



# Oliver! The Musical had the audience asking for more!

Dear Parents, Carers and Students,

Welcome to the last edition of @Oakwood for this academic year. Thank you as ever to the Publicity Team for all their hard work.

There is a wealth of extra-curricular trips, sporting achievements, music and drama described in these pages. As ever I am staggered by the breadth of achievement in our school.

It is important though to remember that without the hard work, dedication and commitment of staff, this would be a thin edition! So, on behalf of all the students and the Oakwood Community, can I wish all of our staff a well-deserved break.

Yours sincerely



Mr K.W. Moody - Headteacher

# 2019 Sports Day

On Friday 21st June, students in years 7-10 represented their school house in the annual Sports Day competition.

This event marks the culmination of the house sports cup that has been running during enrichment days for all year groups throughout the school year.

This year's sports day saw over 500 students competing in a vast range of events, from the 'Spartan Warrior' and 'Iron Man' to the more traditional track and field disciplines. Students were also challenging their mental capacity and concentration in speed chess competitions, golf chipping and Boccia tournaments.

The day's events started at 9.00am in glorious sunshine. The PE department welcomed students onto the field, explaining the format of the day. Students then spent the morning competing across a wide range of events that ran simultaneously, thanks to brilliant support from staff across the entire school. Students performed brilliantly throughout the morning with a number of school records being broken along the way.

There was very little to separate the five houses going into the afternoon's events, with only 100 points separating the top three houses!

Following lunch, the afternoon activities of rowing and the penalty shoot-out began. The St Augustine's Sportshall created an incredible atmosphere for both events, with students

supporting their houses in fine voice! Mr Rhys put in another incredible performance as the penalty shootout goalkeeper, saving an incredible 15 penalties in a row at one stage during the competition. Mr Devonald also did an excellent job as commentator for the rowing competitions that were incredibly close in both team and individual boat races.

At the end of the rowing and football competitions students faced a nervous wait before the Sports Day and Inter-House Sports Cup results were announced. Could Sadler retain their sports day title for another year? After a strong comeback from Hazlitt in the afternoon's events, Sadler had narrowly retained the Sports Day and Inter-House Sports Cup. This was much to the delight of Mr Smith and all the Sadler students! Like last year, it was an extremely hard fought competition with only 129 points separating 1st and 2nd place. May I congratulate all the students on their excellent performances shown throughout the day. Lastly, a huge thank you once again to all the staff that supported the event on the day.

## OVERALL 2019 Sports Day Standings:

| Broughton       | Fisher          | Sadler          | Hazlitt         | Wilberforce     |
|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| 1,144           | 1,169           | 1,596           | 1,467           | 1,188           |
| 5 <sup>th</sup> | 4 <sup>th</sup> | 1 <sup>st</sup> | 2 <sup>nd</sup> | 3 <sup>rd</sup> |





# BAFTA Young Game Designers

By Harry Petch, Year 12

“Three students from OPGS represented the school at the BAFTA Young Game Designers award ceremony at BAFTA HQ on Saturday 29th June - the yearly national game development competition celebrating young creative talent across the UK from ages 10 to 18.

Luke Pierson (Year 9), Nils Andre (Year 10) and I were invited to attend the award ceremony as the top 10 finalists in our age categories: Luke submitted an entry for the Game Concept 10-14 category, whereas Nils and I entered the Game Making 15-18 category for our games.

The ceremony was on the hottest day of the year, over 30°C in the middle of London, yet it did not stop us from having a great experience at the event! Meeting the rest of the finalists and winners and learning about how they created their projects was really interesting, and it was an excellent opportunity to network with game development companies based in the UK, such as Criterion Games, Jagex, PlayStation UK and Media Molecule, and other members of the UK games industry like Mike Bithell (Thomas Was Alone).

It was interesting to see the judging panels and video showcases of how the games are shortlisted by going through four stages of judging! There were thousands of entries so it was great to represent the school in such a great way.

BAFTA YGD is an annual competition, and I will continue to run my game development club weekly after school in the new school year to cultivate entries towards the competition. All of the finalists from this school came from the club, so who knows what next year will bring! If you have a passion for game development or an idea for one, speak to any of the Computing teachers and they will put you in contact with me.

As much as this is a cliché, winning the competition is not what matters, it's taking the initiative to make an entry and create something.

Links to information about BAFTA YGD:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1R77SMTtoefw>

<http://ygd.bafta.org/>



# The Bank of England visits

On 3rd of July, a group of OPGS 6th formers and Year 10 students wishing to study Economics were joined by some Year 12 students from Maidstone Girls Grammar School for a visit and presentation from Alex Brazier.

Alex is the Executive Director for Financial Stability Strategy and Risk and a member of the Financial Policy Committee (FPC) from the Bank of England. Alex is tasked by Parliament with guarding against the financial system damaging the wider economy and he has been fully involved getting the UK economy & the financial sector out of the financial crisis. Mr Brazier has been at the Bank of England for 19 years and during that time has also managed the transition between the 2 Governors: Sir Mervyn King and Mark Carney.

On arrival, Mr Brazier with his 2 colleagues from the Bank of England were given a brief overview of the school by Mr Moody. The guests were fascinated by the history of the school, on discovering the mural display at the entrance of the tower block.

The guests then made their way to the Centenary Building, where they were greeted by 20 Year 12 zealous OPGS economics students, sat around a huge table (arranging those desks posed to be the only major challenge of the day!). Post-hard work, we had composed some interesting questions that, as keen economists, we wanted to know more about our modern economy. They were as follows; 'What is a typical day at the Bank of England?', 'The beauty and challenges making forecast about the UK economy', 'The threats and the issues surrounding the emergence of Cryptocurrencies and the regulations that are in place', 'the role of the central bank dealing with the high level of uncertainty hanging on the UK economy'. We, of course, wanted to find out more about Monetary Policies; 'Quantitative Easing' or the 'Big QE' as Alex referenced it – the electronic creation of money in the UK economy, interest rate setting and we were given a deeper insight into the stress-testing that the Bank of England performs to check the robustness of our financial system – i.e 'a short guide to avoid the next financial crash'.





# The Bank of England visits continued...

During his presentation in the Learning Resource Centre, Mr Brazier explained more about his role within the Bank of England and the responsibilities that come with it, as well as outlining the copious tasks that the Bank must deal with daily. Mr Brazier also sourced some students from the audience to help demonstrate the cause of the 2008 financial crisis; using the flow of money in the economy and the housing bubble, which did eventually burst, as they always do. It was an effective way of experiencing what we have previously learnt in the classroom. This engaging session was attended by nearly 150 students.

After the talk, we were lucky enough to have the opportunity to question Mr Brazier and his associates further. He answered them enthusiastically and gave us very detailed explanation, which even those who had only the faintest clue about the UK economy found easy to understand. Amongst some of the most interesting questions were: "How long do you think cash will be used in the UK economy?" and "To what extent

will the economic uncertainty of Brexit affect us?", just to name a few. We wished the question and answer session could be stretched further as we wanted to question the panel for longer. After the talk and during break, Mr Brazier stayed behind to have a chat about other issues such as the Eurozone and the economic turmoil in Venezuela. We would add that Mr Brazier stepped in for Mark Carney, who had originally planned to visit us, but unfortunately his visit was cancelled a week earlier (due to major change to his diary). We never felt Mr Carney's absence on that day as Alex is such an inspirational speaker.

We all found the day very productive, engaging, and we felt privileged to have Alex Brazier visit the school. It gave us a deeper insight of the role of the Bank of England and the challenges that the UK economy is currently facing. We are looking forward to keep this working partnership going in the future and we hope the visit would have enthused and inspired many aspiring young economists at OPGS.



# Canterbury Medical trip

On the 20th June, Mr Ramkhalawon took Year 12 students to Canterbury for an insight into the world of medicine and dentistry.

