

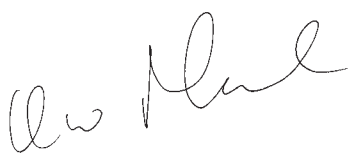
Five Students from Oakwood Park Grammar School have been offered places at Oxbridge.

Dear Parents, Carers and Students,

Welcome to the latest edition of @Oakwood. I am grateful as ever to the School Publicity Team for all their hard work.

Some highlights since the last edition have seen five students gaining offers from Oxford and Cambridge, a record for the school. We have three students through to the next round of the Arkwright Scholarship and our 6th Form Prefects have raised £1,600 so far for Cancer Research and the Lily Foundation. Well done to everyone. I hope you enjoy reading our students' achievements.

Best wishes.



Mr K.W. Moody - Headteacher



Five Students from Oakwood Park Grammar School have been offered places at Oxbridge.

Five students from OPGS have been offered places at Oxford and Cambridge this year.

The achievement of the five Sixth Formers is particularly remarkable considering the record number of applications nationally this year to the two elite universities. UCAS reported that there was a 7% rise in applications from England this year. The rise was partly caused by the reduction in the number of AS examinations taken at the end of Year 12, which were traditionally used as an indicator of students' chances for success in their application.

Cambridge introduced pre-admission testing to respond to the removal of AS levels.

Oakwood Park's five successful students had to take a test, submit written work and attend interviews at the colleges to which they had applied.

The two students with places at Oxford University are Bruno Robinson who has a place to study Maths at Wadham College and Alexander Wainwright who has a place to study Engineering at St Catherine's College. Cambridge offered a place to study English to Ailsa Burnham at Downing College, a place for Law to Isabelle Pym at Selwyn College and a place to Oli Sampson for History and Politics at Homerton College.

Ms A Hern, Director of Sixth Form Studies at OPGS said 'I am delighted for the students who are fantastic young people. Our staff have enjoyed giving them mock interviews and marking their practice tests. It is testimony to the strength of our Sixth Form that we have so many different subjects represented in these offers.'

Now the hard work begins as students strive to achieve the high grades expected from them if they are to take up their places in September.



It Only Gets Hotter 'The Prefects' Show 2018

The Sixth Form Prefects have been working hard this term to put together a show in support of Cancer Research and The Lily Foundation.

The first of its kind, 'It Only Gets Hotter' goes live on 9th at February 7pm. 54 Year 12 prefects, several Year 13 Senior Prefects and a handful of Year 11 students have been involved in writing, performing, technical support, set design, set manufacture, publicity and front of house. Most of the work has fallen on the shoulders of the three script writers, Pascal Blaschta, Lauren Sheahan and Nina Lewis who adapted the familiar Harry Potter setting to include teachers from OPGS and

an underground talent show. Pupils and parents in the audience may find the characters of Mr Fitwick, Ms McGevan, Senor Snape, Mr Slam, Hagan, Rumbledore, Moldevort and Ms Stern strangely familiar. The musical acts such as Iron Maiden and The Red Hot Chilli Peppers have been fortunate to have the expert help of Year 13 Music Technology Students, Joel Faulkner and James Kavanagh.

At the time of this edition of @oakwood going to press, the cast of 'It Only gets Hotter' will be warming up for the performance by donning their old school uniforms, wigs and wands and preparing to banish the forces of evil from Woghorts.



Celebration of Achievement

The annual Celebration of Achievement was held on Tuesday 19th December and 60 of last year's Year 13 returned to enjoy an excellent 3-course meal in the school hall, which looked unrecognisable from its usual self, having been so festively decorated.

Joined by and served by members of staff, the students were presented with their A Level and Pre-U certificates, Subject Prizes and Special Prizes (such as for the Head Boy and Head Girl).

The heartfelt highlight of the evening was, as usual, the chance to catch up with students and

parents who all shared fond memories of their association with Oakwood Park Grammar School. The wonderful array of ex-students who came to collect their certificates is testimony to the elite group of well-rounded, confident and erudite young individuals that the staff at OPGS are proud to have worked alongside.

The success of these young adults in their educational careers to date and life after Oakwood bears truth to the saying by A. P. J. Abdul Kalam "Teaching is a very noble profession that shapes the character, calibre, and future of an individual. If the people remember me as a good teacher that will be the biggest honour for me."

