



OPGS collect over 2150 items for the Maidstone Day Centre.

Dear Parents, Carers and Students,

Welcome to the festive edition of @Oakwood. After reading the list of articles contained here, I feel very proud to be your Headteacher.

Pride of place must go to the magnificent effort by our school community in collecting over 2000 items of foodstuff for the homeless of Maidstone. Well done and thank you.

You will read about tremendous collective and individual achievements in this edition. Congratulations to those students but please spare a thought for our wonderful staff who make all of this possible; this includes the Publicity Team who faithfully put together each edition of @Oakwood to give a fantastic account of OPGS' achievements.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Mr K.W. Moody - Headteacher

OPGS Under 14's Win the school's first ever County Rugby Trophy!

Kent Schools Rugby Football Union Under 14 Shield Competition

As is customary, the Under 14 rugby squad are always set the task of reaching the semi-final of the Kent Schools Shield competition, however this season Mr Keeling-Jones had a quiet confidence that the team would reach the final!

We were a strong squad of players, all of whom have worked hard to develop our rugby over the past couple of seasons. This, coupled with the number of club players, meant confidence was high from the start of the season, especially as we defeated Gravesend Grammar convincingly in the first game of the year!

Our route to the final:

Barton Court was the first team to play, an unknown opposition as we had never played them before. Whilst it was not the best team performance, we were able to defeat them 34-7.

We moved onto Harris Academy, Beckenham. Again they were an unknown, but with our knowledge of the area the school was situated in, it had a number of rugby clubs close by, and their convincing win over Tunbridge Wells GS meant they were not going to be a push over!

It turned out to be a tight match. We took the lead with a superb individual try, but Harris quickly came back into the match with their strong runners and our failure to complete the required tackles. The match was poised at 12-12 at half time! Heads were down until halftime when we had a motivational speech by Mr Keeling Jones! The boys went back onto the field pumped for the next half; it was stalemate for much of the half, physical battles, tackles being completed, until close to full time we put together some phases of play, put Harris under pressure and eventually broke their defence, scoring a converted try! All we had to do was hold on to the 19-12 lead and we would be through to the semi-finals! Thankfully we did!

The semi-final was another away fixture, this time down at Dover Grammar, a well known opposition, but one we knew we could beat, but also knew

could beat us! Therefore, we knew that we would have to perform well in this game if we stood a chance of achieving our first final!

A quick warm up and we were ready, confidence was high! We didn't want to go back to Maidstone losing! Within the first few minutes of the game, Mr Keeling-Jones was giving the orders from the sideline, our structure was finally as he wanted! We put together some great phases of play which ended with Bradley Martin crashing over for our first try! What a start! And what followed was probably one of the best team performances we had put together since beginning at the school. We continued to hold our lines, maintained structure and put together phase after phase of play. The first half ended with a 22 point lead, but more importantly, our defence had not been broken!

Out we went for the second half knowing the match was within our grasp, a couple more tries and we knew that the comeback would not happen! Thankfully we continued to play as a team, individuals stepped up and performed to their best!

We ended the match 39-12 winners and elated to reach our first final, knowing one more performance would bring home the trophy!

The big day was here!

School had finished, the team were on their way to meet at Gravesend Rugby Club.



We were the first to arrive, so chose our changing room and began to get focussed for the match! Mr Keeling-Jones came in to give us some instructions and as soon as all the boys were ready we headed out to warm up, Steve Ireland working with the forwards and Mr Keeling-Jones the backs.

After refs briefing and the toss both teams wished each other luck!

Heading back into the changing rooms to get our playing shirts on it was time for a final few words from Mr Keeling Jones. Mr Keeling-Jones left the last words to the captains for the day, Matt Hill and Connor Ireland, before heading out to the pitch for kick off!

As we jogged out to the pitch there was applause and cheers; we set up as they were taking the kick.

Kick off was taken and very quickly OPGS were pushing Norton Knatchbull back. This then helped us to score the first try of the game, some great forwards play and linking passing led to Matt Hill opening the scoring; unfortunately Josh Fiksen was unable to convert. Mr Keeling-Jones, whilst congratulating the try, was not impressed that we had lost our first ruck of the game, telling us to get over the ball quicker!

We received the ball from the kick off, a ruck formed and again Norton Knatchbull turned us over, a clear tactic they were going to use to try to put pressure on us. Pressure was certainly the word and very quickly they scored their own try! We knew we could not afford to be turned over again!

We kicked off, trying to catch Norton Knatchbull unaware. Some of our players chased it down and were able to pressure the opposition into a mistake! Now what could we do with possession? The team were putting together some great phases of play, Callum Duffy clearing rucks superbly, Ryan Young carrying as effectively as we had seen all season! Unfortunately, we were not quite able to break Norton's defence!

Further into the game we got a penalty and Mac

Leason put the ball right on their try line. The lineout was taken and a maul set up. We were set up well and pushed them back allowing Bradley Martin the opportunity to break off and slide over the try line; a well set up try. Back at the kick off Norton chipped it to the right side of the pitch where Mac Leason was standing, he caught it and sprinted down the touchline managing to avoid four tacklers and scored another superb try. Confidence was now high, the team were playing superbly and no player had failed to complete what was expected of them!

Back again at the kick off, Bradley Martin scored another fantastic try, it was now down to Josh Fiksen at the conversion. He took the kick and it went through the posts. The whistle went for halftime and we were 22-5 up. Knowing the scoreline at Dover, we were confident we could finish this game off!

Whilst we felt exhausted; this was our chance to get some water on board and for Mr Keeling Jones to change up the teams a bit. Soon we were back on the pitch and we were all ready for the next half. We had soon pushed them back again and were right on their try line, we shifted the ball down the line until it got to Matt Hill who burst through their defence, over the line. It was now Josh's turn again, he composed himself and gets another two points for our team.

Norton Knatchbull then took to the lineout, catch and drive tactic! One we were not sure how to stop and they pushed us over for a well-earned try. It was getting close to the end of the match but then Callum Duffy got hold of the ball and raced down the pitch for the final try of the game, meaning we had done it! We had won – 34-10

This is the first County Rugby Trophy that Oakwood Park have ever won! What an achievement for these boys and one that we hope to build on next season in the Rugby Trophy competition! How will we play against the likes of Judd, Skinners etc!

Well-done to all the boys who participated in the match:

Matt Hill, Conner Ireland, Mac Leason, Bradley Martin, Callum Duffy, Ryan Young, Josh Fiksen, Isaac Fraiss, Will Izzard, Dan Odling, Rob Roe, Tom Burnet, Jamie Flintan, Joe Flintan, Elliott Banham, Romish Magar, Timo Collins, Luc Burt, Unick Purja, Joe Hussey, Hugh Lloyd, James Cripps, Daniel Griffiths, Daniel Pickering and Joshua Saunders



1st XV Rugby Results:

The first XV have got off to an incredible start in the season, winning four games out of five.

