



Archie Mitchell wins county Try Angle Award.

Dear Parents, Carers and Students,

Welcome to the latest edition of @Oakwood.

We have as ever, a good mixture of collective and individual achievements. For example the U19 Football team have had a superb season, culminating in making it to the Kent Cup Final. We then had the wonderful news of Archie Mitchell winning the countywide Try Angle Award for his outstanding work in the community.

We also had something called Ofsted! Although not mentioned here, I would still like to put on record my thanks to the students who behaved impeccably and my staff who worked so hard. Thank you also to the parents who filled in the Ofsted Parent View survey which was very positive.

Once again I am very grateful to the Publicity Team who make this possible.

Mr K.W. Moody - Headteacher

Spirit of Try Angle Award county finalists 2018 Winner - Archie Mitchell

During an amazing afternoon of awards and entertainment on Sunday 20 January 2019 at The Ashford International Hotel, Archie Mitchell was announced as 'The Spirit of Try Angle 2018' at the 24th Try Angle Awards.

An outstanding volunteer and fundraiser for many good causes, he has brought life-saving equipment and training to his whole community and much more, despite huge challenges he has faced in life. A story of community action, positive intervention, personal development and amazing courage, an inspirational role model to us all.

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.



IHRC Genocide Memorial Day Poetry Competition Winners

Before breaking up for the Christmas holidays, Year 8 students were invited to take part in a national poetry competition run by the Islamic Human Rights Commission in order to raise awareness of Genocide Memorial Day.

Genocide is defined as the deliberate killing of a large group of people, especially those of a particular nation or ethnic group. It is important to teach about the issue, albeit a horrific topic to cover, so the next generation are educated and aware to stop such tragic events from taking place in our present or future versions of the world we hope to live in. Students were asked to consider how persecution might remain in other countries, yet how we still have a role to defend humanity as a whole – just because it is not happening here, does not mean it is not happening. Students who entered the national poetry competition were encouraged to reflect the theme of ‘protecting humanity from genocide’ in their poems.

OPGS ranked extremely highly amongst the 2019 poetry competition winners. The charity were, in fact, overwhelmed with the significantly higher number of entries they received this year. The judging panel this year included veteran peace campaigner and vice president of CND and Pax Christi, Bruce Kent; poet and artist Ibrahim Sincere; poet Suhaimyah Manzoor-Khan aka The Brown Hijabi and IHRC’s Ahmed Uddin. They awarded extra second and third prizes and marked several out as highly commended as follows:

2nd Prize ‘Genocide Through History’ by Jasper Bardsley - Oakwood Park Grammar School, Maidstone

3rd Prize ‘So Great is Humanity’ by Joshua Couchman - Oakwood Park Grammar School, Maidstone

Highly Commended awarded to ‘Blood in the Water’ by William Bloomfield and William Moss Oakwood Park Grammar School, Maidstone.

The charity were delighted to have Joshua join them on Sunday at the GMD event in London where he was awarded his certificate and book token. The winning entries will go live on the IHRC website <https://www.ihrc.org.uk/> at the end of January. A compilation of all winning

entries since 2012 will be published in a small anthology later this year.

We also had an overwhelming response to our schools’ competition. Oakwood Park Grammar School in Maidstone won the main prize, a screening of the IHRC film ‘Forgotten Genocide’ and Q and A with the film’s writer and director, journalist Assed Baig. The Year 8 students who entered into the competition and some of our lucky winners were invited to have lunch with our guest speakers and ask them questions about being journalists in dangerous places, covering harrowing topics. Joshua Couchman in Year 8 suggested “it was exciting to talk to him [Assed] to hear about all the places he has been and wars he has documented but also quite scary to listen to the horrible scenarios which have happened and still are around the world”.

Gara Almeida, Project Co-ordinator, and a representative of the IHRC charity had this to say with regards to her visit: “Thank you for the kindness you, your colleagues and the students had with us last Monday. It was a pleasure to visit Oakwood School and see how the students engaged with the documentary. It is also nice to hear that our work on genocide is making a positive impact in order to raise awareness on this topic.”



2019 OPGS Cricket Season Preview

Teams across Years 7-13 entered district and county competitions with a number of good results across all age groups. The U14 team had an exceptional year, reaching the 3rd round of the Thomas Cup competition and winning the U13 'Chance to Compete' 8-a-side district cricket competition at the Mote CC.

Unfortunately the national final was cancelled by the ECB, denying our students the chance to play against some of the very best boys in the country! The 6th form enjoyed a successful season thanks to the leadership and organisation of 1st XI captain, Tom Ashenden. In our annual fixture vs. MGS. Connor Davis bowled with pace and accuracy to record outstanding figures of 5-12 in 4 overs. This blew away the MGS top order and led to the first senior victory against our local rivals for many years!

The U12, U14 & U15 teams also enjoyed successful seasons. Playing a large amount of fixtures, all of these age groups made good progress ahead of the 2019 season. A number of students in these year groups had not played the game before and have developed considerably due to dedication of Mr Devonald, Mr Smith &

Mr Keeling-Jones in providing regular lunchtime training and fixtures. They have also benefitted from the school-club link created with Linton Park CC and Leeds & Broomfield CC.

With daylight improving, teams are now looking forward to the forthcoming cricket season! For the first time ever the PE department will offer indoor pre-season training in our newly built indoor nets at St Augustine's Academy.

