



Dear Parents, Carers and Students,

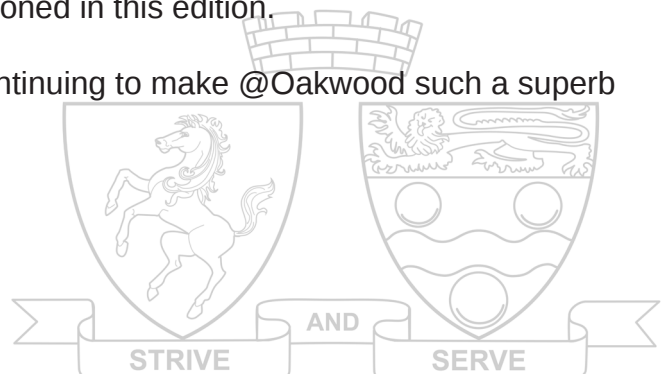
Welcome to the Spring edition. It is great to see so many students participating in a wealth of events since the last edition.

Well done to the Sixth Form for the money they have raised so far for their charities, the U17 football team for their sharing of the trophy in a thrilling final and to the students who participated in the BBC School Report. These are only a few of the achievements mentioned in this edition.

Thank you to the Publicity Team for their hard work in continuing to make @Oakwood such a superb publication.

Best wishes.

Mr K.W. Moody - Headteacher





# BBC School Report 2018

On Thursday 15th March, the BBC held their national BBC School Report Newsday, whereby the responsibility of reporting across the UK is handed over to the students of the nation between 11-16 years old.

At Oakwood Park Grammar School, the students worked exceptionally hard, as we missed our preparation day due to the snow in previous weeks and so had to cram researching, writing, editing and publishing our reports into the day everything went live. Having said this, all the students involved worked diligently to write 49 written reports, many with images they had taken, sourced and checked copyright of themselves. Students' news coverage included topics from OPGS U17 recent win at the Gallagher Stadium to the impact of plastic on our environment or what it is like to be a teen in 2018 with the rise in digital technologies. To see all their hard work for yourself, please see the articles on our linked page: <https://www.opgs.org/news/Pages/BBC-News-Schools-Report-2018.aspx>

Callum Harrington explains what participating in

the BBC Schools Report was really like:

"Today, OPGS students in Years 7 and 8 have created a range of reports for the BBC. We have been producing reports from the Winter Olympics to International Women's Day. We have tried extremely hard to produce these reports and write them to the best of our ability. The BBC Schools Report could also include local things, for instance some students produced a report on the Kent Cup (including Oakwood), World Book Day and Readathon.

We have had to write the report, source images and upload them to the BBC Schools Report webpage. Writing reports has helped us with our vocabulary, punctuations and editing skills. This initiative from BBC News helps 11 to 16-year-old students improve their journalist skills.

Even though we did not participate in the filming, I am sure everyone who took part enjoyed it. We have all completed a different report and have organised who is doing which topic."

By Callum



# Geography Field Trip to Burham.

On Wednesday 7th March the whole of Year 7 went on a Geography field trip to Burham. After the previous week of snow, we were very relieved to discover that the weather forecast for the day was above 0C temperature and some rain in the morning! The fieldtrip could go ahead as planned.

After some time in the classroom, Year 7 then headed off in the coach and mini bus to the picnic site at the top of Bluebell Hill. The first task was to draw the view that we could see. Despite the weather, we still had a clear view of the Medway Valley. We could see Burham village to our right (our destination later on in the day), Eccles, Aylesford newsprint, the River Medway and Maidstone in the distance.

After the students finished drawing their field sketch we walked along the footpath stopping at various points along the way noting down what we could see around us. The ground was saturated as a result of the melted snow and recent rain, so we had quite a slippery walk down Bluebell Hill!

As we carefully descended the hill, we observed the characteristics of the soil, relief and land-use noting down the information as we went. At the bottom of the footpath we entered a park, which was used as a meeting point whilst we worked in Burham village. After a short break, Year 7 split into small groups and walked around the village filling in a map by labelling the age of the buildings and the services.

The history of the village of Burham can be traced back to Roman times. The Battle of the Medway took place in AD43 at the crossing point on the River Medway where Burham is now situated, when the invading Roman legions, advancing west across Kent, were confronted by a massed army of the ancient British Tribes. Around 1830 Burham became a "Cement Village" on the Medway, after the discovery of the manufacturing technique for Portland Cement.

Once we had surveyed the village, we walked towards the River Medway and finished off our

notes about the relief, soil and land-use of the area. As we walked near the River Medway we could see the new St Peter's village, which is being built between Burham and Wouldham. The final task for the day was to evaluate the advantages and disadvantages of this site by looking at factors such as flood risk and accessibility.

By the end of the day, the rain had stopped and the sun had started to shine. After walking for over 4 miles, we gained a clear understanding of Bluebell Hill and Burham village. Year 7 worked hard during the day and will now be spending time writing up their findings.





# Creative Arts Masterclass

On Thursday 22nd February, primary school students took part in a 'Creative Arts Masterclass' evening at OPGS.

The Design and Technology department ran a lesson on forces, structures and engineering, looking at the different types of forces and how structures are designed to withstand them.