The season began with an away game to Gravesend Grammar School where a gruelling game with two quality sides battling it out but, in the end, Oakwood came out victorious with a 17-7 win. This was thanks to great team work which resulted in Jack Carton, Felix Collins, Rowan Ellis all scoring quality tries.

Next up, Oakwood faced the very strong team of Sutton Valence but due to a few missed tackles and displays of excellence we came third in a two-horse race.

Wilmington college were our next opposition and overall, this was one of the best performances the boys have played in a long time. With them scoring two early tries it seemed that all hope lost. The game was played from end-to-end and with 10 minutes to go the score was 17-21. But, with two stunning displays of excellence, Jack

Carton and Jake Tunnicliffe allowed for Oakwood to gain the win with a final score of 29 Oakwood-21 Wilmington college.

The game between Oakwood and Folkestone Academy was a great performance by all players even though we had a scratch team of 16 players. Everyone played excellently but special mention must go to Will Newmarch and Harry Phypers for adopting new positions and flourishing with Will scoring 2 quality tries and Harry assisting many. End result, 38-22.

Kent College has always been a game where Oakwood have come out victorious but with the close game last year the boys knew they had to play well in order to beat this progressing side. There was an abundance of displays of personal excellence, especially with Rezzie O'Sullivan scoring a hattrick of tries, that to name them all would take an age. The end result of this fixture though was 58-5, a great result for the Oakwood boys.

Amnesty International: Write for Rights Campaign 2018

Sometimes a letter can change someone's life. That's the premise of Write for Rights, Amnesty International's global letter-writing campaign and the world's biggest human rights event.

Every December, Amnesty supporters across the globe will write millions of letters for those whose basic human rights are being attacked across a two-month period. In 2017, Amnesty supporters – students, teachers, cleaners, market stallholders, and so many more – took an unprecedented 5.5 million actions as part of Write for Rights. Among them were carefully crafted letters, drawings and postcards. Their collective impact was undeniable. As a result, Amnesty International have chosen 12 deserving case studies to support again for this year's campaign and we have shared this with Y7-11 in form time, through their awareness day activities and having an Amnesty speaker coming in to tell the students more about in their assemblies for the last week.



Just some of the names in the 2018 case study which students at OPGS have been writing messages of solidarity and letters to advocate change to include:

Geraldine Chacón who was wrongfully imprisoned without sentence in Venezuela for 4 months for teaching human rights. She now cannot leave the country and has to report to the court every 30 days yet has not done anything wrong. Students have been writing on her behalf in an effort to keep her out of jail and from being wrongfully detained for a second time.

Atena Daemi, the anti-death penalty activist, who was jailed for handing out leaflets in Iran. She was taking part in peaceful protest to try to stop the death penalty in her country and has since been beaten, pepper sprayed and kept in solitary confinement for her actions in defence of human rights, which includes our right to life. Students have been writing to those in charge with the ambition to have her freed from prison.

Nonhle Mbuthuma, who was threatened for defending her land in South Africa, from a commercial company looking to use it for mining. Nonhle's colleague who was helping her has been killed and she herself fears for her life.

They are people like you, continuing a long tradition of writing letters to right some of the world's biggest wrongs. And it's not just letters; students should feel enabled to become actively involved in the campaign through petitions, emails, Tweets, Facebook posts, photos, postcards.

This year, as you can see with some of the examples outlined above, we honour some of the millions of women rising against injustice – and paying a heavy price as a consequence. Your words really can change their lives.

Every year, real change happens because of your letters and actions. Write a letter, change a life. Join us and Oakwood Park's Amnesty International Group by getting in touch with Miss Marchant or the Sixth Form team hoping to expand the number of activist involved in the New Year.

Archie Mitchell Wins Try Angle Award.

Archie Mitchell has been awarded a Try Angle Award by Kent County Council for his Community action work.

Archie has helped to organise and deliver over 50 Junior Parkrun events, at Manor Park Juniors Parkrun, and has received recognition of being national parkrun Volunteer of the Month. He spends a lot of time processing results and really enjoys seeing how much fun the juniors can gain from running. He has also helped to raise funds to purchase new equipment, which has helped to improve the event.

Archie has also fundraised for and maintained a defibrillator within an adopted phone box in Aylesford High Street. He raised over £2000 to purchase the required equipment, and now conducts weekly cleaning and equipment checks to ensure it's ready in case of an emergency. In addition, He has also organised multiple free training sessions for the community, and is currently working on setting up a "community assist" scheme to help lone rescuers, by training a team of volunteers to bring the defibrillator to the site of cardiac arrest. He was featured in a KM article about

his work on the defibrillator: <http://www.kentonline.co.uk/malling/news/boy-praised-for-community-conscience-180536/>

Over the last year, he has raised over £6000 for various charities, including nearly £4000 for the Heart of Kent Hospice and helped to raise over £2500 for Macmillan Cancer Support. He did this by organising events such as a coffee morning and quiz night, and taking part in sporting events such as a marathon walk and numerous runs.

Within school, he runs the Library which involves sorting and putting away books, loaning and returning books using the computer system and chasing up overdue loans. He has recently extended the Library's opening hours to before school, which has been very popular as it allows other students to complete any last minute homework or read before their school day.

Archie is very environmentally conscious, he cycles to and from school every day. Archie is an amazing young man who is always looking out for others. Well done.



Recognising the Efforts
& Achievements of Young
People in Our Community

Date: 19/11/18

Dear Archie

The Try Angle Awards 2018 – District Category Winner

Many congratulations, following extensive judging you are a Try Angle Awards 2018 District Winner in your category.

The Try Angle Awards in its 24th year now, recognises the exceptional achievements and good work of young people in Kent, the awards are about young people like you who really put the effort in to TRY and make a difference to yourself, your community and others. Your achievements and efforts really impressed the judges so much they chose you as the winner for your category in your district.

We do hope you can join us at our local Try Angle Awards event to collect your trophy and certificate, here are the details below for you and up to 4 guests.

Date: Monday 3rd December 2018
Venue: Tonbridge and Malling Youth Hub
Danvers Road, Tonbridge Kent TN9 1TR
Time: Arrive 18:30 for 19:00 start.

Attached is a consent form for any images taken on the day. Please also refer to our Try Angle Awards GDPR statement on kent.gov.uk.

Congratulations on your award, the next round of judging will select the final 24 finalists who will be invited to the county final event – Spirit of Try Angle Awards 2018 which will be held in January.

Many congratulations again to you on being such a wonderful winner and making a difference.

Yours sincerely

Early Help & Preventative Services

kent.gov.uk

The most recent enrichment day, saw the sixth form art and graphics students visit galleries in London.