Teams will train on the following days/times:

Monday (3.00-4.30pm) - years 7&8

Tuesday (3.30-5.00pm) - year 11 & senior 1st XI training

Wednesday (3.30-5.00pm) - years 9&10

Information regarding the students selected for this opportunity will be shared via the PE noticeboards & form tutors in the remaining week of this half term.

The school has also re-established the school-club links with Linton CC and Leeds & Broomfield CC. This is a fantastic chance for students who are not currently a member of a cricket club to try a new sport and develop their core skills. Year 7&8 students have the opportunity to receive high quality indoor training prior to the outdoor season beginning. Information has been shared with students in PE lessons but will also be sent out via email prior to February half term. Students can also enquire about this opportunity and collect a letter at the PE office.

In preparation for the outdoor season, new playing shirts (please see the design below) are due to be ordered for U13, U15 and senior 1st XI teams. If you would be interested in supporting our students through sponsoring a team, please make contact with myself using the following email address- rraye@opgs.org.

Outdoor fixtures will begin following the Easter break, where students will have the opportunity to represent OPGS in friendly, district & county competitions. Lunchtime training will run for years 7&8, delivered by PE staff & external coaches. This proved very popular with over 50 students attending this club last year. Students will also enjoy competitive experiences within PE lessons and enrichment days through inter-house cricket competitions.

I look forward to some improved weather and another successful year of cricket at OPGS!

Mr Raye.

(Director of Sport, OPGS).



World Holocaust Memorial Day

At the end of January all year groups had an assembly on the theme of Holocaust Remembrance Day. Having visited Auschwitz with OPGS students in the past, Miss Aldous, Subject Leader for History, used this experience to explore issues of persecution and genocide. The theme this year was 'Torn from Home', focusing on the long-term damage and difficulties for survivors after such traumatic events.

There was a focus on the Rwandan Genocide as this year marks 25 years since the event. In their assemblies, students learnt about Eric Murangwa who returned to this nation to build bridges and community links through inter-community football clubs, having himself barely escaped with his life during the violence. In Form Time Years 7-10 watched moving testimony from Martin Stern who survived the Holocaust having fled the Netherlands as a child and arriving in the UK to build a new life, a family of his own and a successful career as a doctor. Students then

discussed together issues of home and identity.

World Holocaust Memorial Day happens on 27th January every year. This marks the day the Nazi concentration camp, Auschwitz-Birkenau, was liberated. During the Holocaust the Nazis used propaganda to prevent Jews having civil and human rights. Eventually the Nazis rounded a lot of the Jews up and sent them to concentration camps to be gassed; over 6 million people died in the holocaust. 2million of those died of starvation or disease. Every year people gather to celebrate this anniversary with 11,000 activities including a ceremony at Westminster; at the ceremony this year survivors lit 6 candles.

Before going to concentration camps, the victims would wear different badges corresponding to their different "offence". These people were mainly singled out because they were either gypsies, homosexual or black. One Year 7 student, Sonny Butler affirmed: "I think it is extremally important we learn about all genocides as so many people die for no apparent reason and such massacres should not be allowed to be repeated."



Holocaust Memorial Day 2019: **Torn from home**



Intermediate Maths Challenge Feb. 7th

The Intermediate Maths Challenge took place on February 7th in the main hall. This nationwide competition takes place annually and is run by the UKMT (UK maths trust) based at Leeds University. 120 students from Years 9, 10 and 11 students from Oakwood Park took part in the challenge which involves answering 25 multiple choice questions in 1 hour and was taken in school under normal exam conditions. Some sample questions are given.

- 1) There are 120,000 red squirrels living in Scotland. This represents 75% of their total UK population. How many more red squirrels live in Scotland than live in the remainder of the UK?
A: 30,000 B: 40,000 C: 60,000 D: 80,000 E: 90,000

or the more challenging!!

- 2) What is the value of $(7 - 6 \times (-5)) - 4 \times (-3) \div (-2)$?
A: - 17 B: -11 C: 31 D: 37 E: 43

Answers on final page

Results will be known in about 3 weeks. The top 60% of students nationally receive a gold, silver or bronze certificate in the ratio 1:2:3. The top performing students are then invited to take part in follow on rounds and the very best can represent their country in the International Mathematical Olympiad.

Senior Maths Challenge

The first round to the UKMT Senior Maths Challenge took place in November. Two of our students qualified for the second round which is known as the "Kangaroo" round. This is a 1 hour test of 20 very challenging questions.

Eg: In a list of five numbers, the first number is 60 and the last number is 300. The product of the first 3 numbers is 810,000 , the product of the middle three numbers is 2, 430,000 and the product of the last three numbers is 8,100,000. Which number is third on the list. (No calculators allowed)

In this second round our two Yr. 13 students performed creditably.

Daniel Miller received a Merit Certificate for finishing in the top 25% across the country whilst Anthony Booth received a Qualification certificate. Well done to both students.



















OPGS U19 Football Team : Top School Team in England AND Internationally.

The prestigious School Sport website that is used by 4500 schools in England have published their league tables for the first term of 2018-19 and Oakwood Park Grammar School are delighted to find themselves at the **TOP** of the league in the 1st XI category.

This is the first time OPGS have been top of this table with the 1st XI side at this stage of the season and is a great achievement for Mr Smith and his team.

