



Dear Parents, Carers and Students,

Welcome to the latest edition of @Oakwood and as ever, I am grateful to the Publicity Team of Mr Peacock, Ms Goodhew and Mr Solly for all their hard work.

We had a busy Spring Term. The outstanding achievements of our U18 Football Team who have won a "treble" of Kent Trophies must take pride of place, but we have had a number of other events and achievements which have also been hugely impressive.

Our Debaters did extremely well at the Queen's College University, our Warhammer Team reached the national semi-finals and the wonderful film about the Kent Miners had a showing at the Maidstone Odeon.

Many congratulations to everyone on these achievements and to all the staff who made it possible.

Mr K.W. Moody - Headteacher

The INVINCIBLES

OPGS 1st XI Record- Breakers

OPGS U18 football side won an unprecedented TREBLE on the 27th March when they defeated Tunbridge Wells Grammar School in a comprehensive 4-1 victory.

The match was only 1-0 at half time, thanks to a Shane Buckland towering header; but the second half saw OPGS quickly go 4-0 up after excellent finishes from Tom Watson and Sam Tansil. Tom Watson's two goals capped a man-of-the-match performance closely followed by Max Eldridge, Jamie O'Connor and Shane Buckland. This was the 20th game OPGS had played this season, and after winning the U18 Premiership title and the Play-Off Final this meant they had not only been undefeated but had won all THREE trophies available to them. The squad was built on the Year 13 students that had won so many trophies lower down the school, with Chris Olds, Oscar Brookes, Jamie O'Connor, Mickey Mantle Ollie Debnam, Tom Watson, Emmanuel Fanthome-Hodgeson, Shane Buckland and Evan Lewis all winning a Kent Cup the previous two years. However, the team was strengthened by adding Year 12 students Sam Tansil and Sony Cook as well as the excellent Year 11's Adam Jones, Max Eldridge, Luke Martin, Robbie Roberts and Luke Angus.

This OPGS side has been the most successful in the school's 101 year history with them winning the following trophies over their 7 years at Oakwood Park :

Maidstone Cup – 2013 at U12 level
Maidstone Cup – 2014 at U13 level
Maidstone Cup – 2015 at U14 level
English National Cup – 2015 at U14 level
Kent Cup – 2017 at U16 level
Kent Cup – 2018 at U17 level
Kent Cup – 2019 at U18 level
Kent Play-Off Final – 2019
Kent Premiership Title – 2019

During this period the team has played an incredible 131 matches and scored 462 goals, meaning they have averaged 3.5 goals per match. These figures are even more impressive when considering THREE players have played more than 150 games for the school due to their appearances in the year above. Jamie O'Connor, Ollie Debnam and Evan

Lewis have played more times for OPGS than any other student and deserve enormous credit for their commitment.

Many of the boys who played on 27th March were also part of the National Cup winning team in 2015, with Oscar Brookes, Jamie O'Connor, Ollie Debnam, Shane Buckland, Jamie O'Connor and Evan Lewis all starting in the final at Reading. This remains the only time a team from Maidstone has won a National Cup and one of only a handful of Kent winners over the last 30 years.

The team were also victorious in the Kent Cup in Year 11, with perhaps their strongest side. This team saw Henry Lovering, George Robinson, Carlo Gonzalez, Bevan Donahue, Ben Jenkinson, Issac Iondolo, Tom Goodayle, Alex Hopkins, Callum Bonnett and Ryan Godding all star in the success that allowed them to finish No 1 in the National Rankings according to the international School Football website.



It is testament to the attitude and ability of the team that they were able to lose players of the calibre above to win the U17 Kent Cup in 2018. Players such as Jamie Brookman, Charlie Fitzpatrick, Ryan McClaine, Jamie Fagg, Josh Purvis and Tias Combler were brought into the side. They responded fantastically by sharing the trophy against a very strong Simon Langton side. Jamie Brookman and Charlie Fitzpatrick scored crucial goals on their route to success and special mention should be made of Chris Old's save in the dying minute of the final.

OPGS has been blessed with fantastic goalkeepers in this year group with Harry Gowers also repre-

senting the school and Maidstone district with huge credit before injury forced him to play less football. Another excellent goalkeeper, Henry Lovering was the hero of the National Cup when he saved TWO penalties in the penalty shoot-out to crown OPGS National Champions. Oscar Brookes and Ryan Godding were the other scorers in this incredible game. Mention should be made of the incredible support that night in Reading where it seemed that the whole stadium was maroon. Special credit should be given to Jake Cottee, Josh Lewis and Finlay Bell who never stopped supporting their team and were instrumental in the victory.

Such support was seen again on March 27th where it seemed like the whole of the Sixth Form were there to witness the team's final game. This support also helped OPGS defeat a very physical Simon Langton side in the Play-Off Final where goals from Mickey Mantle and Emmanuel meant that OPGS were able to beat Langton home and away. This was particularly satisfying for Mickey who had to be carried off in the first leg after a nasty injury. Whilst mentioning injuries it is worth noting that OPGS had to play the Play-Off Final and Kent Final without their joint captain, defensive rock and experienced Kent player, Ollie Debnam.

Goals are always important and OPGS have been blessed with players who can score goals all over



the pitch. George Robinson and Ryan Godding did this task lower down the school, with a 6-0 victory in the Semi-Final of the National Final standing out in the memory. In later years Ollie Debnam and Evan Lewis contributed with important goals but most of the responsibility was filled by Shane Buckland, Sam Tansil, Emmanuel Fanthome- Hodgson and Mickey Mantle. Mickey was top scorer this season with vital goals against Simon Langton and Beths Grammar School amongst many others. Mickey scored an impressive range of goals, including headers, left foot and right foot shots from both inside and outside of the box. A less likely goal scorer was once Tom Watson but after his double in the Kent Final this is no longer the case!

This team has broken record after record and done so with an incredible attitude. This is seen by the fact that NO Year 13 player has been booked the entire season and when some opposition teams have had 5 players cautioned in certain games this shows the sportsmanship and professionalism of the team. That attitude and behaviour comes from the captains and it is no surprise that both Evan and Ollie have not only represented Maidstone District – both winning the SE England Final v Brighton - but have also represented Kent. OPGS have also had George Robinson and Jamie O'Connor represent Kent and Tom Watson, Oscar Brookes, Shane Buckland, Mickey Mantle, Emmanuel Fanthome-Hodgson all represent Maidstone District. Showing the depth of ability in this incredible year group.