The students visited The Royal Academy of Arts, as well as many galleries on Cork Street. The art students saw the rare and fragile drawings by Gustav Klimt and Egon Schiele, which gave them an insight to artist preparatory work. Throughout the day students drew from first hand observation, as well as took photographs for their projects.



On Thursday 22nd November, students studying Design and Technology visited the Design Museum in London to view the 'Beazley Designs of the Year 2018' and 'Home Futures' exhibitions.

Now in its eleventh year, Beazley Designs of the Year is the Design Museum's annual celebration of the most original and exciting products, concepts and designers in the world today. Students were able to explore how the future is fast becoming the present with newly-developed materials, innovative ways of managing scarce resources, along with new and innovative concepts of future products. His exhibition gave the students a glimpse into what the world of tomorrow may look like.

The students then visited the 'Designer, Maker, User' exhibition which features almost 1000 items of twentieth and twenty-first century

The Design Museum

design viewed through the angles 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.

Students at OPGS will use the knowledge and resources they gain from this trip to inspire and develop their own projects.



On the 15th November Joseph Clinton in year 12 was awarded the painting prize in the 11-16 year old category at the John Downton Awards. He was presented with his prize at the awards evening at County Hall in Maidstone for his final piece from his GCSE Art exam. The standard was very high and to win a prize is a great achievement, Joseph has worked very hard over the years developing his skill in art and design and is currently continuing to refine his skill at A level. His work is currently on display at County Hall along with 4 other Oakwood students that are being displayed in the 17-18 category and can be viewed there weekdays till 5pm. Members of the public can also vote for Joseph's or the other Oakwood students work to win the People's Choice Award at the beginning of January. After the end of the exhibition at county Hall Joseph's work will be displayed at the Turner Contemporary in Margate. The Art department is very proud of Joseph and all the students that managed to get selected for exhibition at the John Downton Award this year for their dedication and hard work in Art.



Life Skills

As part of helping Year 13 students to get ready for living independently, Mrs Williams arranged an Enrichment Day dedicated to cooking, finance and employment skills.

From a brief inspection, the pans of Spaghetti Bolognese seemed fairly edible despite the varying quality of onion chopping on show. Mr Ramkhalawon's finance quiz revealed that many students (and the author of this piece) were not quite as finance savvy as they would like to think. Do you all pay the same council tax in a student flat if one of you is not a student? Do you need a TV licence to watch TV on your lap top? Do you pay tax on interest? These were some of the questions that caused a bit of debate. Someone who was able to answer these questions, and more, was our guest speaker Mr Sacha Sadan, Director of Corporate Governance from Legal and General. He spoke inspiringly about the importance of employing a diverse range of

people in the City to enable it to thrive.

It is our hope that Year 13 students left OPGS that day inspired and clutching a Tupperware of passable spag bol.



Canterbury Cross-Curricula Maths and History Trip

Canterbury is a historic English cathedral city and UNESCO World Heritage Site. Situated in the South East of England, in Kent, it lies on the River Stour and remains to this day a popular tourist destination: consistently one of the most-visited cities in the United Kingdom.

Certainly, the history of the city holds astounding spiritual significance. The Archbishop of Canterbury is the primate of the Church of England and the worldwide Anglican Communion owing to the importance of St Augustine, who served as the apostle to the pagan Kingdom of Kent around the turn of the 7th century. Canterbury, is a place of pilgrimage, a fact popularised by Geoffrey Chaucer in 'The Canterbury Tales' in the 1300s. In this piece of canonical English literature, a diverse group of people recount a mixture of both lewd and moral stories to pass the time on a pilgrimage to Canterbury. Canterbury is also important to the Anglican religion because of St. Thomas Becket, another Archbishop of Canterbury, who was murdered in the cathedral in 1170 at the hands of the king's knights.

Nowadays, the city's economy is heavily reliant upon tourism. The city has been occupied since Paleolithic times and served as the capital of the Celtic Cantiaci and Jute Kingdom of Kent. Many historical structures fill the area, including a city wall founded in Roman times and rebuilt in the 14th century, the ruins of St Augustine's Abbey and a Norman castle, and the oldest extant school in the world, the King's School. Modern additions include the Marlowe Theatre and the St Lawrence Ground, home of the Kent County Cricket Club.

As Miss Aldous outlined, "the reason for our cross-curricula trip to Canterbury was something that had numerous links to our History curricula, for example, it was based around students' study of the murder of Thomas Becket in Year 7, so this was a great opportunity to see the exact location of this famous event. From a GCSE warfare point of view, understanding the importance of the feudal system in Medieval England is important, which the Cathedral tour



"Under an Unequal Sky" light / glass installation in Canterbury Cathedral - ideas of remembrance and injustice in the world today. The main one is 100 glass pendants representing 100 years since WW1.

helped explain. Students also saw memorials to WW1 including the new 'Under an Unequal Sky' installation – this theme is one we have developed throughout 2018."

Media Studies Trip to Harry Potter Warner Bros. Studios

Who isn't a Harry Potter fan these days?

The Year 10 Media Studies students got to indulge in the wonders of the boy wizard and how the film franchise produced, marketed and distributed so successfully by visiting the Warner Bros. Studios in the outskirts of London.

The trip was the essential enrichment experience for the students as it directly linked to the exam board topics, such as, the vertical integration of Time Warner and Warner Bros. Studios as a conglomerate that can facilitate both the production and distribution of film. It gave the students the perfect opportunity to get to grips with how important the producers, distributors and industry context are to the release of a film's success in the industry. Students will be able to use the Harry Potter series as a comparable text to their set texts for their exam topics, the Bond franchise. Students' ability to assess the industry factors, audience response and how representations are created through the camerawork will give them a memorable, hands on experience to bring their exam topic to life; particularly the part where they were invited to duel with the Death Eaters, as part of the Halloween festivities on offer during the course of the tour.



Similarly, for their coursework, the students must produce a poster and DVD cover for a film of their choice within a genre set by the exam board. Therefore, in using the work booklet to do a detailed analysis of how genre conventions were upheld or subverted in the trailer was invaluable to informing their own coursework production pieces



they will need to create later on in their GCSE course. This means that research of successful film marketing would help generate ideas for both comparative texts for their exam topic and the coursework element.

The Harry Potter film series made Leavesden, its home for more than ten years. Set adjacent to the working film studios where all eight Harry Potter films were made, the Studio Tour offers visitors the unique opportunity to explore two soundstages and a backlot filled with original sets, animatronic creatures and breath-taking special effects. It included the new section of the Forbidden Forest in which students could come face-to-face with Aragog and have a go at controlling the weather, the greenscreen broomstick experience, as well as a studio trail to catch the golden snitch. All of these more immerse elements were given to the students alongside a workbook, designed specifically to compliment the work they are doing in class, to stretch and challenge their knowledge of film marketing as a media form above and beyond the exam board specifications.