The U19 side captained by Evan Lewis and Oliver Debnam have had an outstanding season so far winning the Kent Premier League for the first time since the 1980s and doing so unbeaten. The side are also in TWO semi-finals so could win the prestigious TRIPLE for the first time ever. Top goal scorers so far have been Mickey Mantle, Shane Buckland and Sammy Tansil with defenders Jamie O'Connor and Adam Jones also being stand-out performers throughout the season.

Season: 2018/19		Team Level: 1st XI Boys											
#	Team	P	W	D	L	PF	PA	PD	LP	Win Ratio			
1	  Oakwood Park Grammar School	15	14	1	0	52	9	43	58	96.67%			
2	  Al Bateen Academy	8	7	1	0	26	3	23	30	93.75%			
3	  Royal Russell School	29	27	0	2	107	26	81	108	93.10%			
4	  Harrow International School Hong Kong	10	9	0	1	61	11	50	36	90.00%			
5	  ESMS Erskine Stewart's Melville Schools	9	8	0	1	55	13	42	32	88.89%			
6	  Langley School	9	8	0	1	39	13	26	32	88.89%			
7	  The Forest School, Winnersh	9	8	0	1	28	9	19	32	88.89%			
8	  Repton School	20	17	1	2	89	21	68	70	87.50%			



Christmas Fundraising event

On the 17th of December a Christmas Fundraising Event was held at Oakwood Park Grammar School. It was the first of its kind and was a massive success.

The event consisted of a Christmas raffle, festive food and wine tombola, Merry Market and other small festivities. The Senior Prefect team, headed by Micky Mantle, provided an excellent evening filled with live music from the school band, food prepared by school pupils, and plenty of laughter and cheer throughout. The event was part of Mantle's Extended Project and the whole evening was organised in just under 2 months. Oakwood's Head Boy Tom Place commented that "All the stalls for the Christmas market were networked by EPQ student Micky Mantle. He worked for months, sending out emails and getting in touch with contacts to find suitable stalls for the evening". And Senior Prefect Lauren Sheahan added "The event describes the enriching opportunity that the EPQ offers, available to all sixth form student at Oakwood. It has allowed Micky to develop key skills and demonstrate his leadership qualities".



With massive support from oakwood students and the pupils' families the evening had a great attendance. This made sure that the food and drink stalls were well enjoyed with many people savouring the burgers and the complimentary mulled wine.



The overall profit of the evening reflected the festive atmosphere as people gave generously and the total amount raised was £688! The total amount raised by the school for the two charities this year is £1197, and it is only set to get bigger. It is important to note that the success of the evening was fuelled by the continued support of parents. Well done to everyone involved and let's hope this is the first of many successful Christmas events.



Celebration of Achievement

The annual Celebration of Achievement was held in December and 60 of last year's Year 13 returned to enjoy an long awaited chance to 'catch up' over a lovely 3-course meal in the school hall, looking unrecognisable from its usual self, having been so festively decorated.

The awards were presented by Mr James Roberts to signify that each and every one of the students who attended was an embodiment of the essence of "the function of education is to teach one to think intensively and to think critically. Intelligence plus character - that is the goal of true education", Martin Luther King, Jr. The students ascended the stage and were presented with their A Level and Pre-U certificates, Academic Subject Prizes and Special Recognition Prizes which included: R. H. Voice Prize for Service to the School awarded to Allen Shaji, Emma Ring Prize for Overcoming Adversity was awarded to Lily Faulkner, the Head

Boy Prize to Joel Faulkner and Head Girl Prize and Isabelle Pym.

The genuine high point of the evening was, as usual, the chance to hear what our ex-students have gone on to do now, with exciting paths in Further Education and Apprenticeships (as well as their experience of some newfound independence). It also gave staff, parents and students an opportunity to all share fond memories of their association with Oakwood Park Grammar School. The fantastic array of familiar faces that came to collect their certificates are testimony to the elite group of well-rounded, confident and erudite young individuals that the staff at OPGS are proud to have worked alongside.

The success of these young adults in their educational careers to date and life after Oakwood bears truth to the saying by Malcolm X: "Education is the passport to the future, for tomorrow belongs to those who prepare for it today."

OAKWOOD PARK GRAMMAR SCHOOL
proudly presents our

SPRING CONCERT

Wednesday 3rd April 2019

5.30pm Main Hall

Free entrance

Please come along to support our talented musicians



Year 9 Talk by the Teenage Cancer Trust

The talk started with stating the amount of different types of cancer, which ended up being 200+.

After, we started to talk about the most common types of cancer, focusing on the types you can get when you are younger such as Lymphoma. They focused more on testicular cancer as it is the most common for boys our age, so we can look out for them, this was very useful. The speaker discussed the warning signs of cancer using the acronym 'LUMPS', which stands for: Lumps, Unexplained bruising, Moles changing, Pain (that doesn't go away with painkillers), and Significant Weight Change. This is easy to remember and is good advice for the future.

We watched a video about 2 cases of Teenage Cancer, the patients were very different from each other; showing that you can go through cancer in many ways. One case showed a 13year old boy who wanted to go through cancer with his friends and still wanted to socialise with them, he also didn't let cancer get in the way of his life which is quite inspiring; it also made us think about how we treat those around us. The other case was a 17 year old girl who decided just to go through

cancer alone with her family which can prove that anyone can go through cancer in different ways. Finally, they reassured us to not be worried about it and not be embarrassed if you need to tell your Doctor that you are worried about something. We were given a choice to pick up a cancer card to remind us about the early warning signs just in case.



OPGS win Gold, Silver and Bronze Medals at Kent Rowing Championships.