Students then used their newly acquired knowledge in manufacturing to create the tallest structure that could support a small weight.

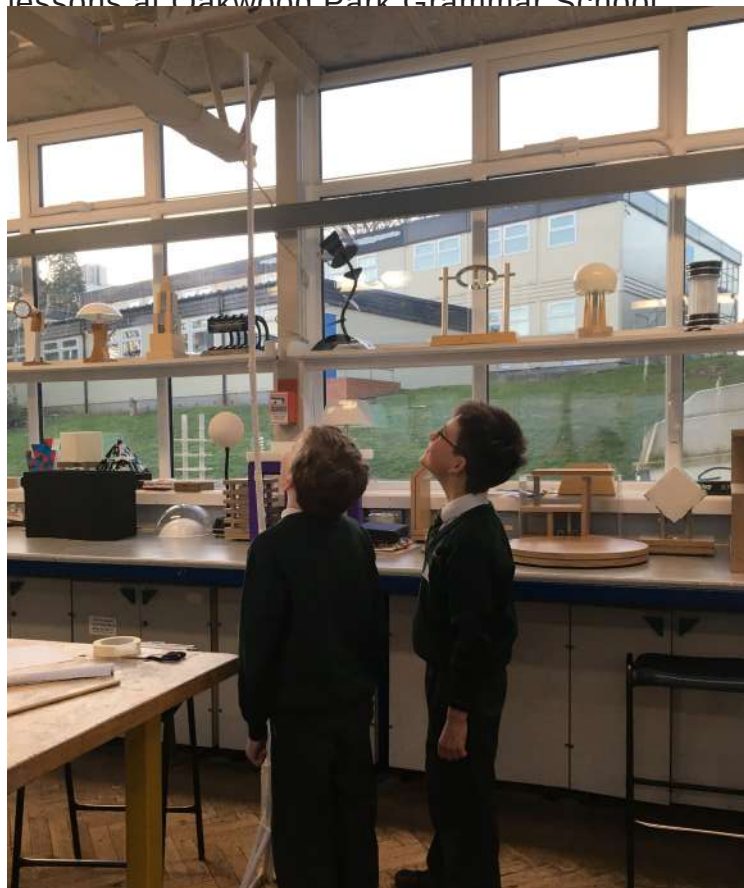
Students had only paper, masking tape and glue to create their designs. They had to work as a team and apply their knowledge from the lesson to create the tallest and most stable tower.

The winning team managed to build a free standing tower nearly 3 meters in height.

The students in the art masterclass, started the session with some team building exercises using clay, this included making the highest tower, the longest snake and final as a group constructing a figure. Students were then introduced to mythical beasts and had to create their own in pencil tone. After this they were shown how to mould and construct clay and then they were able to construct their mythical beast using the techniques shown to them. After the sculptures were complete, students presented their work to the rest of the class and discussed the work in front of them.

In Drama, students explored body language and non-verbal communication with a practical exploration of how they can use facial expressions, posture and gesture to help them with communication and dealing with the changes as they move up to secondary school from primary.

The students all seemed to find the evening enjoyable and it gave them a brief insight to lessons at Oakwood Park Grammar School.



## Two students gain places at prestigious College of Theatre and Performance.

Following auditions, two of our Year 13 students (Gabby Mclean and Ty Nicholls) have just been offered a place at Rose Bruford College of Theatre & Performance (one of the most prestigious drama school in the UK).

Applications are in the thousands but there are only 30 places for the course. Testament to the Drama departments teaching and their talent.

# Design and Technology Students visit Design Museum in London

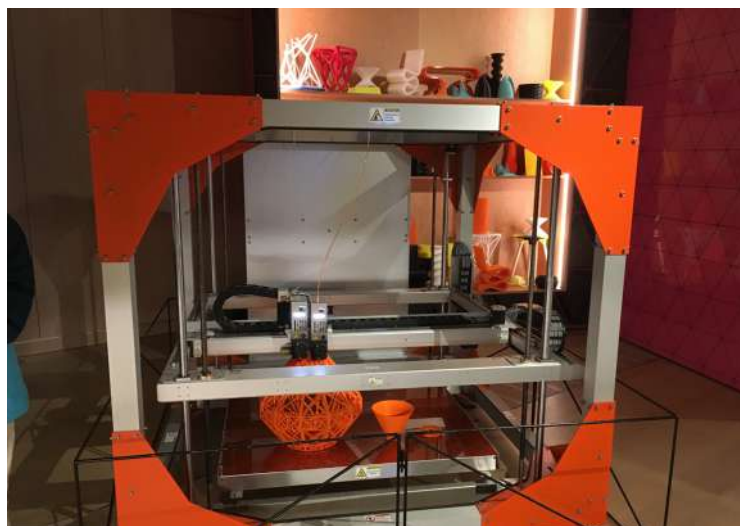
On Wednesday 7th March, students studying Design and Technology visited the Design Museum in London to complete a design workshop and view the 'Ferrari: Under the skin' exhibition.

The exhibition explores Ferrari's powerful personality, the design and manufacturing process, the famous clientele and the future of the luxury car brand. From the very first Ferrari to Michael Schumacher's winning Formula One car and the newest hybrid model, the exhibition features rare cars and memorabilia displayed in public for the first time. Original hand-drawn sketches feature next to high-tech wind tunnel models and beautifully crafted early wooden master models to present a survey of the manufacturing process and the relationship between form and function.

