

@oakwood
May - 2018



OPGS win Year 7, 10 & 11 Maidstone Schools Cup Final

Dear Parents, Carers and Students,

Welcome to the latest edition of @Oakwood. I have counted an astonishing 24 events that have been mentioned in the latest edition. It is always difficult to single out everything, however I think the achievement of James Hall, a former student of OPGS who achieved an amazing three medals (1 Gold, 2 Silver) at the recent Commonwealth Games should serve as an inspiration but also a reminder of the importance of hard work and dedication, whilst also ensuring that you achieve a good set of qualifications.

I hope you enjoy this edition and thank you to the Publicity Team for producing it.

Best wishes.

Mr K.W. Moody - Headteacher



Art students renovate Science classroom doors.

On the 19th April students in year 12 taking A level Art spent the day creating art commissioned by the science department.

The brief set by the Science Department asked for a range of famous scientist's portraits to be painted and then for the portraits to be displayed on the doors of the science department. Each scientist represents the field or subject that is taught in that particular lab. Scientists that had their portraits immortalised during the day were Albert Einstein, Galileo Galilei, Linus Pauling and Richard Dawkins.

At the beginning of the day students split themselves into two teams, the first team chose which famous scientists they wanted to create portraits of. The second team fixed already completed portraits to the science doors and then painted the doors to complement the portraits. The day was a success with the art students learning a range of important skills including how to effectively work in a team to meet goals and create art work; the importance of meeting a brief set by an external client and managing their time

to meet deadlines set by the project leader. The project is going to continue throughout the term with more doors slowly being renovated until every room has been completed.



OPGS win ArtsFest in Spain

ARTSFEST is a competitive event for students to showcase their performing arts skills (dance, drama and music).

All schools enter 15-20min performances, which are judged by industry professionals. 2018 was the inaugural competition and OPGS entered two performances. Inspired by the momentous changes going on in the world, Drama, Dance and Music students pooled their considerable talent to create two entries. The first piece called "Looking Back" explored what the human race has and hasn't achieved and challenged the audience not to forget we are capable of good things. The second piece called "Looking Forward" invited the audience to look into a future where Artificial Intelligence had taken control and threatened the existence of humanity itself. Bridging the divide between AI and humans reminded the audience of the respect and compassion we should show to all.

Adam Westley, the Performing Arts Coordinator at Activ4 (the organisers of ARTSFEST), said "I couldn't be more delighted that OPGS took home the winning trophy for ARTSFEST 2018. The categories that the judges awarded points for were Originality, Enthusiasm, Aesthetic and Storytelling and "OPGS Looking Forward" ticked

every box for everyone in the theatre for the final showcase. It was truly wonderful to see the smiles on the young performers' faces after all the hard work they had put in to get there.

"When we started ARTSFEST our main goal was to create a new festival that really focuses on the experiences of the young people involved. The support and encouragement that OPGS and their fantastic teacher Mr Baker, received from their rival contenders spoke volumes about the inclusive and collaborative industry that the next generation of performing arts professionals are ready to build with just a little encouragement!"



Biology Challenge

On Friday 9th March, 30 year 10 students participated in the 2018 Biology Challenge. The Biology Challenge is a national competition organised by the UK Biology Competitions committee and administered by the Royal Society of Biology.

The aim of the Biology Challenge is to stimulate students' curiosity for the natural world and encourage them to take an interest in biology outside of the school Science lab. Indeed, Thomas Berry suggests:

"Our difficulty is that we no longer listen to what the Earth, its landscape, its atmospheric phenomena and all its living forms, its mountains and valleys, the rain, the wind, and all the flora and fauna of the planet are telling us." -

To combat this complacency with the natural beauty of our planet, the competition comprises of an online test, which took place in schools across the country with 40,000 students supervised by their teachers. Questions were set on the school curriculum but the Biology Challenge also rewarded those students whose knowledge of the subject has been increased by reading books and magazines, watching natural history programmes, taking notice of the news media for items of biological interest, and are generally aware of our natural flora and fauna. Stephen Jay Gould (1941-2002) once said:

"Evolution is one of the half-dozen shattering ideas that science has developed to overturn past hopes and assumptions, and to enlighten our current thoughts."

This essentially sums up the purpose of the challenge to get students to engage in Biology in a purposeful and demanding way. The Challenge consisted of two 25 minute papers and a chance of gaining a winning score resulting in the award of a Bronze, Silver or Gold certificate. The highest scoring students are rewarded with publicly recognised certificates,

as well as being offered the opportunity to attend an awards ceremony at IET: London, Savoy Place.

The results were as follows:

Gold award

Harry Binckes
Cameron Brown
Maximus Leighton
Thomas Webber
Samuel Whitehead
Nathaniel Saunders
Jack Gagg
Luca Pezzato
William Burt
Tom Corteen

Silver award

Mussa Ahmed
Luke Martin
Alexander Saunders
Adam Benham
Adam Garside
Luke Rackham
Thomas Kelly
Jake Swapp

Bronze Award

Sol Dubock
Finlay MacDonald
Joel Town
Arman Chowdhury
Thomas Hardy
Daniel Milne
Sam Harris
Lewis Baker
Ben Hamer

Highly Commended

Thomas Guy
Max Eldridge

Commended

George Cripps

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Thursday 28th June 5pm – 7pm

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Maidstone
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Located in the Centenary Building

**For more information
contact Mr Peacock:**

Tel: 01622 726683

Email: speacock@opgs.org

www.opgs.org



Biology Olympiad

The Biology Olympiad challenges and stimulates students with an interest in biology to expand and extend their talents. It enables students to demonstrate their knowledge and to be suitably rewarded with publicly recognised certificates and medals.