The Oakwood Park rowing club offers students a chance to experience a new sport which differs from football and rugby, a sport which most would never have tried before.

The School rowing club runs all year round on a Monday from 2:45-4pm offering the students a chance to improve their fitness and learn the correct technique on the rowing machine in the winter and a chance to move onto the river in the summer months at Maidstone Invicta Rowing Club, helping the students to develop all aspects of their fitness.

Since the beginning of the academic year the boys have been developing their fitness with frequent testing in their age categories every few weeks and their progress is monitored giving them a target to exceed the following week.

Following the success at the West Kent Championships, our Year 8, 9, 11 and Sixth Form qualified for the Kent Championships on Friday 1st February at Medway Park. Here the teams had the opportunity to compete against the best in the county.



We had a great opportunity to win a number of medals at this event, and the boys did not disappoint!

Year 8, the most inexperienced squad of (Oliver Kane, Luke Breytenbach and Joshua Couchman), positioned 6 from 6 rowing a combined total of 3199 metres across individual and relay events. This was only 900 metres behind first place and with an individual member missing, they can take pride in their performance!

Our Year 9 squad, Alex Knight, Kieran Evans, Louis Cole and Scott Bain, all experienced club rowers, were confident of both individual and team medals. Scott Bain was looking to better last year's second position, but was up against the same huge opponent! He battle hard, but in the end he fell 57 metres short! Silver it was! But roll on next year.

Pleasingly the team performance meant that they positioned 1st in the team event. This was due to the strong individual performances combined with winning the relay event by a large margin! The team won by over 100m, no mean feat!

Year 11 consisted of Matt Baber, Ben Jones and Oliver Young, all club rowers. Unfortunately, one man down meant to medal in the team event might be difficult! However, they were not going



OPGS win Gold, Silver and Bronze Medals at Kent Rowing Championships cont..

to give up without a fight!

First came the individual event and something special was to happen! All three rowers pushed to the end of the event! Ben rowed an impressive 1648m, which was nearly 100m further than the 4th placed individual! This was then bettered by Oliver Young who was a further 50m along the 'water' But, the best was to come from Matt Baber, rowing an impressive 1781 m to beat all by a considerable margin! A clean sweep of medals, not something we have experienced before as a school!

Being a rower down, we knew we would have to row a huge distance further than any other team to give us a chance! The boys, with Matt rowing a first and last leg, rowed amazingly! They managed to row 1012 metres further than their closest rivals! Unfortunately, with the loss of our 4th individual rower, this distance was not quite enough to put them on the medal rostrum! A disappointing outcome, but a great target for next year! Individual and team medals!!

Finally, the 6th form team stepped 'on to the water'! For some of the rowers this could be their last chance to row in this competition! Felix Allen, Dan Midwinter and Sam Polom, supported by Scott Bain and Matt Baber were pushing for that gold medal! The individual races of 8 minutes

began, all four rowers set out at a good pace and held great rates! Sam Polom was wanting gold! 2305m later, with an injured leg, he rowed himself into first place in his heat! Unfortunately, this was 23 m short for 1st place in the other heat! Bronze it was! But with the confidence of knowing that he has next year to come back stronger and win the event!

Now it was relay time, could they win this and bring home the Team gold? They all rowed their hardest, pulling out a sizeable lead during the first three rowers! This meant that the final leg, rowed by Matt Baber (Yr 11) had to be rowed hard, but sensibly in order to win the relay and hopefully medal at the top of the rostrum!

Whilst he was able to maintain our relay lead, the team were unable to close the 140 metre gap needed to take the top post! So second it was as a team! Dan and Felix happy with their performances, whilst a little disappointed that their final Kent Championships ended in a silver medal!

A huge congratulations to all rowers and we look forward to next month's NJIRC competition at Lee Valley. A great day and exciting day where the Year 11/12/13 rowers would be looking to defend their Boat Race Title!



Kent Police - Is it Worth it Tour

On Wednesday 6th February year 7 and 8 students were treated to talk commissioned by Kent police on e-safety.

