

2500+ hours of time volunteered in just one day

Dear Parents and Carers

Welcome to our Term 5 edition of @Oakwood

Packed full of interesting articles, it gives an excellent snapshot of all the impressive activities our pupils carry out with the expert support and guidance of their teachers. It is of course the publicity team of Mr Peacock, Mr Solly and Mrs Goodhew who coordinate all the articles in the @Oakwood publications. Thank you as ever to them.

I hope you enjoy the articles. A particular personal highlight for me were the wonderful leaving assemblies for our Year 11 and Year 13 students. As they are my last, they were particularly poignant.

With very best wishes.



Mr K.W. Moody - Headteacher

AND

SERVE

STRIVE

Art Volunteering Day Greenfield's Family Hub Project

On the 21st May Art students in Year 10 and 12 along with the Art department staff went to the Greenfields Family Hub and spent the day creating art work to transform the centre garden area for the volunteering enrichment day.

Prior to the day the Art department created large wooden cut outs of cartoon insects, and fantasy creatures and characters as well as a modern sign for the centre; these had been negotiated and designed with the family hub to meet their requirements. On the day students painted the cutouts and then displayed them in the garden. In addition to the fencing decorations, we helped to craft large flowers from coloured plastic sheets in order to add colour to the garden. In the afternoon the students helped clear the garden and arrange a sitting area and play area.

Throughout the day the team worked hard to complete the art work, often helping each other to complete different elements of the paintings or constructions. The students had to be mindful of the different groups that were using the family hub



and had to work in the rain to meet the deadline and make sure that the final outcome was of the highest possible quality. The students had a fantastic time working on the project and the hub was very pleased with the final display. The Art department was very proud of the effort, dedication and resilience of the art students being exemplary ambassadors for the school.



Living the pura vida in Costa Rica:

An insight into the Costa Rica trip, and how the wonders of this small but mighty country shape the culture of the inhabitants. Our volunteers described the focus on preservation and how an entire community has been built around their love for the environment, with “pura Vida” being their unifying phrase and way of greeting, thanking or general accessory in conversation.

A breeding ground for exotic animals, some of which are being made prey by humankind and unstable habitats- Here's how our volunteers aided the survival of threatened turtle species like leatherbacks from the evil hand of illegal poachers. Regular night walks were conducted along the lengths of the beaches, surveying for the poacher's headlights and seeking out turtle eggs to protect and hatchlings on the sand which needed to be returned to sea. From birth, the hatchlings are faced with a dangerous race of predator vs turtle and the odds are stacked against them. Poachers are not the only imposed threat however, with land animals like dogs and birds waiting to pounce. Unfortunately, their arrival at sea doesn't guarantee safety, as they are then confronted by countless



predator fish. For most species of turtle, the odds of unassisted survival from egg to adult are around 1 in 100.

Of course, turtles aren't the only thing stalking the wild- Costa Rica is also home to the Golden Lancehead; which measures at mighty length of 70cm when fully grown. Whilst there haven't been any reports of human death caused by these Golden Lanceheads (because of their habitat predominantly being areas uninhabited by humans) reports of other lancehead snakes have shown that their bites are fatal.