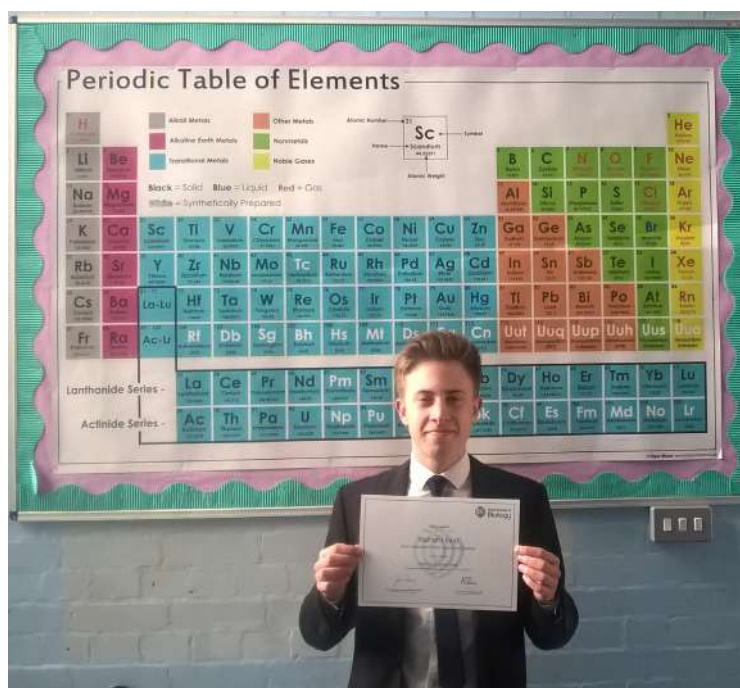
The Biology Olympiad is open to students in post-16 education studying at school or college. 7800 students across the UK competed against each other. The competition consists of two, 45-minute multiple choice papers to be taken online under staff supervised exam conditions. Top scoring students will be offered the opportunity to attend an award ceremony in London. OPGS completed the challenge on the 31/03/18 with 4 of our top biologists. The students put in an impressive performance and walked away with the following awards:

Conor Davis - Bronze Award

Nathan Hood and Emily Smith- Highly commended

Nicholas Letchford-Jones - Commended

In addition to encouraging and rewarding pupils in their studies, the BBO is the first stage in selecting a team to represent the UK at the International Biology Olympiad (IBO). The IBO seeks to challenge by both theory and practical tests some of the top pre-university biology students in the world, with over sixty countries taking part.



Silver Duke of Edinburgh Award

Year 12 - Finlay Bell, Felix Collins ,Emanuel Fanthome-Hodgson, Dylan Gibson ,Ben Homewood & Dylan Mott .

We arrived at Blacklands Farm, East Grinstead just after 6.00pm on the 12th April and set up our tents on the waterlogged fields. The first night was a comfortable sleep after we made our way through 5 packets of Party Rings and then got to bed early as we had a long day ahead of us, a 24km walk! We awoke at 5:30am due to inconsiderate campers next to us being loud, we then got back to bed for another few hours until we were angrily woken up again by one of the DofE officials telling us to get a move on as we were the only group left.

The first 10 km of the walk was the hardest as we were walking through horrendous mud, at some points coming all the way up to our chins ! We stopped for lunch, cooking our adventure food hinkingbelieving we were Bear Grylls.

The second half of the day continued quickly with the positive thinking and excitement of arriving back at the muddy campsite. The second night was long and cold, with many of us wearing trousers and long tops and hats to bed. The second day

arrived quickly, with many of us walking on only a couple of hours sleep. The long but a little shorter, 20km walk continued to drag and punish us all day. The mud was still there, the weather was bright and our bodies ached. The only good thing was our lunch spot which we found next to a reservoir. Dylan Gibson made friends with a fisherman talking about carp as he himself is a keen fisherman.

The third night at campsite was a lot nicer, with proper facilities and wild animals. The night sleep was a lot more comfortable. We started the final days walk bright and early as we were ready to leave at 7am. We arrived at the first checkpoint 1 ½ hours early so Fin and Dylan Gibson decided to take on Grand Designs and build their own wildlife huts. Eventually our assessors arrived so we could continue on. We had a bounce in our step as it was our last day and shortest route. The rest of the day was a combination of short breaks and fast walking as we all craved the sense of freedom. We completed the weekend without any faults and our assessor treated us to doughnuts for being so great. We had a quick sit down and talked our experience of the weekend and she congratulated us on passing our silver DofE. We all parted ways and were happy to be going home to a bath and a comfortable bed.



Feeling stressed over the exam period?

Here are some useful hints and tips, to see you through the next few weeks, until you can taste the freedom and relief the Summer holidays promise to bring...

Ways to identify: Mental stress indicators:

- Increased anxiety and irritability
- Forgetfulness
- Loss of interest in activities

Physical stress indicators:

- Irregular sleep patterns including insomniac episodes as well as constantly feeling tired
- Unexplained aches and pains
- Poor appetite
- Increased heart rate
- Migraines/headaches
- Blurred vision and dizziness

If you are experiencing any of these, it is time to address the issue and rebalance your psyche so you are better equipped to cope over the rest of the exam period. As Theodore Roosevelt said: "Believe you can and you're halfway there."

How to manage exam stress:

- Learn to recognise your individual triggers so you are more aware when you are stressing out.
- As they famously say in Douglas Adams' *The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy*, "Don't panic!" Panicking can come in the form of hyperventilating (quick, shallow breaths). So, if you feel yourself spiralling into this state, take a deep breath, sit back for a moment and explicitly concentrate on controlling your breathing. Breathe deep in and out through the nose, counting to five for each breath.
- Take a break or talk with someone who knows the pressure you are facing, their fresh perspective, empathy and support will help to get things into perspective.
- Eat well. Be sure to fuel up with a proper breakfast and try to snack on healthier slow release energy foods like fruit, veg and nuts.
- Sleep regularly. Try to get into an evening routine, in which you wind down and relax. Do not spend time looking at a screen before bed (the light makes it more difficult

for your brain to switch off and instead acts as a stimulus). Therefore, try not to turn to your phone or game before bed but give your body and mind a break, do not stay up too late, and aim for 8 hours sleep.