Mindfulness at OPGS

In September 2018 we introduced Mindfulness to address the variety of needs of our students.

We have several targeted interventions through the Learning Support department, alongside self-referral interventions and extra-curricular clubs. Three Mindfulness sessions are run weekly for students to drop-in, tailored for the differing needs of different year groups. These are well attended and are proving beneficial to many students across several year groups. In the words of one Mindfulness student "I feel more relaxed, more positive. I can better understand my own body, and understand why others may behave in their own way. Everyone is different and I feel more mindful of that." Year 13 Mindfulness student.

A special mention to the Year 9 Mindfulness group who have approached Mindfulness with maturity and a curiosity to investigate differing strategies with which to self-regulate and care for their mental health.

The Parent Association have kindly purchased



mats to enable the students to fully take part in activities, a heartfelt thank you from Mrs Wilkins and all students undertaking Mindfulness for this generous purchase. It has transformed the students' practice and has enabled us to facilitate larger numbers during sessions.

OPGS wins Voluntary Service Award

In November, OPGS Senior Prefects Katie Evans and Micky Mantle attended a formal dinner held by The Rotary Club of The Weald of Kent.

The Sixth Form students were invited to attend to collect the trophy due to the school's service to the voluntary sector. This is the second year in a row that OPGS has been awarded this honour. It is well deserved. At Oakwood Park Grammar School, students from all years take part in a day of voluntary activity every spring, the Sixth Formers and Year 11 organise food collections for the homeless in December, we raise money for our partner school in Ghana and Year 12 prefects steward the Weald of Kent Walk in aid of Cancer Research every June. Overall OPGS students and parents raised in excess of £5000 for local and national charities last year. (If anyone would like to hold the trophy for a moment in recognition of their hard work,

please see Ms Hern.) Congratulations to all the students and parents who contributed and a big thank you to Duncan Payne from The Rotary Club for his support. It may be of interest to students that they can apply to the Rotary Club Mike Collingwood Fund for a grant to support their gap year or expedition. Students who have travelled to Ghana and Peru with the school in the past have been supported by this generous fund. <http://www.wealdofkentrotary.org.uk/MCMF.html>



Trip to New York

On Saturday 20th October, we met at OPGS with 38 students and 4 staff all excited about the week ahead.

After an excellent Virgin flight we arrived at our Hotel Spring Hill Suites in New York to find it overlooked the iconic Empire State Building!

On the first day we had breakfast at Hotel and then we transferred to Battery Park for our 08.15 tour to Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island. The views from the boat and Ellis Island were incredible with some great photos being taken.

We then travelled to Metlife Stadium for the NY Jets v Minnesota Vikings American Football game. The stadium was hugely impressive and the game entertained the group in the cold.

The second day started with a guided tour of the United Nations. Then we visited the emotional September 11 Memorial and Museum where we saw the massive reflective pools built upon the footprints of the original World Trade Centre. The evening was spent enjoying Avenue Q – Broadway Show.

Day three included visits to Brooklyn, Greenwich Village, Central Park and Trump Tower via the metro. We then had some free-time for souvenir shopping on Times Square.

The day concluded with an evening meal at Planet Hollywood Times Square

On day four, we took a transfer to Washington for a tour of the Pentagon.

We then visited the National Archives to see the actual US Constitution and the Bill of Rights. Day five started with a visit to the Supreme Court and US Capitol.

We then visited the White House, the Vietnam and Lincoln Memorials.

On the final day, we visited the Smithsonian Museum to see the Wright brother's plane and Neil Armstrong's moon equipment.

It was one of the most packed and enjoyable school trips of recent years!



OPGS 1st XI Win Premier League

OPGS 1st XI football team were set a challenge at the start of the season by Mr Smith. He said there is one competition that the school has not won in his 20 years associated at the school, from pupil to teacher – the U19 Kent Premier League.

This would be the final trophy that some members of the squad would need to complete the full-set of FOUR trophies it is possible to win in schools football – they have already won the District League, Kent Cup and the prestigious National Cup.

The first game was away at Dover Grammar School and it started well with a convincing 4-0 win with two goals from Mickey Mantle, one from Oscar Brookes and one from Sammy Tansil. The next game was at home against Harvey Grammar School, traditionally a tough fixture but this time OPGS defeated them 8-1 with goals from Shane Buckland, Ollie Debnam, Jamie Fagg, Luke Martin, Luke Angus and Mickey Mantle. This was a record defeat of Harvey and made us think we may have a chance of winning the league this year.

Next was a hard fought away game against a strong MGS side, with Emmanuel getting the winner from a penalty. Then it was Norton Knatchbull at home and a 2-0 win with goals from skipper Evan Lewis and Mickey Mantle.

OPGS then played their rivals at the top of the league, Simon Langton and despite playing the better football could only manage a draw with a fantastic goal from Sammy Tansil. The next game was away against QES and despite having all of the chances we only won 5-3 with goals from Evan Lewis and Sammy Tansil amongst others.

OPGS were beaten second on goal difference as Langton had beat one side 16-1!

The toughest game of the season was next against a strong Borden side and it was only a last minute penalty from Sammy Tansil that meant OPGS won 2-1 and were pushing Langton all the way.

The next game was away at Chatham and Clarendon and OPGS had to try and match Langton's 16 goals against them which was always going to be difficult. The side eventually won 7-0 with Ollie Debnam getting a hat-trick and were made even happier by the news that Langton had drawn with Harvey 3-3 at home. This made the 8-1 victory against Harvey seem an even more impressive result and OPGS now needed to beat Dane Court at home to be crowned champions.

The last game of the season was at home in terrible conditions but the team were really up for it and took an early lead from Mickey Mantle's head after a long throw-in from Jamie O'Connor. Chris Olds made a great save against the run of play and then Mickey scored again to make it 2-0. Dane Court got a goal back but OPGS kept creating chance after chance and Mickey Mantle made it 3 with 10 minutes to go. We were CHAMPIONS!

Mr Smith said ' This is an another incredible achievement from this record breaking squad; some of these boys have played over 120 times for the school and to win everything they have is unprecedented in the school's long sporting history'.

2017/18	2018/19
Boys-U18A	
1 Oakwood Park Grammar School	
P13 W12 D1 L0	
96.15%	



OPGS Students collect over 2150 items for the Maidstone Day Centre.

Over the past two weeks, Oakwood Park Grammar School has launched a Christmas Food Appeal to collect food items for those less fortunate who use the Maidstone Homeless Day Centre in Knightrider Street, Maidstone. Armed with a team of `Elves` 18 Sixth Form students have been busy collecting food and toiletries and equipment to donate to the charity.