The experience was far beyond our initial expectations. We were given vital information regarding how we should approach interviews, what to read in the world of medicine and dentistry (such as the BMJ) and how the heart of medicine is not to make money but to take privilege in providing, not only your patients but their families, a professional and courteous service.

Not only were we given the advice and knowledge to approach the university application process and university life itself, but we were taught certain practical skills that we would use everyday if we choose to become health care professionals. This involved the skill of drilling a patients tooth and the patience required to suture human skin.

We all really appreciated the time staff gave up to assist us in our goal of reaching medical school and hopefully becoming health care professionals.



## Charlie and the Chocolate Factory English Enrichment

On enrichment day, Year 8 students got to delve into the wonderful works of Roald Dahl. The day was spent exploring the weird and exciting children Dahl created and in turn, the students got to create their own 'horrible child'.

Teachers were treated to stories about 'Daring Dennis' and 'Wailing Wilfred', all delivered by the Year 8 students with enthusiasm and humour. The students then went on to explore Dahl's poems about the children from Charlie and the Chocolate Factory and then moved onto writing some

of their own, with rhyming couplets galore. The students demonstrated a talent for creative writing and poetic flair-perhaps OPGS will produce the next Wordsworth or Owen!





# Trip to CERN:

From the 3rd to the 5th of July the year 12 A Level Physics students had the opportunity to go on a once in a lifetime trip to CERN in Geneva, Switzerland.

The tour at CERN started with a movie introduction briefly explaining the history and what is happening at CERN. It outlined how at CERN physicists and engineers use the world's most complex devices to study what makes up matter- fundamental particles. Subatomic particles are made to collide together at close to the speed of light and what this process does is show us how particles interact and therefore provides some insight into the laws of nature. The whole of CERN consists of particle accelerators and sectors. Accelerators emit beams of particles to high energies before the beams are made to collide with other and then the sectors oversee and record what happens when the collision occurs. The LHC (Large Hadron Collider) is the worlds largest and most powerful particle accelerator; it is a 27km ring of superconducting magnets with several accelerating structures to boost the energy of the particles along the way. The beams inside the LHC are made to collide at four locations where four different particle detectors

are- ATLAS, CMS, ALICE and LHCb. ATLAS is the most famous, as it is where the Higgs boson was discovered in 2012, and is now probing for other fundamental particles. We were able to go around ALICE, which detects quark-gluon plasma, which is a state of matter supposedly to have formed just after the Big Bang. It was a very informative tour and it was really good that we got to question some of the people who are currently working at the forefront of such ground breaking research. It was truly inspiring to see the research which is going on right now in the field of physics and I am excited to study particle physics as part of the A Level Physics course next year.

We also had the opportunity to visit the United Nations in Geneva, visiting the conference rooms that have housed some of the most important human rights conferences since its inception. It was amazing to see just how it functions. With such a big international presence we shouldn't have been surprised when we met a few diplomats at dinner and talked with them about current affairs for hours. We also got to see the city of Geneva and a particular highlight was seeing the Jet D'Eau, a giant water fountain towering over Lake Geneva, with the backdrop of the Swiss Alps. What a fantastic experience!!!





# Chartwell Debating Competition

The OPGS public speaking team took on 7 other schools to defend their title at the Winston Churchill Public Speaking competition held at Chartwell, his family home.

The prestigious ESU-Churchill Public Speaking Competition, sponsored by the International Churchill Society, is the largest debating contest in England and Wales, with around 400 teams (each comprising a speaker, questioner and a chairperson). The different roles allow students to practise and excel in their oracy skills, reasoning skills, and to defend their line of arguments in a thoughtful yet formal manner by encouraging quick thinking and relationship building. Both our Sixth Form and Year 10 speakers addressed the topic of embracing change. The unique and non-adversarial format of the debates run by the ESU emphasize cooperation and presentation skills which challenge students to engage with wide-ranging cross-curricular topics, while helping to meet National Curriculum speaking and listening targets. In the event, Ahmad Sesay and Matthew Wareham returned home with the shield for the GCSE team.

They worked together to persuade the audience and judges that change is to be both feared and embraced. They combined humour and reflection to create a winning recipe. The students have gained from the competition in their confidence, critical thinking and social mobility by building links and camaraderie with other schools both locally and nationally. Ms Hern is keen to involve next year's Year 10 and Year 12 students in debating and public speaking next year.





# Change – Ahmad Sesay

## Winning speech

Do you know,  
the fact that I exist, is proof of the power of change.  
Let me explain.

Raise your hand, if you think, you can build, a 22-  
room mansion starting with 86 pence?  
(ok, cool)

Well, I know It can be done,  
but first we have to go back to Sierra Leone, and into  
the past.

Grandpa lost his parents at a very early age, and  
was left with the equivalent of 86 pence in his hands  
and no education.

But, if you go past that black river, by that small forest,  
you can see his 22-room mansion which still stands  
today.

Change shaped my grandfather.

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Years later, still Sierra Leone,  
my dad grew up in the bush where food and water  
were scarce, where law was a myth, where snakes  
would often pay you a friendly visit.

At seventeen years old, father chose to leave the  
bush for the city. Polygamy steered him to make  
this change. Multiple stepmothers plotted like lady  
Macbeth and many stepbrothers conspired to do  
each other harm...

With no money or support and alone in the city,  
daily life was precarious, and food was an issue.  
My dad found himself, homeless, seven times within  
the space of three years.

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But change shaped my father. He managed to  
acquire a scholarship to travel and work in England.  
It was change and a great challenge, for more  
obstacles awaited,

descending a train, he hears a child ask “Mummy,  
why is that man painted?”.

Constantly reminded he does not belong. He hears  
and tries to ignore, but hope is replaced by crippled  
faith and motivation starts to sleep.

The painted man looks to the stars and asks, “Where

am I going to find a job?”

In 1963, Martin Luther King said “the life of the  
black man is still sadly crippled by the manacles of  
segregation and the chains of discrimination.

By embracing change, father found that although he  
cannot yet fly, the black man is no longer crippled  
and can walk.

Seldom seen running, for his manacles have been  
eroded by the good souls of freedom and his chains  
have weakened by the undying will of justice.

Today, my dad is very much changed, he is a doctor,  
the owner of a house, two cars and a great green  
garden where law is very much real, where snakes  
live too far away, and family is all but hateful.

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Some of us have taken our GCSEs, or A-levels and  
moved on with life.

Some of us are married and have learnt that, the Mrs  
is always, always right and that's the only thing in  
this world that doesn't change.

Now I can't tell you to revise or pay attention in  
class, but you should know that change is something  
to fear and something to look forward to.

I believe, till I descend into the eternal sleep, if I fall, I  
will rise, if I rise, I must fall, and rise again.

No matter how long the night, the sun will always  
arrive.

I hope you allow change to take you on a journey,  
as for your destination, well, my dad is 47 years old,  
he's still on the highway, there's still gas in the tank.  
I was born in Sierra Leone and I live here with my  
family.

If someone can survive and improve in those  
conditions, without money, without food, without  
clean water... without brothers, without sisters,  
without love, what is there that we cannot achieve?

Now, raise your hand, if you think, you can build, a  
22-room mansion, starting, with 86 pence?

(Allow audience to respond)

**Take Care.**

# 'Never worry about action, only worry about inactions'

By Ryan Harvey Year 10

26 years ago, Waco 1993, 96 dead and many more injured. Then Iraq 2003, more than 400,000 civilian deaths yet 3 trillion dollars spent. This is what happens when we intervene, we waste lives.

Churchill had to worry about the inaction in the time of the second world war trying to stop Hitler taking over but, now in our time, we've got to start worrying about the action and how it will impose on our future and our children's future. This quote I believe has changed and I will be addressing the change that action is now the part we should be worried about.

