



# Year 7 Football Team win Maidstone Cup Final

Dear Parents, Carers and Students,

Welcome to the latest edition of @Oakwood and as ever I am grateful to the publicity team who work so hard to produce such an impressive publication.

We continue to have sporting success in Football and Rugby and I am pleased to see that Cricket is beginning to develop well under the enthusiastic leadership of Mr Raye.

We have had two very successful trips to Greece and Barcelona respectively. Thank you to all the staff who work so hard to make these opportunities possible.

Yours sincerely

Mr K.W. Moody - Headteacher



# 2019 Senior Sports Celebratory Dinner

On Friday 26th April, the ninth edition of the Senior Sports Celebratory Dinner took place at the Marriot Tudor Park Golf & Country Club.

The evening was a celebration of the senior sports team's successes and thank you to all the staff and parents who have given their support throughout this year. It was also an opportunity to say goodbye to our year 13's, one of the strongest sporting year groups OPGS has even seen!

The evening began with a drinks reception before we thanked this year's outgoing captains, Dylan Gibson (1st XV Rugby), Evan Lewis & Ollie Debnam (1st XI Football), Tom Ashenden (1st XI Cricket) and Scarlett Wright (Girls Sports Captain). All have shown outstanding commitment in their leadership roles, supporting PE staff with the organisation of their teams and leading brilliantly during competitive fixtures.

Following a delicious two course meal the awards presentations began. Well done to all the following students who received individual sports awards as a recognition of their commitment and service to OPGS senior sport this year:

1st XI Football- Clive Thompson Award	Tom Watson
2nd XI Football- Clive Thompson Award	Henry Gillespie
1st XI Football- Manager's Player	Jamie O'Connor
2nd XI Football- Manager's Player	George Weston
1st XI Football- Players' Player	Mickey Mantle
2nd XI Football- Players' Player	Samuel Harris
1st XV Rugby- Clive Thompson Award	Cameron Parker
1st XV Rugby- Manager's Player	Jasper Mulrooney-Skinner
1st XV Rugby- Players' Player	Finn Bell
1st XV Rugby- Top Points Scorer	Max Williamson
Outstanding Achievement Award	Shane Buckland
Outstanding Achievement Award	Annie Boyd
Outstanding Achievement Award	Luke Mount
Outstanding Achievement Award	Cameron Brown
Outstanding Achievement Award	Dylan Collie
Senior Football- Top Goal Scorer	Mickey Mantle
Senior Girls Sport Award	Alice Daniel
1st XI Cricket- Manager's Player	Tom Ashenden
Housden Hall of Fame Award	Evan Lewis
Housden Hall of Fame Award	Tom Ashenden
Housden Hall of Fame Award	Emmanuel Fanthome-Hodgson
Housden Hall of Fame Award	Harry Gowers
Housden Hall of Fame Award	Jacob Jessop
Housden Hall of Fame Award	Annie Boyd
2019/20 1st XI Football Captain	Sonny Cook
2019/20 1st XV Rugby Captain	Max Williamson
2019/20 1st XI Cricket Captain	Tom Ashenden
2019/20 Netball Captain	Alice Daniels

A special mention must be given to the 1st XI football team who won the prestigious 'Team of the Year' Award. These students have enjoyed a phenomenal school sports career, winning numerous Kent Cups and the English School National Cup in year 9. The team captured an unprecedented 'treble' this year, winning the premiership league, league cup and U18 Kent Cup. Eight of these players were presented special maroon OPGS caps to acknowledge the 100+ games they have played for the school in their 7 years at school. A truly extraordinary achievement!



Guests then enjoyed a fascinating talk from our guest speaker, former West Ham and England football player Dean Ashton. Reflecting on his school and professional career, Dean shared some entertaining stories and valuable lessons for our pupils to learn from as they leave OPGS to continue their sporting journeys. The evening then finished with the announcement of the 2019/20 senior sports captain's. A huge congratulations to Sonny Cook (1st XI football), Max Williamson (1st XV rugby) and Alice Daniel (girls sports captain) for receiving this honour. On behalf of the PE department and school, we wish you the best of luck in your leadership roles next year.



# Art and Graphics Trip to Barcelona

From the 5th to the 9th April the Art department took 27 Art and Graphics students from Years 10, 11 and 13 to Barcelona.

During the five days students visited a range of stunning art galleries including the Miro Foundation, Picasso Museum, the Dali Museum and MCBA. Students also visited a range of important sites in Barcelona including the Magic fountains, La Pedrera, Parc Guell, Las Ramblas. Students also had a chance to take a trip on a cable car across Barcelona from the hill tops to the beach. The students also got a chance to take photographs and do drawings in and around Barcelona for use in their coursework. At the end of the trip the students were exhausted but they had a rewarding experience in Barcelona and the surrounding areas.

Students first visited the The Fundació Joan Miró: a centre for the study and dissemination of Joan Miró's work and contemporary art. The collection includes over 14,000 works comprised of 217 paintings, 178 sculptures, 9 textiles, 4 ceramics, some 8,000 drawings and almost all his prints donated from the artist himself and his family. Students then walked around the harbour, Port Vell, to their shopping centre, Maremagnum, and subsequently stopped there for dinner.