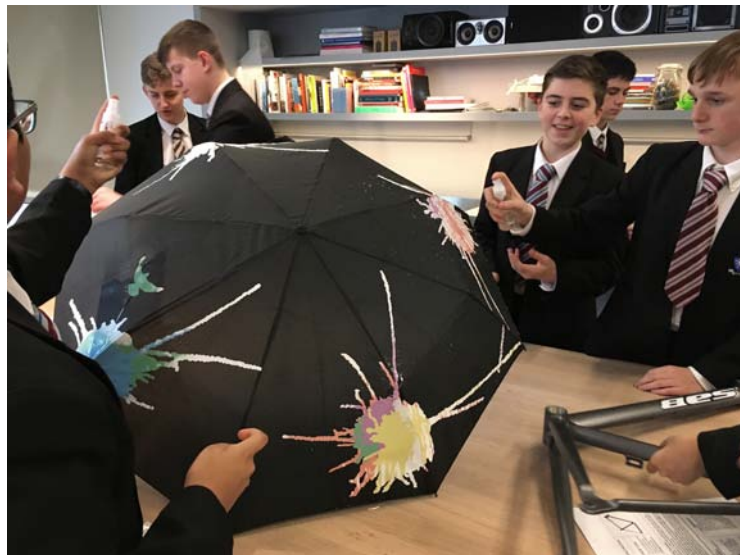
Mr Smith who has coached the team throughout their school career said their achievements are unprecedented not just at OPGS but any school in Kent and to finish their time at school as the 'Invincibles' is a fitting tribute to this extraordinary bunch of young men.

Design and Technology Students visit Design Museum in London

On Wednesday 6th March, students studying Design and Technology visited the Design Museum in London to complete a design workshop and view the 'Home Futures' exhibition.

The exhibition explores a series of dreamlike passages and rooms designed by New York-based architects SO-IL and explores yesterday's visions of the future – as avant-garde speculations are displayed alongside contemporary objects and new commissions.

Students discovered more than 200 objects and experiences which traced the key social and technological aspirations that have driven change in the home. Historical notions of the mechanised home and the compact home were displayed alongside contemporary phenomena such as connected devices and the sharing economy.



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

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

Alcoholics Anonymous speaks to Year 10

This term Alcoholics Anonymous spoke to year 10 during a special assembly. The talk was about the dangers of alcohol, the effects of alcohol dependency, and what to do if a loved one is suffering from alcoholism. This was a particularly powerful message as it was delivered from people who had experienced this first hand.

Each speaker was a volunteer who spoke about their own experiences with alcohol and how it had led them to addiction. 'Tony' described how good his life had been but he became dependant on alcohol and started drinking in the mornings and his life spiralled out of control, he made and broke promises, lied and put his business and family life at risk until he found the AA and stopped drinking altogether, 30 years later he is still an alcoholic and will never drink again.

'Matt' explained that he had always been shy in public situations but as a teenager had discovered alcohol made him braver and more fun, he enjoyed that feeling and developed an addiction to it. But soon realised he drank more than everyone else and whereas those around him could stop anytime

he was always drinking to excess which was a destructive path and had a detrimental effect on his life, even though he wasn't the stereotypical drunk. Matt was very clear that this addiction could happen to anyone but if it did he wanted the students to be alert to where to go if they ever needed help or support, or if they knew someone that did then the AA ran sessions every day and welcomed everyone.

The Maidstone AA support group runs sessions every Monday to Wednesday at 7pm



History Enrichment Day

On 6th March Year 10 History GCSE students took part in a Blitz Study Day for the Historic Environment component their Warfare Exam.

This included considering why London was targeted in the Second World War, how the government prepared the people and the ways propaganda was used to maintain civilian morale. Students completed online research, a marketplace, evaluated eyewitness accounts from the war and watched an American cinema film designed to instil sympathy for the British people. Students learnt about 'Dig for Victory' and 'spades not ships' as rationing was used. Students worked with focus and interest and were shocked at the levels of devastation and the impact on citizens.

One disaster which has recently been in the news was the Bethnal Green Tube Station crush on 3 March 1943, through which we explored issues of censorship in democracies.



Biology Challenge and Olympiad 2019

On Friday 8th March, 24 year 10 students participated in the 2019 Biology Challenge.

The Biology Challenge is a national competition organised by the UK Biology Competitions committee and administered by the Royal Society of Biology. The aim of the Biology Challenge is to stimulate students' curiosity for the natural world and encourages them to take an interest in biology outside of the school Science lab. Indeed, Thomas Berry suggests:

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

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

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

This essentially sums up the purpose of the challenge to get students to engage in Biology in a purposeful and demanding way. The Challenge consisted of two 25 minute papers and a chance of gaining a winning score resulting in the award of a Bronze, Silver or Gold certificate. The highest scoring students are rewarded with publicly recognised certificates, as well as being offered the opportunity to attend an awards ceremony at IET: London, Savoy Place.

The results have not been announced as of yet

but will be published in next month's @Oakwood.

The students that participated were as follows:

Tom Rose, Daniel King, John Paulose, Max Armstrong, Keran Ekeuh, Jamie Sturrock, Joe Hart, Ben Perks, Ace Shyjan, Nils Andre, Ahmed Sesay, Dylan Small, Benjamoin Plane, Matthew Wareham, Samuel Folley, Leo Trimmer, Sangam Thapa, Jacob Smith, Tom Homewood, Sid Kirk, Lucas Galvin, James Venison, James Eckley, Nathan Michelmores.

Biology Olympiad

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

The Biology Olympiad is open to students in post-16 education studying at school or college. 7800 students across the UK competed against each other. The competition consists of two, 45-minute multiple-choice papers to be taken online under staff supervised exam conditions. Top scoring students will be offered the opportunity to attend an award ceremony in London. OPGS completed the challenge on the 1st February with 9 of our top biologists. The students put in an impressive performance and walked away with the following awards:

Tom Place - Silver
Gabrielle Hodgson - Bronze
James Glasson - Bronze
Joseph Smy - Bronze
Robert Mills - Bronze
Joseph Rayner - Highly Commended
Sumair Hasan - Commended
Mason Waller - Commended
Charles George - Commended

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

Geography Field Trip to Burham

By Kane Anderson, Ollie Dunk and Alistair Mills

This is our article of what we did on our field trip to Burham.

We got out off the coach at roughly 9:20 AM and crossed the road to the top of Bluebell Hill. As soon as we arrived there, we started our first activity which was to draw a rough field sketch of what we could see down below. This included: the M20; many towns and villages; the deserted chalk pits and much more. This was very challenging but fun because of the strong wind which blew many papers away; flying into the trees.

The second activity which we did was observing the changes to the relief, soil and land use. This was interesting because we got to see how the soil changed from the top of Bluebell Hill all the way down to Burham. In this activity we also went down to the river Medway to see the change in the soil, relief and land use.

Activity 3 was one of our favourite activities because we learnt a lot about the history of Burham. During this activity we had to find out and explore Burham to find out about the ages of houses in that area. Some of the locals told us that there was a second church on Church Street that got knocked down in the 1970s.

Activity 4 was linked in with activity 3 because at the same time we also had to label out different functions in Burham. This included churches, doctor's surgery and the jet garage.