Let me take you back. The scene is 1940, we've been at war for a bit over a year, and we have had Churchill as our Prime Minister for 8 months and during one of his speeches he says 'Never worry about action, only worry about inactions'. Now if he didn't worry about inaction, we could all be listening to me speaking in German about one of Hitler's quotes but that's not happening because he took action over inaction. Now fast forward to today where we as people are intervening with things that should be left alone.

Over in Syria where we are causing people to leave due to bombing that we did and then getting annoyed when the people that we displaced move to our countries. If we had left it and not bombed them at all then the people would not be moving and there would be less divides across the nation and the world on what we should do which I imagine you would agree with me that it would be better.

People have always wanted what is known as the 'Do nothing' option. This is for the government to just leave the situation alone and back away; we very rarely do this. A main example of this was when we tried to intervene in something halfway across the world. I'm talking about The Iraq protests especially on the 15th and 16th of February 2003, some of the older people here will remember what happened but for people that are under 25, I'll explain. There was over 6 million people in 600 cities across the world that protested action in Iraq but still governments went forward with it and ignored the popular opinion, and this wasn't the first time they've done this and hasn't been the last time they did.

A main problem with mass change is that we miss the small things that go on in our lives and to realise this we must stop and just think about the world where we live. I live on a building site and although it's not the quietest or most beautiful place in the world there are still many things that the 400 people that come onto the site everyday don't see. There were very few people that realised that masses of bluebells grew in a woodland where many of the workers walked past and could see right into, but they focused on the action that was going on within site borders. A truck coming through the site was more impressive than the carpet of blue created by nature to them and if they stopped worrying about the action happening more of them would have seen the alluring plants metres from them.

Before I finish, I'm not staying that all action is bad. The progress to find a cure for diseases like cancer or reducing knife crime are all amazing uses of action but there are always 3 times as many bad uses of action for every good way.

Now I'm going to leave you with a final message that people should just to slow down and look for things that you have never seen in places where you've been for years. Thank you for listening.





# Chilean Preparation Trip

At the end of the Summer term, 31 OPGS students will set off on a trip to the other side of the world. Chile is a 14-hour flight away and is currently in the middle of winter.

This is the farthest that OPGS students have ever travelled with the school. Chile is a long, narrow country stretching along South America's western edge, with more than 6,000km of Pacific Ocean coastline. Santiago, its capital, sits in a valley surrounded by the Andes and Chilean Coast Range mountains. It borders Peru to the north, Bolivia to the northeast, Argentina to the east, and the Drake Passage in the far south. Students will then take a flight further south to Easter Island, a Chilean territory, which is a remote volcanic island in Polynesia. Its native name is Rapa Nui. It's famed for archaeological sites, including nearly 900 monumental statues called moai, created by inhabitants during the 13th–16th centuries. The moai are carved human figures with oversize heads, often resting on massive stone pedestals.

On their expedition to Chile and Easter Island, the students will be faced with a new culture, a foreign language, harsh camping conditions, internal flights to Easter Island, and, most shockingly of all, Chilean food. In preparation for this, students travelled to Devon for an ice-breaking trip with their teachers. To get them ready for the challenges that lie ahead, students slept on Alpine bunks, shared bathrooms and had to wash their own plates! Year 9, 10 and 12 students bonded over hiking in the heat, scaling the climbing wall and objecting to the shared bathrooms. The next edition of @Oakwood will carry news and photos of our work in Chilean schools, desert preservation and Easter Island heads.





Miss Goodhew and Miss Davies have been working with the Year 7 and 8s to set up a debate club in the lower school.

Due to the continuous success of the upper school debate club at national competitions, we wanted to give the opportunity for the lower school to show off their eloquence and refine their reasoning skills with our new debate club. As a result, for the Summer term, we have met with students during Monday lunchtimes to discuss issues such as the use of slang in the classroom and climate issues, such as is plastic so fantastic? Students have then been given time to research the different sides of each

debate issue, so they can argue in the more formal roles of proposition or opposition, depending on which motion we put forward to them each week. The students who have attended the club so far are enthusiastic, mature and keen to perfect their oracy skills, as we practice in order to then take part in some national competitions, at the start of the new academic year from September.

If you would like to know more information, or fancy attending the club yourself, we meet in Miss Davies room every Monday lunchtime and look forward to seeing more of you there in the coming year!

## Oakwood Park Grammar School DofE Overview:

The Duke of Edinburgh's Award has steadily grown in popularity over the past 6 years. This year saw 64 students sign up for the Bronze Award with a further 16 undertaking silver at present.

The award, which requires the young person to commit to and complete a voluntary, physical and skill based activity for a combined 12 months, closely mirrors our school ambition to provide character building opportunities to our students that push them out of their comfort zones and challenge

them to achieve outside of the classroom. 64 of our Bronze level applicants went to Meopham the last weekend in June (the hottest weekend) to complete their practice expedition and we are happy to report that all were successful. We hope to see the last 8 silver students complete their assessed expedition this weekend in the Ashdown Forest. We hope that some of our Bronze Award students come back to complete their Silver Award next year, and for the Silvers there will be the opportunity to sign up to Gold – now that really is a challenge!





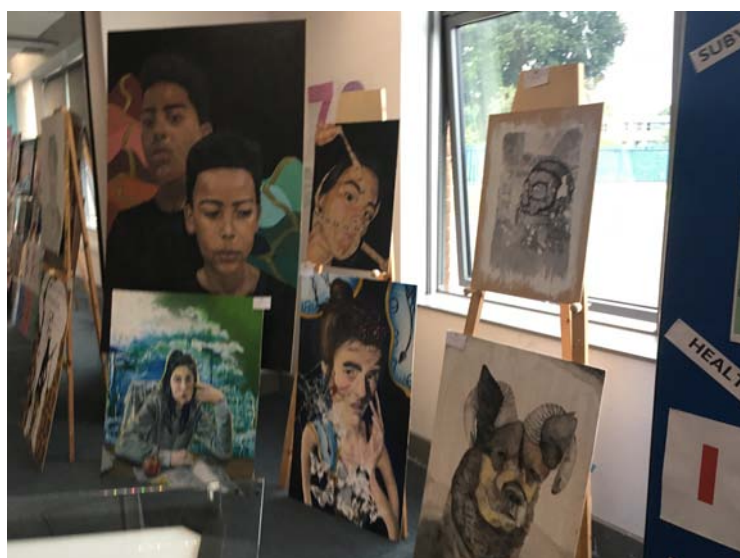
# The Design, Technology, Art, Graphics and Media Studies Exhibition

On Wednesday 26th June from 5-7pm and Thursday 27th June from 4-6pm, there was an inspiring and unique collection of students' work from GCSE and A Level on display in the Centenary Building, to mark the successes of the students' achievements, demonstrate their creative skill and technical ability in the products and designs, which made up the exhibition.

Product design is a continually evolving skill set: the purpose of the exhibition is to showcase the students' work to stimulate, provoke and inform ideas from our students of the kind of production pieces they could be aiming for when they reach

upper school. It also allowed parents and staff to see the work on display in a gallery style setting with music playing, drinks and nibbles, to give it that truly artistic atmosphere as you entered the design space where the collection was housed.

The DT were of such a high calibre this year, many of the onlookers wishing to take home the pieces such as shoe storage with a sumptuous stag design, wine bottle holders which made use of the barrel to create a table and a Custard Cream coffee table, all serving as elegant showpieces, which were also fully functional and fit for purpose, with a level of professionalism surpassing previous years. Art saw some students take an interesting look at an expression of self: Fred Duffield's pieces took inspiration from Banksy's







graffiti art and moved through stages of real life, naturalistic drawing to more of a colourful, underground interpretation of self-representation. Graphics students created marketing material for companies including a harrowing image of a fishing vessel washed ashore for a salt manufacturer to beautifully designed logos for a bird feeder. In Media Studies, students explored issues of representation of gender, class and again tried to subvert the boundaries of stereotypes, social norms and culturally defined expectations in their innovative production pieces of Indie magazines.