- Do not forget to exercise your body as well as your mind. Physical activity and exertion is an excellent way to help you relax and let off some steam - so run, swim, go for a walk, take part in team sport, skateboard, whatever – do something that gets you off the couch, or away from your work desk, so your brain can take a break too.
- Quit the bad habits. Do not binge on things where you know your time could be better spent or health protected by giving in to lazy or bad habits this far along in your educational career. Keep your head screwed on and keep at it for the final push so you get results you can honestly be proud of. Avoid the obvious: junk food, cigarettes, and alcohol.
- Try not to replay the exam questions, or dissect your answers after the exam by comparing what you wrote to others. It is too late to go back and change it, and so after it is done, there is no use worrying about it.
- Avoid comparing your abilities with your friends, peers or siblings. Everyone approaches exams and tackles their revision topics in different ways, so ensure you have chosen the method that works for you best. Make a manageable timetable and stick with it.

Remember, not to lose sight of the fact that there is life after exams. Maya Angelou wisely believes that "Nothing will work unless you do." For that very reason, although things might seem particularly intense right now, it will not be forever. You need to carry on studying for just a few more weeks, which will be testimony to your years of hard work. Indeed, you can take inspiration from Estee Lauder's mantra, which is "I never dreamed about success. I worked for it" and "When I thought I couldn't go on, I forced myself to keep going. My success is based on persistence, not luck."

In fact, a little bit of stress can be a positive thing; a way for you to self-motivate, to persist, try your best and prove to yourself that you can do it despite how you may be feeling under pressure...

...As H. Jackson Brown, Jr proclaimed: "The best preparation for tomorrow is doing your best today." Having said this, it is essential not to let the stress get the better of us, and keep in the right frame of mind to tackle those all-important tests. As Napoleon Hill put it: "Whatever the mind of man can conceive and believe, it can achieve."

Therefore, to achieve at the best of your ability. Keep in mind both long and short term goals, be sure to manage your time effectively, including some 'down' time and having some activities to reinstate the balance away from revision, as well as looking after the basics, be sure to eat and sleep regularly, and if you feel things are getting on top of you – tell someone!

OPGS Students make a film about the Kent Miners

The documentarian Charlotte Knowles from the Independent Film Trust spent the afternoon working with eight Year 12 students who are in the early stages of planning their film about the Kent Miners (with funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund).

Students were challenged to think about the concept of truth in documentary making: is film making creative? Is it about finding and sharing a truth?

Ms Knowles has previous experience working with BBC4, ITV and running her own production company. This session was focused on narrowing down the main focus and the format of the documentary, before the students engage in detailed research and start filming.

Students discussed their background research on strikes in the 1980s, Kentish attitudes to the miners, British politics at the time, Thatcherism and discrimination – not the typical images of the Garden of England. They began to focus on what their

documentary will address: bringing the little-known experiences of the Kent miners to modern audiences and making links to politics and society today.

To explore style, students discussed their favourite documentaries and Ms Knowles helped them weigh up the pros and cons of different styles: whether to use interviews, a narrator, the power of colour, sound effects, music, the environment shown on screen, archive footage – all of these were considered. Why do we need to see peoples' eyes when they are giving personal testimony? As storytellers, students will be making a stand on how to present this topic.

The next steps are for students to go on trips to interview miners and local people, researching from the archives at Kent History and Library Centre, editing their film and attending a cinema screening in Kent. In the summer, an academic from the London School of Economics (LSE) will give a special lecture on de-industrialisation and accompany students when they visit the old Betteshanger colliery. The final screening of the OP GS students' film will be in London in September.



BMW E36 3 Car Review

By Luke White C7

Since 1985, BMW have released many generations of the M3 from the E30 to the F80. These have filled the hearts of many BMW fans – me being one. My favourite two are the E36(below) and E90/92.

The car was released in 1992 and came in a saloon, convertible and coupe. It carries 295kg more on its shoulders than its ancestor – the E30 M3. The famous 1992-95 model made 240bhp and 255 ft-lb of torque. The new and improved 1996-99 car boasted an extra 20bhp! The piston displacement was increased to 3.2L.



The German legend is notoriously known for its tuning and modding capabilities. With £50, you could easily add 35bhp.

Red or grey, with black accents, are my favourite colours for the tuners car.

When producing the car BMW really paid attention to the finer details. The M logo can be seen on the door trim, interior pieces and pressure caps on the wheels.

One of the best customisation options for the car are the duckbill spoilers (below) and WANGS!!! The phenomenal driving experience the car gives is like no other. The six-speed manual gearbox creates a raw driving experience. No matter if you're the driver or passenger the experience is still exhilarating. One of the reasons why so many people are addicted to it is because it's like no other sports car. The car was built to drive along the back streets of Germany, or in our case B roads, and bang through the 6 gears.



Over the years, many aftermarket parts companies have taken it upon themselves to specialise in E36s. Examples being BimmerWorld and AC Schnitzer (left). Some owners like to heavily modify their E36s. On the other hand, some like to keep their cars looking clean and stock and only buy parts that will enhance the stock look.



Following the 90s body styling trend. The car has the classic boxy body with rectangle headlights. The black accents on the grille and various other trim pieces compliments the grey paint extremely well. Many of these black parts do not come stock on the car which is a shame as it looks excellent with factory colours.

Over all, I love the M3, specifically the E36. It gives such a raw driving experience and has the amazing styling of a classic 90s sports car to go with it. The German legend is a real icon and has a place in everyone's dream garage, no matter the model or generation.



Great Men Returns to Oakwood! – PSHE Enrichment

Following the success of last year's Great Men workshop the programme returned to Oakwood Park to work with year 10.