Students ventured from the hotel to the city via train; there is a rail link at the end of the road which services the university campus and which took the group from the woodland suburbs directly into the Placa Catalunya, the heart of Barcelona, with just a 25 minute commute.

Students enjoyed a pleasant walk along a palm-tree lined boulevard to arrive at the Picasso museum, one of the world's most important collections of his work. Picasso spent much of his youth in Barcelona and maintained close links with his Catalan friends when he left for Paris in 1904. The time he spent in Barcelona encompassed most of his 'Blue Period' and was the occasion for many of the formative influences on his art. The collection is very well laid out in three stages: ceramics, paintings/sketches and lino cuttings. The Museum also houses the series

Las Meninas (1957) as well as a comprehensive print collection.

Students then had a chance to traverse the city to Gaudi's La Pedrera. Inside the building is a swirl of greens, blues and purples on the curved walls with steps leading up to visit the rooftop which provided students with a stunning view over the Barcelona rooftops and a series of foreboding sculptures and helmet-shaped clusters, many of which were based on Gaudi's vivid religious nightmares – a fantastic source of inspiration for their own sketches.





To see more of his influence and lasting architectural imprint over this city of colour, students also had a chance to venture to La Sagrada Familia. This allows for an intriguing point of contrast as students were able to compare the original structures with the more modern part of the building completed after Gaudi's death by the artist Josep Subirachs. For our third and final instalment of Gaudi on the trip, students also got a chance to wander around Park Guell. The park is one of the largest green spaces in Barcelona, with more than 17 hectares, next to the Sierra de Collserola. Gaudi designed the cool mosaic benches out of recycled broken crockery. The raised bump running along the back is supposed to work as a comfortable back rest and the holes in the bottom to serve as drainage in case it rains, so they remain dry for passers-by. The colourful tiles are a testimony to the life of the city with its colourful rooftops, range of architecture and gorgeous views.

Students had a taste of authentic Spanish cuisine with a paella dinner at Aitor restaurant, served in wide shallow pans, after being roasted in the oven, this traditional Spanish rice dish went down a treat. Following this, students witnessed the spectacle of the Montjuic's Magic Fountain. The fountain was built in 1929 and restored in 1992 for the Barcelona Olympic Games. The fountain spurts, shoots and sprays water to the sound of music and a mixture of colourful lights. Located at the foot of the steps up to the Museum of Catalan Art on Montjuic mountain, this visit is a highlight for many visitors to Barcelona.

On Day Three, the students trekked from the city centre closer to the mountains, with a coach tour to the winding streets of Figueres, where the Salvador Dali Museum is situated. Two hours from Barcelona, this museum building is located in the theatre in which Dali held his first ever exhibition. The building itself is typical of Dali's surrealist style with eggs mounting the towers and loaves of bread lining the walls. Students were able to witness the rain inside a car in the main courtyard with the installation of Dali's 1941 Cadillac, supposedly once owned by Al Capone. By inserting a coin, rain falls inside the car. The bronze statue on the Cadillac is of Queen Esther by Austrian sculptor, Ernst Fuchs, but it may be



representative of Dali's sister.

Dali was born in Figueres and at the age of 14 participated in his first art exhibition at the theatre: "Where, if not in my own town, should the most extravagant and solid of my work endure, where if not here?" Certainly, when you're inside the museum, you are immersed in a Dalinian experience amidst the roughly 1,500 paintings, drawings, installations, photographs, jewellery designs and other works.

On the last full day in the city, students visited the Barcelona Museum of Contemporary Art (MACBA). Before entering, we watched a group of skateboarders do a photoshoot as the morning sun came out with confetti cannons



littering the pavement whilst students sketched the scene. This museum is located close to the Ramblas and the large, minimalist white building dominates the square in which it is sited. The MACBA hosts modern work by local artists, with some of the work being considered shocking and controversial, like *The Short Century: The MACBA collection* which included the *Guerrilla Girls* offering a Feminist perspective and calling out the under representation of female artists in recent decades.

Students then full of fiery inspiration, travelled to Las Arenas: a former bullfighting arena come commercial centre. In 2011, after Catalunya decided to outlaw bullfighting, the city of Barcelona was left with an enormous bullfighting arena dating from 1900 and built in traditional Mudejar style. It was decided to add an enormous domed roof and to create Barcelona's newest and most impressive shopping centre. Students could also travel to the rooftop to glean some more stunning views of the city from their vast and circular



viewing platform. Students then took a cable car over the coast to Barceloneta Beach where they all enjoyed ice cream along the sandy shoreline.

Students were also able to have a quick pit stop on our transfer back to the airport at the Olympic Stadium. Designed by architect Pere Domènech i Roura for the 1929 Expo, the stadium was officially opened on 20th May 1929. In 2010, the stadium hosted the 20th European Athletics Championships. And more recently, it is also a popular venue for concerts such as the 2018 concert by Beyoncé & Jay-Z as part of their *On the Run II* Tour. Overall, the trip was a jam-packed immense study into the art and architecture of the city but the cultural enrichment of being immersed with all the world-renowned art truly did leave a lasting impression on the students, many of whom plan to use the sketches and pictures they took, for the portfolio works which they will continue to cultivate back in school and in the art room.

## Biology Olympiad

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



## Duke of Edinburgh – Bronze Award.

Over 60 students from Oakwood Park took part in a training weekend at Hopehill Scout Centre near Meopham during the weekend of 11th and 12th of May.