The students' pieces were put under scrutiny, as those who attended the exhibition filled out their voting slips, in each of the different subject categories. As a result, we are pleased to announce the winners of this year's design exhibition were:

**Design and Technology - Sam Driver and Rowan Fitzgerald (Joint winners).**

**Art - Fred Duffield**

**Graphics - James Francis**

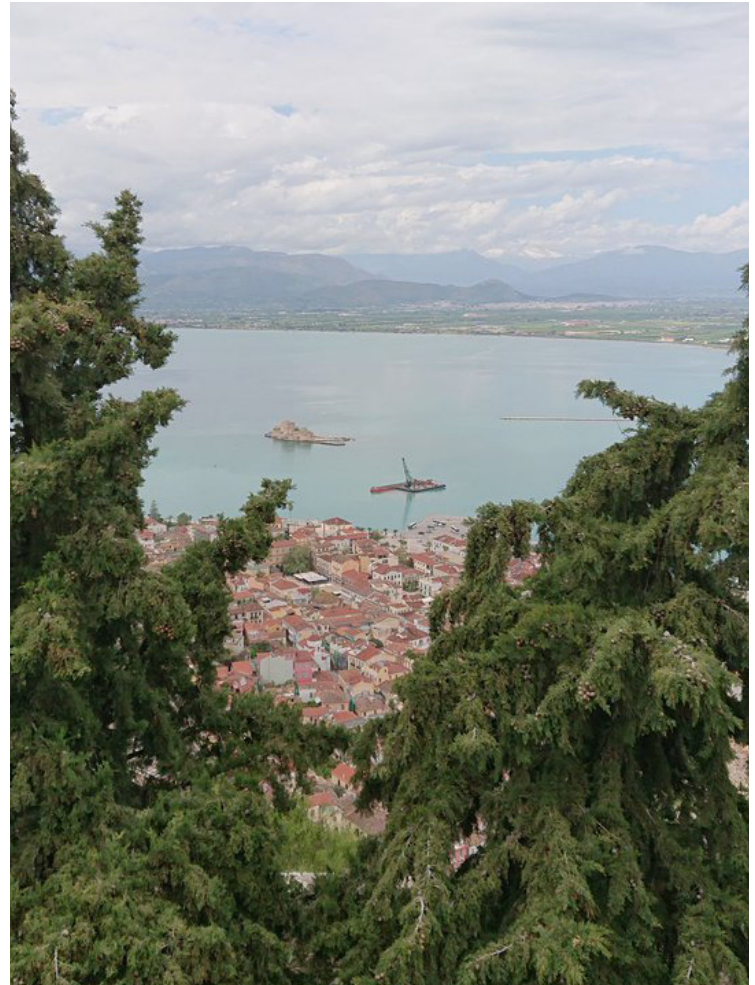
**Media Studies – Nathan Fox**





# Drama Trip to Greece

During the Easter holidays, the OPGS Drama department, headed up by Mr Baker took his students to Greece, the birthplace of theatre. The students were thrilled to have the opportunity to visit the roots of their subject with a trip to the UNESCO World Heritage Site, Acropolis of Athens: an ancient citadel located on a rocky outcrop above the city. From at least the mid-18th century on, the Acropolis has often been invoked as a key symbol of Greek culture. Its monuments are universal symbols of the classical spirit and civilization and form the greatest architectural and artistic complex bequeathed by Greek Antiquity to the world. In the second half of the 5th Century BC, Athens, following the victory against the Persians and the establishment of democracy, took a leading position amongst the other city-states of the ancient world. In the age that followed, as thought and art flourished, an exceptional group of artists put into effect the ambitious plans of Athenian statesman Pericles



and, under the inspired guidance of the sculptor Pheidias, transformed the rocky hill into a unique monument of thought and the arts. The most important monuments were built during that time: the Parthenon, built by Ictinus, the Erechtheon, the Propylaea, the monumental entrance to the Acropolis, designed by Mnesicles and the small temple Athena Nike.

Students also had the chance to venture to another architectural feat, the Corinth Canal: a waterway which links the Gulf of Corinth to the Saronic Gulf. As such, the canal separates the Greek mainland from the Peloponnese, effectively turning it into an island. Dug through the isthmus at sea level, the canal is 6.4 kilometres long with a width of only 25 metres.

After which, the students checked in to their hotel in Tolo and relaxed at the pool, on the beach and in the town of Tolo. Toló (or Tolon) was first documented by Homer in The Iliad, as a city involved in the Trojan War. Its bay gave refuge to Greek ships over the centuries. After the War of Independence (1821 to 1832), many refugees

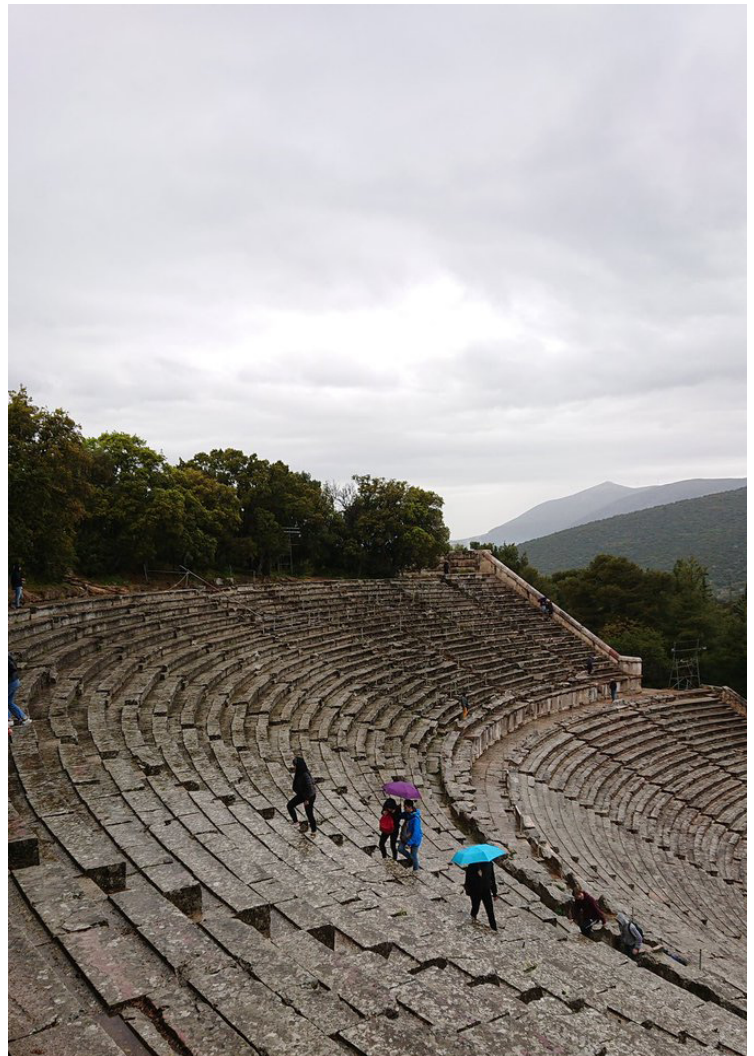




from Crete settled in Toló and became fishermen. Students continued on their culture trip with a tour of the Great Theatre of Epidauros.

Epidauros is one of the most popular archaeological sites in Greece. Located on the north eastern side of Peloponnese, in the region of Argolis, Epidauros Greece is mostly famous for its Ancient Theatre, perfect for our budding drama students. This theatre was constructed in the late 4th century BC to host religious ceremonial events in honour of god Asclepius, whose healing centre was located few steps away. Famous for its symmetry and the incredible acoustics, this classical theatre is surrounded by lush greenery and gives stunning views of the valley which stretches out below it. In the summer months, it hosts performances of ancient Greek drama.