Charting the varied techniques used throughout Ferrari's history, the exhibition demonstrates how drawings are translated by sculptural techniques into the final form of the car.

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

After visiting the exhibitions, the students completed a design workshop, where they gained a greater understanding of the materials, processes and design behind many common household products.





# Holocaust Memorial Day 2018

Holocaust Memorial Day 2018 took place on 27th January, and Year 8 had the opportunity to write postcards to Holocaust survivors through the Holocaust Memorial Day Trust. We have received replies to our postcards from two of the survivors we wrote to.

Holocaust Memorial Day is held annually on 27th January to remember the Holocaust, and those who lost their lives in the genocides in Cambodia, Darfur, Bosnia and Rwanda, or were affected by the tragedies. The Holocaust Memorial Day Trust help to spread awareness about Holocaust Memorial Day, and also help to educate people on the experiences of the survivors and how to prevent genocides from taking place again. The day has a theme each year, and this year the theme was "The Power of Words".

We received replies to our postcards from Sedin Mustafić who survived the genocide in Bosnia, and Renie Inow who escaped the Holocaust on Kindertransport.

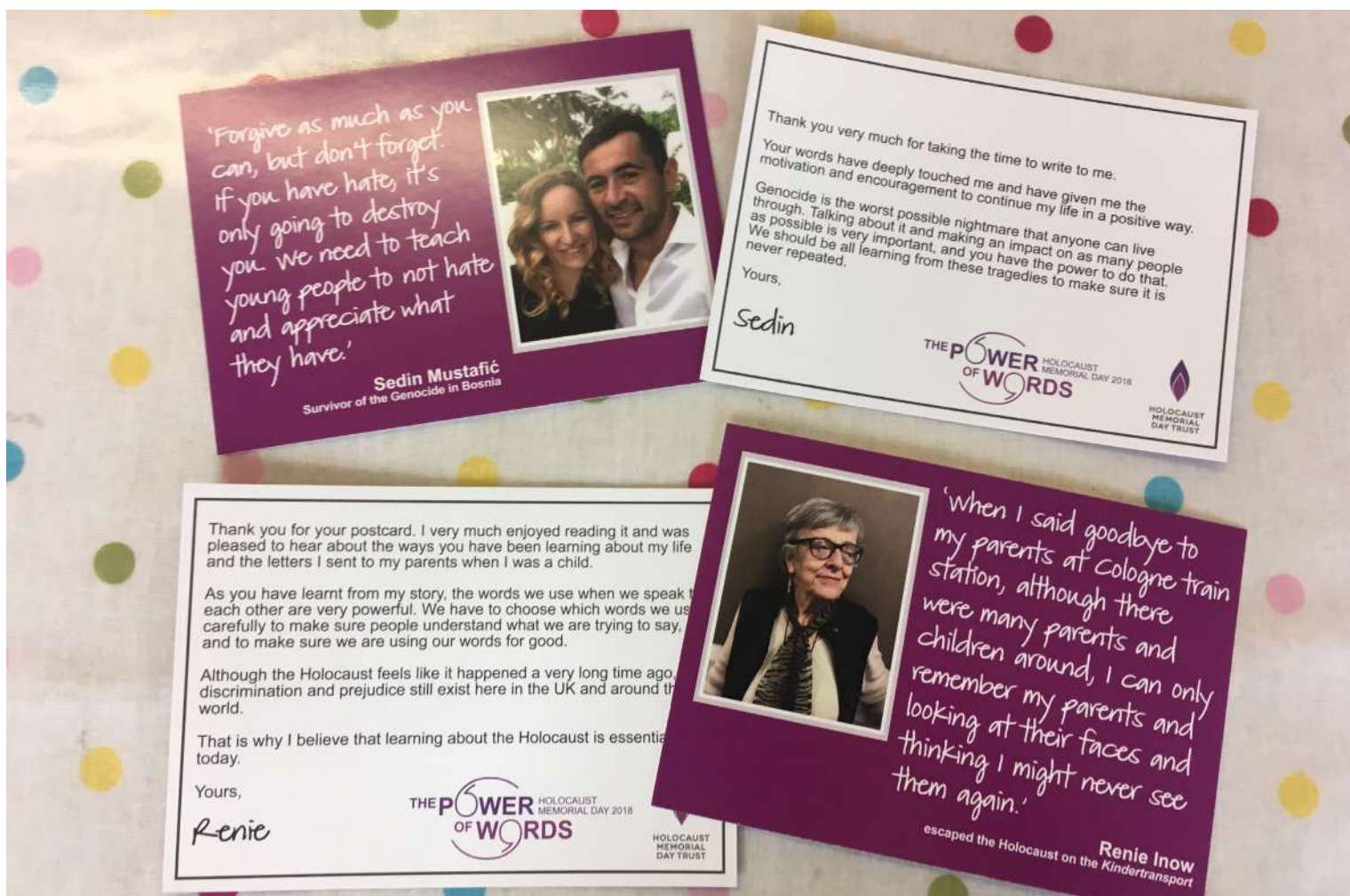
Renie Inow wrote about how our words are very powerful, writing:

"The words we use when we speak to each other are very powerful. We have to choose which words we use carefully to make sure people understand what we are trying to say, and to make sure we are using our words for good."