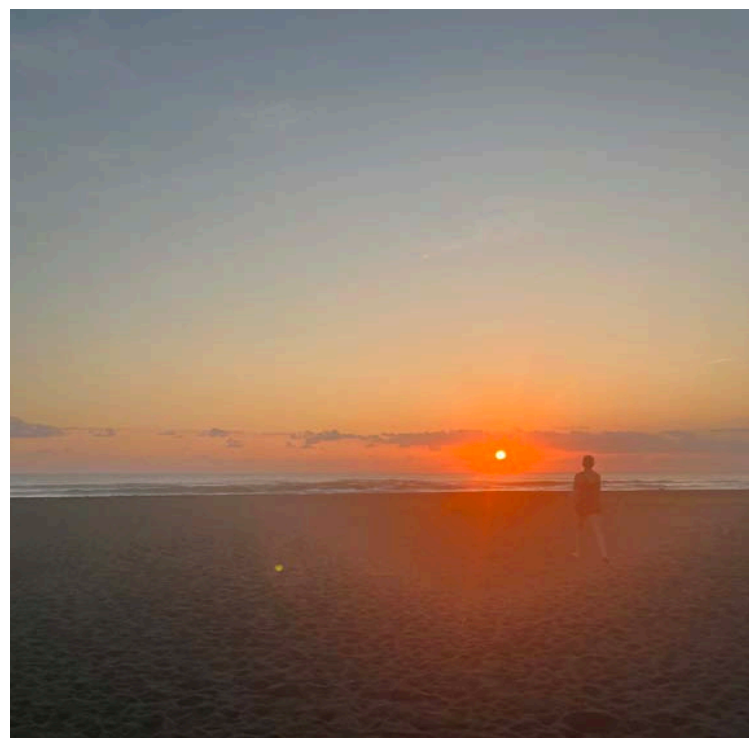


However, this did not deter our volunteers. Trekking through unmapped jungles and wastelands, they worked tirelessly with native Costa Rican volunteers to investigate the effects of climate change, fluctuating biodiversity and the devastating effects of litter on both human and animal life. Costa Rica produces 564 tons of plastic daily, with 42 tons of this ending up polluting the environment. The majority of this arises from the massive production industry of food and drink like coffee, bananas and other tropical fruits and the need to protect them by keeping them fumigated to destroy pests.

Unfortunately, our volunteers didn't experience the daily luxury of these foods- with a native dish called "Gallo Pinto" making up the bulk of their diets for the duration of their trip. A traditional Costa Rican dish literally meaning "spotted rooster", it is characterized by its speckled appearance of the dark beans against the white rice. Despite its initial positive feedback from our students- I think it's safe to say they eventually grew tired of it and were glad to be home!

Overall, a memorable trip enjoyed by everyone, with an abundance of new experiences, a new-found

love for rice and beans, and a newly established passion for preservation and living that "Pura Vida" like a true native. A kind thank you to Mr Lewis for organising the trip, and another warm thank you to Ms Hern, Mrs Craig and Mr Ram for sharing the journey with the year 12s!





Term 5 Cricket Report

The U14 team have experienced a tough start to the season, playing two strong schools in Norton Knatchbull GS and The Judd School. The NKS game was a practice match that helped the team improve their fielding and get some much needed bowling/batting practice. **Bowling first**, OPGS did well to restrict NKS to 109/7 from 20 overs. Noah Hance and Oliver East led the bowling attack whilst Jamie Puncher was excellent behind the stumps. In response OPGS' lost early wickets to put the game out of reach, eventually reaching 55/9 from 18 overs. The team then played the Judd School in the U14 Kent Cup. The OPGS batting lineup didn't fire and were losing too many wickets to keep up with the required run rate. The team now enter the U14 Plate Competition, looking to bounce back with a win vs. Rainham Mark GS.

The U15 team have enjoyed a strong start to the school cricket season, winning both games they have played against Norton Knatchbull GS and Gravesend GS.

The first game vs. Norton Knatchbull GS was a practice match to prepare for the Kent Cup competition. The boys lost the toss and fielded first. The teams bowling was consistent and an improved fielding performance frustrated the NKS batsmen who were unable to rotate strike and keep the scoreboard moving. This led to a score of 86/4 from 18 overs, leaving OPGS a target of 87 runs to win. The team made a confident start, led by captain Oliver Thorneycroft and Logan Baxter. Then came a run out that threatened to turn the game on it's head as Oliver Thorneycroft departed for a well made 25 runs. Logan kept his cool and anchored the innings superbly to reach the victory target with two overs to spare.

