



The End of Year Report

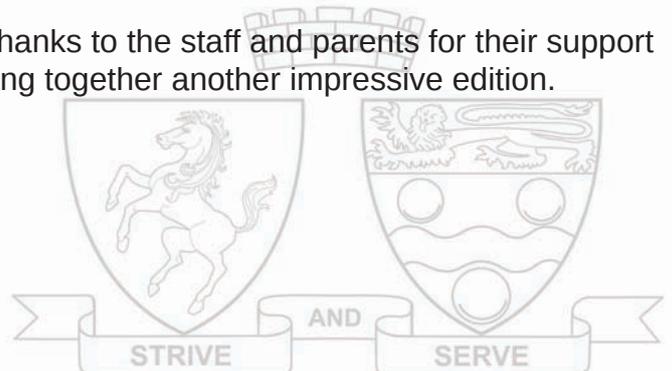
Dear Parents, Carers and Students,

Welcome to the summer edition of @Oakwood. There are a huge range of activities which capture the eclectic nature of activities in the school, from Warhammer to a film about the miners' strike, from winning a Pony Club competition to the school production of Little Shop of Horrors, all life is here!

Well done to the students for their achievements, many thanks to the staff and parents for their support and thank you to the Publicity Team for their work in putting together another impressive edition.

Best wishes.

Mr K.W. Moody - Headteacher



On Wednesday 27th June 2018, 45 Year 8 students attended the Big Bang Fair in Haywards Heath.

Students took part in a range of interactive workshops, shows and activities and got to try new things. They met engineers, scientists, apprentices and other representatives from local employers and PEIs to discover what a future career in STEM might look like.

Stands included: Genetically engineered mosquitos to reduce population levels, wave simulations, virtual reality, forestry demonstrations, reptile experiences. Many also took the opportunity to design and build rocket cars which were tested on the day.

The students had a great day, trying out new technology and finding out about the latest Science, Technology, Maths and Engineering projects.



Bodiam and Battle Abbey Trip

As part of their Year 7 History studies, this was a great extension to students' knowledge of the Norman Conquest and medieval period.

In one trip we covered local history from the dramatic events of 1066, the building of great castles as defensive features (or impressive houses for knights, by the C14th) and the religious Reformation under Henry VIII which altered our built landscape so significantly.

At Battle Abbey, students stood on the spot traditionally thought to mark where Harold Godwinson died and where the victorious William the Conqueror placed the altar of the great Battle Abbey he had built in remembrance of this. We looked out over the battlefield, peaceful on a sunny afternoon, where in 1066 the two armies clashed so viciously.

At Bodiam Castle, students also explored the battlements of the castle and sketched the defensive features. They considered the social system which enabled such privilege to be bestowed on Sir Edward Dalyngrigge and what statement he was making by this display of architectural power.

During the trip, the Year 7 students took photos of these historical buildings and were able to submit them for a photo competition. The winning photos are displayed here.



Library Cake Sale – Another Slice

In June, the library and SEN team hosted a cake sale and managed to raise £128, which helped to go a large way towards their fundraising goal.

Rachel Murray informed us:

“On Thursday 7th June, the Library team headed by Archie Mitchell ran a cake sale to raise money towards purchasing library resources and new equipment. Many thanks to Mrs Part and Mrs Browne’s delectable treats, and great array of bake goods. There were many tempting choices, from chocolate brownies to rocky road, lemon drizzle and lots more! Overall, we managed to raise a grand total of £128, which will go a large way towards our fundraising goal. Therefore, we would like to extend a huge ‘Thank you’ to all who supported the sale – we hope to repeat next term!”

Hoping to build on this success, the second leg of the cake sale, on Wednesday 11th July, to help raise monies for resources for the Library and Learning Support was another huge success. The library is looking to broaden its selection to include some more Manga titles; a comic book style that has developed from Japan. This time the team raised a wonderful £113.70 which means they will be able to reinvest in more resources for the students of the school.



Physics students hunt for the Higgs boson at CERN

Students from OPGS have been inspired by a visit to CERN, home of the Large Hadron Collider.

During the visit on 5th July 2018, the students discovered how CERN is helping to answer some of the most fundamental questions; how did the Universe begin? What are the basic building blocks of matter?

Scientific breakthroughs such as the discovery of the Higgs boson require experimental machines on the large scale, and the students gained an appreciation of the technical and engineering challenges that the multinational experimental collaborations at CERN face.

Mohammed Shlash said, 'CERN was very educational, we learnt how the particle collider worked and even saw some of its components.'



The UK has been a member of CERN since the organisation was founded in 1954. Membership allows British researchers to take a wide variety of roles that contribute to CERN's on-going success; from recently qualified technicians and university undergraduates gaining their first taste of working in an international environment to PhD students analysing experimental data and experienced engineers and physicists leading projects or representing their experimental collaborations. The OPGS students' visit was led by a member of the CERN community who



talked from personal experience about their contribution to CERN's research programme.

STFC's Executive Chair, Professor Mark Thomson, said "The scale of the science and technology at CERN is awe-inspiring. There is no doubt that seeing it at first hand, and meeting the people who work on the experiments, can influence young people's future education and career choices."

Student Perspective on this Physics Phenomenon:

The trip to Switzerland, in my opinion, was very educational but also fun. The second day was most eventful, as we first took a trip to a science museum in Geneva and saw interesting historical artefacts that we have learnt about in past physics lessons. We also sparked a debate about whether water is wet or not... we still haven't agreed on



an answer. Afterwards, we went around Geneva on the water taxi. The ride on the water taxi showed us the beautiful scenery of the water jet in Geneva and Mont Blanc. Following the trip to the water jet, we went to the hotel to dry up and made our way to CERN. CERN was very educational: we learnt how the particle collider worked and even saw some of its components. On the last day, we visited the United Nations and we were given a tour of its buildings, both the interior and exterior of the buildings were

fascinating, especially the decorative artefacts gifted to the UN from its member states. All of this couldn't have been done without both Mr. Hoskins and Miss Limer therefore all credit goes to them.

By Mohammed Shlash



Vaulting for Glory

On Sunday 15th July, at the Golden Cross, Equestrian Centre in Sussex, Jess Paramor, qualified for the Pony Club National Championships. Our homegrown jockey was riding a racehorse, Murphy, a retired and ultimately rescued Hickstead Derby champion. The pair have qualified for the upcoming Intermediate Individual Championship, which will take place at Cholmondeley Castle in Cheshire on Sunday 19th August.

Eventing gives Pony Club Members a chance to prove their courage, determination and all-round riding ability combined with the careful and systematic training of the horse. Riders gain a deeper understanding of the different disciplines open to them. Competitors are examined on 3 distinct areas, dressage, show jumping and cross country. The main aim of the competition is to encourage a higher standard of riding throughout the Pony Club and to give the young a greater interest in riding as both a sport and as a recreational activity.

The sport could be termed an equestrian triathlon as it involves working with your pony/horse both



on the flat and over jumps. Today, the sport is best known for its cross-country phase, where the horse and rider gallop over an outside course of solid obstacles, which the horse has never seen before and therefore does not know how tall the jumps are, if they land on water or on grass etc. The high level of competition is evident in the fact that eventing is an Olympic discipline in which Great Britain has a long tradition amongst very competitive fields. Certainly, the Pony Club has been established since 1929 and therefore looks forward to the national championships on an annual basis with great pride and excitement of the next generation of talent that is sure to be showcased in this year's competitors.

Little Shop of Horrors

This year's school production is the thrilling, Little Shop of Horrors; a horror comedy rock musical, by composer Alan Menken and writer Howard Ashman.

The plot revolves around a hapless florist shop worker who raises a giant plant that feeds on human blood and flesh; reminiscent of the 1990s Goosebumps title 'Stay Out of the Basement' or the jungle creepers from Jumanji, which try to suck in the players with their vines and carnivorous flower pod. The musical is based on the low-budget 1960 black comedy film The Little Shop of Horrors. The music, composed by Menken in the style of early 1960s rock and roll, doo-wop and early Motown, includes several well-known tunes,



including the title song, 'Skid Row (Downtown)', 'Somewhere That's Green', and 'Suddenly, Seymour' – a preview of which we were treated to at our recent Presentation Evening, by Jack Owen and Katie Evans.