In addition, Renie also believes that "learning about the Holocaust is essential today" as "discrimination and prejudice still exist here in the UK and around the world".

Sedin Mustafić wrote about how "we should be all learning from these tragedies to make sure it is never repeated", and also that "Genocide is the worst possible nightmare that anyone can live through."

As well as Oakwood, over 11,000 activities took place over the UK about the Holocaust, organized by the Holocaust Memorial Day Trust.



# International Women's Day 2018

On Tuesday 8th March 2018 there was a global celebration of International Women's Day.

Now, more than ever, there's a strong call-to-action to press forward and progress gender parity. There's a strong call to #PressforProgress motivating and uniting friends, colleagues and whole communities to think, act and be gender inclusive. With the World Economic Forum's 2017 Global Gender Gap Report findings telling us that gender parity is over 200 years away - there has never been a more important time to keep motivated and continue to fight for gender equality, especially when it has become common knowledge BBC presenters pay grade differs depending on whether they are male or female. Shockingly, and even more recently, it has come to light that Claire Foy, who plays Queen Elizabeth II in the Netflix series, The Crown has been paid less than her male co-star Matt Smith (who plays Prince Phillip) for the last two seasons. Foy won a Golden Globe in 2017 for her portrayal of the current monarch during the early years of her reign. Yet, executive producers for the series, Suzanne Mackie and Andy Harries, acknowledged the 35-year-old male English actor was paid more owing to his Doctor Who fame, but said the practice would be rectified in the future, according to the US entertainment magazine Variety: "Going forward, no one gets paid more than the Queen," Mackie told the audience.

Consequently, with global activism for women's equality fuelled by movements like #MeToo, #TimesUp and females celebrities showing their solidarity by wearing black at The Golden Globe awards ceremony, there is a strong global momentum striving for gender parity. While Emma Watson is busy donating \$1.4 million to initiatives that fight against sexual harassment or speaking out in favour of equality, she's also usually making an epic fashion statement. Most recently, she combined her activism and style, by curating National Geographic's Instagram posts for the day. She posted a picture dressed in a vibrant magenta top that read, "Girls just wanna have fundamental human rights," an empowering spin on Cyndi Lauper's hit song "Girls Just Want to

Have Fun." With her aim to be to raise awareness of gender equality by "selecting and sharing powerful images taken by National Geographic's emerging female photographers around the world. Women photographers are often under-represented and under-celebrated, so I'm thrilled to mark this day by profiling the talented female story-tellers and image-makers that are working hard to build empathy across borders x #iwd2018 #timesup"

On Tuesday 13th March, the accomplishments of women across the globe were discussed with our students when the Sixth Form delivered an assembly informing Yr 7, 8 and 9 about International Women's Day. Firstly, the assembly set about to dispel some myths and misconceptions about what a feminist is: 'striving for the empowerment of women to ensure equality' not lefty man-hating veganism. The Sixth Form also spoke about issues that women faced in 1860 compared to the issues women still face in 2018, including, the abortion laws in Northern Ireland, Trump's policies, the gender pay gap, domestic abuse, the fact only 30% of UK MP's are female and that women still do more unpaid labour in the home despite working full time. Therefore, some of the facts, statistics, and ambassadors surrounding the issue of female rights and equality has meant the students at Oakwood are better informed on how gender roles are learned behaviour and social conditioning taught from a young age, but perhaps our students can be more open-minded in their outlook towards life and gender relations.





# 'It Only Gets Hotter ' The Prefects' Show raises £633.35 for charity.

On Friday 9th February the Sixth Form Prefect team performed their show 'It Only Gets Hotter' to raise money for Cancer Research and The Lily Foundation. The show raised a whopping £633.35, which brings the total raised so far to a hugely impressive £2209.62.

54 Year 12 prefects, several Year 13 Senior Prefects and a handful of Year 11 students were involved in writing, performing, technical support, set design, set manufacture, publicity and front of house. Most of the work fell 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 found the characters of Mr Fitwick, Ms McGevan, Senor Snape, Mr Slam, Hagraan, Rumbledore, Moldevort and Ms Stern hugely entertaining. The show included musical acts such as Iron Maiden and The Red Hot Chilli Peppers.

The show was a huge success with a sell out crowd. Congratulations and many thanks to all the students involved.





# Latest Parents Association information:

Race Night raised £931 and the cake sale raised a further £148. Our thanks as always to the team and parents contributing at all levels. We now look forward to the next exciting events:

The Spring Ball on 12th May for which there are still tickets available on the OPGS PA website. Enjoy a 3-course meal, disco and casino (with some free chips to play with). We are asking for some raffle and auction prizes for the evening please. Can you donate a prize? Something for the raffle, perhaps, or something a bit "extra" for the silent auction? So far we have a free photography session with Mr & Mrs Photography where all the photos taken are yours to keep and a skin therapy session with Skin Rehab. Ideas welcome - help us to make the most of this wonderful evening. There are also a few tickets left for the Gin Tasting evening on April 27th at 8.00pm.