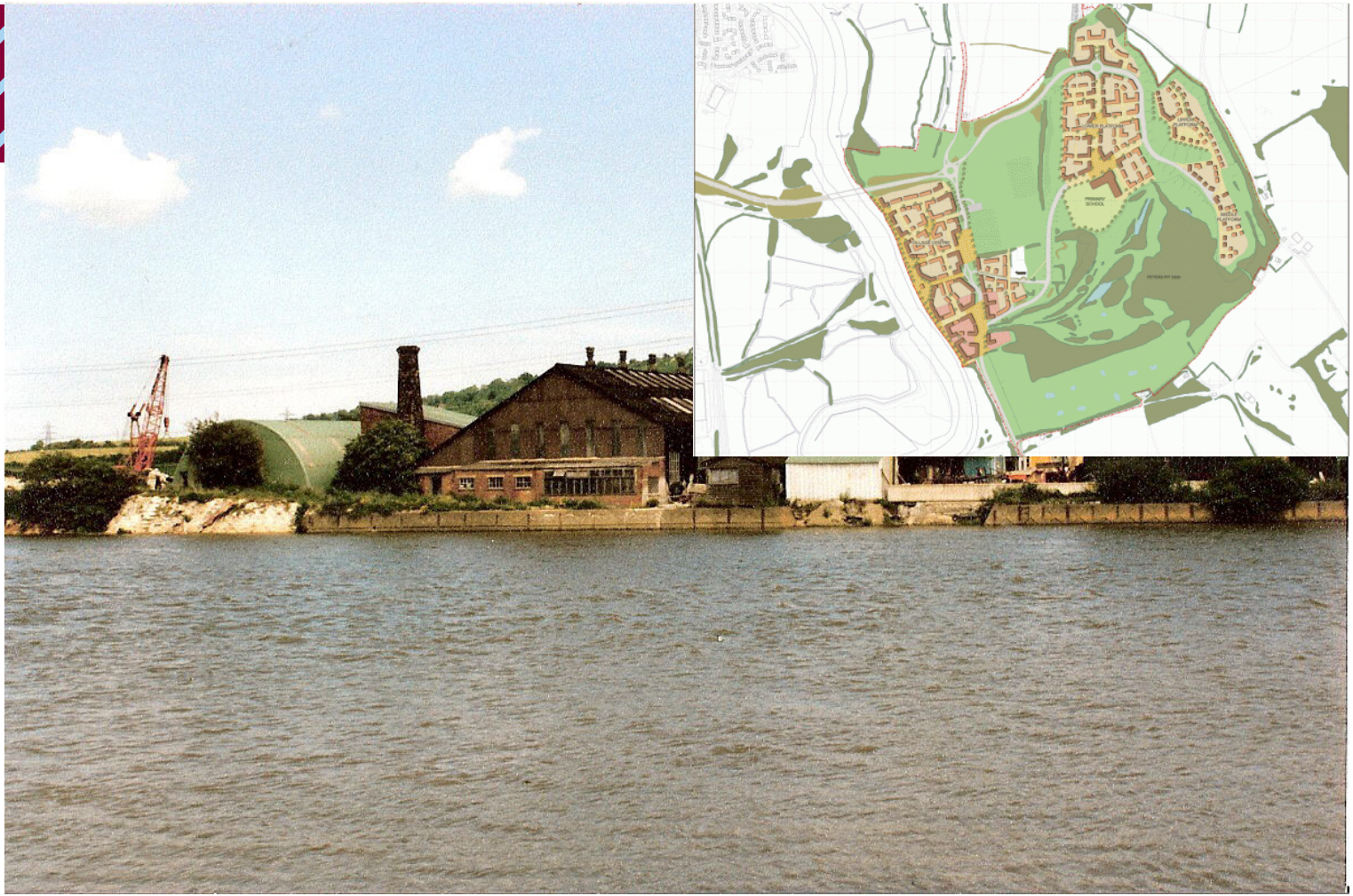
Activity 5 was also linked in with activity 3. In this activity we had to find out the location of 4

different photos, which were taken in 1951, which were spread around Burham. (This was like a puzzle)

The final activity was activity 6. In this activity we walked around the River Medway on a path leading to an area where we stopped and looked at Peter's Village. We had to fill in a sheet which showed us different answers which we had to tick or cross.

In conclusion we all enjoyed this field trip because all the activities were fun and challenging because of all the different challenges that were set for us throughout the day. These activities tested our geography knowledge almost every second.





Great Men value women Project- Year 10 workshop

Great Men value women Project- Year 10 workshop Returning to Oakwood Park for its fourth year was the Great Men Initiative.

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

One student reflected 'It was very interesting and I started thinking more about how other people feel in what I think as a normal social situation. The speakers were very kind and I felt it allowed me to open up. It would be good to have more days like these.'

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

Another student said 'It was good to learn about these social issues, as it is good to learn about this and not just school subjects. I think we should have this more often as its important.'

The workshop explores three central questions:

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

The students were asked to reflect on these questions at the end of the day, and to assess what they had learnt.

'Today I learnt about sexual harassment and about gender stereotypes and how stereotypes cause problems. Being a man in the 21st century means having more open- minded views and treating homosexuality and women with respect and treating them equally. It also means treating themselves with respect and not feeling confined to typical stereotypes. The media often plays a negative part in presenting gender roles as it often present unrealistic ideas about what male and females should be like.'

'Basically I believe that men in the 21st century are being stereotyped, which causes too many problems such as suicide. If a man has emotions to let out, why should he feel he isn't allowed to? For example, crying is seen as something a man shouldn't do, as it is 'weak'. However, crying once when you need to doesn't change who you are; you are still the same person. Women are also being stereotyped, to the extent where it is seen as something normal. This causes problems, because women have the same capabilities as men; some are potentially better. However society sees women as the 'weaker' gender.'



BFI Southbank: GCSE Media Studies Music Video

On Wednesday 6th March, the Year 11 Media Studies students attended an event designed specifically for teachers and students in preparation for their Summer exams,

‘Music Video: a GCSE Study Day’ was a chance for the students to be involved in a lecture style delivery of each of the assessment objectives of their Component 2 Media Studies exam, delivered by industry experts, at the British Film Institute (BFI) in London’s Southbank.

These students were given time to explore the history of the music video and its function for the industry, artist and audience. The delivery comprised of a clip-based talk plus age-appropriate interactive activities in the morning, followed by a break for lunch. During the lunch break, each school group was tasked with a project. They were played some music and asked to come up with a concept music video to go with the lyrics, which they would then pitch to the music video directors, Dragon’s Den style upon returning to the auditorium. Our group was commended for coming up with the most thoughtful pitch, presented by Archie Mitchell.

This study day linked directly to Eduqas GCSE Media Studies – Component 2 Section A & Section B. The study day was led by Tom Woodcock. Tom has worked as a secondary and sixth form media teacher for the last 18 years and is currently at Long Road Sixth Form, Cambridge. He writes and tutors for the National Film and Television Schools online courses and delivers professional development courses for the English and Media Centre. Tom is also a principal moderator on the CIE Media Studies A Level.