The musical premiered off-off-Broadway in 1982 before coming to the Orpheum Theatre, where it had a five-year run, later running as a Broadway production. The musical was also made into a 1986 film of the same name, directed by Frank Oz. Due to the relatively small cast and simple orchestrations, it has become popular with community theatre, school and other amateur groups. The OPGS incarnation of this must-see show will be opening the doors at 7pm on Tuesday 17th and Wednesday 18th July, with curtain opening at 7:30pm as the school's summer production for this year.



As the summer term winds down, the production of “Little Shop of Horrors” comes to the stage at Oakwood Park Grammar.

The Art, Drama and Music departments have been frantically working for weeks to bring it all together. It features the thrilling tale of shopkeeper Seymour (Jack Owen) and the co-worker he is madly in love with, Audrey (Katie Evans). After an eclipse Seymour discovers a strange, exotic plant in the shop which he names “Audrey II” (Joe Phipps), but he soon discovers this plant is hungry for human flesh and blood... after it feasts on the sadistic Orin (Emmanuel Fanthome-Hodgson) and the cruel Mushnik brothers (Nina Lewis and Tom Foley), Seymour and Audrey have to do all they can to stop this plant from taking over all of America. This marvellous performance was directed by

Mr Baker with the help of his assistant director Harvey Weed, and the choreography was put together by the talent of Luke Jones.

The beautiful and inventive props and back drops, including all three Audrey II’s, were the product of hours of dedicated hard work from the art department during their lunch times and free periods. Plus the help that Ms Wilkins offered with costume did not go unnoticed. And of course the entire performance was brought together by Ms Bates and her band of gifted musicians, who along with the cast, gave up hours of their spare time to allow the atmosphere of “Skid Row” to be brought to the Oakwood stage. The performance was put on over two days, both Tuesday and Wednesday evening and a bonus matinée for the younger years Wednesday period two and three. All in all the entire musical left the audience hungry to feast their eyes on the shows to come.



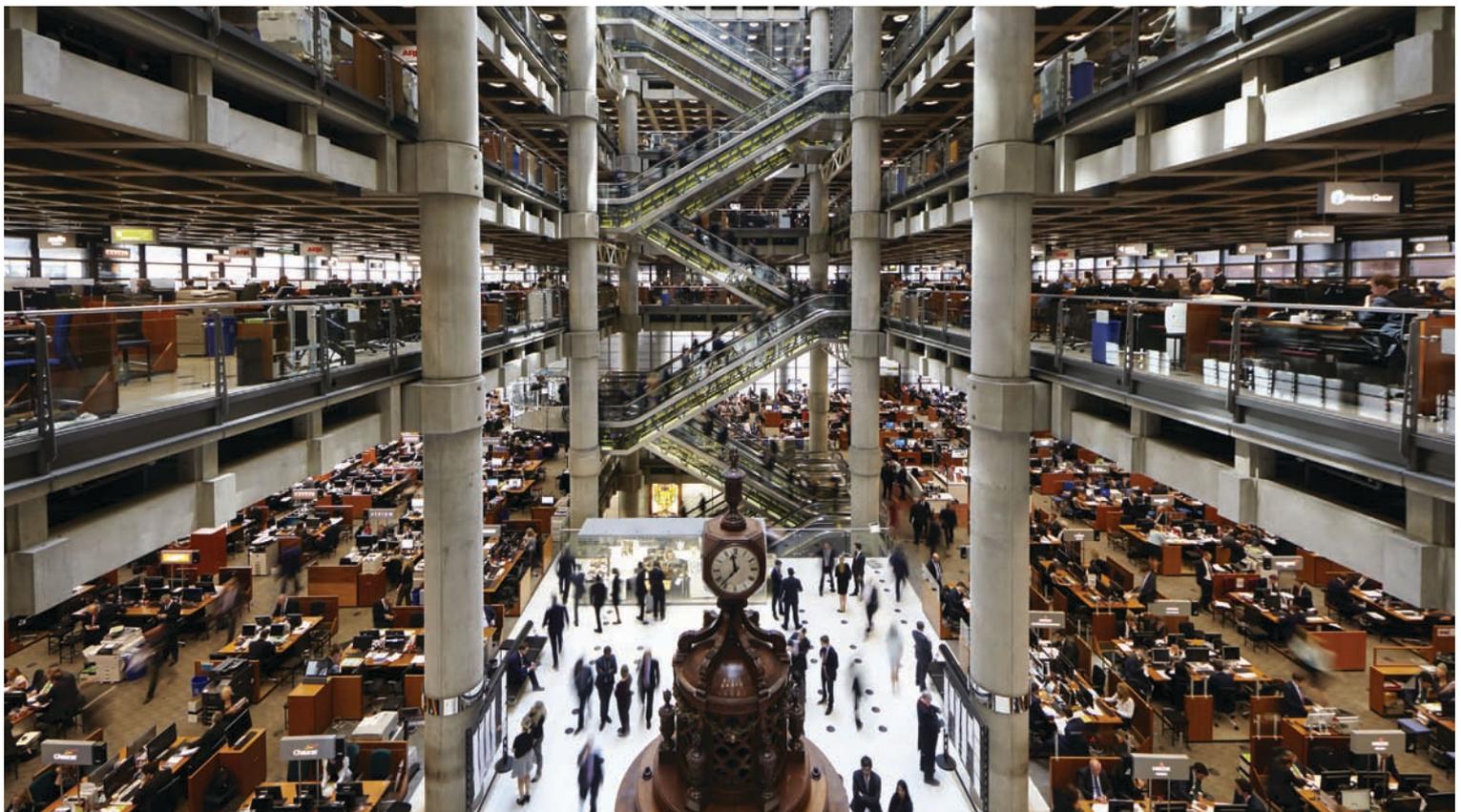
Year 12 Economics students have Head Boy, Thomas Place, to thank for their trip to Lloyds of London for a role playing careers event. Thomas represented OPGS at a Winston Churchill reception where he was invited to the City for a tour. He asked if he could bring a few of his friends. (See photo).

Students had a tour of Lloyd's of London, played a game of Risk, had a careers talk from one of their apprentices, role played an insurance scenario and finished with a question and answer session. The students, much to Thomas's relief, were complimented on being inquisitive, well-behaved and smartly dressed.

As UK companies seek to remedy the skills shortage, an increasing number of our students are interested in degrees sponsored by city companies which, although they are delivered in partnership with universities, come without fees and often pay a healthy salary. Mrs Williams, Head of Year 13, has been instrumental in mapping routes for students who are interested in this path which does not follow the UCAS process.



In 2017-18 OPGS's large network of parent-careers advisers has helped more students than ever with work experience. The Sixth Form Team wishes to thank them for laying the foundations of a healthy network that will benefit the sons and daughters of all the OPGS community in years to come. It has been a delight to get to know better the judges, policemen, doctors, architects, psychologists, engineers, bankers and other professionals who make up our parent body. We look forward to seeing you all again at Year 12 Careers Network event next academic year!



For a Love of Language

On Tuesday 10th July, Year 8 spent the day focusing on Modern Foreign Languages. During the day, the students were exposed to a range of activities, to help their love of languages come to life, through enjoying the cultural engagement and understanding they can bring.

Firstly, students practiced singing a Spanish song they had been introduced to in lessons, after working on the translation, of 'El Perdón'. Students could then use the Wii to play a SingStar version of karaoke, which allowed them to rack up a point score, generated on their singing and correct pronunciation of the words. This became a highly competitive battle between the high scorers, who took their position as first place very seriously, and defended their title with great enthusiasm.

Next, students played a game to test their grammatical skill in very practical terms, by seeing who could build the largest tower from balloons. On each balloon the team had to write a verb in the infinitive, the translation and three

conjugations in three different tenses. However, if there was a mistake on the balloon, it would be popped, which could cause the entire tower to fall down!

Students then had a very topical game where they learnt vocabulary to describe a football game, most fitting as France has just made their way to victory in the World Cup Final. Students completed quizzes that tested their knowledge of French combined with flags, capital cities and general knowledge about French culture. As the end of the session, students were asked to create their own fact file on their favourite player in French.

Lastly, students took part in a session whereby they looked at the Spanish cuisine through Rick Stein's Spain, a cookery programme that explores the traditional influences on Spanish dishes from the region of Galicia.