Thanks to parents, students and staff at OPGS, over 2150 items have been donated to the 'You Can Help' Christmas Appeal set up by the Maidstone Day Centre in conjunction with the Kent Messenger. Maidstone Day Centre has been caring for the town's homeless and vulnerable people for almost 30 years. Every day they provide hot showers, clean clothes and home cooked meals for the men and women who come to them for help. Their main focus is on

homelessness but since 2005 they have been running a community food share programme, Food for Thought. They collect surplus food from local traders and redistribute it to those who would otherwise go hungry. As well as using the food in the Day Centre kitchens they deliver to school breakfast clubs, children's organisation and those for elderly people who are faced with the dilemma of paying the bills or buying food. In the run up to the Christmas period the charity is seeking donations of food supplies and toiletries which will be used for the town's homeless and vulnerable people.

Ms Bevan, Deputy Headteacher, commented, 'I would like to thank parents and students for such an overwhelming response to the campaign and also to the Sixth Form students for organising the collection so effectively. 2150 items is the largest amount we have ever donated.'



Prince's Teaching Institute

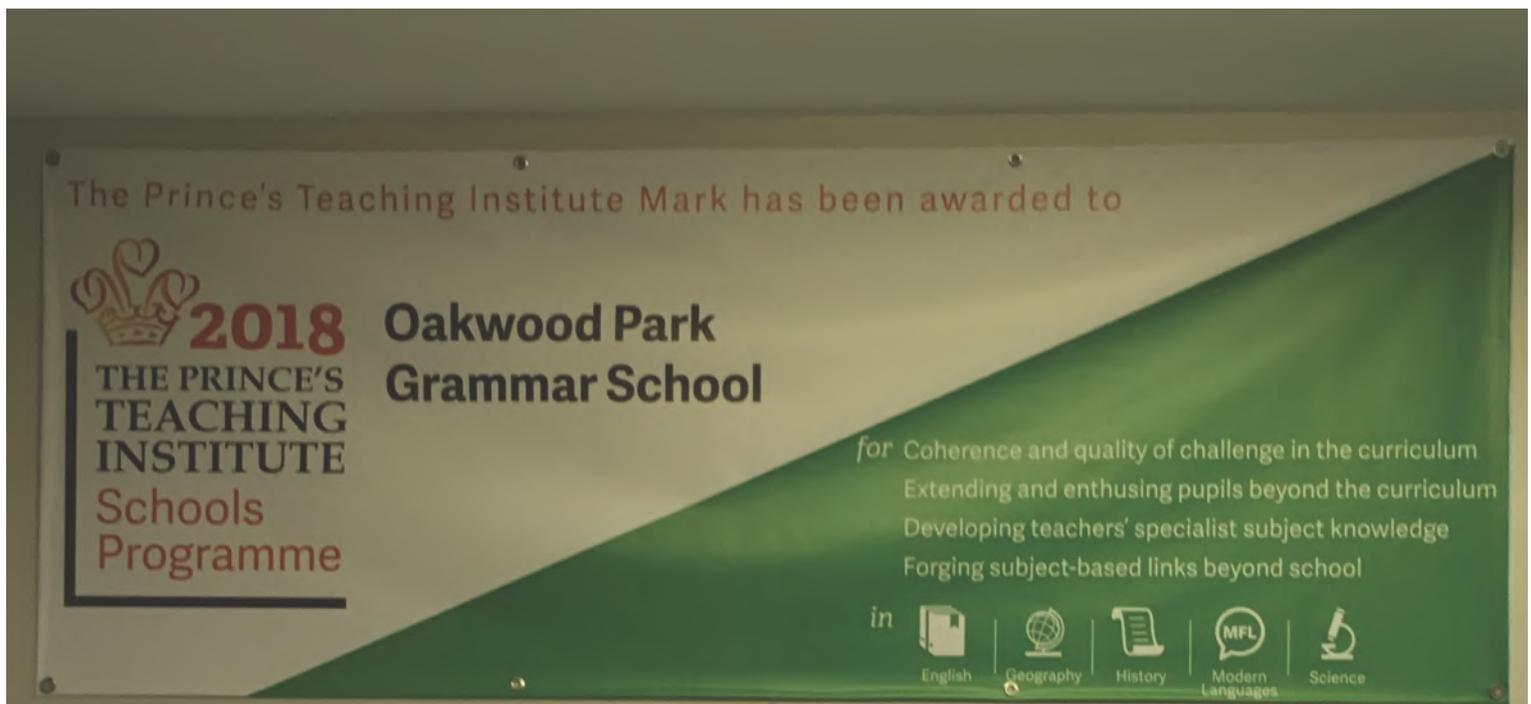
The Prince's Teaching Institute is a national programme which 268 schools across the country are enrolled in which believes that passionate, motivated teachers are the key to making education excellent.

As a result, each of the different departments in the school work with the PTI and are committed to making high quality, rigorous and enjoyable education available to every child, regardless of their background or ability. The PTI involve a group of 728 department leaders in seminars, workshops and action research so they can work collaboratively to enhance subject knowledge, share best practice,

promote the role of the teacher and engage students in subjects.

We are delighted that the Prince of Wales Teaching Institute has recognised OPGS as a leading school by awarding us their "Institute Mark " for having five subjects successfully recognised as leading areas of expertise. Well done to English , Geography ,History , MFL and Science .

We have a wonderful banner to show off !



PSHE: Mental Health Awareness

On Wednesday 7th November, Year 10 students attended a talk from Katie Kittermaster who is a Sixth Form student from Cranbrook School.

Katie is a modest 17-year-old singer/songwriter, from Kent. However, during her teens, her family moved to Dubai for 3 years. During this time, Katie was given the opportunity to get her voice on a global platform by singing live on MBC TV. This led onto greater things including a slot performing at the prestigious Global Gift Gala Event hosted by Ricky Martin and Eva Longoria. Katie opened the star-studded event, attended by 50Cent, singing 'Skinny Love' by Birdy.

Despite her rise to fame and increasing fan base, Katie explained how she is humbled by her friends in her life who keep her grounded and how she has been personally affected from the fact a close friend committed suicide. As a result, her aim was to raise awareness and show students it is a positive thing to open up a dialogue around mental health issues and depression. As well as speaking from the heart, based on how her friendship circles had experienced this, she also works with Walk to Talk Foundation, an organisation set up to tackle this issue directly.

The Foundation is based locally and was created to get people active, walking to promote awareness of mental health in teens in particular. The movement is really gaining in momentum and as recently as September, Zoe Ball commented on Twitter: "Really moved to read about Project Walk To Talk. Boys and men helping to raise awareness of men's mental health, inspired by personal loss. Terrific work chaps #walktotalk".