Despite a few heavy showers on Saturday and unseasonal temperatures that Saturday night, just above freezing, it failed to dampen spirits. All survived and learnt a lot of basic skills including

how to pack a rucksack, navigation skills, cooking outdoors and working as a team. On Sunday, they got the chance to put some of these newly acquired skills to the test.

The next stage will be a practice expedition which takes place during the first weekend in July and finally the assessed expedition in September. Ongoing, students continue to work on the volunteering, skills and physical sections which they must also complete for the full award.



THE DUKE OF  
EDINBURGH'S AWARD





# BAFTA Young Game Designer 2019 Oakwood Park finalists!

## BAFTA YGD 2019 Oakwood Park finalists!

On Monday 20 May 2019 The British Academy of Film and Television Arts (BAFTA) announced the finalists in a nationwide competition to find the game designers of the future. The winners, chosen by a panel of industry professionals, will be revealed at a special awards ceremony at BAFTA's headquarters, 195 Piccadilly in London, on Saturday 29 June.

The annual BAFTA Young Game Designers (YGD) competition, which began in 2010, aims to demonstrate the creativity that goes into game design and give young people, and their teachers, an understanding of the rewarding careers available within the industry.

### Harry Petch said:

I am very happy to announce that 3 Oakwood Park students have been nominated for a BAFTA YGD award.

- I have been nominated for Game Making ages 15-18 for Tempo, which I partially worked on as my EPQ but separately worked with Louis Jackson (a previous YGD winner and finalist) to create a new entry
- Nils Andre in Year 10 has also been nominated for Game Making ages 15-18 for his game Blindspot, which I am extremely happy

about as he contributed changes to the actual game engine he worked in through the project, improving the game development process for others around the world.

- Luke Pierson in Year 9 was nominated for his Game Concept ages 10-14 called A World Without You: he has been really dedicated to the cause and this news is amazing.

Both of these students are a part of my Game Development Club I have been running every Tuesday for Year 9 and Year 10 students with a focus on BAFTA YGD and entering for it, and I am so happy I was able to make others aware of this competition that has brought me great success in being introduced to awesome people in the Games Industry!

### You can view our games here:

#### Tempo:

<http://ygd.bafta.org/competition/competition-news/2019/tempo>

#### Blindspot:

<http://ygd.bafta.org/competition/competition-news/2019/blindspot-0>

#### A World Without You:

<http://ygd.bafta.org/competition/competition-news/2019/a-world-without-you>



# Geography Field Trip to the River Tillingbourne

In Geography at GCSE level there is an exam topic based on the data analysis of river depth, width and velocity. As a result, the department take all of the Year 10 Geographer to the River Tillingbourne which runs along the south side of the North Downs and joins the River Wey at Guildford. Its source is near Tilling Springs to the north of Leith Hill.

The field trip has a lot of relevance to the syllabus and work students have done in class but this hands-on approach to gathering evidence for their case study for the exam topic is helpful. On the field trip, students got to examine the changes in characteristics of the river and see the natural and human influences which could affect these changes. The Tillingbourne initially flows northward for 4 km down the northern slopes of Leith Hill over a series of weirs and cascades, before turning west to run for 14 km through Abinger Hammer and Chilworth towards the River Wey at Shalford. The River Tillingbourne supports a fish population of both wild

brown trout and coarse fish. The Environment Agency has been working with local fishermen to improve the habitat for these fish by recreating a pool and riffle habitat and by cutting back overhanging vegetation.

The students then travelled to Juniper Hall where there was a tutor onsite who explained how to collect data on a river and informed the students of various facts about the River Tillingbourne, such as, about the drainage basin and flood risk which helped to improve students' understanding better in preparation for their GCSEs. The workshop at Juniper Hall is part of the work run by the Field Studies Council. The FSC is an environmental education charity providing informative and enjoyable opportunities for young people to discover, explore, and understand the environment. The FSC is committed to delivering a first-hand experience and fostering a culture that creates sustainability for the future.





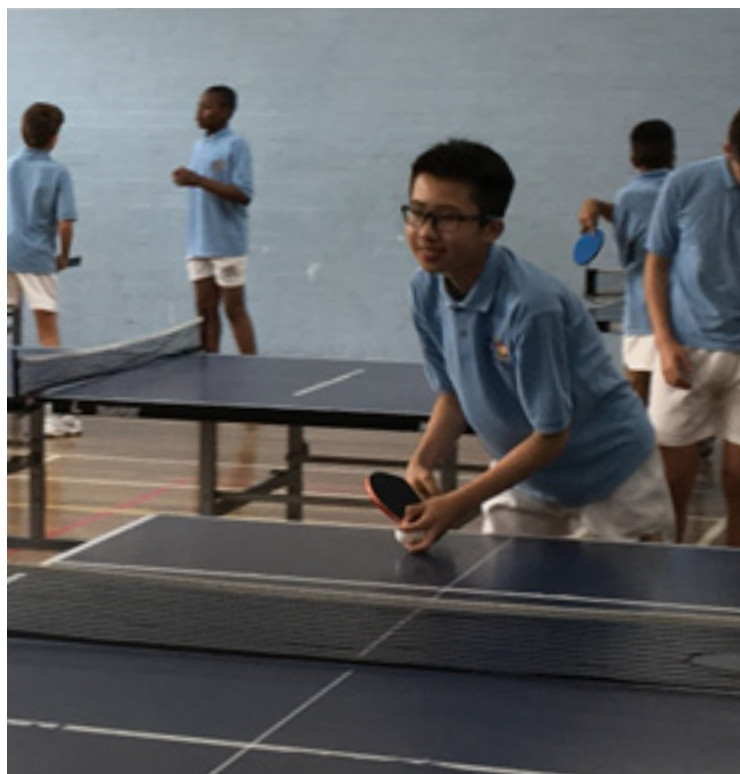
# Inter-house Table Tennis

This term 6th Formers George Weston, James Curd and James Piper have been organising inter-house table tennis.