By Ashwin Knight.

Primary Schools visit OPGS Science Department

On Tuesday 3rd July, the Science Department was visited by thirty Year 4 and 5 students from Westborough Primary School for a collaborative Science morning.

The students had a fun-packed morning, investigating forces, designing and testing nose cones, building and launching air rockets, completing flame test investigations and investigating what causes dense objects to float. A massive thank you needs to go out to our technicians, Mr Morley, Mrs Ralph and Mrs Stempin-Pietrowska for making the day possible. We hope to invite the school back next year and hope that everyone had an enjoyable day.

Miss Limer



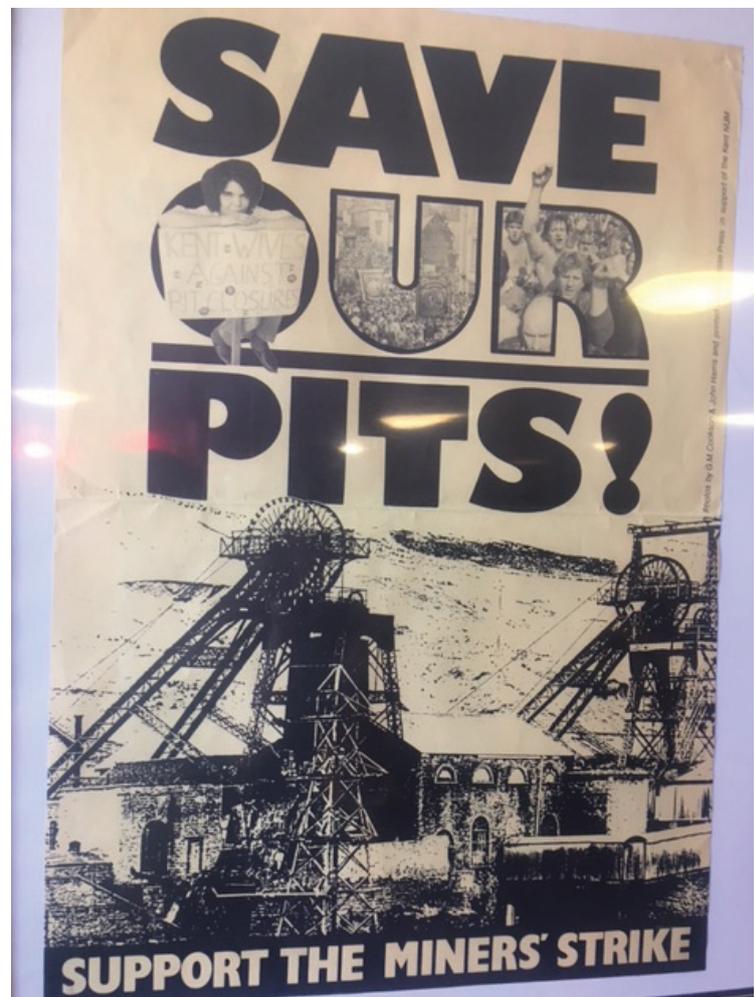
Miners Film

Following a successful application for a grant from the Heritage Lottery and inspired by a visit from ex-student Rory Weal, History and Politics students in Year 12 began their research for their documentary film on the role of the Kent coal miners in the strike of 1984/85.

Research began in the former colliery town of Betteshanger with a tour of the area given by the archivist of the Kent Mining Museum, known to the ex-miners by his nickname 'Little Cush'. Year 12 students, along with their film producer and camera operator, Charlotte Knowles from Independent Films, learnt about the effect of the closure of the pits on the isolated community. (see picture) The OPGS students kept 'Little Cush' busy for nearly two hours with their research into the militant action of the striking miners, the support they got from socialists abroad and the measures that the Thatcher government took to defeat their picketing of the pits. As well as learning about the social pressures of being a Kent miner, students also learnt about the difficult conditions in the Kent mines in the 1920s and how the conditions improved during the 20th Century. (see picture)



The Year 12 researchers were invited to Eyethorne community centre where they interviewed ex-miner John 'The Goat' about his experiences on the picket line. They were struck by his accounts of the antagonistic behaviour of the police to the miners both on and off the picket line.



Behaving like true historians, the students sought to verify these accounts by talking to policemen who had patrolled the Kent picket lines. The students were lucky enough to interview retired Police Officers as part of the film. One Police Detective was a boy when his father policed the miners' strike and told the students of his worries about his father's safety. His colleagues had themselves served on the picket lines both in Kent and in more northern sites like Bolsover and Orgreave. Students were able to put some of the miners' complaints to the officers and document their replies. It is safe to say that the police matched the miners' in terms of their colourful rendition of their adventures as young men working with other police forces in containing the flying pickets.



In order to get a historical point of view, students also visited the Kent History and Archives Centre where they could examine the folders of NUM material that had been donated anonymously to the museum. (See pictures). While at the History Centre, students were visited by Dr Jordan Claridge, Associate Professor of Economic History from the London School of Economics. He presented the view of the strike as part of a larger economic picture of declining coal production in the face of globalisation. The A level students were able to test their knowledge of Marxist economic theory and Neo-Liberal ideas on an expert in order to get an academic perspective on the strike.

The role of the media was important in shaping



public attitudes to the Kent Miners. Students called on the OPGS network again and managed to speak to parent Robin Gibson who was a radio journalist for the BBC in the 1980s. He told students about the way he was rejected by both police and miners in his role.

At time of writing, students are about to embark on their final trip to the Kent collieries, this time to speak to an NUM representative who was arrested for being a flying picket and Liz French who organised the women's protests and support groups. Then comes the daunting task of editing and recording the scripts. Thankfully students have the expertise of Independent Films to help them!

The film, as yet untitled, will be screened at the Odeon Maidstone and the London School of Economics in the Autumn.



OPGS Win Sir Winston Churchill Public Speaking Competition

OPGS Sixth Formers managed to retain the coveted Winston Churchill Public Speaking shield for the fourth year running.

With Year 12s Nina Lewis as chair, and Fatima Elsaka as the main speaker, the team presented their view that courage is the greatest of all qualities. Nina wondered whether she would have had the courage to confront Churchill over his belief that 'women are best represented by their fathers, husbands and brothers'. She concluded that, although she may not have had the courage to do so, her team mate, Fatima, would NOT have been intimidated by Winston Churchill. Fatima went on to explore how

courage had been vital in her life to enable her to spread her wings. This is the first time an all female team has won the shield.

In the GCSE group, Year 11s James Manners and William Newmarch tried to convince the audience that they should not confuse leadership with popularity. Will made us all laugh with tales of his failed Duke of Edinburgh leadership skills. James disagreed by assuring us that Will really was a good leader. He must have been convincing because James won Best Chair in the GCSE category.

Ms Hern and the students who had acted as researchers were very proud of the OPGS team.



Presentation Evening 2018

On Tuesday 3rd July, Oakwood Park Grammar School hosted their annual celebration of achievement with the school's presentation evening.

The evening started with a video looking back at all the fantastic moments our students have been involved in across the last academic year, a showcase of artistic feats, trips exploring subjects outside the bounds of the classroom and students who have excelled themselves in national competitions to master a specific skill. These students are the heart and soul of a school who is proud of its community and the individual contributions and excellence, which give us a lot to 'shout out' about across the course of the year. Indeed, Mr Moody who led the opening address on the evening encapsulated what it was all in aid of with: "This is an important evening as our community comes together to celebrate the many achievements of our students."

After the lower school awards were given out, there was a captivating musical interlude, acting as a teaser for the school production, 'Little Shop of Horrors' which will be performed for two nights running on Tuesday 17th and Wednesday 18th July, in which Jack Owen and Katie Evans gave us a spellbinding rendition of 'Suddenly Seymour'. Their performance was emotive and beautiful to listen to.

Following this, Mr Baker led a review of the many accomplishments of the Music and Drama departments, with a reminder of the fantastic win of both first and third place for OPGS in their performances at Artsfest in Spain this year. Whilst, Mr Raye also gave us a glowing record of this year's sporting successes in football, rugby, and cricket.