The aim of the workshop is to challenge boys to think critically about the gender stereotypes that fuel certain kinds of behaviours. Such as; that 'real' men shouldn't express emotions other than anger or control, that aggression, money and promiscuity are the markers of 'success', and that women and homosexual men represent the opposite of these characteristics and should be treated as inferior. By challenging these stereotypes the workshop helps boys develop the tools to be respectful, loving and confident, it helps them be able to stand up and speak out against inequality, which should be an essential part of their education.

With the growing pressures of society and social media it is more important than ever that students are given the opportunity to discuss the expectations placed upon them and the role models advocated by the media, celebrities, peers and parents. Each group was given scenarios to discuss and debate, the students covered sensitive topics such as sexuality, domestic violence and challenging peer pressure. Learning from outside speakers and engaging in their

views of the different roles of men in society is a successful way to learn and support the PSHE curriculum.

The workshop explores three central questions:

1. What expectations are there of what boys and girls 'should' be like?
2. How do those expectations make us feel or behave day to day?
3. What would we do differently if those expectations were different or didn't exist?

It was through interactive activities in large and small groups that the boys involved had the chance to explore these questions together and think of ways to tackle some of the problems they identified. The workshop lasted for 4 hours along with the aim to have a bigger impact on the ability of boys to take their learning further and to see a real change in behaviour for the better. In the long term, the aims of the Good Lad Initiative charity are that they want to see the next generation of men taking an active role in promoting gender equality. All of the speakers are volunteers and have regular jobs outside the initiative. We are grateful for the time they took coming back to Oakwood Park and supporting the student's emotional development.



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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James Hall Commonwealth Games Gold Medallist

Oakwood Park Grammar School was very proud to be cheering on ex-student James Hall after his recent success at Australia's Gold Coast, in the 2018 Commonwealth Games.

James Hall is an outstanding all-around gymnast known for his consistency across the different apparatus. After success as a junior, he has gone on to win medals regularly at senior level. James continues to ride a wave of sporting success after his exceptional performance in the World Cup. The Pegasus gymnast, James Hall, won all-around bronze in Birmingham just days before flying to the Gold Coast. This was commendably his second World Cup medal of the year, having already landed silver in America, and he continued to train hard, and show he was in excellent shape, in preparation for the biggest competition of his life so far when embarking on the trip down under.

The Commonwealth Games, is a world-class competition, second only to the Olympics in James' eyes.

"It's just part of the process. You come in the gym and do your job. This is our passion, this is our love, you come in and devote everything to this and if you're not enjoying it there's no point doing it."

Gymnastics is a sport that requires balance, strength, flexibility, agility, coordination, endurance and control. Artistic gymnastics and rhythmic gymnastics are the two Commonwealth Games disciplines. In artistic gymnastics, athletes can

compete in individual events or in the all-around competition where their scores from each event are added together to find an overall winner.

Wilson and Hall's successes on the bar matched the overall effort by the gymnasts over the course of the Games, in particular, the final gymnastics events where Team England claimed seven medals on day five and a total of 16 medals for Team England in the Artistic Gymnastic sevens for the 2018 Games. As a result, James went home with a win of the 2018 Commonwealth Games (Team England) team gold, and high bar silver.

James Hall said: "It's a strange one. It's happened so fast. After the Europeans last year - I'd never been to a major senior championships before - and then to come away with a bronze overnight your followers on Instagram increase by a couple of thousand and you're thinking, 'I'm not used to this! I've just been plugging away to get to this point where people start to know who you are. It's quite surreal but it's a great feeling, it's really nice, and when you've got so many kids looking up to you it's even better."



Junior Maths Challenge April 26th

The Junior Maths Challenge took place on April 26th in the Centenary Building. This nationwide competition takes place annually and is run by the UKMT (UK maths trust) based at Leeds University.

Sixty very keen Yr. 7 and 8 students at Oakwood Park took part in the challenge which involves answering 25 multiple choice questions in 60 minutes and is sat in school under normal exam conditions. Some sample questions are given and the answers can be found at the back of this magazine.

Gill scored a goal half way through the second quarter of a "teachers versus pupils" netball match. At that point, what fraction of the whole match remained to be played?

A: $\frac{1}{4}$ B: $\frac{3}{8}$ C: $\frac{1}{2}$ D: $\frac{5}{8}$ E: $\frac{3}{4}$
or the more challenging!!

A drawer contains ten identical yellow socks, eight identical blue socks and four identical pink socks. Amrita picks socks from the drawer without looking.

What is the smallest number of socks she must pick to be sure that she has at least two pairs of matching socks?

A: 5 B: 6 C: 8 D: 11 E: 13

The top 60% of students nationally receive a gold, silver or bronze certificate in the ratio 1:2:3 and each institution receives a Best in School certificate. 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.

We are pleased to announce the following students achieved a gold award in the recent Junior Maths Challenge.

Yr. 8

Ben Madden
Thomas Lenham
Owen Jenner
Joshua Ingram
Ashwin Knight
Samuel Malins-Thirlwall

Yr. 7

Luke Sutcliffe
Silas Miller
Ryan Livingston

This is an outstanding achievement by the boys. Well done.

Answers to the problems at the end of this publication.

OPGS students visit Cambridge

In April, high achieving STEM and Humanities students were invited to two Cambridge colleges for exclusive workshops designed to stretch their brains.

After a tour of Queens' college and lunch in their dining room, STEM students went off to an engineering workshop while humanities students travelled to Churchill College for a specialist archives tour.

The engineers competed to make pendulum clocks from LEGO and learnt about how engineers were vital for navigating the planet before the era of GPS.

Humanities students heard a talk from Churchill expert Allen Packwood on the inaccuracies of the film 'The Darkest Hour'. Then they researched archive documents on Churchill's attitude to

women's suffrage and on the lost election of 1945. On show was also Mrs Thatcher's handbag and contents presented by her to the archives.