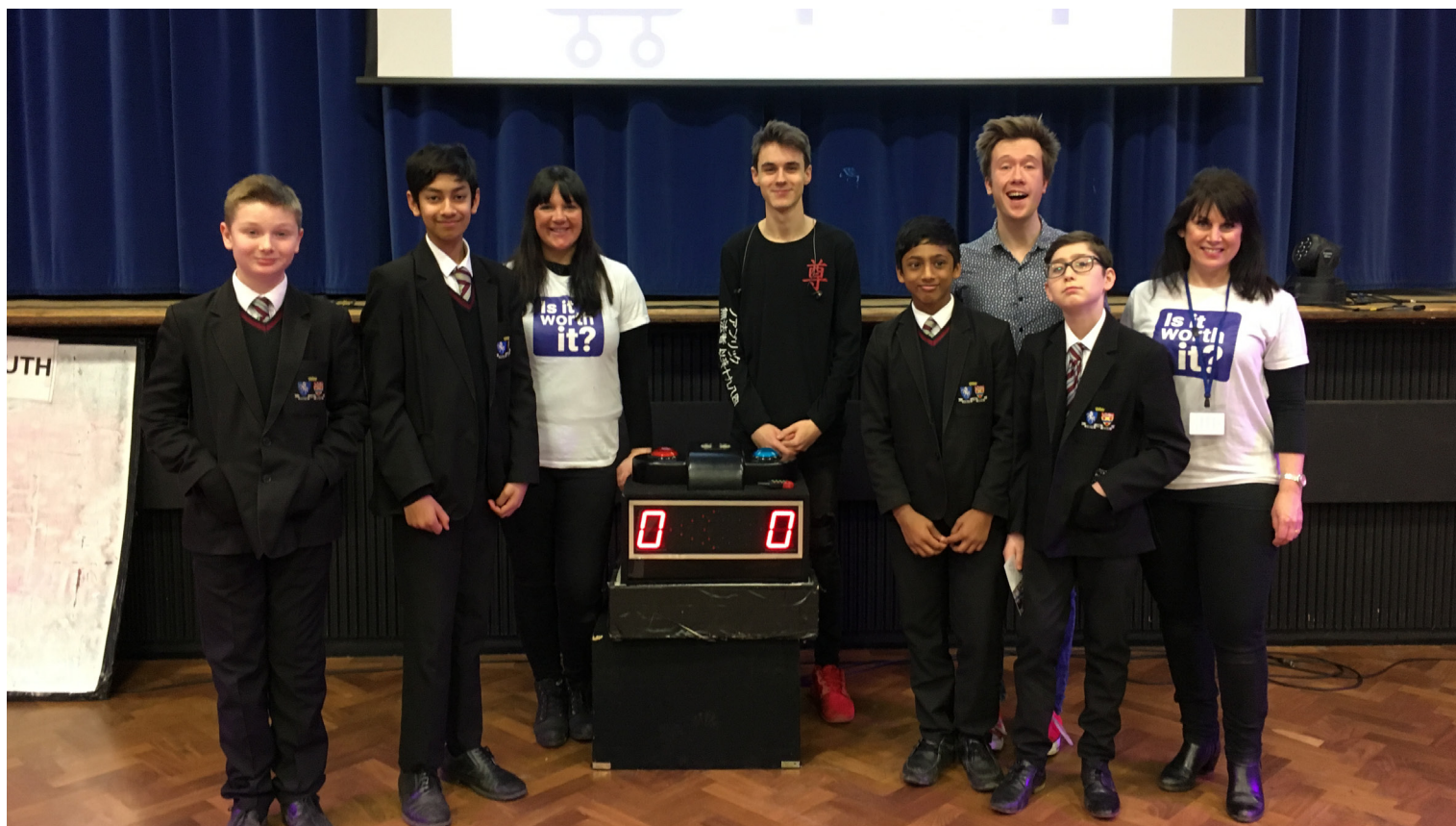
The show kicked off with a statistics raffle, each students eagerly holding their raffle tickets hoping to win the big prize but there could only be one winner in year 7. The raffle had a more serious purpose than prizes, each elimination round was based on current data which highlight the issues of being online. For example 1 in 3 internet users are children and 75% of young people in the South East have shared an image of themselves online. The host looked at the implications of this data and how important it is for our students to think carefully before posting anything online.



Another highlight of the roadshow was the Truth or Lies quiz, students were picked to represent their teams and competed for yet more prizes. A tense moment ensued when Team Nina lost a valuable point over social networking privacy settings. But a key lie was uncovered here, every time a social networking site does an update they undo your privacy settings and it becomes the responsibility of the account holder to go back and reset them, this was an important life lesson for our online users and also a turning point in the quiz.

The tour ended on a serious note; students watched a cartoon of a relationship, during which the female was pressured into sharing indecent images. These were then shared across social media and taken by a company and used by an advertising campaign. The host explained how your rights to the image are lost as soon as the photograph has been given away and as children they would be sharing indecent images of children which is an illegal act. They must always remember to think before acting- Is it worth it?

If you would like to find out more information or advice on online safety the Think you Know website offers a wide range of video clips and top tips <https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/>



BBC Young Reporter 2019

BBC Young Reporter is an exciting opportunity for young people aged 11-18 years to get involved with the BBC. BBC Young Reporter works in partnership with schools to provide young people with the skills they need to create and understand the media.

BBC Young Reporter aims to educate and inform young people about the news and the world around them by giving them the opportunity to produce their own reports. Being involved in this enrichment activity and setting up the school's computer room as a live newsroom for the day, totally immerses students in how to gather and fact check appropriate news stories. At OPGS, we had our news preparation day on Wednesday 13th February, in order to allow students from Year 7 and 8 to inform a real audience about the subjects and stories that matter to them on our school's linked website as well as BBC platforms and programmes.

"BBC Young Reporter is about tapping into what really matters to young people, and giving them an opportunity and a platform to tell their stories." Tony Hall, BBC Director-General