We were given another interlude, this time with a dramatic performance from 'Blue Remembered Hills' performed by Jack Aldridge and Joey Weaver who wearing braces and with their thick country accents transported us back to imagine what it must have been like for two young lads in the context of WWII. The play concerns a group of seven-year-olds playing in the Forest of Dean one summer afternoon in 1943. This was another moving delivery, which had their audience hooked on every word.

Similarly, with passion and wisdom came the words



of our Guest Speaker for the evening, Mrs Patricia Metham who used the medium of haikus to offer some advice. This is perfect as the form of the haiku, a Japanese style of poetry, is meant to depict a specific moment in time and can often be about nature. I think the message was that as well as looking back on our achievements from this year, we should look forward to our next steps, and what we can do now, to build on this version of ourselves to continuously strive to be yet a better individual; one who can and will make a positive difference for the future.

We had a review of the year and closing vote of thanks from the new Head Boy, Thomas Place and Head Girl, Nina Lewis. Certainly, having a female sixth form student perspective gives one a refreshing look at the school with new eyes, and she did really well to highlight the many enrichment opportunities which have been offered, including the overnight residential to Stratford-Upon-Avon.



Race For The Line Rocket Car Challenge

On 28th June, four Year 7 Science students went to RAF Wittering to compete in the finals of the Race For The Line Rocket Car Challenge.

RAF Wittering located in Cambridgeshire and Northamptonshire, is the main operating base and headquarters for the RAF A4 Force and is a major Station for flying training. The A4 Force deploys the vital engineering and logistic support to sustain RAF operations around the world, from explosive ordnance disposal to catering, and aircraft repair to ground transport vehicles. While the No 16 Squadron is part of No 3 Flying Training School and provide elementary flying training to the next generation of RAF pilots.

This year, the competition has seen over 78,000 Year 7 students competing across the UK and so we were very proud to make it to the National Finals.

The day was packed with activities, including displays from the Royal Navy and RAF, a spitfire display and even a special display from the Red Arrows to celebrate 100 years of the RAF. We were joined by Sophie, Countess of Wessex, who oversaw the competition. Our students did not win, although we did manage to race our car at a speed of over 40 mph!



Congratulations to Silas Miller, Parba Giri, Ryan Livingstone and Mc'auley Weeks.

Miss Limer

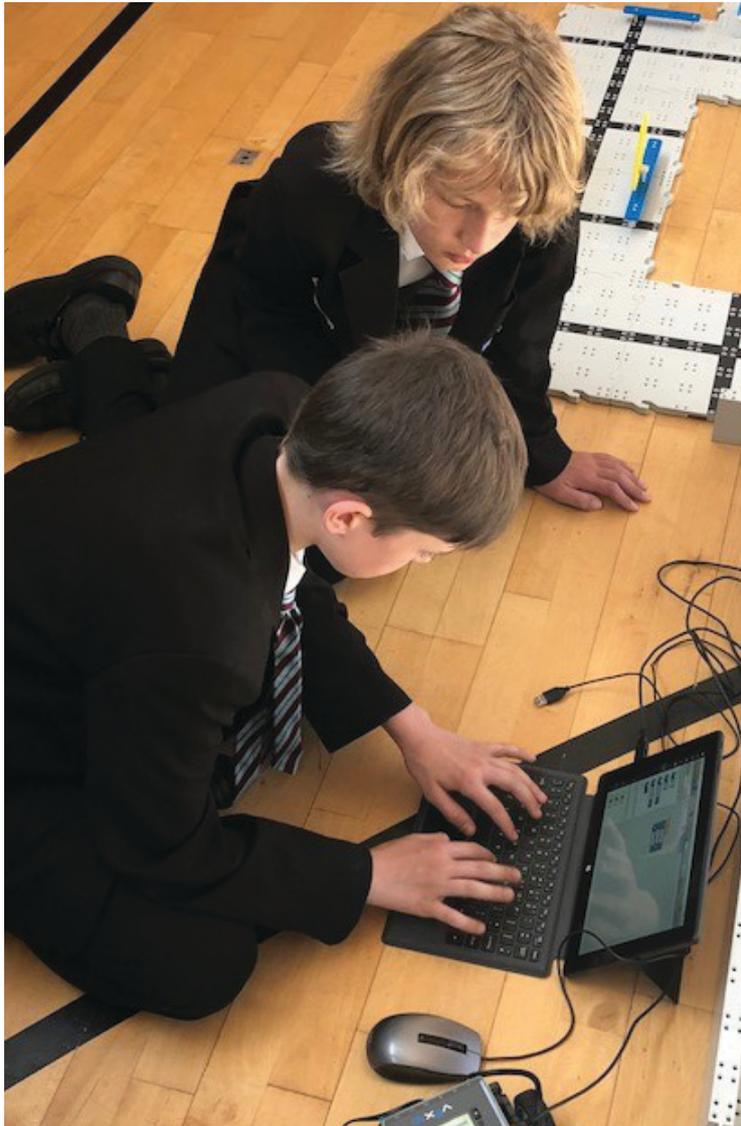


Science Robot Challenge Years 7-9

On Friday 29th June, ten Year 7 and 9 Science students travelled to Invicta Grammar School to join in our collaborative Robot Challenge.

The collaborative project is a Science-led initiative which sees students across a range of primary and secondary schools in Kent come together to compete and share experiences. The project is sponsored by the Institute of Engineering, and this is our third year of competing.

The participants were all part of our Robot Club, a Science Department initiative that meets every lunchtime to design, build, program, share and compete Lego and VEX robots. We are a very inclusive club, and any students from Years 7 through to 13 are very welcome to join us.



Once again, this was a very enjoyable day. There were programming challenges racing challenges, Science activities from an external STEM Ambassador, rocket building and launching and our students also had the opportunity to showcase their in-house built robots to students from other schools.

We all had a very enjoyable day. I was especially proud of our students, who helped to encourage and support students from other schools. You really did us proud!

A special thank you also needs to go to our technician, Mr Morley for help with making the day possible.

Miss Limer

Senior Prefect Charities for 2018 / 19

The Senior Prefects, with the input of the Sixth Form as a whole, have decided that Dandelion Time and Teenage Cancer Trust will be the chosen charities for this year.

We have picked these two charities specifically as we wanted to pick organisations which were relevant to us as young people and are personal to students in the year. Throughout the upcoming year, the Senior Prefect team are hoping to fundraise money for our two charities with ice cream sales, non-uniform days, a raffle and many more events. This week, representatives from both charities have been kind enough to come into school and give an assembly to the Sixth Form about their organisations and what the fundraised money will go towards.

Dandelion Time is a local charity based in West Malling, which provides troubled families with an individually focused therapeutic undertaking. Given time and space in the natural environment and support from therapeutic practitioners, families work together to find ways to restore trust, gain strength and make positive and sustainable changes in their lives. In addition, Dandelion Time is looking for volunteers from OPGS to help out at the Vicar's Picnic, a music festival to raise money for the charity, on the 21st July and 22nd July. Any volunteers will get a free ticket to the festival



as well- if you are interested then please email 12tplace@opgs.org for more details.

Teenage Cancer Trust creates world-class cancer services for young people in the UK, providing life-changing care and support so young people don't have to face cancer alone. They know that having cancer at a young age comes with its own particular set of challenges. Their services put the needs of young people first and allow them to face those challenges together.

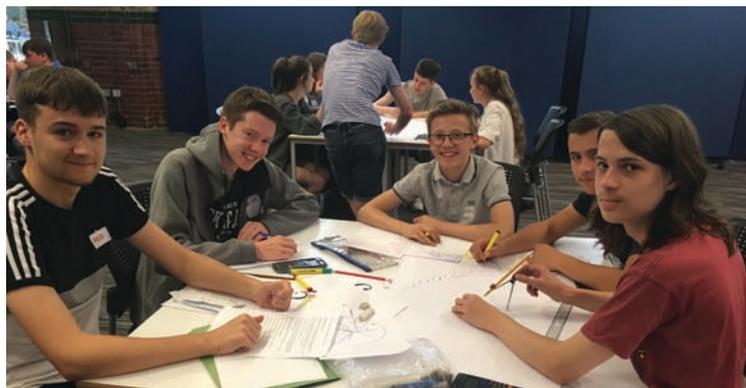
A special thank you to Anyes from Dandelion Time and Sian from Teenage Cancer Trust for giving up their valuable time this week to come in so please get behind any fundraising events this year to support them!