Feeling confident from this success the team then played Gravesend Grammar School in Round 1 of the U15 Kent Cup. OPGS have enjoyed strong performances at this age group during recent years, reaching the final of last year's competition. Having lost the toss, GGS decided to bat first on a tricky batting surface. The OPGS bowling attack and fielding was outstanding, giving very little away as the innings progressed. Regular wickets restricted GGS to 89 all out. Knowing a positive start was needed to chase the 90 runs needed, Logan Baxter led from the front as captain, accumulating runs steadily and calming the nerves of the other batsmen. Having lost wickets in the middle overs a couple of partnerships were needed



to secure victory. Ben Dauncey ably supported Logan and the pressure told on the GGS bowlers who became more erratic in the final overs. The team went on to win by 4 wickets with 15 balls remaining and now look forward to an away fixture vs. St Lawrence College on Wednesday 22nd May.

The U18 team has been captained by year 12 student Charlie Razey who has done a fine job in marshalling an inexperienced and youthful side each week. GCSE & A-Level PE exams have affected selection, giving the U14 and U15 players opportunities to play U18 cricket. Despite losing games to some of the county's strongest schools such as Canterbury Academy, Sevenoaks and SJWMS there have been many highlights in the four games played. These include excellent bowling displays from senior players in Will Hodgson and Lucas Dick to strong batting innings by Logan Baxter and Saad Ansari. The team have two remaining fixtures this season and will continue to benefit from the experience of playing senior school cricket.



PSHE Enrichment Day 2024

'Making the Right Choices'

Student Perspectives

On this PSHE enrichment day we took part in 4 different lessons about different subjects to inform us of 'Making the Right Choices'; they were important, empowering and simply good knowledge to have. The 4 subjects were Alcohol and Drugs, Magistrates and Law, Knife Crime and Men's Mental Health.

Alcohol Andy:

During this session, Andy and Vicky who have had past experiences with alcohol and drugs came in to tell us about their experiences and how it changed them. Getting this information from these people was really moving as Vicky had had a life changing story to share. Her son was at the beach one day. He had some alcohol and his friend also offered him some pills; he then died just 45 minutes later as the combination of pills and alcohol were deadly. Police said that if his friend had called 999 just 15 minutes earlier, he may have been alive today. Their message was to educate and make people aware of the dangers of drugs and alcohol, so they don't have to find out the wrong way. In this session I learnt how to say no if offered drugs, what not to do if under the influence of alcohol and drugs, and the dangers of mixing substances. This session was important as it gave us an understanding and proper education of what can happen and all the possible dangers of drugs and alcohol.

Knife Crime Nick:

During this session, Nick, a man who has been to prison for a long period of time and been involved with drugs and alcohol from a young age told us about his experiences and how it changed him as a person. Getting this information from someone who has experienced this kind of treatment and lifestyle made it more believable and easier to understand. For further information on Nick and his experiences, check out Switch Cafe in Maidstone Town Centre. During the lesson we learnt the dangers of knife crime and the worrying effects of being in a gang and the peer pressure involved within. This session was important due to the awareness given and because of Nick's past experiences, made it seem much more realistic.

Magistrates Alvin

During this session, Alvin taught our class about how you can become a magistrate, what happens in the court and why people end up having to go to court. Alvin was a magistrate himself and told us how he volunteered to become a magistrate to help give back to his community. The magistrates must go into the court for at least 13 days a year and they deal with more minor cases of crime such as speeding and less harmful offenses like common assault. We also learnt about how, when you go to court and get an offense put on your criminal record, it can stay for 6-10 years but the police will know you have made that assault and will keep that information for the rest of your life. We were also taught about how they use different courts depending on the significance of the offense committed such as how the magistrates court deal with minor offenses and how the crown court deals with higher level offenses such as murder or burglary. One of the final things we learnt is how, if you are asked to go to the court as a witness or if you committed the crime, you must give your reasoning or evidence. You can go to learn more about the court and magistrates by either talking to another magistrate or going to the official UK government website to learn how to become a magistrate or to just learn more. Alvin gave us an accurate and deep understanding of the law and about how important it is for everyone to learn that even if you commit a small offense then it will be with you for your entire life.