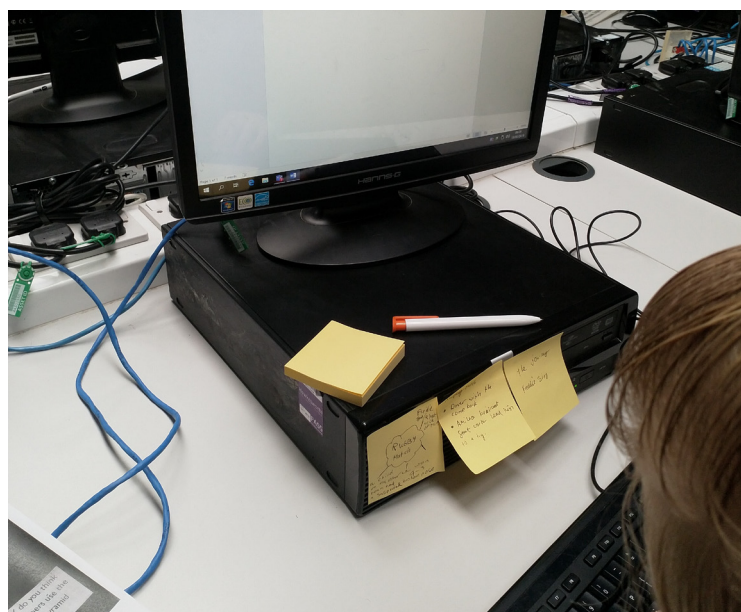
At Oakwood, we feel that taking part in BBC Young Reporter supports a range of learning opportunities and to enhance their literacy and media skills. For example, by helping the students to develop their ability to work in teams, manage time, conduct research, communicate effectively and think critically about the sources of their news stories. Students also had the chance to do some hands-on media production from writing their stories for publication on a website to recording and editing video footage against our very own OPGS/ BBC News backdrop, in the role of cameramen, broadcasters and presenters for the day.

It is also a chance for young people to discuss the responsibilities involved in broadcasting their work to a wider audience such as issues of safeguarding, taste and decency, defamation, fake news, and making sure their stories are relevant to this year's themes of 'My Life' and 'My Voice'. To showcase the fact we also want to champion the views and stories of our lower school students; here are some soundbites from the young reporters which took part:

"It has given me the opportunity to write a news story for myself and practice journalism in an authentic setting. I especially liked learning to check different sources and compare different stories to be able to decipher the real from the fake news" – Morgan Bluck

"I think it was really fun and opens up our opportunities to explore topics and issues of interest to us." – Dean Spooner

"It has been fun to work with people across different forms and even year groups. I have really enjoyed working with the computer all day, I feel it has helped me to express myself more freely." – Benji Folley



Christmas Pudding Sale

Mrs Part & Mrs Browne (Learning Support) sold 72 OPGS Christmas Plum Puddings at the Year 7 Parents' Evenings and the 6th Form Christmas Fair last December.

Priced at £6 each, they raised £159 for the OPGS Trust Fund, after costs. The puddings have become really popular; they are smartly packaged with the School Logo, making ideal gifts for Aunties, Uncles, and Grandparents. Business was brisk as usual. The OPGS Trust Fund is a vital component of our School, enabling us to support students in a variety of ways, such as uniform, school transport, school trips and resources etc. without which they might not be able to access.



Apprenticeship Opportunities for students

OPGS Sixth Formers were pleased to attend the Apprenticeship Fair in Maidstone on Friday.

The event was instigated last year by students from OPGS who lobbied Tracey Crouch MP with their concerns about the lack of apprenticeship information available to students. The Chatham and Aylesford MP worked with Helen Grant MP to produce an event using their contacts. Many companies were represented, from PWC, BAE, Civil Service, Kier, NHS, Military, P and O Ferries, Rolls Royce to Kent County Council.

Ms Hern and Ms Williams were greeted with enthusiasm by Ms Crouch on arrival due to the county wide success of the Fair.



Oakwood Park Teacher Training

Oakwood Park Grammar School, in partnership with Kent and Medway Teacher Training (KMT), is offering teacher training places from September 2019. The posts are unsalaried but bursaries may be available. OPGS has been a Training School for over 10 years, and can offer an exceptional, well supported training experience. If you, or anybody you know, are considering a career in teaching please contact Ms Priest, Professional Mentor, via the school office (office@opgs.org) to discuss the application process for next year. Alternatively contact us to enrol for our training information day on Thursday 28th March.

Oakwood Park Grammar School DofE Overview

The Duke of Edinburgh's Award has steadily grown in popularity over the past 9 years. This year saw 70 students sign up for the Bronze Award with a further 21 undertaking Silver at present.

The award, which requires the young person to commit to and complete a voluntary, physical and skill based activity for a combined 12 months, closely mirrors our school ambition to

provide character building opportunities to our students that push them out of their comfort zones and challenge them to achieve outside of the classroom. Last year 48 of our students successfully completed their Bronze D of E with another 10 students just about to finish. We hope to see a number of our successful Bronze Award students come back to complete their Silver Award this year, and for the Silvers there will be the opportunity to sign up to Gold – now that really is a challenge!



Biology Olympiad Competition

On Friday 1st February the following students competed in this year's year 13 Biology Olympiad. Gabrielle Hodgson, Thomas Place, Mason Waller, Charles George, James Glasson, Joseph Smy, Sumair Hasan, Joseph Rayner and Robert Mills

The BBO 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 BBO is open to students in post-16 education studying at school or college. 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.

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.

Oakwood Park Grammar School consistently score in the top 10% of UK students and this year's results will be available later in March.

The Real Game

The Real Game delivers PSHEE and the National Careers Education Framework 7 - 19 learning outcomes that contribute to a range of subject areas, and offers and opportunity for enrichment as it gets students thinking about potential career paths, information, advice and guidance available to them en route to their dream job!

The game is designed to provide links between the school and the wider community; and show students the importance of adaptability by introducing the concept of transferable skills.

Mrs Williams said: "As part of their Careers Education, Year 7 students took part in the Real Game, an interactive digital game played within a classroom setting.

In the game, students role-played as single adults in occupational roles, discovering how schoolwork relates to career choices and therefore to lifestyle and income. Within their job-role, students had the opportunity to explore adult realities, such as budgeting (taxes, mortgage or rent, other bills and transport), work life balance, different work and family roles and career making decisions.