Sixth Form Induction Days – Future Cities

OPGS Sixth Form team were excited to meet students attending the two Taster Days for our Sixth Form. Prospective students from a variety of schools spent a day in OPGS trying out their A level subject choices and getting to sample the famous OPGS Sixth Form warmth.

The day began with a prefect lead speed dating activity in the Hall where students bonded over their mutual dread of the cheesy tasks before the day of lessons began. We were pleased this year to give students a taster lesson in both their main choice subjects and their reserve. This is part of OPGS's commitment to Individual Advice and Guidance for our new Sixth Form recruits.



Day two saw students look beyond school and take part in our employer led Future City competition held at the Medway Campus of The University of London. Every year OPGS has a major engineering firm sponsoring our Future City Day. This year, Kier followed in the footsteps of LendLease (2017) and Sir Robert McAlpine (2016) to be the judges of the final prize, providing work experience for the winning team. In the morning students attended workshops connected to the subjects they wish to study. Among other sessions, our Geographers, Biologists and Mathematicians attended a workshop lead by Steve Lecomber from Queen Mary University of London who has played a lead part in the Human Genome project.

Economics and Physics students were lead by an ex-student, now engineer, Sam Jamaa who, in between setting difficult tasks on sustainability and

materials, reminisced about his time in the OPGS debating team. History and Politics students took part in a Skype dialogue with young people from Palestine and Tel Aviv, exploring the idea of a two state solution to remedy the trouble in Israel. In the afternoon students worked in teams to pitch a design for a future city to our judges who selected



the three teams who presented their ideas most expertly. These three were then subject to an interrogation of their ideas by our expert panel of judges, including Senior Project Manager Simon Law from Kier.

The winning team lead by Charlotte Crouch, supported by the quick thinking Sam Dascalescu, Sofia Matos Glover, Luke Sands and Sam Tansill, will be visiting Kier to be part of a department of their choice for a week next term.

Thank you to all the OPGS staff and prefects that were involved in supporting these excellent two days.



Sixth Form Leavers Ball

The Class of 2018 returned looking tanned and relaxed for their Leavers' Ball at Oakwood House Hotel at the start of July. Our OPGS boys and girls sported some notable outfits for the occasion.

Sixth Form Team Award for the Best Dressed Male student went to Alfie Newmarch for his flamboyant floral suit. (see picture). A close second in this category was James Pringle whose brocade blazer was redolent of the late great Liberace. The Sixth Form Team noticed a definite raising of the taste standard for female attire. Sixth Form Team award for the Best Dressed Female student went to Alice Seymour who was channelling 'Indian Princess Realness'. Gabbie Maclean came in a close second, nicely accessorised by her pint of bitter. On the dance floor, a baying crowd were not disappointed by the smooth moves of the newly seeded Tommy 'moves like Jagger' Hartshorn. Kamal, last year's champion, returned for a cameo appearance, making shapes that reminded fellow students that he was indeed the one and only holder of the student nominated 'Rear of The Year Award' (2017). Both young pretenders were, however, put to shame by the disco duo Williams and Hern. 'Don't Stop 'Till You Get Enough' was the parting advice these teachers gave to Sixth Form Leavers at the end of the night, conveyed energetically through the medium of dance.

In all seriousness, The Sixth form team are sad to see this charming year group go. As the pictures show, their verve, energy and commitment was channelled into a fantastic fundraising effort that meant we could give £2,500 to Cancer Research and £2000 to the Lily Foundation. The latter charity is particularly close to the hearts of this year group as mitochondrial disease has affected the family of one of their Prefect Team. The community around the charity is very close and Liz Curtis, whose daughter sadly died of the condition, was there to collect the money they raised. Much of this fundraising also came from our current Year 12 Prefect Team who now step up to lead the Sixth Form into another exciting year.



The Design and Technology, Art, Graphics and Media Studies Exhibition

On Wednesday 27th June from 4-6pm and Thursday 28th June from 5-7pm, there was an eclectic collection of a range of students work from GCSE and A Level on display in the Centenary Building, to mark the successes of the students' achievements, demonstrate their creative skill and technical ability in the products and designs, which made up the exhibition.

Product design is a continually evolving subject: the purpose of the exhibition was to showcase the students' work to help inspire, motivate and inform younger students of the kind of production pieces they could be aiming for in years to come. It also allowed parents and staff to see the work on display in our imitation gallery with music playing, some drinks and nibbles, and even some pieces hanging suspended from the ceiling to give it that truly artistic atmosphere as you walked into the room.

Indeed, some of the students' pieces encouraged people to stop and reflect as they blurred the boundaries between art and design. Some of the final products combined intriguing shapes and materials with extensive research; the aim being for this exhibition to question our preconceptions of colour and embraces its imperfection and experimentation. Many of the DT pieces saw the students consider aesthetics as well as the



ergonomics, practicality and sustainability of their designs.

The work this year was of a very high standard and we would like to wish the students the best of luck in their results this August.

The students' pieces were put under scrutiny, as those who attended the exhibition filled out their voting slips, in each of the different subject categories. Some of the votes were close but we are delighted to announce that the winners of this year's design exhibition were:

Design and Technology – Edward Morris
Art – Emma Evans
Graphics – Oscar Brookes
Media Studies – Harvey Weed



Thorpe Park Trip

On Tuesday 10th July, Year 9 students visited Thorpe Park to look at how Physics plays a very important part in the design and running of roller coasters.

The Thorpe Park trip tied in directly with the GCSE Physics topics of forces and motion. We linked this in with our 9Q Science lessons, where students completed calculations on speed and acceleration. Students have also been designing and building roller coasters with a working loop-the-loops and will be looking at the forces acting on different parts of roller coasters.

Trips like these allow students to realise the importance of what they learn in the classroom and how this can be applied to future careers.



Year 8 Physics Presentation

The University of Cardiff believe that the study of Physics should offer intellectual challenge, provide students with practical skills and the ability to solve real-life problems.

The university are working at the very cutting edge of research, whether it be gravitational waves, compound semiconductor technology or brain imaging. For example, they have worked in collaboration with the worldwide research group on the Laser Interferometer Gravitational-Wave Observatory (LIGO) which first detected gravitational waves in 2016. So, when they brought their knowledge of Physics to OPGS, it was a mind-blowing experience for the students involved. Miss Limer, Subject Leader for Science explains.

“On 21st June, the Science Department invited the University of Cardiff to give a Physics presentation to all of our Year 8 students. The students experienced an interactive presentation that included forces, magnetism, particles,

space and radiation. It was very enjoyable and informative morning and we hope to invite the university back next year.”

Certainly, as Albert Einstein famously postulated: “The important thing is not to stop questioning. Curiosity has its own reason for existence. One cannot help but be in awe when he contemplates the mysteries of eternity, of life, of the marvellous structure of reality. It is enough if one tries merely to comprehend a little of this mystery each day.”



Going out with a Bang! OPGS win Warhammer National School's League Tournament

Oakwood Park's Warhammer 40,000 team managed to score a strong 1st place victory in what would be many of the team's last year at the club.

The game, Warhammer 40,000, is a 'tabletop wargame'. Mixing in science fiction elements from games like Risk and Chess, the game challenges player to pit tactical minds against each other in worlds of modelled war played across tables.

Previous years have seen Oakwood Park score 8th place, and even 3rd place, though after suffering a poor defeat the previous year in the semi-finals, OPGS's Warhammer 40,000 were left with the prospect that for many of them, who were now passing out of Year 13, this would be their last year playing at the club. With this in mind, the 4 members of the Oakwood Park team (Edward Morris, Christopher Foley, Nicholas Letchford-Jones, Ashley Hall) set off to go and take a last shot at getting the first place prize.

The tabletop wargame had brought schools in from as far as Wales and Scotland to try and claim the trophy for first place. Oakwood Park even came head to head with schools closer from home, such as Valley Park School, who were knocked down into 7th place by the Oakwood players.

The day started off with a strong bout of victories, several claimed within the first hour of the contest. Having placed 1st in the Semi-Finals, Oakwood had a strong reputation amongst the other players. The second round posed some losses for the team. Despite the dampened spirits, every member of the team went on in the third round to score a victory, taking in a wide haul of points.