We would really like more parents to help. You don't have to come to the meetings (but of course you are welcome). You can help us by:

- supporting for an hour at a parents' evening with refreshments.
- providing cakes for cake sale days.
- asking for and donating raffle prizes for events.
- donating to the PA fund (there is a button on the website now).
- helping to promote events.
- attending an event yourselves (they're good fun, truly).

We have vacancies coming up on the team - our current secretary and chair will be leaving us this year, so we are looking for someone to fill their position. Our latest contribution to the school is a donation towards tour shirts for the South Africa football and rugby tour this summer. Visit the website for latest news at [www.opgspa.org.uk](http://www.opgspa.org.uk)



SATURDAY  
12TH  
MAY

OPGS PARENTS ASSOC  
PRESENTS THE 2018

# SPRING BALL

DINNER & CASINO



7PM-1AM

VILLAGE HOTEL, FORSTAL ROAD  
3 COURSE GOURMET MEAL, DISCO & CASINO  
DRESS CODE: TUX & FROCKS  
TICKETS: £40 (ADV)\*



## Maths Masterclass 14th March 2018.

Over 20 year 5 and 6 students from local primary schools attended the Maths Masterclass on 14th March 2018, all keen and eager to show off their mathematical prowess. The idea of the session was to find which of the seven Japanese Gods of Fortune was the luckiest through a series of games and investigations that introduced the students to binomial distribution, Pascal's triangle, the Fibonacci sequence, the Golden Ratio, triangular numbers and more... All students enjoyed the challenge and were keen to return to Oakwood at the start of their year 7 to continue their maths journey.



## UKMT Junior Team Challenge.

On February 20th, a team of 4 students from Oakwood Park took part in the Regional heat of the UKMT (United Kingdom Maths Trust) Junior Team Maths Challenge at Tonbridge Girls Grammar School.

The team was made up of Ben Madden and Thomas Lenham from Year 8 along with Ben Plane

and Jacob Smith from Yr. 9. Among the 28 teams competing were a couple of teams from Holland giving the event an international flavour. The boys were in a challenging position throughout the competition and at the end finished in a very creditable sixth position. Well done to the boys on representing the school in a very challenging competition.



# OPGS Takes Part in Read for Good

**Our annual participation in Readathon is really important as it enables us to raise money for FOUR children's charities, raise money for our school library and have some quality reading time.**

Students had two weeks during dedicated English lessons and form times reading in order to help them achieve their reading targets, which included striving to read more challenging texts, a classical novel, a novel from a different genre than the one they usually choose, a range of short stories, and finishing that book they have had on the go for too many months now!

Students had from Monday 12th March - Friday 23rd March to finish working towards their reading targets at home, with all the sponsorship money going to incredibly worthy causes. Read for Good provides a regular supply of brand new books along with storyteller visits to brighten up the days of children in all of the UK's main children's hospitals. Children unable to leave their beds can choose books from our specially designed mobile bookcase which wheels right up to their bedside. Because they are brand new, the books are safe for those at high risk of infection. Every year, this initiative helps children in over 30 UK hospitals by giving them 230 days of storytelling, providing 250,000 new books to 100,000 children. As one parent said, when their child is being read a story, they are given a chance to be diverted from their troubles and this escapism temporarily transports them to a different world. Thousands of seriously ill children have benefited through the support Readathon offers to CLIC Sargent and Roald Dahl's Marvellous Children's Charity.

Oakwood Park Grammar School, helps to make this possible, by being one of the 3,000 schools around the UK who take part in Readathon, encouraging a staggering total of 1 million children, the teens of today, to take time to enjoy reading a book.

A student perspective on their participation in the initiative:

"World Book Day (also known as International Day of the Book or World book days) is a yearly event on March 1st, organized by the United Nations Educational, to promote reading, publishing and copyright. In the United Kingdom, the day is recognised on the first Thursday in March. World Book Day was celebrated for the first time on 23 April 1995.

On the day of the event, schools across the country will encourage students to dress up as their favourite book characters and donate money to charity. Most will also host a competition between classmates, thus making some students make creative and amazing costumes.

The United Kingdom's own version of World Book Day began in 1998, launched by Prime Minister Tony Blair at the Globe Theatre in London. Several million schoolchildren in the UK were given a special £1 World Book Day Book Token (£1.50 in Ireland) which could be redeemed against any book in any UK bookshop.

At Oakwood Park Grammar School we (as well as other schools) are participating in a small section of WBD known as 'Readathon' where students will set themselves goals, such as reading a certain number of pages or completing a book in a certain amount of time, and be sponsored if they complete these goals or not. All of the money raised will go to charities, resulting in a large sum of money that will help the country and charities alike."





# Oakwood Park share the Kent Cup with Simon Langton School.

**Oakwood Park Grammar School Under 17 side broke their own record on Friday night by becoming the first team in the school's history to win TWO Kent Cups.**

It was a hard fought match against an excellent Simon Langton side, captained by an England international.

OPGS did extremely well to come back from 3-1 with only 15 minutes left to draw the match 3-3. With Shane Buckland, Jamie Brockman and Charlie Fitzpatrick getting the important goals. Impressive performances included Oscar Brookes and Mickey Mantle who continued to drive the team forward even when behind. The game was the first opportunity for Josh Purvis, Tias Comber, Ryan McLaine and Jamie Fagg to play in a final and they all played a part in the wonderful second half and extra time performance. Even after extra time the teams could not be separated thanks to a last minute save from Chris Olds and so the cup

was shared between the two sides.