Throughout the week, students were privileged to work with professionals from the Topos Allou-Aeroplío Theatre, from the Centre of Higher



Education and Theatre Studies in Athens. This included a Greek theatre producer, Nikolas Kamtsis, a Greek actor, Lambrini Thanou and a Greek designer, Mika Panagou in order to put together their very own performance of the classical Grecian Comedy *Lysistrata* by Aristophanes, originally performed in classical Athens in 411 BC. It is a comic account of a woman's extraordinary mission to end the Peloponnesian War between Greek city states by denying all the men of the land any sex, which was the only thing they truly and deeply desired. *Lysistrata* persuades the women of the warring cities to withhold sexual privileges from their husbands and lovers as a means of forcing the men to negotiate peace—a strategy, however, that inflames the battle between the sexes.

The play is notable for being an early exposé of sexual relations in a staunchly male-dominated, patriarchal society. Additionally, its dramatic structure represents a shift from the conventions of Old Comedy, a trend typical of the author's career. At this time, Greek theatre was a profound form of entertainment, which was extremely popular for all audiences as it addressed political issues relevant to that time. Certainly, one can see how the issues of gender roles and relations continue to be relevant to the students and audiences around the world today.



# ECB 'Chance to Compete' Cricket Tournament winners

On Tuesday 25th June, the U13 and U15 cricket teams entered the annual English Cricket Board 'Chance to Compete' tournament.

This is an annual 8-a-side county tournament at the Mote CC, where the winners progress to represent Kent at the South East & London regional finals.

The U13's drew Homewood School, Sir Roger Manwood's School and Folkestone Academy in the group stages of the competition. After a comfortable 8-wicket victory against Folkestone Academy in their opening game, the boys produced another excellent display of cricket to beat Sir Roger Manwood's by 35 runs. In their final group match, the team recorded another victory, chasing a target of 45 runs set by Homewood School for the loss of one wicket.

After winning the group, the U13 team faced Kemnal Technology School in the final. The winner of this match would progress to the regional finals. Having won the toss, OPGS decided to batt. Reece Meranda and Harrison Scott's opening partnership continued to flourish, with both boys having to retire at 20, reaching a score of 42-0 after 6 overs. This gave Will Hodgson and James Tricker licence to attack, with



OPGS eventually setting an imposing target of 58 from their eight overs. Early wickets reduced the Kemnal Technology team to 20-3, a position from which they could not recover, OPGS eventually restricting the opposition to 38 runs from their eight overs to record a 20-run victory and reach the regional finals! A special mention must go to year 7 students James Tricker, Harrison Scott and Toby Clarke, who were playing up a year and played brilliantly throughout the day. Will Hodgson also did an excellent job as captain, setting the field well and rotating his bowlers to take wickets at key times.

The U15 competition provided an opportunity for the OPGS U14 team (who won last year's U13 competition) to play up a year and gain valuable experience competing against older students. The team drew Homewood and Howard School in the group stages of the competition, Howard School were the team that they had narrowly beaten in a dramatic U13 final last year. Having beaten Homewood School comfortably, a win was required against the Howard School to progress to the final. The boys knew this would be a close game but drew upon last year's experience to hold their nerve and book a place in the final against a strong Bexleyheath team. In a tense game, another brilliant fielding and bowling performance led to victory and qualification for the regional finals. A huge thank you must go to Max Fossett (1st XI cricket vice-captain) for coaching the U15 team and umpiring their matches throughout the day.



# Cricket 'Chance to Compete' Regional Final

On Tuesday 2nd July, an excited minibus full of cricketers set off at 7.00am for the regional finals day. The prestigious Reading Blue Coat School in Berkshire hosted the day, offering our students the opportunity to experience some outstanding facilities.

Following a two and a half hour drive, the boys arrived and began their warm ups ahead of the competition starting. Unfortunately, a number of counties had withdrawn from the finals due to school activity weeks and trips, leaving three teams in both the U13 and U15 competitions.

Playing up a year group, the OPGS U14 team faced St Bernard's School (Berkshire) and Christ College Finchley (Middlesex) in the U15 competition. Winning the toss and deciding to bowl first, OPGS restricted St Bernard's to 58 runs in their eight overs. Some fantastic fielding and full pitched bowling denied the St Bernard's team the opportunity to access the short straight boundaries. In reply to this score, OPGS made steady progress but slipped behind the required run rate and needed 15 runs from the last two overs. Despite a courageous batting effort, the team slipped to a narrow 6-run defeat following a series of accurate fast paced and full pitched deliveries from the St Bernard's team in the final over. The team then went onto play Christ College Finchley in their

second match. Having set a good total thanks to late hitting from Matt Hill, the opposition batsmen proved too strong, punishing any loose deliveries and reaching their victory target comfortably inside the eight overs. Despite these results, the U14 team can be exceptionally proud of their performances throughout the competition. Playing up a year group will give the team invaluable experience for next year's cricket season.

St Bernard's School (Berkshire) and Isleworth & Syon School (Middlesex) were the opposition teams in the U13 competition. Having lost the toss in our first match against St Bernard's School, OPGS bowled and fielded brilliantly, taking wickets at regular intervals to restrict the opposition to under 50 runs from their eight overs. Despite losing the wicket of Reece Meranda early on in reply, Harrison Scott anchored the innings with some brilliant attacking stroke play to complete a five-wicket win. One more victory against Isleworth & Syon School would see the U13 team crowned as U13 ECB 'Chance to Compete' champions. Having won the toss, captain Will Hodgson decided to bowl first. After a tense start, the OPGS bowlers found their lines and limited to opposition batting line up to 55 runs. This proved a comfortable chase for OPGS who reached the victory target only three wickets down. Massive congratulations to the U13 side who have become the first OPGS team to win this national competition!





## Leavers' Ball 2019

OPGS Sixth Form students streamed back from their post-exam holidays in Greece and Spain to hit the dance floor with their school friends for the last time.

This year there was definitely less fake tan and more stylish outfits than at previous OPGS balls.

Most students arrived by taxi. There was one notable exception this year!



Smartest Male student award goes to James (matching tie and handkerchief) Waters. The best dressed female student award is shared between Ailsa H, Erin H and Katie E who wore flowing red gowns and matching lipstick.

As the strains of 'Mr Brightside' faded, students drifted off into the warm night bidding the Sixth Form Team farewell for the last time.

**Goodbye Class of 2019.**



## Junior Maths Challenge – Final results

Following the first round of the Junior Maths Challenge, two students qualified for the second round – the Kangaroo.

The maximum possible score was 135 marks.

The qualifying score for a MERIT certificate (top 25%) is 89+.

All other invitees receive a Certificate of QUALIFICATION.

Silas Miller achieved a score of 91 marks and a MERIT Certificate.

Luke Sutcliffe achieved a score of 79 and therefore a Qualification Certificate.

Well done to both students on representing the school to such a high level in this competition.



# Oxford University Trip

Year 10 and 12 students with an interest in applying to Oxford university joined Ms Hern on a trip to the open day this term.

Students had to prepare thoroughly for this as, with 38 colleges offering talks and activities and limited time, just making the most of the day tested their intellectual skills.

Ex-OPGS students studying at Oxford were on hand to offer a personal perspective. Highlights for students were the library at Corpus Christi College and the free cakes and lemonade at University College.

For year 12 applicants, the arduous process of Oxbridge application begins in October with admission tests for which they have to revise thoroughly over the summer. For Year 10 students, the effort they put into their GCSEs will provide

a springboard to being considered by this elite university.