It was this last round, and the skill of the players that drove Oakwood Park into a 1st place spot, a victory that couldn't have been better well timed for the Year 13 players who would be waving goodbye to the Nottingham based tournament. Another large part of the hobby that surrounds the game is painting the detailed models that players use to field on the tables. Every year, at tournaments around the globe, people compete to win awards for the 'Best Painted Army'.

Ed Morris from the OPGS team managed to bring home one such award from the Nottingham School Tournament, claiming not only first place but the 'Best Painted' award for his army as well, putting a brilliant conclusion on both his and the team's time at the club, which they will now be passing over to several new players in the younger years, in the hope to continue the legacy that the team has left behind.



Year 8 Art trip to Margate.

On Tuesday 10th July the Art department took 40 Year 8 students to sunny Margate. The students visited the current exhibition at the Turner Contemporary, followed by exploring the local sights to make observational responses.

Installed on the first floor of the gallery, students viewed the 'Animals & Us' exhibition, which encompasses a wide range of art using a range of media, from painting and sculpture to video and installation. The exhibition touched on subjects from biology and evolution, to anthropology and

technology; it asks questions about how we relate to or differentiate ourselves from other living beings. This linked with the student's current mythical beast project and for some was their first experience of an Art gallery.

After visiting the exhibition, the students engaged in a range of drawing and colour exercises of seascapes and of Margate old town to develop their key skills and explore new ways to record their ideas outside of a classroom. We had a wonderful day and the students produced some great responses.



Year 10 Work Related Learning Business Challenge

As part of the work related learning provision at OPGS, all students in year 10 undertook three days of Enterprise Education. This provided them with a greater understanding of the world of work and the skills that this requires.

Local businesses and organisations came into school and set real-life challenges for the students to work on, enabling them to develop and demonstrate team-work, leadership, effective communication and problem-solving skills. The businesses included Kent Sport, Maidstone Community Support Centre, Maidstone Borough Council Regeneration & Economic Development Team, Rotary International, Maidstone Leisure Centre, and Mote Park Adventure Zone. The challenges set ranged from raising profiles of the businesses and generating greater attendance at events to rebranding and developing project plans setting up new activities for the public.



Feedback from the businesses was extremely positive; all are keen to work with the school again and wish to pass on their thanks to the students for their hard work, professionalism and their excellent ideas. Alex Carty from Maidstone Leisure Centre has even forwarded some of the presentations to the Board of Directors for consideration in the review of the leisure centre.



The students in the winning team were Adam Garside, Archie Mitchell and Samuel Whitehead who designed an excellent solution to the Mote Park Adventure Zone challenge proposing innovative ideas on generating sales and footfall for the opening event as well as developing a workable marketing plan.

The students worked exceptionally well in teams throughout the three days, researching, gathering data, completing surveys and finally presenting their findings to the businesses in a “Dragonsden” style scenario on Friday.



Yr 7-8 Maths Challenge 2018

The Mathematical Challenges aim to stimulate mathematical problem solving.

The Junior Challenge is aimed at students in Year 8 or below (England and Wales), S2 or below (Scotland) and Year 9 or below (Northern Ireland). It is the UK's most popular mathematics competition with over 300 000 students taking part each year.

To recognise the highest performers in the Challenge we award the top-scoring 40% of participants bronze, silver and gold certificates in the ratio 3:2:1.

In addition we invite around 1200 of the very highest performers to take part in the Junior Mathematical Olympiad and around 8,000 to take part in the Junior Kangaroo.

We hope that taking part in the Mathematical Challenges is a stimulating and rewarding experience for all students. Teachers can use past Mathematical Challenges as a source

of high-quality problems to encourage their students to think mathematically.

Junior Mathematical Challenge 2018 award thresholds (out of 135):

- Bronze: 49-60
- Silver: 61-74
- Gold: 75+
- Junior Kangaroo: 82-104 (UK only)
- Junior Mathematical Olympiad: 105+

Mr O'Neill said: "We had 7 students who took part in the second round of the Maths Challenge, quite an achievement. Having achieved a Gold award in the UKMT (United Kingdom Maths Trust) Junior Maths Challenge, 7 students qualified for the next round, known as the Kangaroo. This round involved a series of very challenging Maths problems which the students are very unlikely to have encountered before. However, they all performed admirably. In particular, Thomas Lenham deserves special mention for achieving the highest possible award of Merit with a score of 112 out of a possible 135. Well done to all on reaching this stage of the competition".



Years 8&9 GCSE PE Course Information Evening

On Tuesday 19th June the PE department hosted a course information evening for prospective and current year 9 GCSE PE students.

This was the first event of its kind, aimed at preparing the boys for changes to the GCSE PE course from September onwards. The

presentation focused on both the practical and theoretical elements of the course, in addition to providing students with an opportunity to purchase learning resources and course wear. The event received a fantastic response with over 80 students and their parents attending. I would like to thank both students and parents for their continued support and wish them luck as they start the GCSE PE course in September.

Girls Senior Netball 'Hoop Dreams'

In 2018-19 the PE department will be looking to offer more sporting opportunities for the ever increasing number of female students in the OPGS 6th form.

Netball has been identified by the girls as one of the sports they would like to play whilst studying at Oakwood. We are pleased to confirm that we are now in a position to push this forwards from September after securing the services of an excellent coach for the team. We have also received confirmation from a number of

Maidstone schools who are interested in fixtures throughout terms 1&2 next year.

We would like to see as many girls who are interested in representing the school at netball attend the training sessions, which will start in September, where we hope that they will be amongst the first to establish a Netball legacy at Oakwood Park Grammar School. For any students interested in this opportunity, please speak to Mr Smith in the PE department for more information.

Athletics Report

Athletics has been particularly strong in 2017-18 due to a greater emphasis on fitness testing and longer distance running in lessons. This has paid dividends with the OPGS Athletics Teams stronger than ever this year.

Almost 40 boys put themselves forward to run the 3000 meters on Sports day and this has to be partly associated to the determination and perseverance instilled in the boys throughout the summer terms.

The OPGS Athletic teams compete against all other Maidstone schools on a bi weekly basis every Wednesday through the summer terms.



Those selected compete in individual track and field events, culminating in the 4 x 100 m relays to close each athletics meet.

Year 7 Athletics

The year 7 & 8 Athletics teams won every team event entered this year, with wins at Holmesdale, Cornwallis, Oakwood Park, MGGS and Maplesden Noakes.

Mayvin Gurung and Ali Eddama have both shown talent at 100m sprinting and have both contributed with their individual and team performances on the track. Ali has also transferred this speed to the long Jump and continues to impress.

Ethan Wambari and Harrison Tait have been consistent in their performances for the 200m, always competing for the top spot and sometimes going head to head against each other for first place.

Josh Fallish continues to impress with his ability to

compete at both short and long distance events. Josh was particularly strong over the 300m distance with several good wins.

Finlay Appleby and Baxter Stanton have both competed at 800m and 1500m events this year and again have been excellent with their displays.

Lucas Moyce has also displayed tremendous character in long distance events and is always one of the first to finish in the 1500m, often beating many year 8 boys in the process.

Will Howell has demonstrated a natural ability in throwing events and can throw both Javelin and Discus good distances. As has George Prior with Shot Put and with a little more coaching both have huge potential in their respective disciplines.

Year 8 Athletics

Alex Stone has shown that he can compete at both 100m and long Jump this year recording both strong times and distances in the process.

Isaac Frais, Scott Bain and Elliot Banham all demonstrated their athletic prowess in 100m, 200m and 300m performances throughout the season. Combined with Owen Jenner, who competes at 1500m, they were an unstoppable force in the relay. Setting times in practise of 52 seconds and destroying all competition before them they can only go faster in the coming years ahead.

and endurance Dan has developed a fearsome reputation at this distance in Maidstone alongside Dan Pickering.

Harvey Green is another strong distance runner who has joined us this year. He has competed in several events this year and is a consistent performer who always finishes near the top alongside Owen Jenner and Ashwin Knight in the 1500m.

Callum Duffy continues to improve upon last year's success in the Javelin and Robson Kittering is developing, in to a fine Athlete at Shot Put.



Year 9 Athletics

The 9 & 10 Team have also had some excellent results this year with wins at Maplesden, Oakwood Park and St Augustines.