The students returned home with instructions to read books, teach younger children and start practising STEP papers now!



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.

From the NYT Website www.nyt.org.uk/

"NYT is a world leading youth arts charity. We have been centre stage for over 60 years, inspiring young people and audiences alike in the importance of live theatre.

Our charitable remit is to give free and affordable opportunities both onstage and backstage to young people aged 14-25 from all corners of the UK. We seek out the most diverse, the most talented and the most vulnerable through an active audition programme and community engagement to give unique, life-changing experiences working with some of the UK's leading professional directors, writers, producers, designers and stage managers.

We have engaged over 150,000 young people since 1956 and we have reached an audience of over 2 billion people from stadiums to studios at national and international events. We continue to represent the best of British young talent whilst sharing our best practice abroad to effect positive change in a complex world.

Our work benefits each new generation of artists, creative leaders, and social and political game changers in both the private and public sectors. These alumni represent our four pillars of excellence, opportunity, compassion and community. They often return to NYT to offer free mentorship, leadership and vital job opportunities across all art platforms.

We believe we are a force for good, breaking down social and economic barriers by our investment in diversity and community and telling relevant challenging stories for our time.

In an increasingly virtual world, the value of LIVE has never been greater."

'History Matters' debates at Churchill College

The newly appointed OPGS Head Students, Nina Lewis and Thomas Place, had their first public engagement this term representing the school.

The International Churchill Society invited the students to a champagne reception at the Hyatt Regency to meet members of the Churchill family and to be part of the audience for a presentation on Churchill's special operations squad. As the organiser of the 'History Matters' debates at Churchill College, Cambridge OPGS Sixth Form has strong connections with The International Churchill Society. Thomas Place, with his team mate Deputy Head Boy Evan Lewis, is twice winner of the Winston Churchill Public Speaking Competition. Nina Lewis will be taking part in the

competition for the first time this year with her team mate, Fatima Elsaka.

As a result of their networking, the Head Students have arranged a careers trip for Year 12 students to Lloyd's of London lead by Churchill's great grandson.



**OAKWOOD PARK GRAMMAR SCHOOL
PROUDLY PRESENT...**



**BOOK & LYRICS BY
HOWARD ASHMAN**

**MUSIC BY
ALAN MENKEN**

**BASED ON THE FILM BY ROGER CORMAN
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**ORIGINALLY PRODUCED BY THE WPA THEATRE (KYLE RENICK,
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WEDNESDAY 18TH JULY

YR7 & YR8 MATINEE GALA SHOW

WEDNESDAY 18TH JULY

DOORS 7PM CURTAIN - 7.30PM

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**THIS AMATEUR PRODUCTION IS PRESENTED BY ARRANGEMENT WITH
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OPGS win Maidstone Schools Cup Final 23rd April 2018

Oakwood Park Grammar Schools Year 11 Football team finally achieved the recognition they deserved winning the Maidstone Schools Cup against The Malling School on Monday 23rd April at the Gallagher Stadium.

Having previously made it to the Kent Cup Final the squad has undergone some restructuring with two players leaving to play for Charlton FC and Glasgow Rangers FC respectively. Two changes in managers and boys developing at different times has also contributed to changes in selection. Following outstanding performances representing the school's senior teams the Year 11 side has finally 'gelled' and started to perform to their true potential. Following an outstanding performance against St Simon Stock in the semi-finals they were up against a strong Malling side in the final.

The first half was a nervy affair with few clear cut chances created and both teams playing 5 across

the midfield, a hard fought battle ensued. Both Vaz from The Malling School and Sam Tansill from Oakwood appeared the stand out players with the better finally producing some magic that unlocked the Malling rear guard. Some nice interplay down the right hand side led to a beautifully weighted pass to JJ Mullane who got to the by-line before delivering an inch perfect cross. Daniel Shed cut across his defender to guide the ball in to the far corner with a glancing header sparking wild celebrations. This proved to be the moment of the game which ended 1-0 to Oakwood Park Grammar School.

Mr Devonald (Manager) said he was very proud of the players and the development they had shown throughout the year and hoped that many of the players would stay on and continue to represent the school at senior level and in their up and coming South Africa Summer Tour.



OPGS win Year 7 Maidstone Schools Cup Final

Following a successful season with the yr7 team doing well in both Kent and English schools cups and joint first in the Maidstone league they met Valley Park in the final of the Maidstone cup to decide who is the best side in Maidstone.

The first half was a tight affair with both sides creating chances but with Valley Park able to convert one of theirs to lead 1-0 at the break.

In the second half Valley scored early on to lead 2-0. The team never gave up and made changes bringing on Dan Saxby and Lucas Moyce whilst going 2 at the back. This turned the game on its head, suddenly Valley could not cope with the

extra men flooding the midfield, and with Martin Nunn up front it was only a matter of time before Oakwood would score. Midfield maestro and man of the match Reece Merenda threaded the ball through before the cross fell to super sub Dan Saxby to put the ball in to make it 2-1. Oakwood's tails were up and it was not long before they equalised through Dan Saxby again. With Alex Harvey and Jake Wright demonstrating excellent defending at the back there was no way through for Valley and Martin Nunn sealed the win by showing some individual flair before firing the ball in to the back of the net to make it 3-2.

Mr Devonald congratulated all of the boys on a magnificent performance and one that they deserved following an excellent season.



Parent's Association Spring Ball

Following on from their recent popular Gin Tasting Evening, on Saturday 12th May, Oakwood Park Grammar School's Parents Association hosted a Spring Ball at the Village Hotel in Maidstone, to raise funds to improve the facilities available to the students.

The night started with the arrival of ladies and gentlemen to the Inspiration Suite, dressed to an impeccable standard, with elegant evening dresses and smart tuxedos, with photographers Mr and Mrs Occasion taking snaps of each couple or table party before the night's frivolities commenced.

