

7th January 2022

Newsletter No. 8

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to the start of term and a Happy New Year. Let us all hope that 2022 will eventually lead to some form of normality for us!

Can I start by thanking you and all the pupils for their support in making the lateral flow testing process go so smoothly this week. I am also incredibly grateful to our team of support staff, led by Mrs Lewell, who carried out over a thousand tests so quickly and efficiently.

Not being in possession of a crystal ball, I'm afraid the next month or so is difficult to predict. It could be that we have significant disruption because of the spread of the Omicron variant or it may be that we are lucky and escape problems. Whatever the case, the school will keep you fully briefed through email updates. Can I respectfully ask that parents and carers take the time to read the information carefully rather than ringing the school and asking for the information. Thank you for your support.

At the end of term it was lovely to have the opportunity to celebrate the achievements of a sizeable number of our pupils, albeit in a limited set of assemblies.

Congratulations to the 6th Form Charity Team who through the Christmas Jumper Day and Cake Sale have raised a tremendous £1,191.47 to be split between Dementia UK and Demelza.

If you have not had a chance, please do look at our termly publication @Oakwood for accounts of last term's events <https://www.opgs.org/wp-content/uploads/docs/news/atoakwood/@oakwood%20December%202021.pdf>

Social Media Survey

We are currently reviewing the school's use of social media for sharing information and communicating with parents and carers. We would be most grateful if you could complete this very short survey to help inform any decisions we take regarding this. Please click here for the survey: [Social Media Use - Parents and Carers Survey](#)

School Uniform – Winter Update

Rules on school uniform are clear and maintained to a high standard by our students. For students in Years 7 to 11 uniform consists of:

- OPGS School tie with house colours – this must be visible and show seven stripes. Students are not permitted to wear any other tie other than those awarded by the school.
- OPGS Blazer with school badge.
- Plain white shirt which must be tucked in at all times with top button done up.

- OPGS black v neck pullover.
- Plain black trousers ('jean style', 'super skinny' or 'chino style' trousers are not permitted)
- Black socks.
- Black shoes (trainer or trainer style are not permitted)
- Plain black belt (if worn). 'Designer' belts are not permitted.
- Earrings, ear studs and jewellery are not permitted, nor the piercing of any part of the body.
- Plain dark outdoor coat (no hoodies)
- Hair must be natural in colour and extreme hairstyles are not permitted. Long hair must be tied back. The Headteacher reserves the right to ask pupils with very long hair to have it cut back to a reasonable length.
- Bags should be substantial and able to cope with carrying a minimum of three A4 sized textbooks. A minimum capacity of 10 litres is recommended.

Items which are not part of the school uniform will be confiscated.

DfE Schools Guidance states that occupied spaces, such as classrooms, need to be well ventilated. As such, even though we are in the colder months of the year, it is still necessary to maintain good ventilation in classrooms by having windows and doors open. Therefore, staff will monitor the temperature in classrooms and will permit students to wear coats where necessary.

However, please note that as per school uniform rules, coats must be plain dark outdoor coats and hoodies are not permitted. Similarly, students must only wear the OPGS black v neck pullover. This has been part of the OPGS uniform since 2017. Students are not permitted to wear body warmers and shirts in the place of school blazers in classrooms.

If you have not purchased an OPGS pullover in the last three years, the school's PTA has second-hand pullovers in good condition available to purchase at a considerably reduced price. The PTA can be contacted by following this link <http://opgspace.org.uk/>

Thank you for supporting us in maintaining our high standards.

Good luck to our Year 13 students who are currently doing their PPE (mock) examinations. This term continues to be important to Year 11 as they come to the end of their GCSE courses and start the revision process. Year 9 will also soon start the process of choosing their GCSE options and details will be sent to you shortly regarding this.

On Tuesday 11th January, school will finish after period 4 at 1.10pm. Unfortunately, the original Enrichment Day has had to be cancelled because of Covid; we were due to have a number of external speakers to the school and a couple of trips. Therefore, normal teaching will happen on that day. The reason that we finish early is for important staff training on the curriculum. Thank you for your support.