Kooth – Male Focused Mental Health Shelley:

During this session, Shelley taught our class about mental health, its effects, and how to help cope with it. Shelley was an employee of Kooth, an app that helps people with their mental health problems and concerns. She helped us to understand how to utilise the site and how to help deal with our problems by expressing our concerns with trusted people, friends, family, or activities done by yourself. To find out more about her and the app, download the Kooth app from the Appstore or from the website. The session was important for all of us as it helped us to realise that men also suffered problems, that it's not good to keep things inside and now we know where we can get help to feel truly safer and happier.



Year 10 PSHE Enrichment Day

On 24th April year 10 had a PSHE enrichment day and we discussed a range of topics including consent, information and guidance with our future carers, mindset and mind growth and many more. We were met with a range of visitors to talk to us about these topics.

For our session on information and guidance about careers we explored a website called Unifrog where we explored many future careers as well as taking a personality quiz which then advised a few jobs. For me some of my options were being a barrister, a playwright and proofreader. I found this very useful because I hadn't known much about possible career paths but now, I feel a lot more confident about my options.

In a different session we looked at mindset and mind growth as well as methodologies to keep calm under pressure. This was extremely useful for me due to having end of year exams coming up. We learnt a technique called dot B where you sit in a comfortable position in a quiet, comfortable place. You should pay attention to the environment around you with all your senses. Try to keep your focus on what you're experiencing in the moment. Focus on your breathing. If your thoughts stray from that moment, pull them back by focusing on your breathing until you are calm. As a result, I kept a positive mindset throughout my revision and exams using this

technique to stay calm.

Furthermore, we were then joined by speakers from "Beyond Equality" who spoke to us about various topics including rethinking traditional masculinities and consent. We learned about how to approach subjects such as sex in a positive manner, and to always rethink decisions and choices whilst you or a partner are intoxicated. Year 10 were told not to be embarrassed about any questions asked to our visitors and there was a strict confidentiality rule in the room. Overall, Beyond Equality really helped our year group learn about sensitive topics in an educational and fun way through the use of games and open discussions.

In general, it was a really useful yet enjoyable day learning about a variety of activities which would really help us in the future.



Blackwell Book Scholarship

OPGS was pleased to award Erik Ogilvy, Head Student, the Blackwell Book Scholarship.

The famous Oxford Bookshop presents the award to Year 13 students who have raised the profile of literature in the school. In the Sixth Form, Erik ran a creative writing club for students and a reading group for staff and students. He also wrote a volume of poetry for his Extended Project Qualification. The scholarship funding will pay for all his books required for his university course and his own recreational reading. Erik is hoping to study English at Manchester University.



Musical Achievements

What a fantastic term for our students in music! Various instrumentalists were entered into exams on their study instrument.

Students had to perform 3-4 contrasting pieces along with some tricky technical exercises.

Well done to the following students:

Fletcher Foster 7X - Initial Piano (Distinction)
Owen Lohead 8P - Grade 1 Piano (Merit)
Sacha Baker 9T - Grade 1 Piano (Merit)
Kore Olabode 8T - Grade 2 Drums (Merit)
Flynn Hardy 10P - Grade 2 Drums (Merit)
Tristan Taplin 10S - Grade 3 Drums (Distinction).

We look forward to seeing more musical achievements in the future.



Film Club Review: Jumanji Welcome to the Jungle

This year in Film Club, we have been through the ages from a black and white version of King Kong from 1933 to Karate Kid for some 1980s culture, finally catching up to the present day. Students voted from a shortlist to watch the remake of the 1995 film Jumanji. In the original, young Alan Parish is sucked into the board game until “the dice reach 5 or 8” for 20 years. It is not until his house is bought, Judy and Peter find the game, and can finish what was started all those years ago, with the ominous beating jungle drums. In the end, Alan and Sarah dispose of the game in 1969 until it washes up on a beach. Shift to 2017, and Welcome to the Jungle brings the concept up-to-date with the board game magically transforming into a video game cartridge and Alex Vreeke gets sucked in. Again, 20 years later, 4 students find themselves in detention clearing out the basement of the school and stumble across the video game version.