This is developing leadership and organisational skills whilst testing patience and communication skills in delivering the sessions with the guidance of Mr Devonald. The past two weeks have seen over 100 year 7's competing during Friday lunchtimes in both a friendly but competitive environment. The aim is to promote opportunities for all boys to experience competitive sport in a number of activities. The hope is that some boys will use this as a pathway in to clubs and increase participation across the school in a variety of different sports.

## Year 7 Results

1st	Hazlitt
2nd	Fisher
3rd	Wilberforce
4th	Sadler
5th	Broughton



# Junior Maths Challenge April 26th

The Junior Maths Challenge took place on April 26th in the Centenary Building. This nationwide competition takes place annually and is run by the UKMT (UK maths trust) based at Leeds University.

Sixty very keen Yr. 7 and 8 students at Oakwood Park took part in the challenge which involves answering 25 multiple choice questions in 60 minutes and is sat in school under normal exam conditions. Some sample questions are given

Gill scored a goal half way through the second quarter of a "teachers versus pupils" netball match. At that point, what fraction of the whole match remained to be played?

**A:  $\frac{1}{4}$  B:  $\frac{3}{8}$  C:  $\frac{1}{2}$  D:  $\frac{5}{8}$  E:  $\frac{3}{4}$**   
or the more challenging!!

A drawer contains ten identical yellow socks, eight identical blue socks and four identical pink socks. Amrita picks socks from the drawer without looking. What is the smallest number of socks she must pick to be sure that she has at least two pairs of matching socks?

**A: 5 B: 6 C: 8 D: 11 E: 13**

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 and each institution receives a Best in School certificate. 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.

**Answers to the problems at the end of this publication.**

The results of the Maths challenge have arrived.

Top student in Yr. 8 was Luke Sutcliffe closely followed by Silas Miller. Both qualified for the next round, known as the Junior Kangaroo. Two other students received a gold award, Evan Harris and Krishna Sookun.

In Year 7, the top performer was Luke Redmond. Other excellent performances came from Andrei Banciu, Liam Austin, Luke Bushnell and Ethan Woodward.



# Kent Schools Golf Championship

Year 12 student Luca Babadi represented the school at the annual Kent schools Golf Championship on the 7th May at Kings Hill Golf Club.

The weather was sunny but with a 20 mph breeze and hard dry greens set challenging course conditions which would prove to be a tough test for the field of 50 competitors from schools around the County.

The front nine started brightly with a birdie at the 1st hole but was immediately followed with a disappointing double bogie on the 2nd hole. Luca steadied the ship and then finished well with birdies on holes 6, 7 and 9, covering the front 9 holes in 34, an impressive 2 under par.

The back 9 served a real test as this is mostly into the head wind and with 7 pars on the card Luca had put himself in contention. Unfortunately a triple bogie on the 13 following a trip to the trees and then a double bogie on 18, having hit the middle of the green with a 7 iron, meant a total 3 over par. Despite a mixed back nine, this was a very good performance considering the testing conditions.

This proved to be the case as standard scratch went up and Luca had the joint top scratch score of the day, coming second on the countback system.

Luca has now been selected to represent Kent at the South of England Championships on 28th May at the

RAC Club Surrey. We wish him every success and look forward to hearing about his progress over the coming season.



# Maidstone Schools District Athletics Preview

We have always been proud of our field and the facility it provides us, and with the addition of the Discuss cage and High Jump Equipment we now have the best athletic facilities of the Maidstone schools.

So, when it was mentioned to the Maidstone Schools PE association that we should look to centralise the competitions held every week, it seemed sensible

to offer OPGS as the central venue for our senior teams. So, for the first time we will hold fortnightly competitions for Year 9 and 10 students to compete in. All schools in the area will merge on a Wednesday afternoon to compete against each other. The results combining to the overall Maidstone District trophy which will be presented at the District event at Julie Rose, Sutton Valance or Medway Park, date TBC. The year 7 and 8 competitions will be held on the alternate weeks at Maplesden Noakes.



# OPGS Volunteers' Day 2019

Oakwood Park Grammar School students gave over 2,500 hours' worth of their time and efforts in voluntary work to the local community on Tuesday 21st May.

Students from Year 8-10 have spent the last few weeks confirming their placements with 284 students securing their own individual voluntary activity including helping in 54 local primary schools and 8 charity shops. Others were involved in support projects around the Maidstone and Medway area. The projects included helping maintenance at Aylesford Rugby Club, Maidstone Boys' Brigade and a town-wide litter pick around Maidstone.