Afternoon sessions included a Q&A with music video directors, who had worked on big names in the industry, such as James Bay’s ‘Hold Back the River’. Using set texts from the GCSE Media specifications, students could develop relevant media language, create tools for analytical writing in exam conditions, and apply theory to enhance their analysis of music videos. This event provided a valuable foundation of knowledge for students to base future analysis of music videos upon in preparation for their exam. The set texts include Michael Jackson’s ‘Black

or White’. Michael Jackson was an avant-garde artist whose work was pioneering for the music industry, particularly in the 1980s, as he was seen by music platforms to be able to appeal to a mainstream audience with hits like ‘Billie Jean’ and allowed for a cross-over for more artists of colour onto these platforms like MTV. His music videos appeared on MTV regularly; Black or White premiered on MTV 14th Nov 1991 in 27 countries to an audience of 500 million. Whilst, an astonishing 4 million was spent to produce the music video for ‘Black or White’ with the special and technical effects; it became No. 1 in 20 countries.

It is with this level of depth and detail, that students understanding of the codes and conventions of a music video was applied in case studies examining the work of Bruno Mars with detailed reference to ‘Uptown Funk’ and Avril Lavigne’s ‘Skater Boy’, with a focus on star image and star power with the music video as a vehicle to advertise the artist’s talent across a range of genres, for example, considering how Taylor Swift moved from Country and Folk music into much more mainstream Pop with her new ‘Reputation’ album. As a result, students were challenged to consider music videos not only as ways to promote and sell the artist’s persona, but also in terms of how gender and ethnicity are portrayed and constructed in the videos, in order to consider whether they uphold or challenge hegemonic, stereotypical representations.



From the 11-15 February 2019 Oakwood Park Grammar School, as well as many other schools across the UK, took part in Go Green Week.

The aim of the week is to make people aware of the effect we are having on the environment and climate. As well as this, it teaches people about the changes they can make in their life which can ultimately make a positive impact. In recent years, more and more has been done to try and prevent global warming, climate change and pollution of many kinds but it is still getting worse. However, things like Go Green Week really can make a difference.

According to The Guardian, 1 million plastic bottles are bought everyday only for most of them to be discarded. This is devastating when you find out the effects it has on wildlife and the environment: a study by the University of Queensland found that more than 1.1 million seabirds are killed

every year by plastic. However, plastic is not the only issue we face. Due to a rise in the earth's temperature many large pieces of ice have shrunk to worrying sizes such as the Arctic Sea Ice which has shrunk by 40% in less than 30 years. Tom, in Year 7 said, "Climate change was our fault so we should fix it." These issues were brought to light by David Attenborough's Blue Planet 2 which made people over the UK aware of the issues. All these problems were caused by us but is it too late to do something?

Thanks to Go Green Week people can learn to make a difference so that our planet doesn't continue to suffer due to our mistakes. If more people learn about what can improve pollution and global warming, then there is a higher chance that we will end these problems. I think it is a great idea to encourage young people to help the planet as they will be likely to encourage others. I am confident, Go Green week will make a positive impact.



Kent County Council Road Safety Talk

Year 7 students were treated to a performance from the KCC Road Safety Show.

This engaging and exciting play, ran through the scenario of students going on a field trip and the road hazards the characters encountered throughout the day. This included being distracted whilst on their mobile phone by the side of the road, messing around and pushing each other off the kerb and walking out behind a bus. The actors then discussed with year 7 how to avoid the dangers and the students learnt the importance of taking road safety seriously and how to be responsible when out on their own.

BBC News Schools Report Article Kent Police. Is it worth it?

By Isaac Smith and Benji Folley

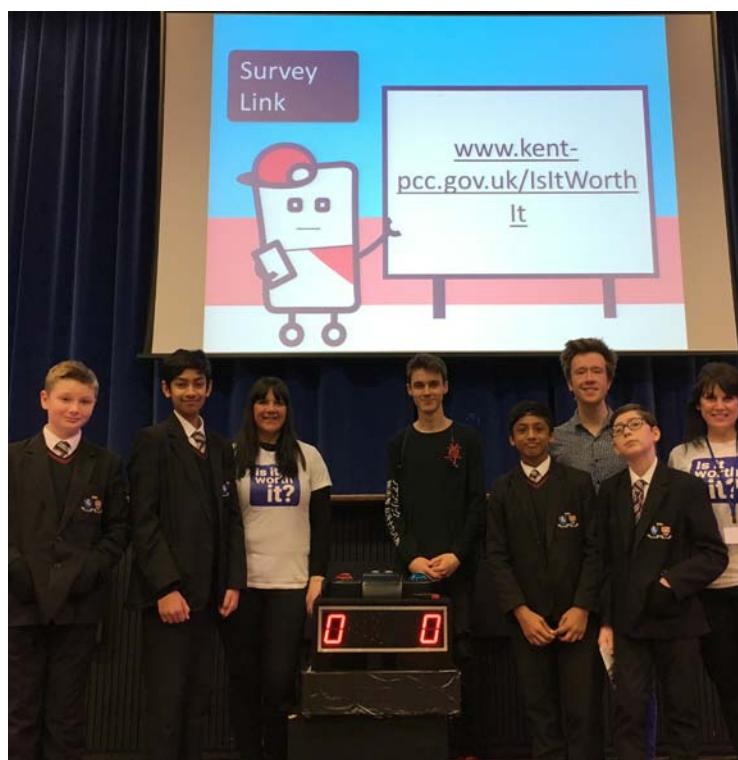
As part of our school wide PSHE programme, students from Year 7 and 8 were given a presentation by Kent Police and RobbieJWhite in which the students were informed about the importance of safety online.

At first, as the students entered the hall, they discovered raffle tickets on their seats, which excited most, yet confused some, as evident from their bewildered smiles as they sat row by row. When it finally began, the lights darkened and suddenly music started blaring along with vibrant, flashing lights. A man named Tom came running out and welcomed the students with a quality reminiscent of The Greatest Showman, that man is a member of Kent Police.

Kent Police came in to raise students' awareness of cybercrime and how to stay safe when using the internet. The main message of the campaign ran with the slogan 'Is it worth it?' asking students to consider this each time they upload, post or communicate messages and images online with their new awareness of the consequences in mind. In order to communicate this message to the students in a meaningful and memorable way, the guest speakers had a variety of safety inspired games, with several facts on the issues the youth of today should be aware of when online. These included quizzes in which the students had the chance to win prizes; followed by a music performance by RobbieJWhite, who covered the popular 'Happier' by Marshmello and Bastille. The students joined in with unconcealed zeal by singing along and clapping their hands. Then, students were split into teams and three people from each were selected to answer. Tom read out a fact for each team and they had to decide whether it was true or false by putting the question on a labelled whiteboard. After another well-received song from Robbie, students started to play the final game involving a buzzer. Earlier on, students were told to pay attention to the PowerPoint playing in the background. Next, both teams were asked the same question, and whoever pressed their buzzer first could answer. Although relayed in an interesting and immerse experience for the students, the main message of cyber safety was not lost on the students. Cyber safety is extremely important and is very helpful to students as it is an issue that needs to be

closely monitored and checked through increased public awareness. With cyber safety, it teaches young people to keep their profiles on social media set as private, so they cannot be as easily targeted or contacted by people they do not know. As well as this, cyber safety teaches children the criminal sanctions people can face despite acting online and not in person and gives the students agency to report it to a parent or if it was a very serious issue to the police. Kent Police recommended the CEOP (Child Exploitation and Online Protection Command). This is very useful as it allows young people to report the issues that are affecting them and makes the authorities aware so they can take down indecent or harmful images from websites once reported. Students were also informed that the CEOP can also give them advice and counselling on the issue if necessary.