## Local History Enrichment Day: Year 7

Students examined historical maps to track changes in Maidstone since the 1500s.

This included the construction of All Saints Church, the growth of the settlement on the west side of town in the 1700s, the development of industry in the 1800s including the famous Fremlin Brewery and Sharps toffee factory and the changes since then. Students made timelines and judged their peers' work with criteria. They then explored how Canterbury has changed including the impact of the Black Death and the reformation. They investigated how Kent has been rebellious since

Medieval times, often the location of uprisings and plots such as Cade's Rebellion. They explored how Kentish place names developed (the distinctive -Bournes and Fords) and how the Richard Montgomery bomb ship links North Kent with D-Day and the USA in the Second World War. Finally, students explored how Kent castle design changed over time, with a focus on Dover Castle, and constructed their own castles. Covering over 800 years of the history of our county, students worked extremely hard and really developed their





# Parents Association News

**The Parents' Association have worked hard to raise almost £5000 this year** and would like to thank everyone who supported us by donating uniform, cakes or their time to help. A big thank you if you came along to our events, we raise more when we have lots of people attending.

We had a great evening with the Gin and Cocktail evening last month which raised £380. The 3 cake sales this year raised over £500, We raised about £900 on second-hand uniform sales at Parents' Evenings and via our facebook group.

Here are some photos of the Gin and Cocktail Evening.

The new Maidstone Distillery gave us a talk about the history of gin in Maidstone and about how they are continuing it by opening soon in The Market Buildings. We had demonstrations of 2 cocktails by The Kent Mobile Bar Company, and enjoyed tasting them and having a drink with friends.

Our next event is the Year 7 Welcome BBQ on

13th September. We are looking for volunteers and raffle prizes for this event. We have a BBQ planning meeting on Wednesday 4th September. Email us if you can help.

This year we have bought 3 more outside benches, study booths for the Sixth Form quiet study area and yoga mats for mindfulness sessions. We have raised enough to buy new tables and benches for use in the hall. Our next target is to help with resources for the new library.

If you would like to join our team or help out in any way, please email us at [opgsa@gmail.com](mailto:opgsa@gmail.com).





# Presentation Evening

By Toby Hill Year 12

For many students this time of year is very much exciting. Not only is summer right around the corner but the Presentation Evening is annually held for the achievers of the year.

As you would expect with most schools, there were awards for a variety of different things, not just academic-based achievements. As you might know, the school football team became 'the invincibles' at the end of this season and there were other success stories with the rugby team as well. The certain individuals that have impressed in sport will get to wear a rather fancy new tie for their efforts, with those high-flying in music and drama also being able to obtain a unique tie as well. Speaking of music and drama, two interludes were performed on the night, one was a piece of jazz from the jazz quartet and the other was a preview of the upcoming drama production of Oliver! I'm sure it left the audience wanting more...

Some special awards this year included a trophy given to the school by the widow of a former teacher (Chris Stockwell) who very sadly passed away recently. This was a very special and important award that was presented for the first time that evening. Another person involved with the evening was Charlotte Knowles, as guest speaker. Charlotte works for a charity that helps people in making films that contain political views and she worked closely with Year 13 who created a film about the mining strikes called 'The Enemy Within'. She was there to present awards to those who achieved them.

Headteacher, Mr Moody, was impressed by the standout achievers but stressed that Presentation Evening was not just about the awards and glory:



"You're not doing it to win a prize – education is a life changing thing and can present you with many future opportunities", showing that you should not just go for these awards just for the satisfaction of standing in front of people applauding you, but it can be beneficial when applying for university, apprenticeships and even jobs.

It wasn't just the students we were celebrating, we also celebrate staff as well. However, these celebrations were of a different sort. Two members of staff will unfortunately not be here next year as ICT Network Manager Mr Way is moving elsewhere and DT technician Mr Church is looking to retire. Both have done a great service to this school whether it was bailing out teachers when their computers don't work or making sure the DT workshop is up and running and we celebrate as they enter new stages of their lives and we wish them all the best.

Presentation Evening was a massive success with many celebrations across Year 7 all the way to Year 12 and we hope next year is even more successful. Who knows, maybe you'll be presented an award in front of everyone in 12 months time.





# Read all about it!

This term Year 7 and Year 8 students undertook the Readathon challenge. Readathon is a campaign that stretches across the whole of the UK and aims to help seriously ill children through reading. The lower school were extremely excited to undertake the challenge and try their best to help children in need.

Through the Readathon campaign, 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 with some inspirational statistics which showcase just how many children can benefit from this worthwhile cause: 30 UK hospitals, 230 storytelling days, 25,000 new books and 100,000 children's lives they have touched. For children unable to leave their beds, they can choose books from the specially designed mobile bookcase, which wheel right up to their bedside. Due to the fact, they are brand new, the books are safe for those at high risk of infection. With this in mind, Oakwood students have been reading in school, at



break, in lesson and at home in order to meet the reading challenge.

The students are motivated because the money they raise by reading buys books and storytellers for children in hospital. It gives them a greater sense of ownership, agency and inclusion in their reading, as they can choose what and how they read, from comics to classics, so reluctant readers give it a go and able readers read more widely. Similarly, the rewards for the school include free books worth 20% of your sponsorship total and a £10 National Book Token.

We are extremely hopeful that they were successful and will be able to collect lots of sponsor money for the charity; we will let you know how much we raise in the next issue!





# School Production Oliver!

For our annual Summer show this year, the students at OPGS put on a performance of Oliver! The Musical which had its audience asking for more. The performances ran on Tuesday 16th July and Wednesday 17th July.

This version of the performance had music, lyrics and book by Lionel Bart. In 1963 Lionel Bart received the Tony Award for Best Original Score with his collection of songs much loved by the British public and popularised by the 1968 film version starring Ron Moody as Fagin, Shani Wallis as Nancy, and Oliver Reed as Bill Sikes. The film version was directed by Carol Reed, written by Vernon Harris, and based on the stage musical of the same name. The film and stage versions include some much loved and renowned musical numbers in British Popular Culture, such as "Food, Glorious Food", "Consider Yourself", "As Long as He Needs Me", "You've Got to Pick a Pocket or Two", and "Where Is Love?"



This stage version premiered in the West End in 1960, enjoying a long run of the performance and successive long runs since its release on Broadway. Oliver! was one of eight UK musicals featured on Royal Mail stamps, issued in February 2011. This production of Oliver! was adapted for produced for the Broadway stage by David Merrick and Donald Albery, from the Dickensian classic novel Oliver Twist. The story tells of a 9-year-old orphan named Oliver Twist, who falls in with a group of street-urchin pickpockets led by the Artful Dodger and masterminded by the criminal Fagin. When Oliver is wrongly accused of theft, he meets a more kindly gentleman (his intended mark) Mr. Brownlow, who takes pity on the lad





and offers him a home. Fagin's henchman, Bill Sykes, plots to kidnap the boy to keep him from talking and in the middle is poor Nancy, a girl whom Oliver has come to trust yet who meets a violent end at the hands of Bill. Indeed, our very own production of Oliver starred two different but equally talented actors, playing the character of Bill Sykes: Harvey Weed and Jack Alldridge, with the creepy old mannerisms of Fagin being brought to life by the likes of Pascal Blaschta.

The performances were given by arrangement with MusicScope and Stage Musicals Ltd of New York as performed as an amateur production in the school hall.

The acting, music and stage design where excellent. A real credit to the hard work and effort put in by the students. Thank you to all the Drama and Music students and thank you to the Art and DT department for their support with making props and scenery.



# U14 Kent Plate Cricket Winners

On Tuesday 2nd July, the U14 cricket team capped a phenomenal season by winning the U14 Kent Plate at Tenterden Cricket Club. This marked the first time that an OPGS cricket team had won a major Kent competition in twelve years!