This is the second Kent Cup this side has won, last year winning the U16 equivalent as well as the prestigious NATIONAL Cup the year before; making the team the most successful in OPGS 100 years history and possibly the most successful school side in Kent over recent years.

The team is captained by Evan Lewis and Ollie Debnam who both play for Kent and contains Tom Watson, Emmanuel Fanthome-Hodgeson and Jamie O'Connor who all won the SE District competition playing for Maidstone Schools last year.

Mr Smith the team manager said 'this side never fails to amaze me, they have now won a National Cup and two Kent Cups due to their incredible team spirit and attitude. People at school are calling them the 'golden generation' and it is difficult to argue against that with the record they have'.





# National Junior Indoor Rowing Championships 2018

On Friday the 9th of March at 7:15 am, many OPGS students headed for Lea Valley athletics centre in London to compete in events which ranged from the year 7 singles to the sixth form boat race relay.

The day started with the sixth form singles event. OPGS had one student (Davvid Wise) racing for Maidstone Invicta rowing club (MIRC) and he completed a 2000m race in 7:02 which was not a personal best but still a great performance. Next, was the year 7-9 singles event where OPGS had nine students racing. All rowers did really well in their respective competitions, but Scott Bain shone through in the year 8 singles event, claiming a bronze medal up against some huge competitors!

Next up were the Junior Boys Relays (years 7-9). The OPGS year 8 team came 4th, competing in one of three heats. This was a fantastic achievement given that there were numerous other year 9 teams who were a school year older than all of our team! The year 7 team also rowed brilliantly in the junior relay, finishing 4th in their heat.

Much later in the day was the heavily anticipated Senior Boys Boat Race Relay. This event was won by Maidstone Invicta rowing club which included four students from OPGS, Sam Pollom, Ross Bain, Davvid Wise and Matthew Baber. OPGS had a team of their own. This consisted of four rowers and four of the biggest sixth-

formers we could find, some of whom had never touched a rowing machine before! The team was Dan Midwinter, Felix Collins, Harry Peel, Louis Costello-Wright, Nick Sumner, Jamie Duckering, Will Pike and Harry Phypers. Although they had a few slip-ups (probably due to them only having two training sessions which were in their suits), the team finished only meters behind third place narrowly missing out on a bronze medal.

An enjoyable day was had by us all, with fantastic camaraderie displayed by the teams, specifically the way the year 12/13 rowers supported the year 7's in getting to grips with their first experience of the event. Hopefully next year, we will come home with more medals and less 4th places!





# To infinity and beyond

## Encourage your pupils to get excited about science by entering the KM Bright Spark Awards competition.

Youngsters who dream of being the next Tim Peake or Brian Cox now have the perfect opportunity to start changing the world - through the KM Bright Spark Awards. But it's not just wannabe astronauts or particle physicists who can join in. Any Primary or Secondary school children with a flair for science, technology, engineering, or maths can enter a project.

The overall champions of the competition will win £500.

Bright Sparks autumn launch for Kent from KM Charity Team on Vimeo.

Previous entries have included a GPS-tracker shoe, a filter to make water in developing countries drinkable, and a first aid drone to be dispatched from hospitals to people who were injured. Other entrants investigated whether classical music helps short-term memory, and whether being out in nature lowers people's stress levels.

There are three categories: innovation, invention, and investigation.

The idea is for a team of pupils to work together, but youngsters can enter on their own. And if they have too many bright ideas to choose between, they needn't worry - teams can submit as many entries as they like, as each will be judged separately. Those shortlisted will be invited to the Dragons' Den-style final, at which they will be quizzed about their work by a panel of judges.

Each team will be filmed beforehand to showcase their work, and these videos will be screened at the final before each team takes to the stage to talk about their project. The judges will then put their heads together and pick category winners - who will receive prizes - as well as the overall winning team to take home the £500.

The Bright Spark Awards are run by the KM Charity Team and supported by Pfizer, Golding

Homes, Megger, Global Associates, Discovery Park, Benenden Hospital, BAE Systems, and Astro Communications, all of whom will be on the judging panel this year.

Sarah-Jane Leipnik, community development advisor at Golding Homes, explained: "The competition is designed to raise the aspirations of students and encourage them to pursue careers in science and maths." Entries needn't be brand new projects designed specifically for the competition. They can be projects undertaken for coursework, at a school's science club, or even projects from a previous year at school which have been revisited and undergone further development.