One student, Isaac Smith summed it up well with: "There are many dangers of being online such as grooming and cyber bullying however, there are still a lot of positives of being online such as being able to express yourself through the multitude of social medias and through these feel special in your own unique way. The internet also allows you to research lots of things and allows you to evolve your ideas about the world and educate yourself though you need to be safe to have a good time online and be responsible."



OPGS Film 'The Enemy Within' Shown at Odeon Maidstone

Feelings about the closure of Kent pits under Margaret Thatcher still run strong amongst Kentish ex-miners.

Kentish miners were the most radical and stayed out on strike longer than all the other pits in the country. These were two of things discovered by Oakwood Park Grammar School students as they made their Heritage Lottery funded film 'The Enemy Within'. The students were lucky to find that the school community was able to provide contacts with retired policemen who policed the strike, willing to talk on camera about their experiences of the strike in the Kentish coalfields. The students contacted the Betteshanger Heritage centre in the Kent coal fields and interviewed miners and their families. The Sixth Form students soon found themselves investigating the contradictions between the accounts given by the miners and those given by the police.

The film was shown both at the London School of Economics and the Maidstone Odeon. In the coming year it will be entered into the Raindance Young People's Film Festival.



You can watch the film by clicking the link on the OPGS website.

<http://www.opgs.org/Pages/Kent-Miners-Film.aspx>

Inter House Basketball:

This past term has seen the growth of Inter house sport across the school with both Squash and now Basketball.

It has been fantastic to see students develop skills such as teamwork, cooperation and communication through sport. Over the last half term; year 10 students Junior Effiom, Elijah Oyesanya, Zachary Stead and Sixth former James Piper have been responsible for organising an inter-house basketball competition for year 7's and year 8's. The competition ran on every Friday lunch time for 2 weeks per house, meaning the competition ran for a total of 4 weeks.

Regardless of the fact that basketball is not a 'go-to' sport within the school, the organising team were very surprised at the enthusiasm shown towards the sport. The sheer number of students from the separate years which participated was truly surprising at over 100 pupils. This helped contribute to a very competitive competition

enabling many students to experience competitive basketball for the first time. The P.E department hopes these experiences will encourage the sport of basketball and other minority sports to be given more similar opportunities to show in the future.

The results follow as below:

YEAR 7 RESULTS:

1st. HAZLITT
2nd. FISHER
3rd. BROUGHTON
4th. SADLER
5th. WILBERFORCE

YEAR 8 RESULTS:

1st. WILBERFORCE
2nd. HAZLITT
3rd. FISHER & BROUGHTON
5th. SADLER

We congratulate the winning teams for their achievements.



Some of the purchases using funds raised;

Yoga mats
for mindfulness sessions



Outside Seating



Study Booths for
6th form study area.



A defibrillator



Thank you for helping us to fund more projects for the school.

Parents Association News:

Race Night raised £661 and the spring cake sale raised a further £144. Our thanks as always to the team and parents contributing at all levels.

We now look forward to the next exciting events:

We are holding a Gin and Cocktail Night on Friday 28th June. Tickets will be available soon. We are holding Yr 7 Second-hand Uniform sales at Parents' evenings and new intake parents information evening uniform sales, so we will need lots of donated second-hand uniform, we will be collecting it on Friday 7th June!

Our next meeting is on Thursday 16th May at The Bull in Barming at 7.30pm, new members are very welcome.

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

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

We are fundraising to furnish the hall with new tables and benches.

Visit the website for latest news at www.opgspa.org.uk

Physics Olympiad

The British Physics Olympiad is a charitable trust overseen by a committee of trustees.

On a day to day basis the BPhO is run by five committee members and run by a large team of volunteer physics teachers and academics from across the country. The charity work to encourage the study of physics and recognise excellence in young physicists through four annual physics competitions.

There is always an opportunity for new teachers to become involved in one of the many aspects

of the BPhO, from writing questions, checking exam papers, supporting students through online mentoring, coming to one of the training camps, developing questions for the team, helping with practical experimental training or helping to develop the BPhO in new ways.

There were 8 students from Oakwood Park Grammar School taking part in the Olympiad. Unfortunately, none of them were successful. The culmination of the British Physics Olympiad year is the International Physics Olympiad, with over 80 countries represented at the IPhO, which was established in 1967.

History students win debating competition at Queens' College Cambridge.

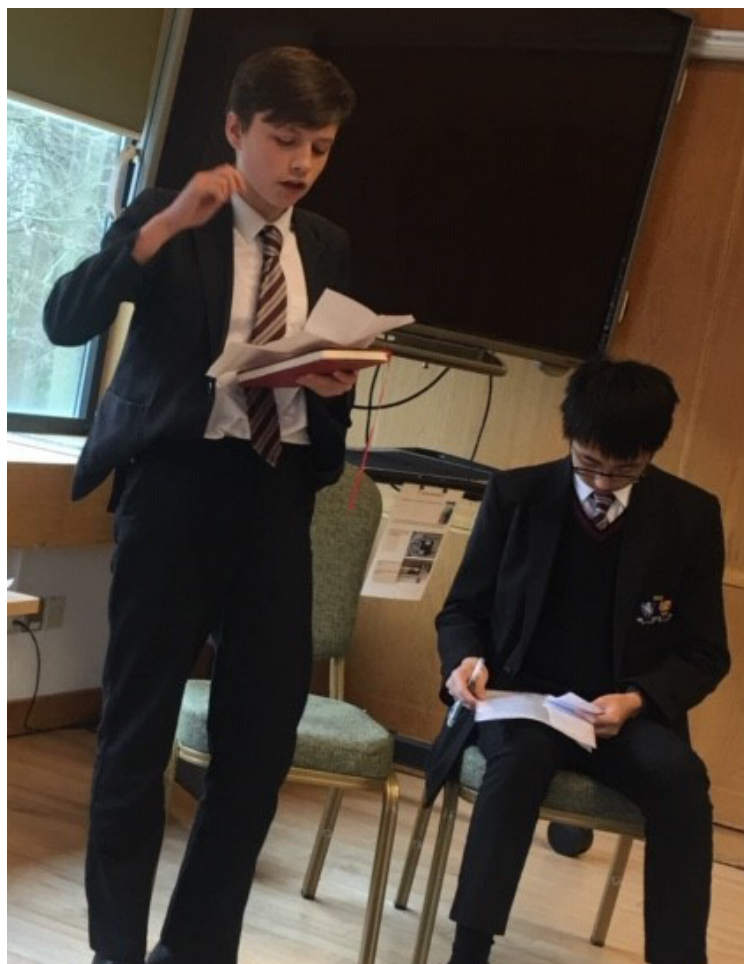
Year 10 History students returned triumphant from Queens' College, Cambridge after successfully arguing, firstly, that the British were to blame for Hitler's rise to power and then that international organisations like the UN had failed in their aims.