Many of the boys have taken the step into club competition and increasingly Maidstone and Medway are selecting OPGS students to represent them. This benefits both the school and of course the students, particularly if they have chosen Athletics as a GCSE sport.

Leo Hazlewood and Jack Bezant have made their marks running the 100m regularly this season with some fantastic times. Jack Bezant has also transferred speed into the long jump, again with much success. Harry Fox continues his development in the 200m running both consistently fast times and winning most events.

Harvey Baxter is another all-rounder who can turn his hand to many running events. Competing at 300m this year Harvey has won the majority of his events in an impressive manor.



Jonny Bentley and Alex Adrian continue to battle it out for supremacy in the 1500m at each event whilst both have competed successfully at club level this year demonstrating a high level of ability in this demanding middle distance event.

Junior Efforiam is an enthusiastic competitor in field events and always displays natural athletic ability as does Sid Phillips who has regularly competed in the Javelin this season.

Year 10 Athletics

Henry Gillespie is one of the many students we have at Oakwood who will compete in any event he is entered in. Sprint distances are Henry's strength and he has been an excellent competitor and team member this season.

Adam Garside and Adam Jones both represent Maidstone and Medway Athletics Club and have shown excellent progress in both technique and performance in both the 100m & 200m and Long Jump competitions for school this year continuing to dominate the competition at Maidstone schools level.

Max Eldridge is another club member who until this year had not found his event as his natural ability allowed him to compete in many different events. Max has started to compete in the pentathlon with



increasing success and has just been crowned Kent Schools Champion, which is no mean feat.

Finlay MacDonald and George Wallace are also club members who have shown massive improvements in the 1500m and regularly compete, driving each other on to achieve faster times. Between them they have won every event they have entered and like many of our students are continuing their development into becoming fine young athletes.

2017-2018 Tennis Report

The tennis season began with the Kent Tennis tournament at Bromley Tennis club. A lovely venue with both indoor and outdoor courts. Our regular squad of players were selected and taken to compete against a number of well-known tennis schools, Sevenoaks, Norton Knatchbull to name a couple.

The year 8 team, Jamie Flintan and Joe Flintan both steadied their nerves with a 4-0 win in their first group stage match, followed up with impressive wins against the other teams in the group. This meant they progressed through to the last 16 of the competition. This was against a good Langley Park team who, although taken close in all games, finally won 4-1. This wasn't the end of the competition for the doubles team as they moved into a consolation cup and eventually ran out as 10th overall. A great performance by the Flintan brothers.

The Year 9/10 doubles team, Alex Adrian and Harry Fitzpatrick were not quite as successful in the group phase, losing their three matches 4-0, 4-1 and 4-0. Confidence and enthusiasm was not diminished and they took the consolation cup in their stride! The boys reached the final of the cup and played a well organised Sevenoaks team, running out eventual losers 4 sets to 2.

A really good way to start the tennis season, an enjoyable format with plenty of tennis played by all.

The rest of the season culminated in the Kent Cup and National League competitions. This year it was decided that we would only enter the seniors into the National league, playing both Jamie and Joe up age group to provide them with a challenge, whilst supporting the like of Alex, Harry and Matt Baber. The team were placed in a group with Norton Knatchbull, Towers School and Sevenoaks for the national league. With the top performing teams progressing through to the next phase of the competition. Norton Knatchbull and Sevenoaks, both delivering tennis in their curriculum were slightly too strong for our players. The matches, whilst competitive, were eventually won by our opponents. In the Kent competition we played Sutton Valance: this would have been the first time we had competed against our local private school in tennis. The team consisted of Archie Miller, Matt Baber, Joe Flintan and Jamie Flintan. Playing this tie as a home fixture (using St Augustine's court) was good news, no travelling required and more time to warm up! Once the courts were set up and the opposition arrived, the competition began!

Matt Baber performed superbly as our number one player, defeating his opponent 6-0. Archie Miller came up against a little stiffer opposition, but still managed to defeat them 6-2. Most impressively both Jamie and Joe, playing up a year group, performed outstandingly! They showed no signs of nerves went out and defeated their opponents. Jamie's game was won 6-2 and Joe's 6-3, both of their opponents were complimentary of such high performances by Year 8 students. We went on to win the tie by winning both doubles matches. This took us through to face a strong Sevenoaks team, in Sevenoaks. Whilst a great venue to play in, the team were always facing an uphill battle. Confidence was high as the boys had already won against a private school, but Sevenoaks proved a little too strong, not helped by an injury to one of the players meaning we conceded 2 matches before beginning the tie! Again, Matt performed well, eventually losing against Sevenoaks number 1, 6-2. Jamie and Joe both had to step up to play number 2 and 3 from Sevenoaks. Jamie, unfortunately with a bad back lost his match 6-0, Joe on the other hand battled against his opponent, taking many games to deuce. Unfortunately, this proved tough and the decisive points were won by his opponent. Eventually losing the tie 12-0, as I say not helped by the original injury meaning we started the match 4-0 down!

The Junior side had one match against Norton Knatchbull in the Kent Cup and a Year 7 tournament at Sevenoaks. We took the opportunity to allow other players the chance to represent the school, rather than always playing our strongest players. Both these ties created opportunity for the boys to compete against local schools, some players to experience competition at a higher level than they are used to and to enjoy their tennis in a fun and friendly atmosphere.

The Kent Cup match v Norton Knatchbull was eventually lost, but some brave performances were put on and happily it wasn't a white wash as Harry Fitzpatrick won his rubber! The Year 7 competition was competed at a good level. 10 teams were entered, group phases and then knockout phases. Whilst we came lower down the position table and knock out competitions this was a great experience for the boys and it was a pleasure to watch so many young players wanting to give tennis a go whilst taking pride in representing the school.

A good season of tough matches, but has seen these players build in confidence and develop as players.

KCB 'Chance to Compete' Kent Schools Cricket Tournament

On Tuesday 26th June the U13 and U15 cricket teams entered the Kent Cricket Board 'Chance to Compete' tournament.

This is an annual 8-a-side county tournament at the Mote CC, where the winners progress to represent Kent at the South East & London regional finals. In soaring temperatures of 28 degrees both teams made a fantastic start to the group stages of the competition.

The U15's were victorious by the comfortable margin of 37 runs against Sittingbourne Community College before narrowly losing a tough fixture to the well regarded Hayes School in their second match. Despite the disappointment of not qualifying for the final, the team had qualified for a 3rd/4th place play-off game against the Harris Academy. In this match the boys bounced back emphatically to record a 28 run victory. This was reflective of the great team spirit and character within the team.

The U13's drew Strood Academy, Orchards Academy, Charles Darwin School and Kemnal Technology College in the group stages of the competition. After a comfortable opening 58 run win against Strood Academy the boys produced some outstanding cricket to beat Orchards Academy by 55 runs. The player of the match in this fixture was Tom Lenham, retiring on 15 runs after facing just 4 deliveries! The next group games were more challenging fixtures with some brilliant fielding and running in between the wickets being the key factors in the team's success. In the remaining group matches the U13's recorded a 19 run victory vs. Charles Darwin and 49 run win vs. Kemnal Technology College. This gave the boys real confidence heading into the final vs. The Howard School.



The final would prove to be a huge step up in challenge against a Howard team that had only just been knocked out of the U13 Kent Cup semi-finals the previous day. Like ourselves the opposition team boasted a strong batting and bowling line-up that included 4 district level players. Batting first, the Howard School made a steady start to their innings under pressure from accurate bowling by Tom Lenham and Ben Lyons. This led to an early break through with Ben Lyons dismissing The Howard School's opening batsman inside 3 overs. Some excellent running from the opposition team allowed them to post a challenging target of 35 runs from their 8 overs. The OPGS reply started well with the opening partnership of Timo Collins and Ben Lyons making steady progress. The Howard School then grasped the game's momentum following the fall of the first wicket and slowed the OPGS run rate considerably. After 3 more wickets the game was in the balance with OPGS requiring 13 from the final 10 deliveries of the game. Steady nerves from Ryan Young and Alex Stone eventually led to a nail biting finish, with 2 runs needed from the final ball of the game. A mistake from The Howard School wicket keeper would prove decisive as 2 byes were run from the last delivery meaning that OPGS U13's had won the game by a single run! A huge congratulations to all the boys who will now travel to Reading on Thursday 12th July to represent Kent at the South East regional finals. A fantastic end to what has been a superb summer of cricket for the U13 team.