Volunteering helps develop the school ethos of kindness, tolerance and respect. We believe in giving back to the local community, as well as giving students the opportunity to work outside the classroom, experience new roles, learn from new people and to work as a team, or take the lead on projects. They will be engaging with equipment, adults, and environments they have never had the chance to before, this gives them the opportunity to grow and develop as well-rounded individuals and confident members of our community. The effort, hard work and support the students have shown has been inspirational. Days like these really do make a difference to our local community.



Not only does this help grow and maintain our bonds within the locality, but it is also beneficial for the students as individuals because they get the chance to practice and build up a repertoire of life-long skills such as better time management, giving them opportunities to meet new people and improve their confidence, and to become more organised. These enhanced skills look great on their CV but can also help them to get a job, gain a university place or apprenticeship in the future. Whilst, doing good deeds can have positive effects on your mental health and emotional wellbeing by reducing stress, as well as helping improve their physical health.

Helping others to feel good promotes positive physiological changes in the brain associated with self-esteem and happiness. This opportunity to work with others can bring a sense of belonging and reduces isolation because in giving back to the community and getting satisfaction from helping others means as young adults, they can feel valued as a part of a social network. We





feel this is important for our students because it helps them to keep things in perspective - many people don't realise the impact that a different perspective can have on their outlook on life. In fact, the more you do for others, the more you do for yourself - helping others can last long after the act itself by providing you with a 'kindness bank' of memories, and this is something we are keen to document and praise in the next edition of @Oakwood.

Mr Lewis and Miss Ryan said "We wanted to say a HUGE thank you to all the staff involved in Volunteering Day yesterday. We had students involved in over 200 good causes - ranging from assisting with the Year 5 Football/Cricket tournaments to cleaning up the local area around OPGS on behalf of Maidstone Borough Council.

The feedback we have received from the local community, our feeder Primary Schools and the numerous charities involved has been outstanding and without exception mentioned how wonderful our students (and staff) were. We really appreciate the support on this unique OPGS experience".



## Year 10 & 12 students took part in the Physics Olympiad.

**The AS Challenge (Year 12) is an exciting opportunity for students to stretch their lateral thinking skills and apply fundamental physical principles to novel situations.**

The AS Challenge is a single, one-hour paper that provides an excellent tool to assess and challenge student's ability to work at Key Stage 5 and beyond. It consists of ~10 minutes of thought-provoking multiple choice questions followed by a short answers section that tests subject knowledge and application.

Papers and mark scheme are sent to teachers on receipt of an entry form. After completion, teachers mark the scripts and send a record of marks to the BPhO. Bronze, Silver or Gold Certificates are issued to students reaching a threshold mark and Participation Certificates issued to all those

taking part. Five of the top scorers from the AS competition (and their teachers) are invited to the April prize-giving at the Royal Society.

Unfortunately nobody achieved any certificate.

The BPhO Year 10 Physics Challenge is open to students 14 to 15 years old. The competition consist of two twenty-five minute online multiple choice papers (30 questions per paper).

The questions will be based on an assortment from Dynamics, Electricity, Optics, Heat, Units, small amounts of Astronomy, Waves, to give the main topics. Some questions are done by a process of elimination, some are general knowledge and not classroom physics, some is from the school curriculum. It is closer to a Quiz than an exam.

We are still waiting for the results.

# Rowing – NJIRC 2019

On 15th March 2019, the National Indoor Rowing Championships took place at the Copperbox Arena in London! Taking a full team in the minibus to London, all competitors were excited and enthusiastic about the day ahead! Of course, the big question on all our lips was, 'will our seniors defend their Boat Race title they had held since 2017!'

First up we had the Year 7 boys, four racers, all setting off on their first national champs races! George Prior topped our Year 7 boys with a distance of 451m in the allocated time, coming a good 90/180! He was followed by Leo Atkinson, Ryan Wood and Nate Turner, all placing between 90th and 140th! So a great start for our boys and something they can build on ready for next year!

## Leo Atkinson

Our Year 8 team followed the year 7 team, whilst not the strongest year we have had, they are fully dedicated to the team and row extremely hard when competing!!

Oliver Kane and Alex Green rowed a great race, pushing themselves to the extreme and achieving a hugely respectable joint 62/193, both rowing the same distance in their allocated time! Luke Breytenbach rowed himself to a great 85th position. whilst Joshua Couchman performed well to bring in the final place of 125th.

Then the Year 9 boys stepped on to the floor! Could this realistically be our first ever chance of a national individual Medal for Oakwood Park! With a squad made up of four club rowers and Scott Bain who was certainly in the right shape for challenging at the top!

They set off, Scott powering out the blocks before settling into his rhythm! With strategically placed spotters to monitor his progress compared to his competitors, we were able to advise him on what was needed! Scott controlled himself superbly, knowing when to push, when to hold and when he could conserve his energy ready for the final push! And thankfully for him he did! The final few seconds were nail biting! But due to his understanding of the race he was able to come



home in 1st position (from 186 competitors), beating second place by a mere 3metres!!

What an achievement, OPGS' first ever Gold Individual medal!!!

Alex Knight 40th, Louis Cole 53rd and Kieran Evans 84th all placed respectably, considering the calibre of opposition! To have four rowers in the top 85 positions is a huge achievement and the boys were well placed to challenge for a medal in the sprint relays!