In line with the aims of the Foundation and with her own deep-felt passion surrounding the issue of mental health, Katie also took the time to sing a collection of what she considered sad songs, to reflect the serious emotional and mental issues young people today are dealing with. Her repertoire included a cover of 'Say Something', originally by Justin Timberlake feat. Chris Stapleton; a song which reached number one in Slovakia and Slovenia and the top 10 in Austria, Belgium, Canada, Czech Republic, Germany, Hungary, the Netherlands, Poland, Scotland, Switzerland, and the United Kingdom. Katie also moved onto some of her own titles including 'Origami Butterfly'. The students from

P10 felt the performances were "inspiring" and that "she did well to convey a deeper meaning through the lyrics, which encouraged students they should not be afraid to talk these issues, if they are feeling down". The students also felt the performances by Katie were "emotional, moving and raw in her delivery" and as such it left a lasting impression with the students who watched her perform.

In sharing her story, Katie helped the students at Oakwood Park to feel okay about discussing these topics more openly, and with their own friends. The students feel that in coming into school and hearing how other Katie, a person of a similar age who they can more easily identify with, has shown that if these are spoken about, they can become much more manageable and students need not have a stigma around them. This is something backed up by the PSHE programme we follow in form times, which covers different topics each term, including school stresses, like how to deal with exam stress to social pressures like gang culture. Alongside this, students are exposed to (inter-) national initiatives on a weekly basis with our Wednesday Awareness Days which celebrate everything from Remembrance, to Anti-Bullying Week; from Human Rights, to International Women's Day. The idea behind creating time in the school day to discuss issues outside your daily life or perhaps issues you are dealing with, gives students some dedicated reflection time and a safe place in which to discuss their wellbeing. In school, we are a community, and so we work to foster those values of kindness, tolerance and respect in all the aspects of school life. Katie felt of the need to talk and sing about issues and experiences that have helped to shape her as a person, we hope to also give our students a place in which they can divulge and learn more about issues relevant to them as the young people of today, so we can all work towards a better future for everyone.



Senior Maths Challenge

A large number of OPGS students recently took part in the Senior Maths Challenge and some achieved outstanding results. This is a Maths competition open to all A-Level students in the British Isles along with a large number of international schools.

A sample question: In a 100-day period, each of six friends goes swimming on exactly 75 days. There are n days on which at least five of the friends swim. What are the largest and smallest possible values of n ?

Daniel Miller and Anthony Booth (both Yr. 13) achieved a Gold Certificate and qualified for the

next round, known as the “Kangaroo”. This is a 1 hour paper consisting of 20 questions which they have already undertaken.

Results will be with us shortly. Well done to both students on their achievements to date.



Spanish Exchange

Recently some students have returned from the Spanish part of the exchange, and it was a great trip once again, staying in Calatayud, a small town near Zaragoza.

After a long trip from our school to theirs that took most of the day, we were all tired and nervous, but the nerves had all but disappeared after we started to play a football game with all 50 people on the first night. The week was a combination of cultural trips and school, including visits to El Monasterio de Piedra, a monastery with fantastic waterfalls and views of the surrounding valleys, a day trip to Valencia to see the Mestalla football stadium and an aquarium. Also we visited ruins

of an ancient settlement called Numancia, where we learnt about the residents' way of life and their defence from the Romans. In addition, we had a free day where we spent the day with our host families. Some partners went to the Fiesta del Pilar in Zaragoza where they visited the Basilica and enjoyed the music and atmosphere there. To top the trip off, we had to pay a visit to the local tapas bar to have the best patatas bravas and torreznos in the town. Overall it was a fantastic trip where we all improved our Spanish speaking and listening, and also immersed ourselves in the Spanish lifestyle for a week. Thanks to Señor Herrera and Miss Hicks for organizing the exchange, it was a real success!

Max Fossett Year 12



SMSC Award – First Grammar School in the Country to Gain the Accolade

Oakwood Park Grammar School has recently been awarded the Silver level of the National SMSC Quality Mark. The award is recognition for the provisions and quality education students receive to develop their spiritual, moral, social and cultural wellbeing.

Oakwood Park is proud to offer students a wide variety of opportunities which aid student development and support the school ethos of Kindness, Tolerance and Respect. Students benefit from access to a range of residential trips and enrichment days across subjects, take on social responsibilities in our annual volunteering day, as well as through the sixth form charities and they actively engage in school improvements through Student Voice. In addition, at OPGS, we aim to support students' mental wellbeing through mindfulness sessions, student mentoring and the school counsellor, all of which have been acknowledged for their positive impact. This award reiterates the emphasis Oakwood Park places on providing our students with a well-rounded, supportive, individual education.

Strengths of the school's SMSC development:

- Volunteer days, Focus weeks and Enrichment days are superb examples of some of the opportunities your young people have to engage them in their local community and prepare them for living life in Modern Britain. It was so lovely to hear how this year's Volunteer day totalled a fantastic 2800 hours of free voluntary work.
- Trips and residential; from Venice, Belgium and Chile to Stratford, Canterbury and Chartwell. These culturally rich experiences really have an impact on the students and it was wonderful to listen to them recount moments from their variety of excursions outside school - some of these moments will stay with these children for life.

- The newly appointed Student Voice are a strong group of students who are more than ready to support school life and bring about changes that both staff and students feel are necessary.
- Recognising the need to invest in student well-being and relationships - Promoting the idea that school is not just about education but teaching the principle of a responsibility to each other.
- The links with your feeder schools and the maintaining of a context sheet to inform and support student's social and emotional development right the way through their time at Oakwood Park.

These features combined are testimony to the fact that SMSC is essential to the academic progress of students. It doesn't happen in isolation – it saturates through the school and is linked to everything we do at OPGS, its ethos and attitude. We hope this Quality Mark will help schools shine in the fact they offer a broad and balanced curriculum that is the entitlement and expectation for all students.



The Enemy Within

The London School of Economics held a reception for ex-Kent miners, OPGS Sixth Formers, parents, governors and staff at the opening night of the film 'The Enemy Within' last month.

The film made by OPGS students was funded by the Heritage Lottery and supported by the Raindance Film festival organisers. The funds and equipment provided enabled Sixth Form history and politics students to investigate the events of the 1985 miners' strike in Kent. Because OPGS has such a supportive community, students were able to draw on connections provided by parents and ex-students to talk to police officers, journalists, miners, academics and archivists to compile a fascinating documentary. The question and answer session that followed the film showed that the emotions and controversies involved in collective action and strike breaking are still very much alive today. There will be a showing of 'The Enemy Within' at Maidstone Odeon next term to which the community at large are invited.