Upon starting it, the group is sucked into Jumanji, landing in a jungle as their chosen



avatars – Spencer as muscular archaeologist Dr. Xander ‘Smolder’ Bravestone (played by Dwayne Johnson), Fridge as zoologist Franklin ‘Mouse’ Finbar (Kevin Hart), Bethany as male, overweight cartographer and paleontologist Professor Sheldon ‘Shelly’ Oberon (Jack Black), and Martha as sultry martial arts expert Ruby Roundhouse (Karen Gillan). Three black lines tattooed on their arms denote their lives in the game, making them afraid that if they lose all three, they will actually die.

The group’s goal is to end a curse on Jumanji, brought about by corrupt archaeologist Professor Van Pelt, Parish’s nemesis from the original, after he stole a magical jewel called the Jaguar’s Eye, and gained control of the jungle’s animals. The team must learn their avatars strengths and weaknesses, and learn to work together, in order to return the jewel to the shrine and call out Jumanji by its name to lift the curse and leave the game.

So, what did the students think?

“A truly immersive experience” – **George Bareford**

“It was incredible... extremely phenomenal” – **Adewumi Alegbeleye**

“It feels like an actual cinema” – **Joshua Shergill**

“Lots of adventure!” – **Ellis Street-Holmans**

“Very cool and lots of good quotes” – **George Cunningham**

“Loved every minute of it, and loved the plot, amazing actors” – **Marko Usakovs.**



Flynn Kemp Maidstone District Football

On Sunday 27th April Flynn Kemp (year 8) represented OPGS and the U13 Maidstone Schools District Football team in the prestigious KSFA Twenty Twelve trophy final against Bexley district.

To reach the final was a tremendous achievement given the strength of district teams across the county. The Maidstone team performed brilliantly in the final, completely outplaying Bexley district to run out 7-1 winners, one of the biggest winning margins in the competition's history. Flynn now looks forward to continuing with the district team in 2024/25, with national honours being their next goal! Huge well done to Flynn for representing the school and district team with such distinction throughout this season.



Leo Trandaburu - South-East Regional Gymnastics Championships:

I competed at the South-East Regional Championships with my teammates and the boys from the club in the younger age groups including my brother. This was his first Regional competition.

I went to support Kian whilst he was competing, he had a fantastic competition and came 2nd overall and won 3 apparatus medals. I was proud of what he had achieved.

Following his competition, it was time for me to compete. Our age group were competing for a place in the South-East Team that will be competing at the British Teams in June.

I started on Pommel, but sadly it didn't go to plan and wasn't the start I had hoped for, I fell off and was now at the bottom of the pack with a low score to start, but, I knew I had to move on and focus for my next piece which was Rings. I competed a new routine and stuck my dismount which made me feel a lot more relaxed. I performed a great Vault, a clean P.Bar routine and a fantastic H.Bar routine for which I gained a new high score for this piece. My last piece was Floor. I'd suffered with sore heels and knees the week leading up to the competition and my coach and I knew what I needed to do to qualify. I reduced the difficulty of my routine, played it safe, and competed



what was for me a relatively basic routine that met the requirements.

Standing around the floor waiting for presentations is quite exciting and very nervous at the same time, hearing the top six names called whilst you stand with your team. I had done it, I won the competition, retained my under 12 title and qualified in 1st place for the British Teams competition representing the South-East region along with 2 of my teammates! I also won a further 4 gold and 2 silver medals for Rings, H.Bar, Vault, Floor, Rings and P.Bar, but definitely not Pommel. Maybe next time.....

Max Benwell Hyrox Competition

Max Benwell enjoys success at Hyrox, London Olympia Over the May Day Bank holiday Max Benwell attended London Olympia to take on the challenge of Hyrox, along with his younger brother and Dad. What a challenge to undertake!

The HYROX Youngsters challenge is structured around nine bespoke engineered workouts, each group of 8 competitors being led by a team leader.