The speaking team Jack Welfare, Sam Dickerson and Oscar Lam were supported in preparing their cases by researchers Oliver Berwick, Iestyn Bevan and Ryan Harvey.

This is the first time an OPGS team has returned with the Cambridge shield from the History Matters competition.

The team who made it to the finals were congratulated for their tenacity, preparation and team work.

Notable moments were Liam Allen's on the spot contention that the fall in Sterling was due to Brexit instability rather than leaving the EU and Oscar Lam's pithy declaration that 'The UN must end'.



Spanish Exchange 26th March-2nd April

Oakwood Park was very pleased to welcome to the UK their Spanish exchange partners and teachers having not seen them since OPGS visited them in Spain back in October.

After having arrived late on Tuesday evening, Spanish students spent a full day in school on Wednesday experiencing the British school system with a range of OPGS lessons and seeing their differences between the Spanish and British education systems. On Thursday, the group travelled to London for the day. Their first stop was Greenwich market where everybody enjoyed sampling the delicious range of food on offer. Then they had a river cruise disembarking at Westminster and took part in an afternoon walking tour of all the major tourist sites in the capital. In the evening, everybody enjoyed watching the Michael Jackson musical Thriller. On Friday,

having spent two lessons in school, the group visited Canterbury. Students enjoyed a tour of the cathedral and some shopping and eating time in the historic city before boarding the train to the McArthur Glen shopping outlet in Ashford. On Saturday, students visited the picturesque Leeds Castle and tried not to lose themselves or their partners in the maze and watched the exciting falconry display. On Monday, the group explored Maidstone completing a town trail in order to further familiarise themselves with the county town.

I am sure that everybody participating in the exchange would agree that this has been, once again, an excellent week in which both Spanish and British students have improved their language skills and cultural knowledge and we would like to thank both students and parents for being excellent hosts for their Spanish partners.

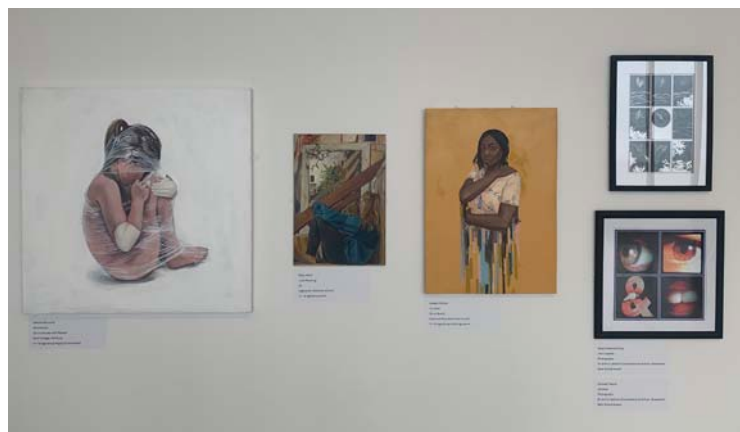


The John Downton Award

Joseph Clinton's art work was displayed at the Turner contemporary in Margate as part of the exhibition celebrating the winners from this years John Downton Award.

The John Downton Awards were first organised in 2000 at the request of Miss Hilda Downton, sister of the celebrated Kent artist, poet and philosopher, John Downton. Hosted by Kent County Council on behalf of the John Downton Trust. The competition has been held annually ever since to commemorate his life and work by recognising the achievements of the young artists of Kent, aged 11-18. The awards encourage and celebrate the creativity and diversity of expression of the county's students, inviting Kent schools and colleges to participate and exhibit the best examples of their painting, drawing, mixed media and photography.

The exhibition standard was extremely high and it was a testament to Joseph's hard work and dedication that he was selected to be displayed at the turner Contemporary. The Art department is very proud of Joseph's achievement, and are excited to see how he will develop as an artist on the A level art course.



Wicked – Theatre Trip

All Year 9, 10, 12 and 13 Music students went by train to see the matinee performance of 'Wicked The Musical'. The song 'Defying Gravity' features as one of the GCSE Music set works.

was and that most of the musicians played 3 or 4 instruments throughout the show.

After the show, we all went for something to eat at Victoria station before catching our train home. A great cultural experience day had by all.

Before getting to the theatre, we had a whistle-stop tour of some of London's finest landmarks, including 'changing of the guard' at Buckingham Palace, lunch in St. James' Park, Horse Guard's Parade, Downing Street, The Houses of Parliament, Westminster Abbey then down Victoria Street to The Apollo Theatre.

The whole performance was amazing – the acting, the singing, the dancing, the set design and costumes kept them all busy just soaking up the atmosphere of being at a professional performance. One of the students even commented on the fact that most things in the theatre were green to match the 'Wicked' witch! They were intrigued to see how small and cramped the orchestral pit



World Book Day

On the 7th March, The English Department shared their love of reading with the rest of the World and celebrated World Book day.

The day saw teachers dressed up as literary characters and sharing quotes from novels with students from around the school. The students were able to get involved by completing a Book Quiz on the day; this encouraged students to engage with a wider range of Literature but also meant they were required to have a conversation with multiple teachers about Literature. In addition, students who were already engrossed in a novel were given the opportunity to write a book review-the review needed to show passion for reading and a good understanding of the novel being reviewed. The English Department were inundated with entries, the reviews showed that students were reading a wide array of novels and, more importantly, that they had a love for reading.

The winners received a book voucher in order to purchase some more books!

The winners of the competitions are as follows:

Year 7:

Book review winner:

Arlo Singleton

Runner up:

Morgan Bluck

Year 8:

Book review Winner:

Mayvin Gurung

Runner up:

Luke White

And for the students who correctly answered the questions for the book quiz, each will receive some sweets...

Samuel Hardy, Aaron Miller, Ty Harding, Josh Manser



Yr 7 Oakwood League Rugby Match Brings Victory

By Nathaniel Turner

On Wednesday 12th February Oakwood Park Grammar School travelled to Dover to play their first league match against Dover Grammar school.

We set off at 1:10 and discussed tactics and listened to the radio. When we arrived, we were greeted by the referee (who was also the other team's coach.) I was placed on the starting 12 and was appointed 2nd in row. We were set to receive the kick off and in about 5 minutes into the match and Dover had scored a try. Then a player from Dover was tackled and landed on his face. As he got up there was blood smeared all over his face and it was clear that he had a vicious nose bleed and it was suspected that he had broken his nose.

After that incident, a brand-new player called Freddie was making his debut for Oakwood, and within a minute he had scored a try and they kept on coming. In the end he ended up scoring 3 try's for Oakwood and Amil who was also on his debut scored a try as well. The first half had come to an end and we were determined to win, but Dover had other ideas, they were on the comeback; they managed to get 2 more tries but sadly for them it was not enough to beat us. The result was 4-3 to Oakwood.