We enter two junior teams in the sprint race, the Year 7 and 8 combined team, this team is entered for the experience of rowing a relay in the heat of the national event, and they came a respectable 37/82 teams!

The Year 9 team were rowing for a medal!! Again, we position spotters around the room to monitor how the other groups were getting on! As the relay drew to a close it was clear to all that a medal was on the cards, could we hold off the challenge from their competitors or would we



not succeed!! Thankfully, as Scott took over the rowing for the final leg we were confident of the medal position! The team managed to achieve our second medal of the day! Silver in the sprint relay, a great achievement again considering the calibre of the schools and clubs they were rowing against.

Now we had one of the most experienced year groups competing, all rowers are members of the local rowing club and wanted to challenge for medal positions! And they did not disappoint!

All three rowers started strongly, holding positions near the front of the race, all giving themselves chances for medals!

Matthew Baber started to pull away from the other two rowers, but they responded well and push their stroke rate, so they didn't fall too far behind! As the closing stages of the race began Matthew was challenging, but in reality the bronze seemed most likely of all the colours, there were two other competitors who had started to pull away and were 75-100 metres ahead, a big gap to close!

Matt finished 3rd, another National Medal for OPGS with Oliver coming in 7th and Ben in 11th! This is our most successful team we have ever had at the Nationals! A huge achievement for the three boys and a team who we are extremely proud of!

Now it was the big one! Due to the close relationship we have with Maidstone and Invicta Rowing club, we create two teams with them, one to challenge and one for development! The event is a timed event, and the team who can row the furthest in the best time the Oxford v Cambridge race has been completed in wins!

It is pleasing to say that from the 16 rowers across the two teams Oakwood Park provided 8 of the rowers! The boys were well known to the competitors, after all they were double champions already and others really wanted to knock them from the top spot!!

Both teams get themselves underway, and it was clear from the start that they were going to be under pressure for that gold medal this year!! Plymouth Schools rowing team started strongly,

pulling out a lead very quickly! It was going to be important that the tactics worked if they were to hold on to that National title!!

The boy's change overs were slick and well-rehearsed, but ultimately the power of Plymouth started to show through. A couple of the OPGS team started showing fatigue, shortening their strokes and also their stints on the 'boat' meaning that others were having to row for longer, or the number of changes increased. This gave Plymouth the advantage and over the final stages of the race they started building a lead of over 100m which would be difficult the pull back in!

Unfortunately, we were unable to hold on to that title! And silver it was! But for this team it was their fourth medal in four years, two silvers and two golds! An amazing achievement for them! Something that I am sure will be hard to beat!

Now whilst the focus had been on the older team, it was not seen that the development team had kept themselves close to the top two teams! They had also kept themselves slick in changes over, maintained a good rhythm and kept themselves close! Close enough to win themselves the bronze medal! So all OPGS students came home from the boat race with either a bronze or silver medal!

We are extremely proud of the long-standing rowing club and relationship with Maidstone and Invicta rowing club! And more so proud of the boys in what has been our most successful ever National Championships!



# Term 5 Cricket Review

Term 5 has seen the start of the competitive cricket season at OPGS with teams across all age groups playing Kent Cup fixtures across the county.

The U12's are arguably our most talented year group for cricket this year. The team consists of both club cricketers and no fewer than four district level players. Many of this team have stepped up to represent OPGS at U13 level, strengthening our year 8 team considerably. Receiving a bye in the first round of the U12 Ford Cup, the team played a strong Hayes School in round two. Batting first, OPGS lost the early wickets of James Tricker and Toby Clarke to put the visitors on top. A strong middle order fightback led by Henry Campbell gave the innings momentum, with the team reaching a par score of 98 from 16 overs. A strong opening stand from Hayes put them in control of the match as they reached 45-1 after just six overs. From here they managed to rotate the strike and reach the target to a wicket victory.

Having received a round one bye, the U13 team faced Dover College at home in round two of the Thomas Thunder Cup. Having won the toss, OPGS took to the field and produced a disciplined and aggressive opening few overs, reducing Dover College to 15-4 after 5 overs. The visitors never recovered as contributions from all the OPGS bowlers dismissed Dover College for a score of 38 inside 12 overs. There were some fantastic catches taken in what was an excellent fielding display. Captain Will Hodgson and Reece Meranda opened the batting and made light work of the target, reaching 38-0 within 6 overs to complete a fantastic victory for the U13 team. A special mention must go to year seven students Toby Clarke and Harrison Scott, who opened the bowling and took 5 wickets between them.

Having also received a round one bye the U14 team faced a tough draw in round two against Skinners Grammar School, one of the premier cricket schools in Kent. Winning the toss and electing to bat, Tom Lenham & Timo Collins made a steady start for OPGS in the face of some extremely fast-paced bowling. Timo eventually fell playing back to a fast and full pitched delivery from the Skinners opening bowler. Tom Lenham and Harvey Moore then put a steady 50-

run partnership together against an extremely disciplined Skinners bowling attack. This took the innings to 70-1 after 17 overs in what were awful weather conditions. Heavy rain began to fall in the final three overs as Tom and Harvey attacked the bowling to leave OPGS with a score of 96-1 after 20 overs. The Skinners opening batsman began aggressively, taking advantage of some wayward OPGS bowling. After reaching 40-0 after 6 overs, Ben Lyons (captain) made the vital breakthrough with Jamie Flintan taking an incredible diving catch at square leg. Four wickets then fell to leave the hosts stuttering on 68-5. However, only one further wicket fell and Skinners completed a four wicket win with three overs to spare. It was a fighting performance from the U14 team who will now await the draw of the U14 T20 plate to see if they can progress further than when they reached the last 16 of last year's U13 plate competition.