The stations are crafted to enhance many aspects of health-related fitness and young athlete development, including; speed, agility, strength and coordination. The activities list Max competed in were:

- Shuttle Run
- Ski-Erg
- Weight Pull
- Slalom Shuttle Run
- Horizontal Jumps
- Rowing
- Obstacle Shuttle Run
- Farmers Carry
- Wall Balls

Max took on the challenges on with grit and determination, pushing himself to the limits.



Proudly wearing his OPGS PE kit, Max was extremely happy in his achievements, as were his parents and the school. The training and commitment to preparing for this type of competition has shown resilience and dedication. Whilst there was a competitive edge to the events, Max was fostering a spirit of teamwork and camaraderie to support those around him.

We hope that the school has been part of the development that has helped Max take on this type of challenge and shows that when you put your mind to it, you are able to compete and prepare for anything.

Well done Max, we are sure you are preparing for next year already!



Oliver Patton & Zach Ward Aylesford Bulls RFC

Oliver Patton and Zack Ward capped a successful school and club rugby season by winning the Tiger's Challenge Festival Bowl competition.

This is a season closing national event with some of the finest rugby clubs in attendance. Despite the team having a difficult first day (having been drawn against the eventual competition winners), they came fighting back to finish in 3rd place for their group. This meant they were entered into the Bowl competition on the Sunday. Zack and Oliver both played major roles in their team's success, carrying the ball with ferocity and finding space to open up the opposition defence. It was a fantastic way to finish the season as the boys now look forward to more club and school rugby success next season.



PE Primary Links Event

With their football shirts and boots adorned, Primary School students enjoyed an OPGS PE Primary Links event on Thursday 16th May.

Students had the opportunity to practice key skills and drills that are all integral to a football match. Under the expert supervision of coach Mr Smith, the students played a range of games including 'steal out of the nest' which involved them practicing their dribbling skills getting footballs safely back into their team's nest and then trying to steal the ball from other teams' nests. The aim was to get students to practice their footwork, but more importantly to get them to talk to their teammates as only one student could leave the nest at a time. Communication was key to being the winners of this warm-up game!

The students then had the chance to put what they had learnt to the test with a range of friendly matches. With a great number of goals, saves and tackles, the students performed excellently well and showed great values of resilience, teamwork

and sportsmanship.

A huge thank you to Mr Smith and the two student helpers Bobby Cope and Harrison Smith for all of their help in making the event a huge success.



Broughton House Competition Winner

The winner of the Broughton House Competition on the Geographical topic of sustainability was Kabir Mogaji in 10X for making numerous sensible, thoughtful suggestions on how we could change the way we use resources, to make the future brighter for subsequent generations. As the Greek proverb goes “ Society grows great when people plant trees in whose shade they shall never sit”.

We felt his entry had many great ideas which were easily incorporated into our life styles.

Here are his ideas.

Mindful Water Usage:

- Fix any leaks in faucets or pipes promptly to prevent water wastage.
- Install low-flow faucets and showerheads to reduce water consumption.
- Be conscious of water usage in daily activities, such as washing dishes or doing laundry, and consider using appliances only when you have a full load.

Conscious Consumerism:

- Prioritize durable and long-lasting products over disposable or short-lived items.
- Repair or repurpose items instead of immediately replacing them, promoting a culture of reuse.
- Support businesses and brands with sustainable practices, such as using recycled materials, ethical sourcing, and environmentally friendly manufacturing processes.

Minimize Energy Consumption:

- Turn off lights, electronics, and appliances when not in use to save electricity.
- Make use of natural light during the day and use energy-efficient bulbs.
- Adjust thermostat settings to conserve energy, dressing appropriately for the season instead of relying heavily on heating or air conditioning.