(Photo shows Liz French (National Union of Women Against Pit Closures) with the film-making students)



Votes at 16

Students from OPGS and MGGS gave up one of their Friday nights last month to support the campaign for Votes at 16 currently being run by the National Youth Parliament. Helen Grant MP and Councillor Paul Cooper (ex-OPGS student) stood in opposition to the motion and were challenged by OPGS student and MYP Evan Lewis.

The former government minister, Ms Grant, cited the fact that most 16 year olds were not interested enough in politics to be given the vote. The audience of 16 and 17 year olds made up of students proved them wrong by their probing questions and heart felt contributions. The fact that Scottish 16 year olds were given a vote in their independence referendum was returned to

often. The debate ended, as all discussions seem to at the moment, with the Brexit referendum, in which 16 year olds were not allowed to vote. Ms Grant congratulated the students on the level of the debate and conceded that she was not completely opposed to the motion after all! Thank you to Maidstone Town Hall for hosting the debate and to Elena Ewence (MGGS) for organising it.



Visit to Auschwitz

Our four Head students returned last month from a gruelling visit to Poland where they toured the German Nazi concentration camps of Auschwitz and Auschwitz-Birkenau with the Holocaust Educational Trust.

The trip had been preceded by seminars held in London where students heard from survivors of the Holocaust who recounted their horrendous experiences and their lives following the liberation of the camps. As time moves on, hearing in person from these witnesses becomes more and more rare. This is why the scheme Lessons from Auschwitz subsidises travel for student representatives to the camps on the understanding that these young people will pass on to their peers what they heard and saw at the museums.

Beth, Evan, Nina and Tom have lived up to their promises and have spoken to upper school students about the impressions that stuck with them the most. For one it was the accounts from hungry new arrivals to the camp in 1944 who



thought that someone was roasting meat in the night, without realising that they were smelling the burning corpses of those who had arrived before them. For another student it was the attempts of those Jewish prisoners to record what they saw and hide it away in the hope that what they were seeing would not be covered up by the Nazis when the war ended. The heaps of hair, shoes and saucepans, iconic images that are familiar to us all, were, they all admitted, the saddest exhibits in the museum. At the end of the assembly the Sixth Formers reflected on the importance of not allowing people to dehumanise others in an age of isolationism and nationalism.

Year 7 Family Project

As budding Year 6 students looking forward to their summer holidays before the start of their secondary school career, we asked our now Year 7 students to get involved with a project with their family which could be displayed in school.

The idea behind the project was to showcase our Year 7 students' best attributes, creativity and cultural curiosity with the rest of our school community.

At Oakwood Park Grammar School, our ethos is centred around gaining knowledge and exploring new ideas as students take responsibility for their own learning. With such a wide range of possible outcomes for the project, creativity, resourcefulness and independence were all key attributes in the huge range of stunning and successful projects we had on display at the first Year 7 Parents' Evening. The clear enthusiasm, thoughtfulness and ingenuity of the projects was a truly wonderful exhibition of the range of talented work our Year 7 students can produce.

The exhibition was rather formal, with parents and students taking time out of their discussions with subject teachers to peruse the different sections of the display of everything from dinosaur heads to recreations of trams, bridges and working models of light bulbs. The sheer amount of time and effort which had gone into them really was overwhelming and I feel led to some really brilliant discussions as the students took time to see their work, as well as that of their friends, in



an exhibition space they could be proud of.

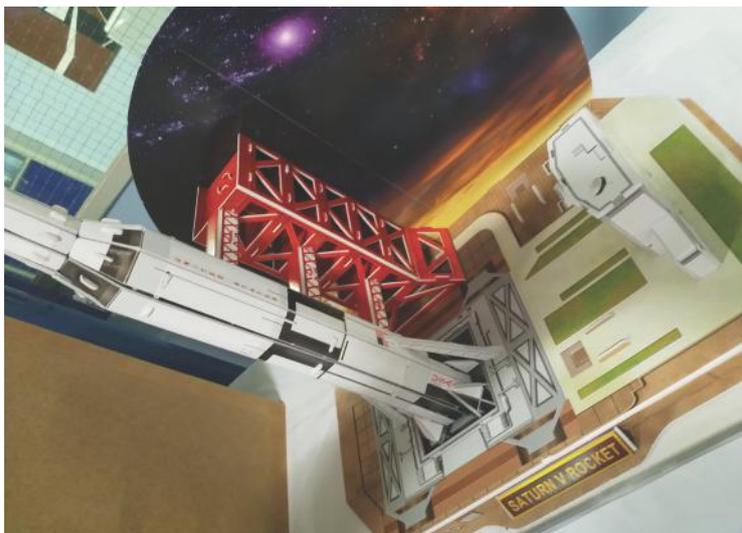
Whilst the quality of the work meant it was extremely difficult to judge who should be awarded for their efforts, it was decided the fairest way was to offer it up to a vote which students, staff and parents could be involved in. Therefore, I am delighted to announce the winner of each category is:

Artefact – Elliott Reynolds T7
Working Model – Logan Blenko T7
Display – Cameron Hines P7
Written Project – Kane Anderson C7
PowerPoint Presentation - Rafe Loveday S7
Vlog – Ethan Meacher X7

I would like to say a massive well done to all



of Year 7 who created work they should most definitely be proud of, and I know a number of departments have kept some of the items to use in the subjects they relate to, in future lessons and open evenings.



Year 7 Literacy Lessons with a Twist

As Subject Leader for English since last year, Miss George has made a huge impact on our approach to the subject and the boys love for English to date.

Usually, in her literacy lessons with KS3, Miss George would do the fortnightly spelling test and then ask the students to try to build some of their newfound vocabulary into a creative writing piece. Yet, full of surprises and with a fresh approach to the subject, Miss George “felt like doing something different”: it is called Talk4Writing.

Talk for Writing, developed by Pie Corbett, supported by Julia Strong, is powerful because it is based on the principles of how children learn. It has a positive impact on students’ literacy skills because it enables children to imitate the language they need for a particular topic orally, before reading and analysing it, and then writing their own version. So, incorporated into Miss. George’s literacy lesson, it looked something like this:



They can use any symbols, text mapping (using signs and symbols to represent words, they can use 3D drawing etc.) Using their models, students were then given time to tell the story of the scene as a presentation to the class. As part of their GCSE English Language, students are expected to present their point of view on a topic and answer questions on it, so the Year 7 students could see the relevance of the task to their English lessons and indeed the life-long oracy skills they would be practicing and developing in doing so.



This was set as homework project over the next couple of literacy lessons, so essentially the students had a month in which to produce a meaningful Christmas tale to their fellow students, just in time to get into the festive spirit for the holidays. Similarly, it saw students partake in a Victorian tradition of telling stories to their families as a form of entertainment at Christmas time.

We read the extract from Charles Dickens’ A Christmas Carol and collectively analysed the different language techniques used to describe the setting/character to create a sense of atmosphere and engage the reader in the story.