Epiphany Day in MFL

To celebrate the Wise Men or Three Kings finding and seeing Jesus Christ, the people of France eat a delicacy known as the Epiphany cake on the 6th of January.

An epiphany cake is a sweet pastry, filled with almonds, butter and eggs. It would usually have a little figurine inside that whoever had it in their piece would be the 'King' for the day but sadly, we couldn't afford one of the students to have that much power. It made for a very nice snack at break and I am sure all of the students who had a bit enjoyed it very much.

Bonne année et Joyeuse Fête des Rois tout le monde!

Adam Garside S10



Fire and Safety Workshop

On January 8th Kent Fire Service visited years 10 and 11 separately to talk them about arson and Road Safety.

Year 10 were taught about the severity of arson and the impact of the crime. Fireman Dan Morley took them through a real Kent case of a young 16 year old who unfortunately died after she was involved in deliberately setting fire to and destroying a stolen car. He showed the boys the consequences of the crimes and the consequences for all those involved the crime. Louis Micklewright- Taylor 10P said 'It was important because it taught us about how arson affects everyone directly and indirectly involved in the crime.'

Year 11 had a talk on the impact on dangerous driving. As many of the boys will soon be turning 17, the Fire service gave them advice on how to drive safely and how accidents can happen due to negligence and distractions. He encouraged the

passengers to speak up if they felt unsafe in a car and warned them of the distractions they posed to the driver. Fireman Morley also explained the role of the fire service during an accident, how they remove the injured from the scene and how to safely approach the wreckage of a car accident. Harry Petch X11 said 'It was very shocking and made me aware about driving in the future with friends or family members, as I know now to be aware of dangerous driving situations.' The students were also given homework to watch a video at home which showed the importance of not using your mobile phone whilst driving (<https://youtube/eojhtc6Wvsw>)

Overall the workshop was a great success, the students learnt the many different roles the fire service plays, plus the responsibility they have as young citizens and future drivers. We would like to thank Kent fire service for giving up their time and supporting the boys at Oakwood Park.



Intermediate Maths Challenge

Feb. 1st

The Intermediate Maths Challenge took place on February 1st in the main hall. This nationwide competition takes place annually and is run by the UKMT (UK maths trust) based at Leeds University.

120 Year 10 and Yr. 11 students from Oakwood Park took part in the challenge which involves answering 25 multiple choice questions in 1 hour and was taken in school under normal exam conditions. Some sample questions are given.

The adult human body has 206 bones. Each foot has 26 bones. Approximately what fraction of the number of bones in the human body is found in

one foot?

A: $\frac{1}{6}$ B: $\frac{1}{8}$ C: $\frac{1}{10}$ D: $\frac{1}{12}$ E: $\frac{1}{20}$

or the more challenging!!

How many of these shapes could be the shape of the region where two triangles overlap?

Equilateral triangle Square Regular pentagon Regular hexagon

A: 0 B: 1 C: 2 D: 3 E: 4

Results will be known in about 3 weeks. The top 60% of students nationally receive a gold, silver or bronze certificate in the ratio 1:2:3. The top performing students are then invited to take part in follow on rounds and the very best can represent their country in the International Mathematical Olympiad.



Invicta Maths Challenge Report

Jan 25th 2018

Four Yr. 11 students represented the school in the Invicta School's Maths Competition.

This is an annual competition open to all schools in Kent. Up to 30 schools took part in the preliminary round and qualifiers go through to the final. The 4 students who represented Oakwood

in the preliminary round were Daniel Shed, Max Fossett, Joshua Stone and Joshua Jakso. They were required to work in pairs and as a team to solve a series of mathematical problems. After much effort and racking of brains, the team finished in 5th place. This should be enough to qualify for the final in March. Well done to the Maths team.

Kent School Games Rowing Report

On Thursday 1st February, sixteen of Oakwood Park's rowers set off to compete in the finals of the Kent School Games rowing competition.

With GB rower, Nick Middleton in attendance it was a real opportunity for the boys to show how hard they had been working in preparation for the event. The day did not get off to the smoothest of starts as en-route to the event the minibus lost power and had to make a stop at the top of Blue Bell Hill to wait for the replacement bus. Thankfully, Mr Keeling-Jones was on hand to save the day and after an exchange of buses the squads could continue on their journey to Medway Park Sports Complex.