The deadline for schools or groups of pupils to submit entries is noon on Friday, June 1. For more information, or to enter, visit the Bright Spark website

## Contact Details

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# Senior Prefects 2018 - 2019

**Head Boy  
Thomas Place**



**Head Girl  
Nina Lewis**



**Deputy Head Boy  
Evan Lewis**



**Deputy Head Girl  
Beth Forsey**



**Senior Prefect  
Betty Bastable**



**Senior Prefect  
Anthony Booth**



**Senior Prefect  
Fred Duffield**



**Senior Prefect  
Katie Evans**



**Senior Prefect  
Jessica Freitas**



**Senior Prefect  
Harry Gowers**



**Senior Prefect  
Ben Homewood**



**Senior Prefect  
Neve Leason**



**Senior Prefect  
Micky Mantle**



**Senior Prefect  
Lauren Sheahan**





# BBC Schools Report Articles

## Lowering the Voting Age to 16

At the moment, 16-17 year olds are too young to vote. They pay taxes, but are not old enough to elect the men and women who decide how to spend them. Government MPs are considering lowering the voting age to 16 for 16-17 year olds in England with this campaign led by Labour MP Jim McMahon, who believes the voting age should be 16 and politics should be taught in schools. The campaign is backed by Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn.

The SNP, Green Party & Liberal Democrats also back this campaign but the Conservatives do not. Some people claim this is because the Conservatives believe they will not get enough younger voters. Theresa May spoke just before this year's general election, saying: "You have to pick a point at which you think it is right for the voting age to be. I continue to think that it is right for it to be 18." Austria, Wales and Scotland are the only countries that allow 16 year olds to vote in their general elections, which shows that Theresa May is not alone in her thinking.

Jim McMahon went on to state: "If you are giving 16-year-olds the right to vote in Scotland

and Wales, you ought to be doing the same for 16-year-olds in England too." Three seventeen year olds called Nathan, Samah and Jess had their say on voting and taxes: "I pay tax as an apprentice and I have no say on where it goes," said Nathan. Jess said that she wanted "a say in how much my education costs."

I think that 16-17 year olds should be allowed to vote because 16-17 year olds are mature enough to engage in political discussions, but they have no say in where their taxes are spent and they also have no say in how much their own education costs. With the voting age now being 16 in other UK countries, it only seems fair to give 16-17 year olds the right to vote in England.



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## Winter Olympics – Curling

A South Korean team 'the Garlic Girls' out of nowhere shot up the leader board all the way into the semi-finals.

The five girls from a small garlic producing town had not even heard of curling since two weeks before the 2018 winter Olympics and they just kept on stacking win after win, beating team after team. These small group of girls have come from being the underdogs in eighth to winning against world National Champions such as Canada, Great Britain, the US and Sweden. They seem

to be becoming more confident by the day. Team vice-captain Kim Kyeong-ae said: "What we do is focus on one shot at a time, not on the strength of those we're playing. One shot at a time: we don't care about anything else."

Great Britain competed at the 2018 Winter Olympics in Pyeongchang, South Korea, from 9 to 25 February 2018, with 58 competitors in 11 sports. They won five medals in total, one gold and four bronze, ranking 19th in the medal table. By Callum and Cai

# Impact of Plastic on the Environment

The effect of plastic on our environment is a big threat to marine and wildlife. Plastic being burnt releases poisonous chemicals, which then pollutes the air. When we and others breathe in these chemicals, it can affect our respiratory system and breathing.

In the U.K., 5 million tonnes of plastic are used each year. Only 24% of this (1.2m tonnes) make it to recycling plants. The other 3.8m tonnes are basically waste; waste to go to landfills. It was estimated that there was around 165m tons of plastic pollution in the world's oceans, in 2012.

Those behind 'Blue Planet II' said: "There would rarely be a dive where I wouldn't find some form of plastic from a thread of plastic fishing line, sweet wrappers or plastic bottles," emphasising the amount of plastic in our world's precious oceans. This is causing destruction on a global scale: In oceans, rivers, valleys and shores and on land everywhere. Is it too late to stop this? Or can something be done about this problem? Action has to be taken. We can make our world a better place just by trying to recycle. We must make plastic waste extinct. Hopefully, people will start to think twice about tossing away plastic waste.

By 2015, around 6.3bn tonnes of plastic waste had been generated globally; 80% of which that was ending up in natural environments. Our Prime Minister Theresa May, has stated all avoidable

plastic waste will be banned in the UK by 2042. Here is some solutions that supermarkets have conceived:

## Tesco

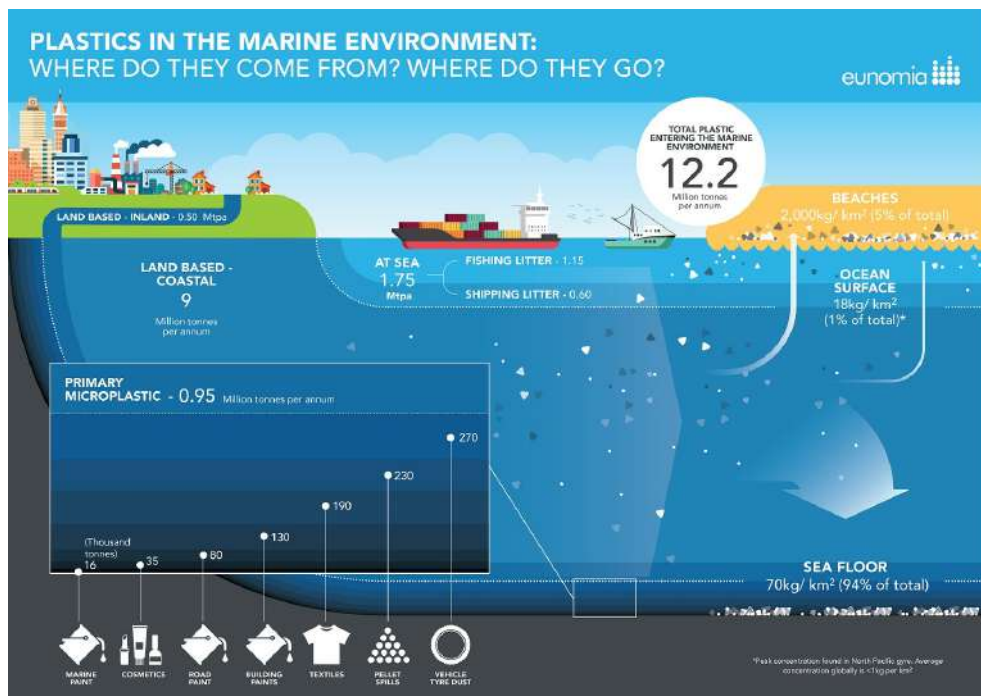
Tesco wants all its packaging to be recyclable or compostable and its total packaging weight to be halved compared to 2007 by 2025. It has removed all polystyrene from its fish packaging, and it is said that more than 78% of its packaging is recyclable. They removed 92 tonnes of plastic by replacing two layer plastic trays with single layer plastic.

## Sainsbury's

Sainsbury's is going to try to reduce packaging by 50% by 2020, compared to 2005. It has also vowed to remove all plastic cotton buds, a main source of ocean plastic pollution. They recycle carrier bags, and has gotten rid of 33% of its own brand-packaging since 2006. It also redesigned its two-pint milk bottles, saving 580 tonnes of plastic a year between 2015 and 2016.

## Lidl

Lidl says it is in the process of setting targets for plastic waste. Microbeads have been removed from all its cosmetic and household products last year and it has also vowed to switch to biodegradable cotton buds. It has charged for plastic carrier bags, and it stopped selling single-use bags last year.





# Winter Olympics Lizzy Yarnold

Lizzy is a British Athlete, born on the 31st of October 1988. Coached by Eric Bernotas, Lizzy was born in Sevenoaks and in her career she has achieved a huge amount.

Yarnold was educated at St Michael's Preparatory School, an independent school in the village of Otford, Kent, followed by Maidstone Grammar School for Girls (MGGS) in the town of Maidstone, where she became Head Girl. Yarnold has lived in Bath -Somerset- in a flat owned by former skeleton athlete and Olympic gold medallist in the 2010 Winter Olympics, Amy Williams.

In her career of Skeleton she has achieved a total of eight medals from gold to bronze. She joined the Great Britain national squad in 2010. Yarnold was selected to be one of the two women Skeleton drivers representing Team GB at the 2018 Winter Olympics in Pyeongchang. She has achieved: two gold medals in Sochi and Pyeongchang; one gold and two bronze medals in world championships; one gold and one silver medal in the World Cup and a gold in the European Championships.

Lizzy Yarnold cemented her place in the Winter Olympics, winning the Skeleton gold not once, but twice. Lizzy won her second gold at Pyeongchang with Laura Deas coming two places behind her. Becoming the first team GB athlete to retain the Winter Olympic sport, quite an inspiration to future athletes. The 29 year-old is to consider and retain her future after she claimed a historic gold! Lizzy is now one of the most memorable above Christopher Dean, Janette Altwegg and Jane Torvill.

Lizzy's sled is named Mervyn, a former work colleague who sponsored her when she needed money to continue competing. Lizzy was the one who won the only gold for GB with the four bronze medals alongside her. Team GB won three medals in the skeleton; one bronze in freestyle skiing and one bronze in snowboarding. Lizzy's spouse is named James Roche.

Yarnold and Deas are truly inspirational (sophisticated) athletes, and they could compete against future fit athletes. Possibly Yarnold could hold her title... or maybe Deas could go on to win gold and hold a title like Lizzy!



Teenagers at this age are obsessed with social media which produces an unsocial life. Also teenagers are getting obese with excessive amounts of food and drink being put into their body; this could affect their future. Social media can be a positive tool to help children develop and grow but it can also affect young peoples' emotional and mental health.

Social media has dramatically changed the way we communicate, and there are a lot of benefits to it. We have access to unlimited information, we can connect with people from all over the world almost immediately and we can share with others things that matter to us.

Social media is also a powerful tool in terms of motivating people to action and make social changes. It provides a platform for young people's voices to be heard allowing them to have a say

on issues that matter to them. The online world has the potential to help young people to explore new concepts, manage risks and build resilience. However, because social media has evolved so quickly and has a deep impact on the social fibre and interpersonal relationships it's important to explore the potential effects on young peoples' emotional and mental health.

As a result of today's society being dominated by all forms of social networking, many find it difficult to refrain from using them for less than a few hours. A recent student body survey at Kennedy provides evidence by showing that 62% of 138 students first started using social media from the age of 11 to 13. Furthermore, 51% spend an average of one to five hours daily on social media and 18% spend around six to ten hours. Kennedy junior Jenny says, 'I personally spend around two to three hours on social media however it is inconceivable to think that some teens spend five to ten hours on social media. They need to do something more productive'.