Sports Day Report

On Friday 22nd June students in years 7-10 represented their school house in the annual Sports Day competition. This event marks the culmination of the house sports cup that has been running during enrichment days for all year groups throughout the school year.

This year's sports day saw over 500 students competing in a vast range of events, from the 'Spartan Warrior' and 'Iron Man' to the more traditional track and field disciplines. Students were also challenging their mental capacity and concentration in speed chess competitions, golf chipping and Boccia tournaments. The atmosphere generated by the heads of house and the students was outstanding. Miss Ryan, dressed in a pink Fisher t-shirt and face paint, could be heard on the other side of Maidstone with her enthusiastic support!

The day's events started at 9.00am with Mr Keeling-Jones welcoming all students and explaining the format of the day. Students then spent the morning competing across a wide range of events that ran simultaneously, thanks to superb support from staff across the entire school. As the competition, atmosphere and weather heated up, a number of school records were broken throughout the day.

A huge congratulations to Ali Eddama (100m), Joshua Fallis (1500m), Lucas Moyce (Iron Man) and Will Hodgson (Javelin) who all successfully broke school records during their first Sports Day competition. In year 8, Isaac Fraiss displayed exceptional sprinting ability to record a new 200m record. Isaac has been performing consistently well in Maidstone Schools district events this year, winning both individual and team competitions on a regular basis. Alex Adrian (year 9, 1500m), George Wallace (year 10, 1500m) and Max Eldridge (year 10, Javelin), three other members of the OPGS athletics team, were also successful in breaking school records for their respective events. Max has enjoyed a fantastic season for both school and club, having recently been crowned the Kent Schools U15 Pentathlon Champion. Two 4x100m relay records were also broken after brilliant performances from the year 8 Hazlitt and year 9 Sadler teams. The atmosphere for the relay events was particularly special with all students in years 7-10 congregating alongside the edge of the track to cheer their respective houses on!

Following lunch the afternoon activities of rowing and

the penalty shoot-out commenced. In the confined space of the St Augustine's Sportshall this created an incredible atmosphere! Cheering, shouting and clapping rung out during an hour of intense competition. A special thanks goes to all the staff who supported the PE department during this part of the day. Particularly Mr Rhys who put up an excellent performance in goal despite walking away with a much bruised body!

At the end of the rowing and football competitions Mr Keeling-Jones was left to announce the 2018 Sports Day champions (see below). After a nervous wait the year group positions were announced. Following this it was confirmed that Sadler had once again retained their title as Sports Day champions! Like last year it was an extremely hard fought day with only 54 points separating 1st and 2nd place. May I congratulate all the students on their excellent performances shown throughout the day. Receiving an astonishing 42 entries for the 300m competition summed up the boys commitment to the event. Lastly, a huge thank you once again to all the staff that supported the event on the day.



YEAR GROUP Sports Day Standings:

	Broughton	Fisher	Hazlitt	Sadler	Wilberforce
Sports Day 7	1 st	Joint 4 th	3 rd	Joint 4 th	2 nd
Sports Day 8	5 th	2 nd	4 th	3 rd	1 st
Sports Day 9	2 nd	3 rd	4 th	1 st	5 th
Sports Day 10	4 th	Joint 1 st	3 rd	Joint 1 st	5 th

OVERALL 2018 Sports Day Standings:

Broughton	Fisher	Sadler	Hazlitt	Wilberforce
574	612	666	554	498
3 rd	2 nd	1 st	4 th	5 th

Yr7 & Yr8 IN MUSIC:

There has been a change in Music this year, with developments and changes to lower, upper school music curriculum and extra-curricular work.

Music for Yr 7 and 8 students has been completely redeveloped, bringing in a lot more practical work with the use of a brand new classroom set of good quality Yamaha keyboards and headphones, enabling the students to learn to play an instrument and to read music. Students have also been enjoying class singing!

IN DRAMA:

The Yr7 Drama club devised and performed their own short plays before Christmas. They invited Yr7 students and older Drama students to their lunchtime shows.

The Yr8 Drama club performed an adaptation of the play "Mobile Phone" for other Yr8 and older Drama students in their lunchtime shows before Christmas. Both Yr7 & Yr8 Drama Club students have performances next week for their peers of newly devised work

Yr9 IN MUSIC:

Year 9 GCSE Music option class has had the ideal opportunity to bridge the gap between Yr8 music and GCSE. They have had the chance to learn all of the key skills, allowing them to build their knowledge and techniques before starting the GCSE course in Year 10.

IN DRAMA:

The Arts Award Bronze students performed Victorian



Ghost Story plays for their parents and friends at Halloween. A very spooky night was had by all!

The students then went on to see "The Woman in Black" in London and it was fantastic that they were able to see performance skills and design ideas in professional theatre that they had been using in their own performances.

The students completed the entire Arts Award qualification in one term. They all passed and the external moderator from Trinity College was extremely impressed by the quality and standard of both their written and performance work

Yr10 IN DRAMA:

Yr10 GCSE students joined the Yr12 & Yr13 A Level students at "The Play that Goes Wrong" in London in November. All students were hugely entertained and it was great to hear the high level of analysis and evaluation in their discussions on the train home. Currently the Yr10 students are developing

their own unique pieces of devised theatre ready to show parents and friends in October as part of their Component 1 assessments.

Yr11 IN DRAMA:

In readiness for their written exam, the Yr11 GCSE students joined the Yr12 & Yr13 A Level students in seeing Brecht's seminal play "Mother Courage and Her Children" starring Josie Lawrence, in London. With all students expected to analyse and evaluate the play as part of their GCSE/A Level course it was an excellent opportunity for the students to share and extend their thinking. The Yr11s went on to produce some of the strongest performance exam work I have seen for a number of years.

Yr12 IN DRAMA:

Apart from the two theatre visits mentioned previously, Yr12 joined Yr13 to see Oscar Wild's An Ideal Husband. This was a challenging and divisive production for the students as it was performed, as it would have been in 1899 – very different to theatre of the 21st Century.

Yr12 also took part in a full day intensive workshop with the Artistic Director of Splendid Productions, Kerry Frampton, in readiness for their Component 1 Devising assessments. Splendid Productions were the Yr12s chosen Theatre Practitioner and it was an amazing opportunity to be able to work with a living breathing Practitioner as most Theatre Practitioners died by the mid-20th Century! This led to a rather



quirky and thought provoking performance as a group of "mothers" (modelled on the WI) led the audience through history questioning the validity and necessity of judgement in society.

Yr13 IN DRAMA:

Alongside the three theatre visits mentioned, Yr13 deserve a huge pat on the back for their commitment to and engagement with the new A Level Drama and Theatre - the first cohort to ever sit the new course. The course is extremely challenging and a number of students clearly mastered accessing the new "Sophisticated" mark band.

IN EXTRA-CURRICULAR MUSIC:

We have some fantastically talented musicians here at school and we need to feed and enhance their skills.

A new Music club timetable has been developed to allow more access for all year groups to enjoy extra music at lunch and after school. Currently we have clubs for guitar, ukulele, singing, keyboard, Junior New Band, Senior band with future plans for a whole school orchestra.

We held a successful Christmas Stars concert December 2017 and we are currently looking forward to performing in our whole school show this Summer, Little Shop of Horrors.

IN EXTRA-CURRICULAR DRAMA: The National Youth Theatre

Jack Owen (Yr12) successfully auditioned for a place at the National Youth Theatre starting Summer 2018. Jack went up against over 5,000 other young people all auditioning for only 500 places. The Drama Department is very proud of Jack who joins Jack Alldridge (Yr11) who gained his place in the NYT in 2017. Many of your favourite stage and screen actors started their careers at The National Youth Theatre and I hope both the Jacks will be gracing our professional stages and screens in the future.

ArtsFest

29 students from Yr8-Yr13 took part in the first ArtsFest performing arts competition in Spain during the Easter holidays. We had two entries in the competition that involved original songs and music written by Music students and acting and physical theatre developed by the Drama students. We came home from Spain holding the champions cup and third place!