On the day, the crews competed in the year 8, 10, 11 and 6th form individual and team relay events. In the individual competitions, each rower had a set time, depending on the age category, to row as far as they could. The year 8's had to row for three minutes, year 10 five, year 11 for six minutes and then a gruelling eight minute row for year 12/13. All rowers would be pushing their bodies to the absolute limit and despite feeling

the extreme build-up of lactate burning their lungs and legs they were all incredible.

Scott Bain won a Silver medal in the year 8 individual race and this was the start of the medal rush. Matthew Baber secured a Bronze for the year 10's and Sam Polom and Ross Bain won Silver and Bronze respectively in the year 11 event. Add to that Davvid Wise's Silver in the 6th form competition, that made a total of five medals in the individual events.

After a short break, it was onto the relays and this was where the boys really showed the benefit of all of the hours of training, as they looked so slick with their changeovers that it even drew praise from Nick Middleton. The results speak for themselves as they won three Gold medals and a Silver in the four competitions they entered.

An amazing day for all of the students involved who certainly showed more stamina than the minibus.

Final Relay Results

Year 8 Relay –	Silver 4294m
Year 10 Relay–	Gold 6790m
Year 11 Relay –	Gold 8039m
6th Form Relay –	Gold 10115



Sports update this term.

Oakwood Park Grammar School Football Team are currently ranked number one out of 231 schools in Kent after winning 25 of the 36 games played.

Callum Foreman in Year 11 won the National Amateur Boxing competition.

Oliver McCarthy (Year 9) Alex Adrian (Year 9) and Finlay Appleby (Year 7) competed in the County Cross Country event representing Maidstone Schools. The Year 9 students, despite competing against older boys all finished in the top 100 and Finlay Appleby was the first in the Year 7 category.

Lunar Rocks Landed at Oakwood Park Grammar School

The Apollo lunar landings gave us an abundance of new scientific data on the Moon. The various experiments placed on the surface provided information on seismic, gravitational, and other lunar characteristics. Yet, the most dramatic result of the missions was returning a total of more than 800 pounds of lunar rock and soil for analysis on Earth.

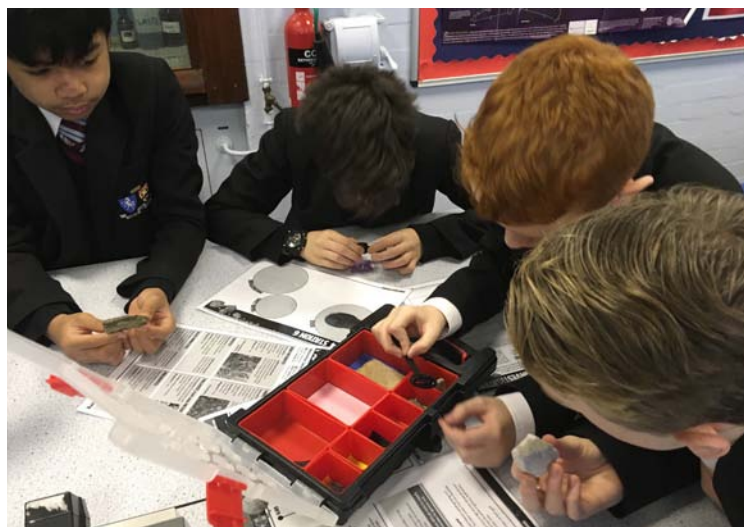
These samples of the Moon offered a deeper appreciation of the evolution of our nearest planetary neighbour. The pack also includes meteorite samples, one is an actual piece of Mars. In the last week of January, our school took part in the 'Borrow the Moon' loan scheme, run by the Science & Technology Facilities Council (STFC), a world-leading multi-disciplinary science organisation providing a unique and exciting opportunity to allow young students to engage with a true piece of space history.

The arrival of the moon rocks coincided with a rare astronomical event: the super, bloody, blue moon on 31st of January. We were given a rare celestial treat on Wednesday as three lunar phenomena coincide - the visibility of which varied, weather permitting, of course. A blue moon (a second full

moon in a calendar month), a super moon (when the moon is unusually close to Earth, making it bigger and brighter) and a blood moon (a moment during an eclipse when the moon appears red) coincided for the first time since 1866.

The super moon was caused by moon's proximity to Earth in its orbital motion. The event of the blue moon is not as rare as the old saying "once in a blue moon" implies; they happen about once every 2.7 years, because the number of days in a lunation (new moon to new moon) is a bit less than the usual calendar month. Bloody moon was caused by the eclipse and a blue moon is just a name for an event where a full moon is visible two times during one calendar month.