The job profiles included in the game reflect a broad range of employment opportunities and the game introduces Year 7 students to different career ideas and options available. Students also took part in quizzes and puzzles, competing in their house teams."

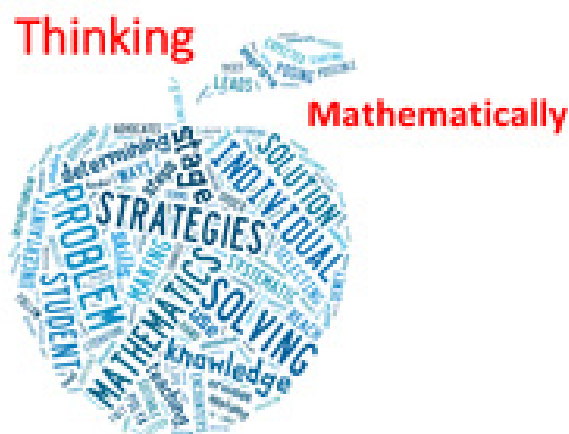
Students learn that if they plan and make the most of their school years then it will help them towards a successful career. By the end of the Real Game, students realise that satisfaction in work is a priority issue in life and that it is an outcome that they can achieve by making the choices that are right for them.



Yr. 10 Enrichment Thursday January 10th 2019

Yr. 10 students completed an enrichment day based around the theme of "Thinking Hard".

All students followed a different timetable and completed a different set of tasks with each Maths teacher. It gave students the opportunity to think about how Maths is applied in the real world and how Maths can be used to tackle real-life problems. The aim of the day was also to show why Maths can be useful in life and work along with providing some interesting and enjoyable sessions. Topics ranged from constructions to applying Maths to solve some everyday problems. Along with some trick questions and group work all students enjoyed the day and felt that some thinking hard for them had been beneficial.



OPGS reach Semi-final of Kent Schools Squash Championships

By Alex Pollington

OPGS Seniors got to the Semi-Finals of the Kent Schools Squash Championships on Friday 18th January but lost out to the eventual winners, whilst the junior team showed great spirit and commitment in their first competitive school match but lost out to three established and experienced junior sides.

The senior team, who consisted of myself, Luke Mount (C11), Adam Thorp (P11) and Dylan Collie (T11), showed great determination by coming back to beat Wilmington Grammar after losing to Judd in the opening match of the morning.

Judd had an incredibly strong team out with the 6th best player in Kent for U19 (Dominic Major) playing against me, and three other very strong players. Coming against very tough opposition, I thought we acquitted ourselves well to the huge mountain we had to climb however, they managed to defeat us comprehensively 6-1, with Luke getting the point for our team.

We had it all to do to get to the semi-final against Wilmington Grammar, and playing straight after a loss was tough, but we knew we had it in us to make it through. Again, another strong side was put in front of us and was very challenging, especially when Adam and Dylan both were narrowly defeated. As a result, it came down to Luke and I to get us through, where we both had to win. Luke Mount came up against another tough opponent in Louis Quiney but won through in two games. I was pitted against someone who I have a great rivalry with in both club and county squash (Luke Jack) and came through 11-4 11-3, which was surprising, considering how closely matched we are.

Meanwhile in the Junior tournament, we had a side who were incredibly resilient and wanted to enjoy the day as much as possible. The team consisted of Dan McLaughlin, Archie Fuller (Both of T7) and William Dunmall and Tom Larchet (Both of T8). They were up against incredibly hard opposition in the form of Wilmington, Judd and St Olaves in the group stages. Despite the huge determination and character that the junior team showed, we only managed to win one game against St Olaves. So, we had to play Wilmington again and MGS in the 5th/6th/7th place playoffs. Again the cohort showed fantastic



enthusiasm that could be sensed by everyone watching, however, we again only managed to win one game, this time against MGS which saw us finish in 7th place, but the team could be hugely proud of the willpower and resolve to try and get results, and I am sure they will come back stronger in the tournaments to come, with the experience they gained this time.

So, the senior team made it through to the semi-finals of the Kent Schools Cup... then we saw who we were playing next. We were playing Langley who boast one of the best teams in England. (Excuse the squash pun there). A formidable challenge, but one we wanted to try our hardest in and see what happened. Dylan was first on court and won the first game, and the dream was on. He had four match balls in the second game, and after some harsh marking from the opposition, he lost out and lost the last game in a tight affair.

The second match was Adam, playing the number 2 in Kent at U13 level, and the British Junior Champion (Jude Gibbins). After showing some classy shots Jude went 1-0 up, but Adam had some good drop shots and managed to gain a few points, but it was Jude who grasped the initiative and won the match. So, we faced the task of winning both remaining matches without conceding a game to make it through to our third final in five years. Luke Mount was next, and he had to play the best player in

OPGS reach Semi-final of Kent Schools Squash Championships

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Kent at U17 level (James Gibbins), the same age bracket as Luke himself. James went 10-0 up in the first game and we were willing Luke to come up with the goods to get a point and avoid the dreaded whitewash. After a fantastic rally that included absolutely everything, Luke got a point, but lost the next to lose the first game 11-1. The second game was far more competitive, with both players hitting some great shots into the corners, but James came through 11-5 to book Langley's place in the final.