Then, guests sat down to a sumptuous three-course meal at 7.45pm, upon which, the evening's entertainment started. Each table setting had a golden envelope where one was permitted to bid on the silent auction prizes, which ranged from a £50 voucher to dine at Frederic's Bistro to a prosecco afternoon tea for two at Chilston Park, or a tour for 4 at the Mad Cat Brewery in

Faversham. Then, the starters began to arrive; there was professional and efficient table service of tomato and red pepper soup, a chicken roast and a too-good-to-eat chocolate fudge cake.

There was also a \$50 chip which guests could cash in at the casino after dining, and try their luck with chips in hand at the roulette wheel or blackjack table. Then, at the end of the evening, the guest with the most chips cashed in would win a bottle of bubbly. Guests were also able to buy tickets for the raffle, which included generous prizes such as an overnight stay for 2 with dinner at the Village Hotel, a Leeds Castle family ticket, flowers, wine and chocolates too.

Then, the DJ continued to play to the crowd until 1am with pressed suits and cocktail dresses spinning wildly on the dance floor until the wee hours. The entire evening flowed beautifully from one thing to the next, with guests spoilt for choice at what to take part in at each point in the evening. It was a wonderful success with a fantastic fundraising total so far of £1,313.



Quiz night raises over £630 for charities

On Friday the 23rd of March, students of the Sixth Form successfully ran a quiz night, raising £637 for Cancer Research and the Lily Foundation.

This was not without a fierce battle with Ms Lewell, however, who kindly allowed us to sneak another event into the calendar.

With the date set, prizes were quickly organised, questions were cunningly devised and a fantastic host in Mr Housden was selected (all within just two weeks). The prizes up for grabs included a meal at Bierkeller, two bottles of pristine wine, 4 large Domino's pizzas and £50 worth of Lego, courtesy of the Entertainer, for the funniest response.

The night was filled with jubilant chatter, raucous rivalry and incredible intellect as teams battled it out for first prize. The quiz was not the only source of competition, however, as a ridiculously intense

game of heads or tails saw Eléna Wenban win over £30!

A terrific turnout saw over 18 teams take part, with "Bonnie and the Tylers" claiming first place with 82 points. The prize for the funniest answer was given to "Fiery Dragons"; the reason for their deserved victory is probably best left undisclosed.

Of course, none of this would have been possible without the help of the Sixth Form students. Thanks should go to George Field, for orchestrating the event; Cian Conroy, for his frustratingly impossible History questions; Alex Wainwright, for his magical Harry Potter round; Conor Davis for his Sports round, Florence Andrews for her movie round; Izzy Pym for groveling to hold the event and lastly, Joel Faulkner for helping with the marking. Thanks should again go to Bierkeller, Domino's and The Entertainer – and of course to the people that came and took part!



Rocket Cars Challenge

On Friday 4th May, four Year 7 students competed in the Regional Finals for the Race for the Line Rocket Car Challenge.

Dozens of schools across Kent, Surrey and Sussex attended to design, build and race rocket propelled cars. We all had a very enjoyable day.

The students have learned a lot about racing car design, aerodynamics and forces. Our car reached a speed of 29.242mph, meaning that we achieved 2nd place in the Kent section. The students are now looking forward to the National Finals in June. We are very proud of the students involved; Macauley Weeks, Ryan Livingston, Parba Giri and Silas Miller.

Spanish Exchange March 2018

During the week of 22nd-27th March, we welcomed our Spanish exchange partners from IES Chabacier to Oakwood.

They attended lessons at OPGS with us on Wednesday, Friday and for some of Monday. They went with their partners to every lesson and got to see the differences between Spanish and English schools. The Spanish students found that OPGS was a lot different as we have to wear uniform and we have to move around to our lessons while in the Spanish schools the teachers move.

During the week, we participated in three visits. On Thursday, we went to London to show the Spanish exchange students the delights of the capital city. We got the train into Victoria train station and then we set off on our sightseeing tour. The first place we visited was the British Museum where we got to see some famous artefacts such as the tombs of the mummies from ancient Egypt. After this, we went to see some of the famous sites of London. We went to Leicester Square where we spent an hour looking around the famous shops such as M&M World. We then went through China town,

Trafalgar Square and all the way to Buckingham Palace. We then made our way back to Victoria Station for dinner. After dinner, we watched the award-winning musical Wicked.

On Saturday, we visited Leeds Castle. We first took a walk through the gardens of the castle and then we entered the castle where we toured through all of the rooms. After this we all ventured to the maze where we tackled the task. Following this, we watched the falconry exhibition where we got to see owls and hawks do special tasks such as hovering and hunting.

Our last trip was an excursion to Canterbury on Monday. While we were there, we visited the famous cathedral and the town centre.

I believe that the Spanish Exchange is a great experience as it is a great way to see how people live their lives outside your home and it is also a great and quicker way to learn Spanish. If you go on the exchange you will notice an improvement in your Spanish almost instantly. Big thank you to Miss Hicks and Señor Herrera for helping organise it.



OPGS Sports Dinner 2018

This was my second sports dinner at Oakwood Park and my first as a sixth former.

Players, parents and staff all congregated at Tudor Park hotel for the 7th sports dinner. The general conversation at the bar centred on the matches, players performance, reminiscing stories, whilst also catching up with friends we haven't seen for a while and importantly chatting about the South Africa tour in July! What an atmosphere, and this was only pre-dinner drinks!

The formal events started with the welcome to Nicky Little, the players, parents and staff from Mr Keeling-Jones and a vote of thanks to the outgoing captains, James Tasker and Connor Davis, both great role models for their respective sports.