Having won a series of hard fought games against Rochester Maths School, Norton Knatchbull Grammar School and Harvey Grammar School, the boys were full of confidence going into the final. Despite this, playing the Ashford School would be a daunting prospect having lost to them in the Kent Cup for the two previous seasons.

Arriving early at the ground, the boys watched the completion of the U15 final and went through some fielding warm ups to settle their nerves prior to the game. This was a big occasion for many of the boys, some of who have been playing B team school cricket prior to this season. This is a huge testament to their development in the last two seasons.

Having lost the toss, OPGS were put into bat on a bowler friendly wicket by the Ashford School. Accurate bowling and early nerves led to a disastrous start, when our top three batsman and most prolific run scorers this season were all dismissed without scoring, leaving OPGS reeling at 0-3!

In came Owen Jenner and Matt Hill who showed superb coolness under pressure to see off the Ashford opening bowlers before calmly building what proved to be a match winning partnership. Taking the score from 0-3 from 2 overs to 65-3 from 15 overs, both batsman began to attack the Ashford bowling in the final stages of the innings. Matt Hill was particularly impressive, playing a series of aggressive straight drives to reach 39 not out. One shot sailed over the Ashford opening bowler's head and into the boundary netting for a straight six! Owen's contribution was equally as important, finding the gaps with regularity and running hard between the wickets; a feature of his skilful innings. Having reached a final score of 88-3 from 20 overs, the boys knew they would have to bowl the opposition out to win the U14 Kent Plate Final!



The innings got off to the perfect start for OPGS, with Harvey Moore and Tom Lenham taking early wickets to put early pressure on the Ashford batting line up. A moment of brilliance then followed from Matt Hill as he ran out the Ashford opening batsman with a one handed pick up and direct hit from 30 yards! This led to a mini collapse that put victory within our grasp with Ashford 55-6 from 13 overs. With victory in sight for OPGS, some nervous bowling and a gutsy innings from the Ashford number seven batsman (22 runs) tipped the game in the opposition's favour. Always ahead of the run rate, Ashford reached 84-9 from 18 overs, needing just five more runs from the last twelve balls to win. Alex Stone faced the daunting prospect of bowling the penultimate over, in search of the one wicket needed for victory. Having scored four runs from the first three deliveries the Ashford batsman attempted a quick single only to find Louis Barden at square leg. Under pressure, he completed a superb two handed pick up and throw into wicketkeeper Jude Fathome-Hodgson to run out the batsman and win the game for OPGS! In the post-match presentation Bob Green, Kent Schools Cricket Association Chairman, described the game as the most dramatic he had seen in Kent Schools Cricket history.

A huge congratulations to the following boys who were part of the U14 Kent Plate winning team- Ben Lyons (captain), Tom Lenham, Harvey Moore, Owen Jenner, Matthew Hill, Jamie Flintan, Joe Flintan, Alex Stone, Jude Fathome-Hodgson, Louis Barden, Leo Broom.



## Year 8 Art trip to Margate.

On Wednesday 3rd July the Art department took 44 year 8 students to sunny Margate. The students visited the current exhibition at the Turner Contemporary, 'Seaside Photographed' and then explored the town and coast making a range of drawings.

Installed on the first floor of the gallery, students viewed the 'Seaside photographed' exhibition, which examined the relationship between photographers, photography and the British seaside from the 1850s to the present and is the Turner Contemporary's first ever photography exhibition. Students got to view the work of eminent photographers including Jane

Bown, Henri Cartier Bresson, Vanley Burke, Anna Fox, Susan Hiller, Paul Nash, Martin Parr, and Ingrid Pollard. This exhibition was interesting to many students as it allowed them to revisit the themes in their Landscape project at the beginning of the year and their Extended Learning Project on photography and for some was their first experience of an art gallery.

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

## Year 7 Reading and Writing group – samples of their creativity

Year 7 students have been being creative at lunchtimes – they have lived on the edge and struggled for survival.

Below are samples of their writing.  
Mrs Bartleet and Dr Caine

### Last Minute Decisions

With food going scarcely low, a blood-thirsty pack of wolves' hunt for some bison. After searching for hours, a wolf alerts his pack, consisting of 20 ferocious wolves, of a bison group far off in the distance. The pack take a sly and tactical approach, half go behind and the others cut off the bison's advance. A few minutes later, the wolves have surrounded the bison, who gather in a circle protecting the young ones. The wolves are smart and pick off the weaker ones. Suddenly, the bison flee, but one gets left behind. the wolves attack.

**Ruben Devey**



## Plan of Attack

The pack of wolves found the bison tracks. Thanks to these, the wolves can finally have their dinner. They follow the tracks, pursuing the bison. They suddenly arrive outside a forest. Could the bison be here? They start to separate, planning to ambush the bison. The wolves discover that the bison are outside the forest.

**Ethan Prior**

## The Striking Moment.

The wolves were there. The bison couldn't see them, but they could see their prey. The pack had found a sole victim for their midnight feast. As quiet as a meek mouse, they organized themselves for their attack. The bison, unaware of its incoming demise, was swiftly taken down by the vicious, stone-grey predators.

Now, they search for their next weak target.

**Alex S-M, S7**

Through the dusty mountainous dunes of Agrathal, two men were to be found, walking purposefully to their desired location. The dunes were like huge, gaping cliffs, a dooming drop waits an unsuspecting victim. They were tired, Xander had only half a bottle of water left whereas, Jason had only seven chicken sandwiches left, they felt horrible inside. Both were the only two things in sight yet there were three shadows. One was Xander's drooped-over shadow, another to be Jason's sluggish shadow and the third was devious-looking. "Jason why are there three shadows" Questioned Xander, Jason didn't reply. Xander repeated himself; no answer. Xander stopped in his tracks to see Jason had vanished. But, in the corner of his ear, Xander heard cries of pain, it was Jason; he had been pushed off of the cliff.

**7C Bailey Barnett**

## The Case of the lost Diamond Ring

Alone in the frozen desert, The Hulk scampered towards the beautiful glint sitting gracefully on the horizon. Eventually, the glint became closer. Dazzling and blinding, Lord Fenjus of Bolley stirs elegantly in his peaceful slumber.

The Hulk, breath icy cold, and appearing like a dragons', slowly strode towards the dazzling diamond ring. He breathed a sigh of relief, after waiting momentarily before each step. This ice was cold, and he couldn't hold on for much longer. 'Almost there'.

Jittering like a baby on caffeine, he powerfully reached out his giant hand, picturing the glistening jewel in it. All of a sudden, he heard an approaching ripple behind him. He dismissed it cautiously before resuming to his awe. Suddenly, he heard another ripple, louder than before, followed by a pair of deafening steps. It was Fenjus.

\*

Once more, he stomped on the ground, meanwhile running as fast as he could. "Please!" he shouted. The Hulk Stopped, before everything seemed to fall.

\*

The Hulk shuffled uncomfortably, shifting in and out of consciousness. Why was he here? Was this not a dream? Where even was he? Eventually, he managed to slowly haul himself onto his feet. Everywhere he looked, he saw pitch black, with no way of escape. He grunted, as if in defeat, and lay back down... until he got a long moan in reply. It seemed like it was coming from in front of him. Once again, he groaned, as friendly as he could, not knowing what the other sound came from. Another strange sound came, almost echoing his own. The cycle repeated, on and on. Suddenly, after The Hulk returned, yet again, the reply was more human, and simply said, "Come on, can't we just stop this now and try and figure out where we are?". The Hulk was gobsmacked. This whole time he had been 'talking' to another human? Perhaps it was the person from earlier who had demanded he stopped? But before he could think about anything else, a deafening noise filled the space around him.