Having received a concession of their round two fixture against Gravesend Grammar School the U15 team now look forward to their round three match against either Ravenswood or Skinners School. The team are looking strong this year with a number of the year 10's having played up into the 1st XI senior cricket team.

The U18 team have played three fixtures this term against some of the very best cricket schools in Kent, including Rochester Maths and Simon Langton School. Tom Ashenden and Max Fossett have done brilliantly to captain an inexperienced side, consisting of four to five year 10&11 students. These younger players have produced some excellent performances with both bat and ball, often against students three years their senior.

All sides now look forward to even more cricket in term 6 where we continue in Kent Cup competitions and have a number of friendlies arranged against The Howard School, Borden GS, Norton Knatchbull GS, Chislehurst & Sidcup GS and St Simon Stock. The U13 and U15 teams will also be entering the annual Kent 'Chance to Compete' tournament at The Mote Cricket Club.

We also have the arrival of our new school cricket kits this week that will provide a real boost to our teams for next terms fixtures!



# Years 7, 8 Win Maidstone Schools Rugby Finals

March/April saw three of our rugby teams compete in the Maidstone Schools Finals. This is the second year of the competition, but our first year of entry. All the finals were scheduled to be held at Aylesford RFC, in order to give a sense of occasion.

The Year 7 squad, which is now consisting of nearly 30 students, were involved in the final against Aylesford School, one of the stronger schools in the area. Mr Keeling-Jones wanted all players who had contributed to the season to play a part in the match. The match began strongly with the team playing a well-structured game, and considering we had not played for a while, it was good to see that the boys remembered and were able to structure themselves well. We went ahead in the match with some slick passing and running which settled the boys a little and gave them the confidence needed to realise that they could win the match. It was of no surprise to us that Aylesford would come back at us as they had some large players who ran with the ball well.

However, everything that came at the boys was stopped, some big tackles from players such as Ollie Dunk, Joe Stone, Freddie Fagg and Tom Martin meant that we held our lines well.

The team continued to perform well, tackling well, running with the ball and supporting one another well. But the key for this match was the boys decision making, they seemed to know when to pass or run to set up the ruck/maul or attempt an offload. It really was a complete performance by the team.

By half time the score line was 6 tries to 1, which allowed changes to be made early on to provide all players with lots of game time in this final match of the season. Aylesford did finish strongly as some of the developing players from OPGS were allowed to play, but we remained strong and organised and some big defensive tackling by Joe Stone meant that they only breached the try line on 2 occasions.

This was a great way to end the season and a perfect performance that allowed all players to play their part.





# Years 7, 8 Win Maidstone Schools Rugby Finals cont...

The Year 8 match against Aylesford again, followed immediately after the Year 7, meaning that plenty of support remained at the club. Again, it must be said that this was probably the most organised and complete performance we have seen from the year group, a great way to end the season. The match was fairly one sided as we managed to keep possession well, moving the ball between forwards and backs well. Again, the decision making by the players was superb. Something that has not always been demonstrated with this year group, there can be some mavericks in the squad, but the occasion brought the best out of them and they played as a team out to win the cup!

The season for these teams has been really developmental, and what is pleasing is the numbers of players that we have kept throughout the year, whilst also adding to the squads. It shows that rugby is definitely continuing to grow in the school and the future certainly looks bright

for both of these sides.

The Year 7 squad will continue to work with Mr Keeling-Jones next season, with the Year 8 moving into year 9 under the joint coaching of Mr Raye and Mr Keeling-Jones. 2019/20 will see Year 9 begin to compete in the Kent Cup competitions, meaning the season will begin in September. It will be this year that we begin to focus on preparing the boys for senior rugby which will be upon them in no time!

The joint Year 10/11 squad were due to play Aylesford in their final. Unfortunately, the opposition withdrew on the morning of the match. However, this has been a good season for the Year 10 in particular and we will see a number of those players pushing for 1st XV places next season. The Maidstone Competition will also allow us to maintain interest for those players in Year 11 who may not be able to play for the 1st XV, continuing to prepare for the following year when they enter Year 12.





# Year 7 Football Team win Maidstone Cup Final

The year 7 team won their final 6-4 vs Malling. An end to end match which saw Oakwood go 2-0 up with goals from Alex Dawes and Timi Olatunji.

Malling pegged Oakwood back to make the score 2-2 early in the second half but the Oakwood boys, drawing on the inspirational performances from Liverpool and Tottenham this week, scored twice more (Tom Ansell and Lyle Sheldrick) to make it 4-2.

Malling kept pushing and again made things

interesting with another goal making it 4-3. With the game in the balance Ansell put a perfect corner in for Man of the Match Josh Bishop to power a header into the back of the net and increase our lead to 5-2. Timi O then scored another to put the game to bed before Malling scored a fourth goal (VAR may have seen it differently) right at the end, 6-4 the final score.

An enthralling match with plenty of goals and a first cup final win for Oakwood's newest school team.