All students were mesmerised by the moon rocks - sometimes it was quite hard to control their excitement. The lunar samples were presented in encapsulated discs and thin sections for viewing through a microscope. Each package also contains different examples of chunk-sized pieces of meteorites, which could be handled by the staff and students, and as some have discussed, was surprising heavy. These hands on educational moon rocks were put together by the Natural History Museum, NASA and STFC, to whom we are grateful for giving us the opportunity, to bring Physics alive in the classroom.



Primary School Master Classes 2017-2018

Engaging bite-sized classes
for year 5 and year 6 students

Subjects & Dates 3:50pm - 5:20pm

Science – Thursday 16th November

Creative Arts – Thursday 22nd February

Maths – Wednesday 14th March

English – Wednesday 18th April

Humanities – Wednesday 27th June

Booking open 21st October, book online
www.OPGS.org/Community/MasterClass

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Ofsted
Outstanding
2011|2012

OPGS students go for prestigious Arkwright Scholarship Award.

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

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

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

Benefits to students include:

- £600 financial award (over 2 years)
- Potential access to mentoring about

Engineering and Technical Design through a partnership with STEMNET and other organisations

- Enrichment opportunities including industry-based engineering experience days, magazine subscriptions and technical lectures
- Free CREO design software and training in its use
- Personal development and enhanced confidence
- Arkwright Undergraduate Scholarships available exclusively to Arkwright Engineering Scholars - worth between £10,000 and £12,000 over the duration of your undergraduate degree in Engineering or technical Design

Support from your Sponsor may include:

- o a day visit
- o work experience
- o personal mentor
- o support for your curriculum project

The Design and Technology department has chosen three students for the award for 2018 – David Evans, Joshua Bruce and Dylan Parry. We wish them luck with their applications, exam and interviews. We will keep you updated with how they get on.



Arkwright
Scholarships Trust

The Real Game

The Real Game delivers PSHEE and the National Careers Education Framework 7 - 19 learning outcomes that contribute to a range of subject areas, and offers an opportunity for enrichment as it gets students thinking about potential career paths, information, advice and guidance available to them en route to their dream job!

The game is designed to provide links between the school and the wider community; and show students the importance of adaptability by introducing the concept of transferable skills.