Luckily, he now had time to think. The Hulk sub-consciously stood up once more and went to lean his hand on a supposed nearby wall. However,





despite there surprisingly actually being a 'wall' there, it was not the nicest wall. It was covered in a sticky substance that hurt to touch. The Hulk screamed whilst simultaneously jumping many feet high into the air. The voice echoed "Are you okay?", but The Hulk was too scared. He sprinted, as fast as light, towards the instinctive place for an exit. Something started to appear. It was red and had the texture that would feel like what The Hulk put his hand on seconds ago. He strode further and further discovering more and more horrors as he went. Finally, he reached what looked like two giant lips, but wait... that can't be right...? Or can it? Before considering anything, He made a final leap towards the miniscule gap in between the two 'lips' and breathed a breath of relief as finally, The Hulk managed to escape the wretched stench of what he now realised, was a mouth. Adrenaline surged through him as he was met by water, and next, air. But wait, what about the other person?

**Benji Folley S7**

## **Last Hope**

Thanos swiped: left, right, up and down. Desperate to get a hit on double Aron, but he couldn't. Suddenly out of nowhere came Fenji

swinging onto his back like a wrecking ball but could only clench to his back. He pulled himself up level with Thanos' shoulder and wrapped his hands around his eye covering the beast's view. From a distance it must have looked like a wild stallion and a tamer. Big Man Richard went to remove the infinity glove, it drifted down his plum coloured wrist but stopped so close to victory. Now Small Man Dan was going to get his hands dirty. Charging like a mad bull he approached the looming Thanos with some of his friends on top of him. It then happened, he erupted like a fuming volcano, thankfully everyone was safe, well not everyone... Small Man Dan had been hit by the flying Big Man Richard and this made him to have toppled off the edge of the crystal like ice castle. He could not be found. He was grasping onto dead piece of ivy- which was the same colour as the sky. It snapped... But no sound was heard.

**Daniel Airey S7**

Super dad broke the ice as soon as Nancy did it was neck and neck the ripples of the water underneath pushed them against the water forcing them to hold their breath for a bit longer they used all of their energy to break the barrier and one two three they were both out they kicked until they got halfway looked at each other and carried on pace by pace then they got to three quarters of the way and started to struggle for breath... **By Aaron Miller S7**



# Year 10 Work Related Learning Business Challenge

As in previous years, this month all students in Year 10 undertook three days of Work-Related Learning which aimed to provide the boys with a greater understanding of the world of work and the skills that this requires.

Local businesses and organisations came into school and set real-life challenges for the students to work on, enabling them to develop and demonstrate teamwork, leadership, effective communication and problem-solving skills. We were lucky this year to welcome into school representatives from Alzheimer's Research, Kent Sport, Maidstone Community Support Centre, Rotary International, Golding Homes and Maidstone Leisure Centre. The exciting challenges ranged from raising awareness of physical and psychological wellbeing, developing a radio programme for young people, rebranding and extending business premises and developing ideas to raise funds for charities and the local community.

The students surpassed all expectations, working

exceptionally well in teams throughout the three days, researching, gathering data, completing surveys and finally presenting their findings to their peers, the businesses and our guest judges.

Feedback from the businesses was exceptionally positive; all are keen to work with the school again and wish to pass on their thanks to the students for their hard work, professionalism and their excellent ideas. Some of winning teams will continue to work with the businesses as we move forward into the next academic year.

The students in the winning team were Ben Clarke, Conor Dick, Lenny Gibson, Oliver Krogsgaard and Blake Stammers. The boys planned a well-researched and thought-provoking magazine style radio programme to help with the development of the Maidstone Community Support Centre Radio Station. It is hoped that the station will go live via the internet at the end of the summer and the business is keen to include the ideas proposed by our competition winners.

**Well done to all who took part.**





# Dangerous Deforestation

The ancient act of chopping down a tree is very familiar with the world. However, this simple act must slow down. Wood is one of the Earth's main resources and it vital to humans so its production cannot stop although the scale at which we are removing the trees is fatal to our thriving habitats and creatures. Their death only becomes ours.

Deforestation occurs for many reasons such as; production of fuel, making of building materials or clearing land that can be used for business or houses. Many Asian-pacific countries are affected by deforestation and less than 10% of their habitats remain. Other places in Africa have lost up to 90% of the forests too. The overall reason for deforestation is that many people don't have a choice. They either make profit from it or need to build on the land.

Destruction of the Amazon has risen to record levels, according to the Brazilian government. The annual sum of removal is 26,130 square km,

the second highest ever in history. This is an area equivalent to about six football fields a minute – that's 345,600 square feet. This shows how bad the problem has gotten.

Deforestation affects many things. Trees supply us with oxygen and keep the world thriving however, without trees animals are forced to migrate – this causes global warming. Humans cannot live with bees, for example, so if we were to disturb and destroy bee habitats, we would notice a change over a long period of time. Deforestation disturbs Earth's life cycle which wasn't intended to happen when it was created. This is why we see the impacts of our mistakes today.

I think that the deforestation is an extremely important issue. I feel it would be frustrating for us to be the cause of our own end. Not only that but it also affects the nature that help us live and thrive. I would like for more people to be aware of the causes and act on it by changing their ways and being more considerate.

by Luke W C8Climate Crisis Correspondent.





# Year 12 Induction: Future Cities Day at University of Greenwich

The Year 12 students went to the University of Greenwich's Medway Campus, a forward-thinking campus in the historic setting of Chatham Maritime, as the second part of their induction into the Sixth Form, to take part in the Future Cities Day on Friday 28th June. The environment proved conducive to learning for the students who enthusiastically grappled with the task across one intensive workshop for the day. The students firstly had to attend two talks delivered by OPGS staff each informing them of ideas and food for thought of each of the different aspects to consider if building a city for the future. The subject areas included Politics, Economics, Science, Psychology, Sociology, Design and Technology, Media and Communications. These presentations gave examples of existing technologies and social models as a starting point for the students to take it that one step further and taking these ideas to their potentially logical ends with technological advancement in the next few years, a not quite so dystopian vision of the future, as suggested by programmes on the TV like Netflix's Black Mirror or the BBC's Years and Years.

After break, the students gathered in the Pilkington Building; an attractive piazza-style area with seating which makes it ideal for large events. Here, the students had to move from their groups to form a table with students that had attended talks so as they could feedback on each of the subject areas. This allowed students to meet and mix with a variety of other new students to the Sixth Form and work together as a team to create the most ingenious plan for their very own city of the future on an island just 1 square mile.

After lunch, each of the city plans were proposed to judges from the Kier Group, with each nominated spokesperson having to sum up their ideas into a concise pitch in just 1 minute. At Kier, they have a reputation as forward-thinking innovators which started in 1928, when Danish engineers Olaf Kier and Jorgen Lotz formed J Lotz and Kier and became early pioneers of reinforced concrete design and construction. Their first contract, a reinforced concrete bridge in Bath, is still in service today and bears the Lotz and Kier plaque. By the turn of the century Kier were involved in some of the UK's major construction projects and initiatives, including the Channel

Tunnel Rail Link (CTRL) to bring the UK's first high speed railway line into London St Pancras station. More recently, in 2018 the Kier Group signed a deal with Homes England to provide up to 5,400 much needed residences for our expanding population over the next 10 years. The winning team, who demonstrated the best skills of cooperation, playing to one another's strengths and innovative yet plausible designs, will be given the opportunity to gain valuable work experience with the Kier Group. A fantastic thing to build on the skills practiced on the induction day but also to help mould them into more creative thinkers in a professional environment and add to their soft skills for that all-important CV.

We feel the students worked exceptionally hard and formed bonds in their various groups from the team-building elements of the task, which will remain intact for the first day back in September, when students come revived from their Summer Holidays, to embark on the new challenges that life in the OPGS Sixth Form will throw at them; pushing them to excel across the next academic year. We look forward to seeing you all again in September.