So, the consolation match came, when I was pitted in probably my last ever match for the school, against the best player in Kent at U19 level, 2nd best in England and 35th in the World (Jack Mitterer)! So, let's just say the odds were very slightly in his favour. The first game had some great rallies, but unfortunately from our perspective, he came out on top in most of them, and he won it 11-2. The second game was more competitive, and I won a few more points and gained more confidence as the match went on but he won it 11-6. If that was my last match for the school, what a way to end it. In the end, Langley won convincingly against Sevenoaks School in the final and won the



day for the Senior competition.

Overall, we knew we come away with a vast amount of experience and enjoyment, as well as memories at least I will cherish for years to come, and I wish the Oakwood Park Squash Teams all the best for future tournaments.

Year 7 Inter-house Squash Tournament

By Alex Pollington

Over the last few weeks on a Friday Lunchtime, I alongside the PE department have been organising an Inter-house squash tournament for the Year 7's to enjoy, however, we will be extending this to some other years over the coming weeks.

These are being organised to scout new talent to participate in various school squash tournaments around Kent, like the prestigious Kent Schools Squash Championships.

The first tournament saw C7, P7 and S7 take to the courts and had over 60 spectators, which was amazing and just goes to show how popular the sport is in the lower year groups. The competitors and spectators all seemed to be incredibly enthusiastic and I could feel the buzz coming from them.

Congratulations to Sadler for winning but we would also like to say a huge thank you to everyone who attended, both watching and playing.



Year 11 English Enrichment: Unseen Poetry

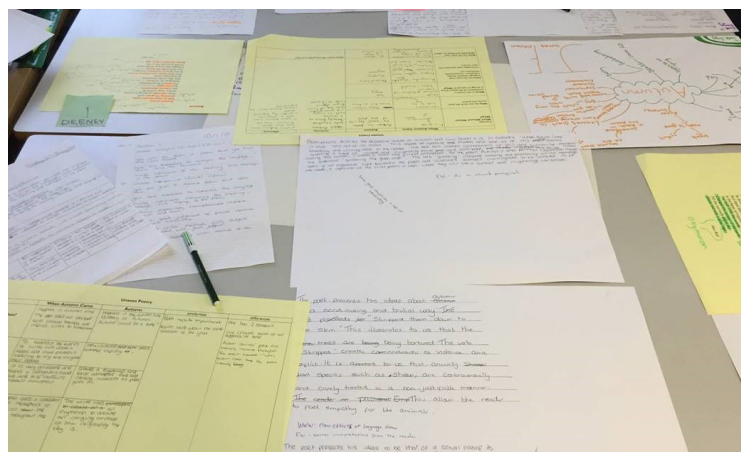
In preparation for their up-coming exams, Yr 11 students spent a full day with the English department to perfect their skills when it comes to examining and comparing unseen poems.

This directly relates to their GCSE Specification with AQA in which Literature Paper 2, Sections B&C will ask them to analyse and compare poems which they will not be familiar with until they sit the exam. As a result, students are not expected to have any prior contextual knowledge for this part of the paper but instead to be able to infer and deduce the writer's intended message through analysis of the literary, structural and poetic devices they employ to convey their thoughts and feelings on a particular topic to the reader.

In this instance, students were comparing 2 poems about seasonal change and the poem of nature in two poems entitled 'Autumn' and 'When Autumn Came'. From a literary perspective, the benefits of being able to read poetry and develop a personal response are numerous and it improves verbal skills as students can discuss and justify their interpretations of the text to their peers. It

also helps to improve empathy and vocabulary, alongside critical thinking particularly in the comparison section as it encourages students to elicit meaningful points of contrast between the two.

Mr. Taylor Richardson, who is head of KS4 English said: "The day was a great success as students demonstrated real engagement with challenging unseen poetry. Furthermore, they were able to translate their original and perceptive ideas into strong, developed exam style responses. This experience was crucial in preparing them for this Summer's English Literature exam".



PA News

Race Night will take place on Friday 1st March at 6.30pm - 10pm.

We will have 8 races each with 8 horses, £1 bets are placed before a random race is shown on the big screen; see if you can pick a winner! Losing bets are put into The Loser Raffle for another chance to win! You can buy a horse for £3 and if it wins its race, you win a chocolate prize. The 8 winning horses are put in to a draw to win £40! Adult tickets are £3 each, under 16s are free. Buy your tickets from our website <http://opgspa.org.uk/events/event/fundraising-event-race-night-2019/>

We are holding another second hand uniform sale to parents of Year 8 at Parents' Evening on 4th and 5th March. Uniform and PE kit items £2 - £10 each (cash only).

Kindly drop off any donations of Uniform or PE kit at school on Friday 1st March. We are looking for more volunteers to help at the sales. Contact us at opgspa@gmail.com or Facebook @opgspa Spring Cake sale is on 13th March.

Our next planning meeting is on Monday 11th February at The Bull in Barming at 7.30pm and all are welcome.

Maths Challenge Answer - 1) D 2) C

Race Night



Friday 1st March 2019 at 6.30 – 10pm
At Oakwood Park Grammar School



Gather your friends and family for a fun night at the races.

On the night we will have 8 races each of 8 horses, bets cost £1 each, watch a random race on screen to see if you backed a winner! Also a Loser raffle!

Buy a Horse £3, to win a chocolate prize & enter £40 draw!

Adult entry is £3 each, under 16s free!

Tickets: <http://opgspa.org.uk/events/event/fundraising-event-race-night-2019/>

Find us on  Facebook @opgspa

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