After a dinner of chicken and chocolate cake there were speeches from Mr Smith, Mr Devonald and Mr Housden which detailed the success of their respective teams. I thought it was good to hear about all the senior teams and get a summary of their seasons, whilst also adding information about some of the other sporting achievements throughout the year. As someone who has played only for the 1st XI football team I was especially interested in the 2nd XI and some of the Year 11 players who will move up next year to hopefully play with me. Then the awards were given out. The football and rugby teams awarded the Players player as voted by the Players, coaches

player and the Clive Thompson award. This is the award for a player who gives their all every game no matter the result. It was really pleasing to see Mickey Mantle and Finlay Bell who both won this award as they have been excellent for the Year 12 side and the 1st XI team this year. The award for the team of the year was also given out, with the Year 12 football team winning the award after their Kent cup victory at the Gallagher in March. I was lucky enough to captain the side and it was great to get recognition for the team, especially for players like Jamie Brookman and Josh Purvis who had not played much football this year for the school.

The team captains were announced for next season and I was pleased to be named Football captain along with Ollie Debnan. Finlay Gibson has been named as the Rugby Captain, Scarlett Wright as the Girls captain and Tom Ashenden as the Cricket captain.

The night was concluded by a speech from the Fijian rugby international Nicky Little. The speech was full of laughs but also informative. He told us how the Fijian team prepared for the World Cup. Overall it was a great night which celebrated the outstanding success Oakwood Park has experienced in sport over the previous year.

The evening drew to a close with the traditional goodbyes and photos of award winners! Looking forward to next years event!

By Evan Lewis



Tennis Review

On Thursday 26th April 2018 Alex Adrain and three other students were selected for a Tennis tournament on the outskirts of Bromley. There were two teams of two (doubles), one being in the Year 8 competition and the other being Year 9 and Year 10 competition.

Year 7 and 8 students report:

This week we were pleased to be invited to take part in the Kent Schools Boys' Tennis Doubles Tournament at Bromley Tennis Centre.

On arrival we were sorted into four groups and we kicked off with a good first match, winning 4-0. Nerves steadied, we then won our next two games and qualified top of our group. After quite a long wait, we were back on court and we were confident that we could put up a good fight in the round of 16 knockout. Unfortunately, this time we lost 4-1 to Langley so were unable to progress to the next stage.

Although knocked out of the main competition, we still had three games to play in the Consolation Cup on the outdoor courts. We won two out of three and overall we were very pleased with our performance in what was our first doubles tournament.

We're really grateful for the opportunity that the school, and Mr Keeling-Jones personally, provided for us to play tennis and represent the school.

Years 9 and 10 tennis report:

In the Year 9 and 10 competition we did not play too well at the start of the tournament. It runs a bit like Champions League football in the way that there are group stages which you can then qualify into the next round. We played three matches in the group stages. The first match, we lost 4 sets to 0 which was a big defeat. In the second match we also lost but we lost 4 sets to 1. Finally, in the last match of the group stages we lost 4 sets

to 3 but we got very close and at one point had match point. So, in the group stages we lost all our matches but luckily we were put through to the Consolation Cup which is when the bottom two doubles of each group go into. Luckily we won the first match 4 sets to 3 so that we were not knocked out. In the semi-final of the Consolation cup we also won this time 4 sets to 2. Finally we played the final match (final) but sadly we lost 4 sets to 0 to a really good doubles who shouldn't have really been in that cup.

By Alex Adrian P9

Alex Adrian, Harry Fitzpatrick, Jamie Flintan and Joe Flintan



Term 5 OPGS Cricket Report

A big focus for the PE department this term has been the development of the school cricket programme.

Lunchtime clubs have proven extremely successful with over 90 students attending on a weekly basis! The school has also had a large number of fixtures, achieving some excellent results against strong opposition.

The year 7 team have played fixtures against the Ashford School (Kent Cup), Norton Knatchbull GS (Friendly) and St Simon Stock School (Friendly). Despite losing their first two fixtures, the boys secured a dramatic final over win vs. St Simon Stock. There are a huge amount of gifted boys attending the lunchtime cricket club and performing well in lessons which bodes well for the term 6 fixtures. The students now look forward to a friendly fixture vs. Kent College and the Maidstone Grammar School 7-a-side competition in the first two weeks of term 6.

The year 8 team have a number of exceptionally talented students, some of which have played up into year 9&10 Kent Cup fixtures (Timo Collins, Ben Lyons, Tom Lenham & Harvey Moore). At U13 level the boys are undefeated this term, reaching the 3rd round of the Kent Cup after beating Borden and Rainham Mark Grammar School. If successful against the Ashford School this week they will secure a place in the 4th round of the competition. This will be a tremendous effort given the strength of opposition schools, many of which are independent. Due to the high number of students playing in this year group, 'B' and 'C' teams will be entered into the annual 7-a-side competition at Maidstone Grammar School in term 6.

The year 9 cricket team have played fixtures against King's Rochester (Kent Cup), Norton Knatchbull GS (Friendly) and most recently against Maidstone Grammar School (Friendly). Despite losing these matches the team have played some excellent cricket throughout the term with some outstanding performances from Ben Clarke and Tom Dunk (captain). Both of these students have recently made their debuts in the senior cricket team, making strong contributions with both bat and ball. The year 9 team now look forward to making a challenge in the Kent Plate, with the

1st round fixture against Ravenswood School this week.

The year 10 team have also played three fixtures, recording notable wins against St John's Catholic Comprehensive School (Kent Cup) and Norton Knatchbull GS (Friendly). Following a loss to Cranbrook School in round 2 of the Kent Cup the team will now face a tough trip to Hurstmere in a bid to progress into round 2 of the Kent Plate competition.

The senior cricket team have played three fixtures this term, establishing a fantastic team spirit under the leadership of Captain Tom Ashenden. Exceptional contributions have been made by Conor Davis, Sam Vale, Tom Line and Ben Newmarch, leading the way with both bat and ball. Despite losing to Rochester Maths GS and Cranbrook, the boys have made significant improvements this term. This culminated in a historic victory against our local rivals Maidstone Grammar School, a fixture that had not been won for many years. The boys now look forward to remaining U18 league fixtures against Borden GS and Skinners, aiming to qualify for the knockout stages of the competition.