I then told them about creating a Christmas/Winter themed scene – I explained to students that I do not want them to write in paragraphs.



Year 7 Remembrance Poetry Enrichment

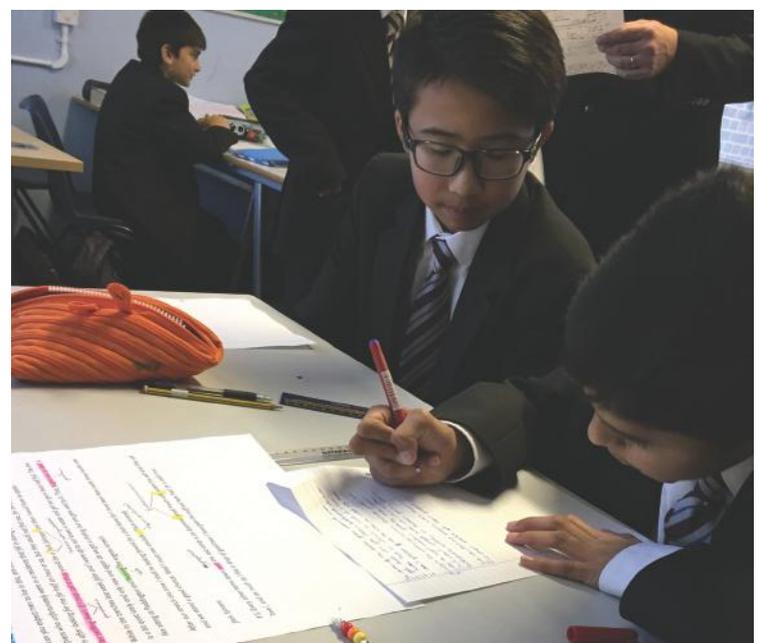
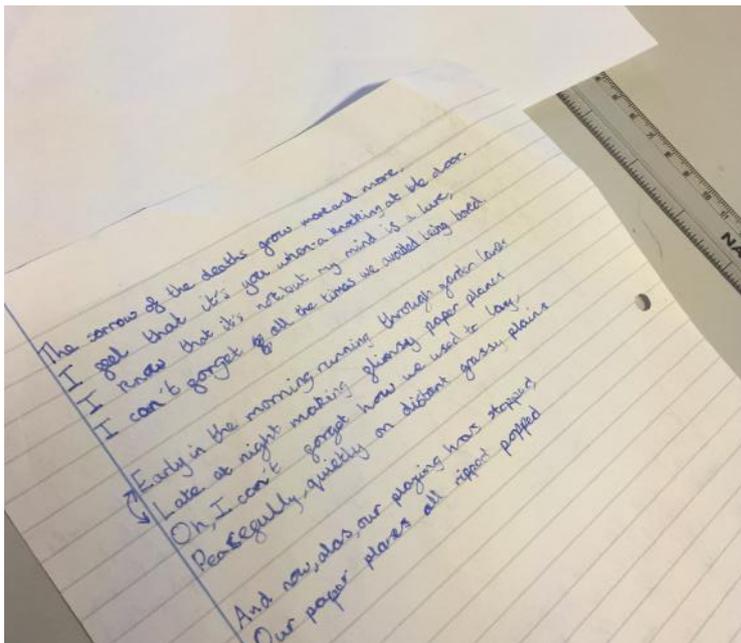
Our recent Year 7 Enrichment Day in English was based on the theme of Remembrance to commemorate the centenary anniversary of the Allied victory on Armistice Day.

Students took part in various activities which further deepen their knowledge and understanding of a key historical period in Britain. They participated in group work to analyse letters written by WW1 soldiers, they were able to write imaginatively as a War soldier using language techniques skills they have learnt in their English lessons. The students were also given opportunities to participate in whole class discussion and presentation of their imaginative piece. These activities would not only further enrich their understanding and appreciation of British history, but they would

also develop in confidence and they would be able to discuss and write about how history has shaped their world today.

Hopefully, they will later be able to make contextual links when they start their GCSE Literature looking at the AQA Power and Conflict Cluster, which also includes a range of war poetry.

Miss Davis, KS3 Co-Ordinator in English summed up the significance of the day taking into account the cultural heritage and legacy of the Trench poets with: "Enrichment day allowed students to engage with powerful stories from WW1. As a result students were able to empathise with young men from the past and in turn produce beautiful poems to honour them."



World War One, Ypres

After visiting the cemeteries in Ypres; Tyne Cot, Langemark, and Essex Farm the events that happened there during the First World War, the first impression is that they are very sad places. They saw lots of devastation.

After visiting Tyne Cot and seeing the vast number of graves, names and land used to remember all these brave soldiers that fought for their country, my thoughts were with all the brave soldiers who lost their lives. I learnt a lot at the cemetery for instance; there are 11,954 soldier's graves, and it is the largest Commonwealth war cemetery in the world.

The Langemark cemetery was a German cemetery very different from the British cemetery. They did not have enough land to place individual graves for each brave soldier, as the relations with Belgium were poor and the Versailles Treaty (which we have learnt about in Year 8) was so harsh on the



At the Essex Farm cemetery, the poem, "In Flanders's Fields" was memorialised due to this being the location where the Canadian medical officer wrote the poem during the war. There was a statue of a cross, used to pay respects, with words written alongside it. Whilst walking around the cemetery, it was sad seeing how young some of the soldiers were, the youngest being V.J. Strudwick, at the age of 15.



Germans. They had up to eight names on each grave which shows the vast number of soldiers who died in the war. It was very respectful in the cemetery, although a different atmosphere to Tyne Cot due to the oak trees growing all around. It was also very sad with the number of graves.



Year 7 Star of the Week

In Year 7, form groups have been nominating a student as “Star of the Week”.

This is a student who has demonstrated the school’s key values of kindness, respect and tolerance in some way and is selected by the students for a variety of reasons.

This term’s stars have been nominated as follows:

C7

Conor McGrath
Cameron Burr
James Tricker
Evan Cook
Oscar Mattingly
Alistair Mills
Albert Palmer
William Davies
Bailey Barnett

T7

Oliver Gratton-Wilkinson
Archie Fuller
Elliot Reynolds
Logan Blenko
Julius Peters
Oscar Salida-Howard
Alistair Prigg

P7

Liam Walters
Dougie Myers
Tise Alao
Emmanuel Erebor
Luke Redmond

X7

-George Dugdale
-Alfie Hamilton
-Sam Cross
-Jacob Holness
-Ben Sudbury-Dungey
-Tom Harwood
-Leo Atkinson

S7

Charlie Collie
Lyle Sheldrick
Achileas Burt
Daniel Airey
Samuel George
Reagan Harriss
Sam Hardy
Ty Harding
Alex Spencer-Marchant