Yours sincerely,



K.W. Moody
Headteacher

Diary Dates

Mon 10 th January	Years 7 & 8 cricket coaching - 3.00-4.30pm (RMR)
Tue 11 th January	School finishes for students at 1.10pm.
Wed 12 th January	Year 11 MFL speaking exam. 1st XV Rugby v Trinity School - Home, 2.30pm (MKJ, MHD) 1st XI Football v QES Away 2.00pm KO, depart 1.10pm (SPS) 2nd XI Football v QES - K Sports- 2.30pm (SPS, RDE)
Thu 13 th January	Year 11 MFL speaking exam Year 12 Faculty activity 1.50-2.25pm in forms Year 7 Football v St Gregory's School Away 2.00pm, depart 1.00pm.
Fri 14 th January	Year 11 MFL speaking exam Year 12 Monitoring issued U15 Rugby v Herne Bay High School – Away 2.45pm KO, depart 1.00pm
Mon 17 th January	Year 12 Parents Evening 4-7pm. (virtual)
Tue 18 th January	Year 12 Faculty activity - 1.50-2.25pm form rooms/IT room Sixth Form Open Morning 9.00-10.50am
Wed 19 th January	Year 13 Faculty activity - LRC 1.50-2.25pm - form rooms/IT rooms
Thu 20 th January	Year 12 Faculty activity - LRC 1.50-2.25pm – form rooms/IT rooms
Fri 21 st January	Year 13 Drama Component 1 workshop (RBU)
Fri 28 th January	Year 8 Monitoring issued

House Challenge Christmas Card Competition Winners

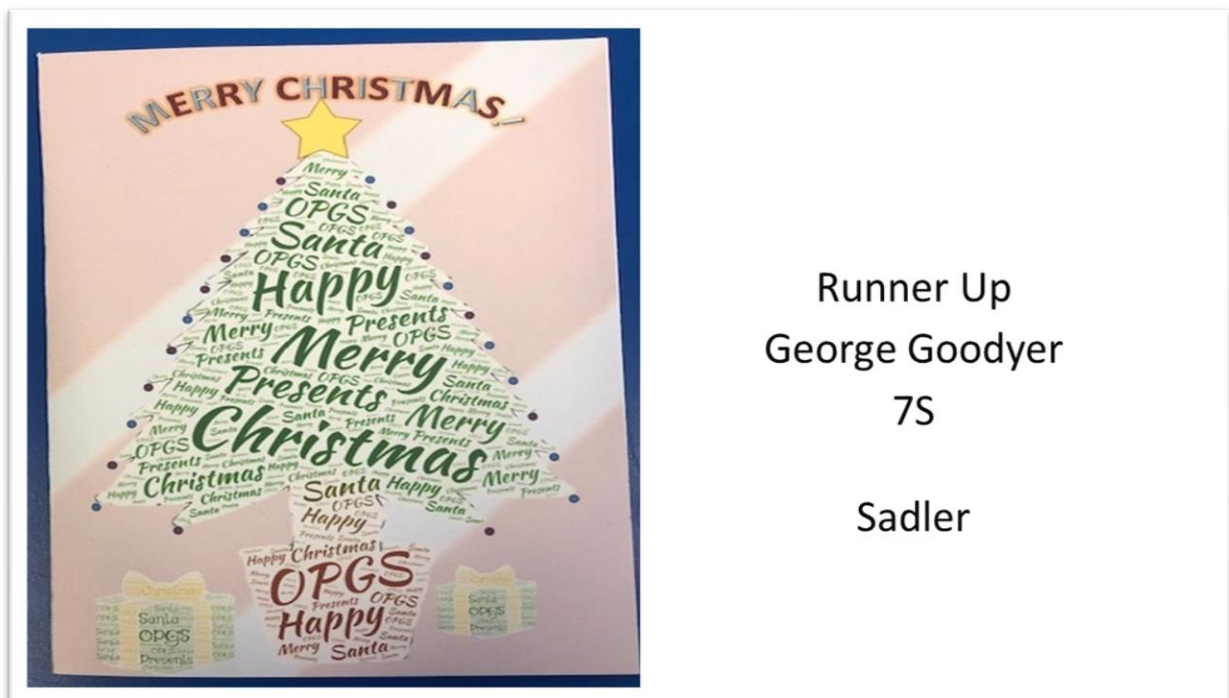
Congratulations to the winners and everyone who entered.



Winner-Hazlitt

Alan Jose

T7



Runner Up

George Goodyer

7S

Sadler

House Challenge Christmas Card Competition Runners up

Congratulations to the winners and everyone who entered.



Runner up
Harry Jordan
7T

Fisher



Runner Up
Leon Pearce
T7
Fisher