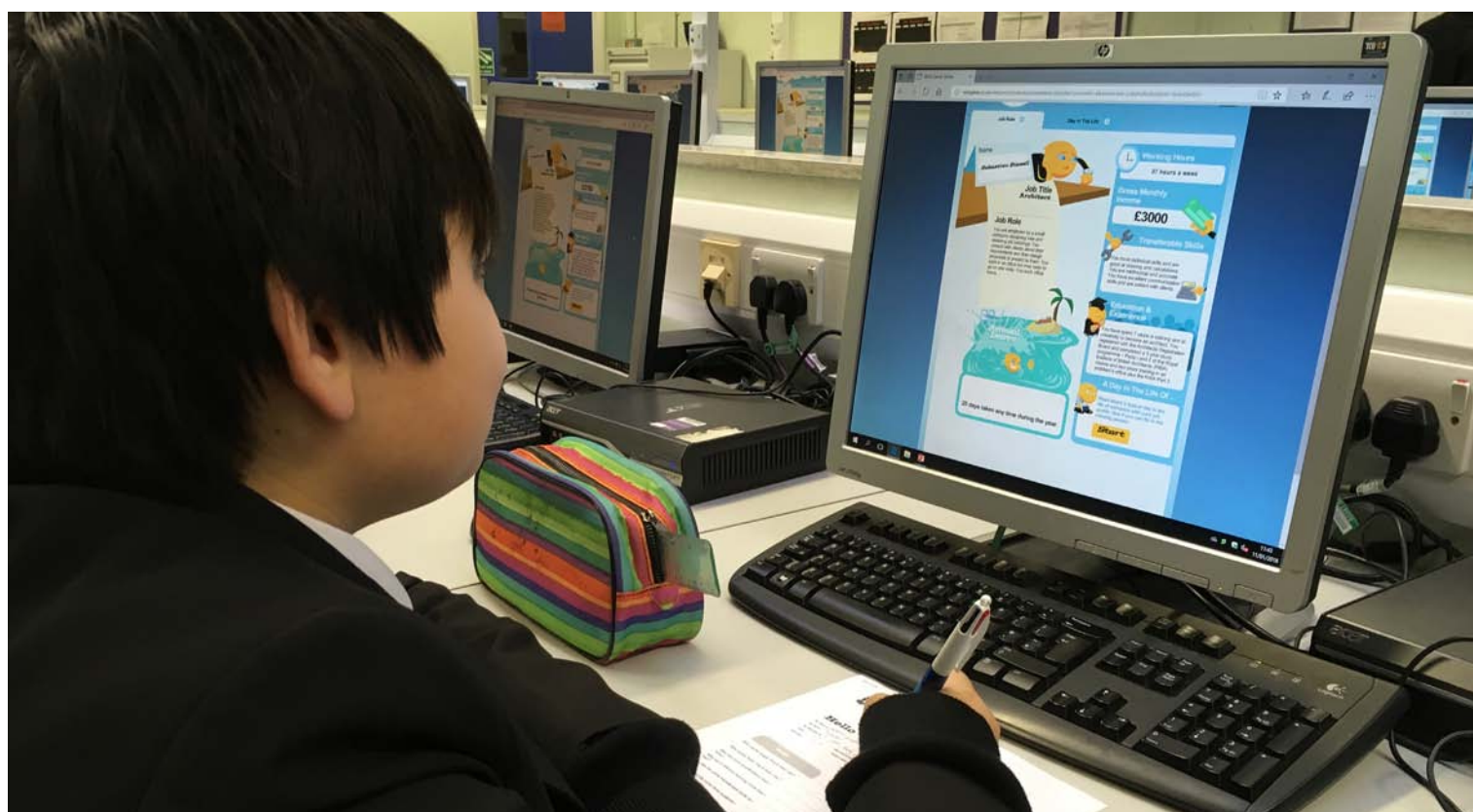
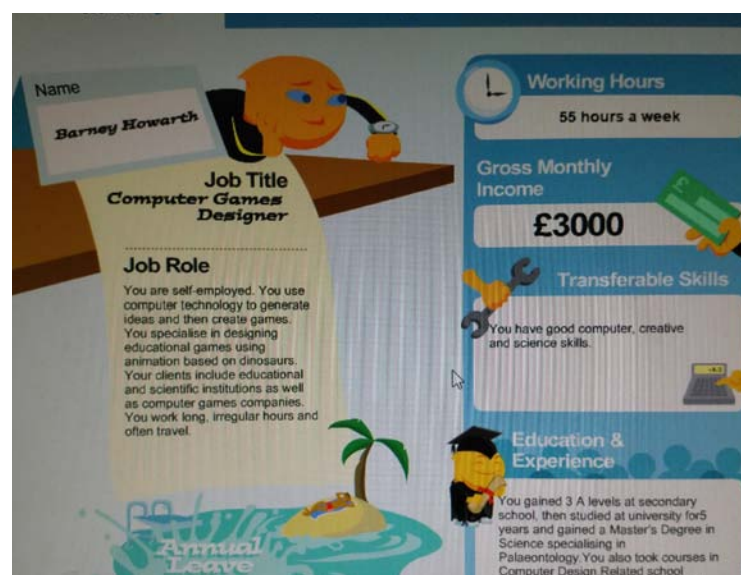
Mrs Williams said: "As part of their Careers Education, Year 7 students took part in the Real Game, an interactive digital game played within a classroom setting.

In the game, students role-played as single adults in occupational roles, discovering how schoolwork relates to career choices and therefore to lifestyle and income. Within their job-role, students had the opportunity to explore adult realities, such as budgeting (taxes, mortgage or rent, other bills and transport), work life balance, different work and family roles and career making decisions.

The job profiles included in the game reflect a

broad range of employment opportunities and the game introduces Year 7 students to different career ideas and options available. Students also took part in quizzes and puzzles, competing in their house teams."

Students learn that if they plan and make the most of their school years they may avoid this eventuality. By the end of the Real Game, students realise that satisfaction in work is a priority issue in life and that it is an outcome that they can achieve by making the choices that are right for them.



Sixth Form Charities: The Giving Grows

This year's Sixth Form chosen charities are two extremely worthy causes: Cancer Research and the Lily Foundation. As a result of their fervent fundraising activities, they are increasing their total to a very commendable sum indeed, and the compassion continues to grow. The recent prefect cake sale raised an impressive £91.75 whilst the non-uniform day added a further £575.