In the remaining weeks of this school year students across all age groups will enjoy a substantial fixture programme including friendly, county & district matches. Friendly fixtures have already been confirmed against Kent College, Borden Grammar School and the Howard School. There has also been some significant news in terms of facility development. The PE department has recently secured permission to develop the existing cricket nets at St Augustine's Academy, allowing our students to access indoor training prior to the summer terms next year.



OPGS Volunteering Day 2018

Oakwood Park Grammar School students have given approximately 2800 hours of free voluntary work to the local community this week.

465 students from Years 8, 9 and 10 gave up their time to support projects around the Maidstone and Medway area. The projects included gardening and repairs at Kings Hill Cricket Club and Aylesford Bulls Rugby Club, litter picking around Maidstone with the Allington Alligators, maintenance work at Mote Park Watersports centre, gardening at Communigrow in Ditton and Honeyhill Boys Brigade. A number of students supported the Royal British Legion with the manufacture of products designed to commemorate the centenary celebrations of the ending of the first World War

later this year. Other organisations the students volunteered at include, Kent Life in Sandling, St Michael's and All Angels Church, Greenfields Primary School and a range of other schools in the local area including Oakwood Park itself.

The effort, hard work and support the students have shown has been outstanding. Days like these really do make a difference to our local community and in a time when budgets are tight, it is important to give something back to the organisations and charities we rely on.

More details of the events and how the students got on will be published in the next edition of @oakwood.



Year 11 Leaver's Breakfast

On Friday 11th May, Year 11 had their leaver's assembly and breakfast in the school hall joined by their Forms Tutors.

The time was spent reminiscing over friendships, which have grown over the last five years, memorable moments and some embarrassing photographs of students from days gone by. Mr Keeling-Jones led the assembly with some heart-felt words summing up how he has overseen the year group and what a privilege that has been since 2013:

Congratulations!

Today is your day.

You're off to Great Places!

You're off and away!

You have brains in your head.

You have feet in your shoes.

You can steer yourself
any direction you choose.

You're on your own. And you know what you know.

And YOU are the guy who'll decide where to go.

You'll look up and down streets. Look 'em over with care.

About some you will say, "I don't choose to go there."

With your head full of brains and your shoes full of feet,
you're too smart to go down any not-so-good street.

By Dr. Seuss

Then, each form had created their own presentation of all the things they will remember their time at Oakwood for, with some skilful editing, and inventive ways to celebrate their time here. The students also received their commemorative T-shirts to sign and thoughtfully gave thanks for their form tutors for sharing the journey with them up until they are ready to face their GCSEs. Some of the form tutors final words of advice, included:

Mr Lewis' Pearls of Wisdom:

1. Never eat in my room
2. Remember deodorant is not a substitute for washing
3. Always wear sunscreen.

Ms Goodhew:

"You are a group of fantastic, intelligent, respectable young gentlemen! I am very proud to have discussions with other teachers about how lovely and hardworking you are as a group but now with your GCSEs looming, it is your time to

shine as individuals. So, I wish you all the best in your exams and in the next chapter of your educational career, whether you choose to stay at Oakwood or go elsewhere for Sixth Form. Therefore, my last words to you will be taken from an infamous piece of literature, Douglas Adams', The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy "Don't panic", just do your best!"

Ms Limer:

"I am really going to miss my form and the other Y11 classes that I teach. We have such a talented bunch of Year 11s and I am so proud of how hard they have all worked. Just want to wish them all the best - and say thank you for putting up with my terrible handwriting."

Ms Aldous:

"What a wonderful set of young people with so much potential. Funny, silly, kind, clever – you will be missed. Work hard, make the right choices for yourself and remember I am here to help. Thanks for 4 great years, it hasn't been boring."

Mr Webster:

"So long, farewell, auf Wiedersehen, adieu
Adieu, adieu, to yieu and yieu and yieu

Goodbye. Good luck. Get the best results you deserve that you have worked for and make sure you turn up on time (you know who). It has been a pleasure and an honour being P11's form tutor. Get those great grades and enjoy the next stage of your lives."

After these emotional addresses we had some more motivation and down to business thoughts from Ms Bevan and Mr Moody who spoke about the fact it is not luck that will get the students through their GCSEs but hard work, determination, perseverance and just getting on with the task ahead. Whilst we all want the students to do well, it is down to them to prove to themselves, their friends, family members and teachers that they have it in them to go onto great things; securing some excellent results in August is the first stepping-stone on the path to success that lies ahead for them. With that in mind, we wish each and every one of our Year 11 well, and will continue to support them with masterclasses, extra study sessions, and revision resources until they break up for the summer.

Year 13 Leavers Day

The Class of 2018 enjoyed a barbecue, bouncy castle and ice cream out on the sunny OPGS playing fields this week.

Leavers' Day 2018 also featured an awards ceremony with inspiring categories such as 'Most Likely to be Prime Minister' (Oli S), 'Most Likely to Win a Nobel Prize' (Bruno R) and 'Most Likely to Cure Cancer' (Emily S and Connor D), fun categories such as 'Most Likely to Become a Millionaire' (Alex Wainwright) and downright rude categories, the titles of which I'm not going to tell you here (Alfie N, Holly B and Oli W). This day marked, for most, the end of a seven year sentence served at Oakwood Park Grammar

School during which time they have all formed several lasting friendships, achieved a dozen GCSEs and dropped a multitudinous amount of crisp packets.

Mr Moody bade students farewell by reminding them to aim to be someone that people wanted to know well, rather than to aim to be well known. Ms Hern, Director of Sixth Form, urged them to keep in touch as they head off into adulthood and Mrs Williams, Head of Year 13, praised their resilience, compassion and excellent hair.

Goodbye for now Year 13. See you all at the Ball when the exams are all over! Good luck!