We were over the moon and as we were driving home Freddie decide to have a jubilant sing song. As we got back to school, we said good bye to each other and went home very proud of the result we had deserved.

Year 8 Rugby Fixtures and Results

By George Prior

Recently, at Oakwood Park Grammar School the outstanding students have been smashing the Under 13's rugby league winning most of their consecutive games.

The amazing rugby P.E teachers, Mr Raye, Mr Devonald and Mr Smith, have been working extremely hard to get the players up to the winning standards and it has paid off just as the rugby league started nearly two weeks ago.

They have all been working hard and leaving it all on the pitch showing huge respects to the other team. They recently played The Norton Knatchbull School and ended up nearly winning but losing by one try, but went on to play Dover Grammar school on Thursday 14th February.

The 1st team has some very strong players reaching over 5ft tall, even higher, with a mind-blowing understanding of the game. The excellent captain Alex gives great encouragement to the players during the games. They all rush as a team and the great thing about the team is, if they take a loss,

they keep their heads up and enter the next game believing they will win: "Forever Together".

"With unity and hope we will come out with a victory" they chant as a team before the match to bring them luck and to keep the team positive and hopeful.

The next results are yet to come after they take on Dover and it will hopefully be a great, competitive game between the striving teams urging for a win.



Year 9 Exploring Dystopian Fiction

On Monday 1st April, Year 9 spent time working with the English department to explore a range of literature extracts from Dystopian Fiction.

This is a genre in which the novel describes an imaginary society that is as dehumanizing and as unpleasant as possible. A dystopia is a community or society that is undesirable or frightening. It is translated as “not-good place” and is an antonym of a utopia. In contrast, a utopian society is a term coined by Sir Thomas More and figures as the title of his best-known work, *Utopia*, published 1516, a blueprint for an ideal society with minimal crime, violence and poverty.

Some of the most famous examples, which we analysed, include George Orwell’s *Nineteen Eighty-Four* and Aldous Huxley’s *Brave New World*. Although dystopias are commonly set in a futuristic version of society, others use the term to refer to existing societies, many of which are or have been totalitarian states or societies in an advanced state of collapse; as well as one in which the natural world is in a state of degradation. Students worked in groups to analyse the extract (a key skill of language analysis which is relevant to their GCSE Language Paper 1, Q2). Students also had to research the author and their specific inspiration for their work. For example, Margaret Atwood is writing a sequel to her novel *The Handmaid’s Tale*, inspired by the state of the modern world. The landmark 1985 book, about life under a totalitarian regime in the US, became a hit TV drama in 2017.

In a message, Atwood wrote: “Dear Readers, everything you’ve ever asked me about Gilead and its inner workings is the inspiration for this book. Well, almost everything! The other inspiration is the world we’ve been living in.”

The sequel, to be titled *The Testaments*, will be published on 10 September 2019. She didn’t mention President Trump, but the press release noted that *The Handmaid’s Tale* had become “a symbol of the movement against him, standing for female empowerment and resistance in the face of misogyny and the rolling back of women’s rights around the world”.

Students were asked to consider any elements of society today, like our impacts on the environment, that could inspire their own dystopian fiction. Subsequently, students were given the opportunity to transform their ideas of what a dystopia or utopia would look like by comparing and contrasting the two versions of society in a drawing on A3 paper. Students then had to push their use of extensive and ambitious vocabulary, using dictionaries and thesaurus to come up with interesting ways in which to label their image. Students also had the chance to build on this by developing their description using linguistic techniques including similes, metaphors, pathetic fallacy etc. from which to create more complex layers of atmosphere into their description and annotations to go with their dystopia/ utopia drawings.

Year 13 Life Skills

As Year 13 come to the end of their school life, the Sixth Form Team planned a series of Life Skills sessions.

Students learnt about interest rates, council tax, internships, staying healthy and, reluctantly for some, cooking. Thank you to the Kenward Trust and Discover Fortunes for their help.

Debate overheard in the cooking session included whether leaving the meat-tray paper and onion skins in the bolognese improved the flavour. In this the last @oakwood featuring the class of 2019, @oakwood would like to thank them for their good looks and wholesome activities that have contributed to termly OPGS news.



Warhammer National Semi Finals

Students travelled from Oakwood Park Grammar School to attend the Warhammer 40k School's League National Semi-Final on Monday 25th March, arriving at Warhammer World HQ in Nottingham on Tuesday 26th March.

There were 80 players on the day with a good mix of state and independent schools competing, from as far away as London and Durham, who have embarked on their pilgrimage to the home of the hobby enthusiasts.

The students were required to display our dice tape measure and kill team of models on a tray along with some 15 other schools (taking this as an opportunity to scout out the rival school teams). Students also had time to take stock of their worthy opponent's in Bugman's Bar. Named in honour of the greatest dwarfen brew-master, Josef Bugman, Bugman's Bar offers refreshment for those seeking refuge from the many Warhammer World conflicts or swapping tales of heroism, Bugman's is perfect for gamers less inclined towards the eternal fires of war.

At the heart of Warhammer World is the Events Hall – an inspiring Empire castle courtyard packed with gaming tables. Some of the tables are one of a kind, specially created Feature Tables which include a fallen Titan, ruined cities and perilous under-

ground mines. Alex Kourtellas started strong and won his first game against a Year 9 student but then lost subsequent games, against an opponent from Year 13 and then Year 11.

There was a small lunch break where the team including, Alex Kourtellas, Luke Witherington and Ben Jones took the time to observe an impressive exhibition of Warhammer models.

The tournament finished by the students being split up into teams; red, yellow, green and blue. These teams were split up between schools and Alex K, representing OPGS, was on red team which won the small games played, whilst Ben Jones entered the painting competition.

The overall rankings are yet to be determined, so we are currently waiting to hear if our school team have made it through to the finals. This information is due to be announced between 3rd-8th April 2019, so watch this space!



PREFECTS 2019 – 2020

Head Boy
Max Fossett



Head Girl
Rachel Bird



Deputy Head Boy
Sam Polom



Deputy Head Girl
Fern Kennard



Senior Prefect
Charlotte Crouch



Senior Prefect
Alice Daniel



Senior Prefect
Caleb Dutton



Senior Prefect
Grace Haswell



Senior Prefect
James Manners



Senior Prefect
Klara Powell



Senior Prefect
Brogan Roberts



Senior Prefect
Morgan Sands



Senior Prefect
Joe Tobin



Senior Prefect
Shawn Wambari



Senior Prefect
Jamie Yates



SUBJECT PREFECTS

2019-2020

Mental Health First Aid	Taylor Gibson	
PSHE (working with Miss Ryan and Grace Haswell)	Tia Wosahlo-Lawler	Rees Howard
Mentoring Coordinator working with SEN	Ethan Halliday	Molly Wilson
Art	Joseph Clinton	
Graphics	Peter Needham	
Computing	Harry Petch	
DT	Dylan Parry	
Science Faculty - mentoring	Mawuli Zigah	
Biology	Rughved Brahman	Roshan Roy
Chemistry	Jibin James	Mohammed Al-Mahboob
Physics	Naomi Marjolin	
PE	James Curd	
Drama	Jack Aldridge	Harvey Weed
Music		
English Lang	Danica Nuqui	
English Lit	Kian Abbott	Molly Moir
Media	Tom Bowden-Brown	Abbie Ervine
History	Bradley Coomber	
Geography	Adam Wainwright	Woody Wooten
Philosophy	Roy Bournier	Sam M'Grady
Economics	Spencer Sweetman	
Maths	Dan Shed	Thomas Wayman
Psychology	Elizabeth Kemp	Lauren Palmer
Spanish	Max Williamson	
Sociology	Joey Weaver	
Politics	Alex Tuck	