Cancer Research UK is a cancer research and awareness charity, formed on 4 February 2002 by the merger of The Cancer Research Campaign and the Imperial Cancer Research Fund. Its aim is to reduce the number of deaths from cancer. As the world's largest independent cancer research charity, it conducts research into the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of the disease. Research activities are carried out in institutes, universities and hospitals across the UK, both by the

charity's own employees and by its grant-funded researchers. It also provides information about cancer and runs campaigns aimed at raising awareness of the disease and influencing public policy.

Similarly, the equally deserving Lily Foundation is the UK's leading charity dedicated to fighting mitochondrial disease. Their mission is to support people whose lives are affected by the condition, raise awareness and fund research into its prevention, diagnosis and treatment. 10 million people in the UK suffer from diseases in which mitochondrial dysfunction is believed to be involved, and every day in the UK a baby is born that will develop mitochondrial disease. The Lily Foundation is fighting to change this, with our ultimate aim being to one day find a cure.

The total raised so far in aid of both charitable causes by OPGS is £1602 to date. Please keep a look out for future events so you can continue to support these brilliant charitable causes.

Year 9 House sports day

On the 11th January, Year 9 students took part in the annual House Sports day to earn points for their teams.

There were a number of different sports competitions taking place, including Football, Rugby, Basketball and Handball. Students played competitively to earn points for their houses which count towards the final House Sports competition at the end of the year.

The results from the day were:

Fisher 79 points

Sadler 77 points

Broughton 66 points

Hazlitt 65 points

Wilberforce 49 points

Current overall standings

Fisher

Sadler

Hazlitt

Broughton

Wilberforce



Parents Association Events

We are holding the next Parents Association meetings in The Bull Barming on 8th March, 3rd May and 21st June. The meetings will start about 7pm. If you can come email opgsa@gmail.com, so we can let you know of any time changes.

Visit opgsa.org.uk to find out more about our events or to buy tickets. You can also follow our group on facebook @OPGSPA for regular updates.

We are starting a buying and selling group for 2nd hand uniform so parents can advertise and contact each other. Find the link from our @opgsa facebook page.

We are holding a Race Night on 23rd February at 7pm, suitable for friends or families. Come and see if you can pick a winner. Tickets are £3each. <http://opgsa.org.uk/events/event/race-night-2018/>

A cake sale will take place on 14th March. Please send in cakes in the morning ready for the break/lunch time sales. Please can pupils bring some money to buy the cakes. We are looking for a couple of parents to help on the stall too; if you can help email opgsa@gmail.com

On 27th April, local gin producer Anno will host a Gin Tasting evening. They will give a talk about the different gins they produce and a blind tasting of 3 of the gins. Afterwards there is opportunity to purchase further gins and mixers by the glass, sit back and socialise and then purchase bottles to take home. Nibbles will be provided. The evening will be rounded off with a raffle, one of the prizes being a Distillery Tour and Tutored Tasting Voucher kindly donated by Anno. Tickets are £8 per person. Advanced booking only due to a limit on number of spaces.

We are hosting a Spring Ball on 12th May. This will include a gourmet 3 course meal, casino and dancing until 1am. Tickets are only £40 before the end of February, £45 after. Buy tickets at <http://opgsa.org.uk/events/event/spring-ball-2018/>

We are very pleased if you can help in any way, even if it is only occasionally. If you can help on a stall, event, meeting or by designing posters, updating the website or donating raffle prizes please email us at opgsa@gmail.com
Thank you.



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Sponsored by Kent Custom Dipping

Race Night

Friday 23rd February 2018 at 7pm – 10pm



At Oakwood Park Grammar School

Gather your friends and family for a fun night at the races.

Entry is £3 each. Bring your own refreshments.

On the night we will have 8 races of 8 horses, tote bets cost £1 each, after bets are placed, we watch a randomly chosen race on the screen. Can you pick a winner?

Even if you don't win there are prizes on offer in the 'losers raffle'!

Win £100 on the Tricast; guess 1st, 2nd and 3rd places in the 7th race (which can be entered before the night).

Buy a Horse £3 if it wins you have a chance of winning £50 in the winners draw.

Go to our website to buy tickets, a horse or enter the Tricast.

<http://opgspa.org.uk/events/event/race-night-2018/>



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