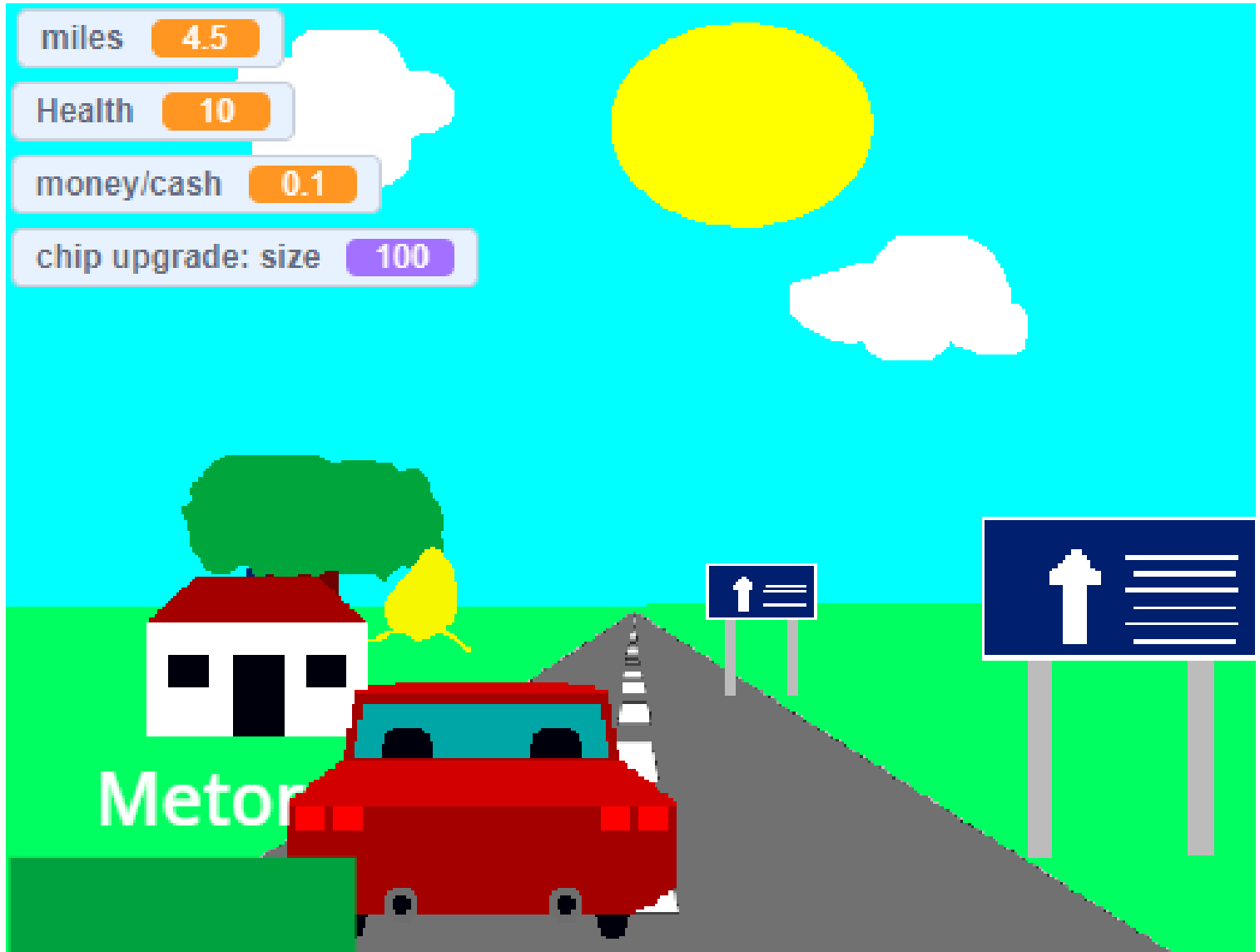
Charlie Haisman 11P - Fisher

October's Fisher Challenge: Still time to enter!

Who has travelled to the furthest, most random destination?

Send a photo of you along with any other memorabilia to vmarchant@opgs.org

In the email you must attach a PowerPoint slide, just one! saying how far away it is from OPGS and which year you travelled there. Also a little blurb explaining you travels





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It is illegal for anyone under 16 years of age to purchase or sell raffle tickets. Anyone under 16 years of age who buys a ticket for the Big PTA Christmas Raffle will immediately forfeit the right to any prize. Closing date 12th Dec 2021. A raffle is a form of gambling. If you, or someone you know, needs information and/or help with a problem gambling, please call GamCare on 0845 6000 133 or visit www.gamcare.org.uk