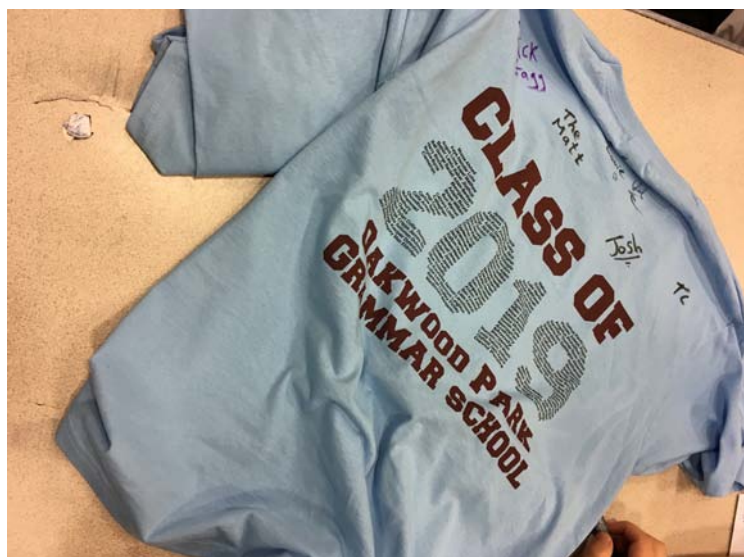
# Year 11 Leavers' Day

On Friday 10th May, a memorable 5 years for the boys of Year 11 came to an end.

Students emotionally talked about their time at Oakwood, saying how it was the end of an era and shared their mixed emotions including some anxiety, as is to be expected, for their upcoming exam period. The day was emotional for everyone, for the students who had been welcomed and guided through their secondary education, and likewise for their teachers who had seen the students grow from innocent Year 7s into more mature young men.

The students were treated to a leavers' breakfast with a full English breakfast being served out to them as they sat in their form groups, reminiscing about their time at the school. The students had T-shirts with their names on as tokens of their place in the OPGS alumni and videos were played which had been made by the students as a personal goodbye from each class.

Mr Keeling-Jones finished the assembly with a heart warming message and wished them well with their exams.





# Year 13 Leavers Day 2019

The Class of 2019 celebrated the end of their school career this term. They came into assembly to be greeted by photos of themselves at primary school secretly sent in by their parents.

After an uplifting video of photos and funny moments, compiled by Senior Prefects, students waited eagerly to hear who had won the awards this year for which they had all voted. Despite a targeted voting campaign to award Nick Sumner all honours, there were a variety of winners. This years categories ranged from the serious (Most likely to cure cancer -Gabbie H) to the insulting (Most likely to be asked for ID at 30- Max J) and

the offensive (Most likely to appear on a reality TV show- Georgia W). Mrs Williams ended the assembly by congratulating the Class of 2019 for their academic ambition, football prowess and the fact that she has not had to sort out any friendship disputes for the first time ever!

Students then joined Mr Ram and the two fathers who had volunteered to man the barbecues on the field. Students enjoyed a massive bouncy castle (which may never recover) and a girls vs boys tug of war (the boys may never recover).

Good luck to the Class of 2019 for the exams ahead.

Ms Hern





# Radio Workshop for Year 12 Media Studies

The Media Department at OPGS organised an exciting opportunity for our students to attend a 2-hour workshop with Jonny Meah from Kent's Heart.FM.

Jonny does the usual home time slot between 4-7pm on our local radio and since the Year 12 coursework brief asks them to create a 2-2:30 minute extract of a radio show to help promote their magazine production piece for their coursework, we thought what better way to introduce them to the necessary skills, conventions and stylistic features of radio presenting. As a result, we were delighted to have an expert in the industry coming into school to give the students practical hints and tips of the trade, from his own personal expertise working in the radio industry.

Jonny Meah is genuinely one of the most exciting young presenters in the industry. At just 25 years old, Jonny can be heard on Heart – the biggest commercial radio station in the U.K. He has also presented a ground-breaking documentary with millions of views on YouTube, voiced for big names such as ITV, Radio 1, and MTV. Jonny has a wealth of experience in Live Hosting, and Public Speaking. Since 2016, Jonny has been the host of Voice In A Million, an annual two-night concert, which takes place at the historic SSE Wembley Arena. He's also hosted for venues such as Bluewater Shopping Centre, switching on their Christmas Lights, and Leeds Castle,

hosting and DJing at their Firework Spectacular. Not a stranger to the West End either, Jonny has hosted various events, including Masters of Show Choir, a National 'Glee-styled' Competition.

The workshop ran from 11-1pm on Friday 17th May in school. Before the day started, the students had not started the radio section of their cross-media production piece. Students worked well in groups of 3 to craft their own scripts and then had some time to draft and practice their presenting style before it gets to the recording stage. Students also listened collectively to the audio files from Yr 13; students were pushed to critique these examples and then heard from Jonny on what those students did well, as well as, what could have been improved to help them alter, tweak and redraft their own pieces as part of the production process.



# heart



## Maths Challenge answers:

Answers to the Maths problems: D and B



Oakwood Park Grammar School

# New Designers' Exhibition

An exhibition of Design & Technology, Art, Graphics and Media work



**Wednesday 26th June 5pm – 7pm**

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# Oliver!



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