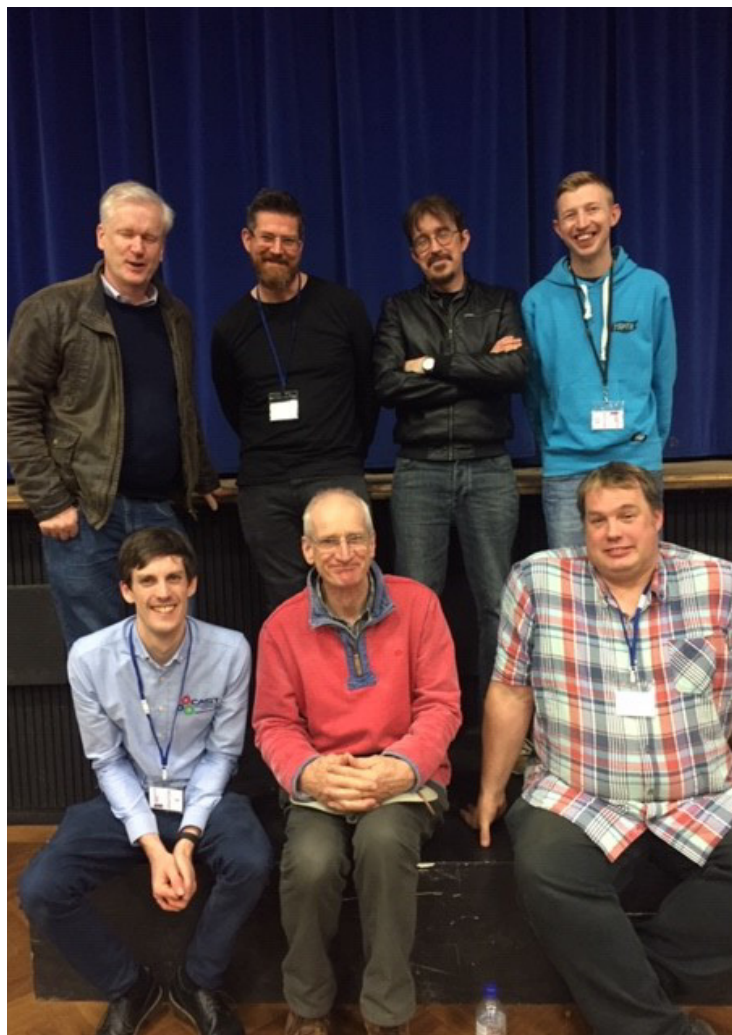
RS Enrichment Day- Year 9 CAST

Miss Marchant

The day was delivered by CAST. This is a local group "Churches and Schools Together". The group represents different denominations of the Christian church from Maidstone. For GCSE Religious Studies all students sit a unit "Christian beliefs" CAST delivered excellent sessions on Creation, Atonement, Salvation & Sin. The aim was to enable the boys to understand Christian views on this. In the afternoon it was a question and answer session where the students raised some excellent questions and the guests from CAST providing some equally interesting and challenging answers.

Ben Temperton S9

The day was very enjoyable for us personally and the team from CAST did an outstanding job on par with our RS teachers. We enjoyed the fact you could debate with the CAST members about religion and their beliefs. We also enjoyed their tales about how they became Christian. The CAST crew delivered a range of activities including creating our own creatures and world as well as making items out of pipe cleaners that represent us and what is important to us. We also had doughnuts which were extremely scrumptious.



Callum Rawlinson S9

I enjoyed the day yesterday for many reasons as the Cast crew was truly amazing. We started with learning about Incarnation, sins and learnt about many other beliefs. I also liked how they got some videos of other people's thoughts to show effects on outside world. Next, we were learning about creation, which I enjoyed, finding out how God created the world. Lastly, we all gathered in the hall and were able to ask the crew questions which really helped, as our teachers answer many questions but can't answer them all. I was interested in how more ethnicities came alive from a white male and white female Adam and Eve. They told me that Adam and Eve weren't necessarily white for example in China they could be Chinese. This really helped my understanding of the start of different ethnicities. I also liked that although all the CAST members were Christian, they all had different views on what was being asked, giving us more to think about.



UK Bebras challenge

In November, Computing students from across years 7-13 took part in the UK Bebras challenge competition. Further information can be found here: <https://challenge.bebras.uk/>

The aim of the Bebras Challenge is to solve as many problems as you can in 40 minutes. The problems come in three levels of difficulty: A, B and C. The "A" problems are the easiest. "C" problems the hardest. The difficulty of a problem determines how it will be scored. The scoring rules are as follows:

	Correct	Incorrect	Unanswered
A	+6 points	0 points	0 points
B	+9 points	-2 points	0 points
C	+12 points	-4 points	0 points

Year 7 students participated in the Junior category, Years 8 & 9 in the Intermediate category, Years 10 & 11 in the senior category and years 12 & 13 in the Elite category.

Results

- 126 students participated in the Junior category and 33 were awarded a distinction with Ethan Woodward from X7 being awarded best in school.
- 182 students participated in the Intermediate category and 48 were awarded a distinction with Joe Castle from X9 being awarded best in school.
- 70 students participated in the senior category and 19 were awarded a distinction with Maximus Leighton from S11 being awarded best in school.
- 11 students participated in the Elite category, with 4 achieving distinction and Fred Duffield from year 13 being awarded best in school.



49 students from OPGS were placed in the top 10% nationally in the Bebras and were therefore invited to take part in the TCS Oxford Computing Challenge.

This is a competition organised by the department of Computer Science at Oxford University. Further information can be found here: <http://tcsocc.uk/>

This took place after school on 4th March.

Results

13 students participated in the Junior category. Reagan Hariss and Lyle Sheldrick were awarded distinction.

13 students participated in the Intermediate category. Joe Castle, Kieran Evans, Silas Miller and Hayden Smith were awarded distinction.

9 students participated in the Senior category. Nils Andre and Ben Plane were awarded distinction.

We hope to run these challenges again next year – if students would like to practice in preparation for this some past challenges are available on the two websites or via the Bebras app.



UK Bebras
Computational
Thinking
Challenge

Oliver!



Oakwood Park Grammar School
Proudly Presents:

Tuesday 16th July
Wednesday 17th July
Tickets on sale in May