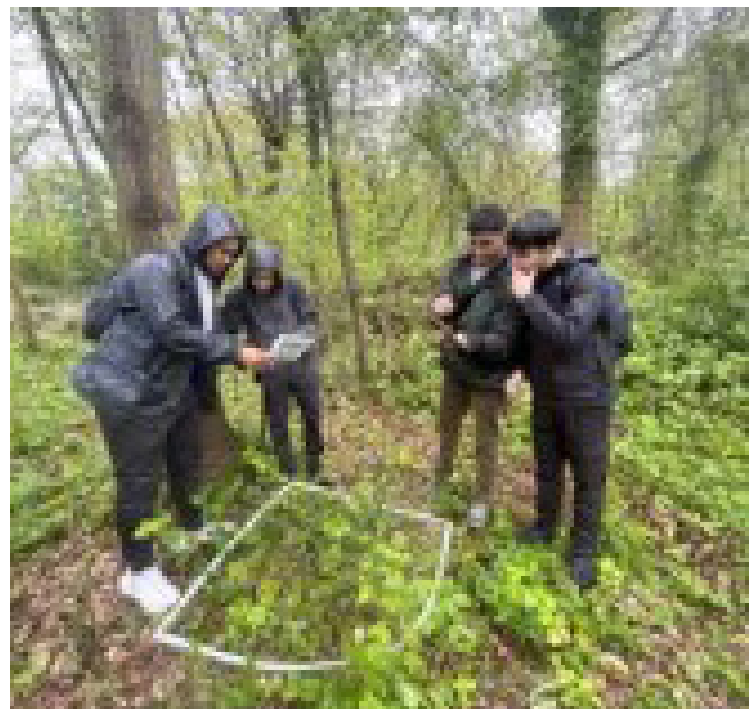
The runners up were Dylan Waite and Reiss Coulter from 7S.



Biology Wildwood Trip

Year 12 Biologists went to Wildwood, Canterbury, to study animal conservation.

We learnt about the Lincoln Index which is a technique used to estimate the population size of a mobile, non-territorial, species and were hands on estimating the population of woodlice in a habitat. On a tour of the zoo, we learnt about the importance of keystone species, such as bison and beavers, who modify an ecosystem to promote both species and habitat diversity. Also, the use of stud books to enhance the genetic diversity of endangered species.



Year 13 Leavers Day

Sixth Form Leavers celebrations took place this term with Y13 attending an award ceremony run by our Head Students.

They recapped the memorable moments of the year such as the Quiz Night, the wide variety of trips and watching FIFA in the Sixth Form Centre! The prefects announced raising almost £3000 for Doctors Without Borders. Student awards were voted on by Year 13 and included illustrious titles such as Most Likely to Cure Cancer (Tessa), Most Likely to Win a Nobel Prize (Josh H), Most Inspirational Student (Josh A) and Most Likely to Be Prime Minister (Hugo). Less encouraging, but more humorous, awards were given for the student who Made The Most Trips To Tesco (James A), student with the most Dubious Hairstyle (Josh W) and student Most Likely to get IDed at 30 (Ben P).

After the assembly, students enjoyed the sunshine on the field with burgers and sausages BBQed by Mr Ramkhalawon and Mr Raye. Then most attempted the bouncy castle assault course and a wild game of barefoot football. The Sixth Form Team are sorry to see them go but wish them all the best in their A Level examinations and look forward to seeing them on Results Day.







Sports Captains Appointments 2024

Congratulations to our new Sports Captains!

This year Student Voice implemented a major change to the school's students role by creating a new position; Sports Captain. A team of form captains worked on the project by investigating the new roles and responsibilities, presenting to Mr Raye in PE and leading assemblies to the Year 8s, 9s and 10s about the application and interview process.

The reason being, this role will enable students enjoy sport to use their knowledge and skills to help others to improve as peer mentors. The role includes to facilitate school clubs, offer their expertise in some PE lessons and take a leading role to help the success of the school's annual Sports Day, which is the culmination of the House Competitions, in Term 6.

Each new Sports Captain is responsible for organising their House's sporting activities on Sports Day and Enrichment Days. They are also required to run extra-curricular activities and support the PE department in sporting events. Applicants underwent a rigorous application and interview process with Ms Ryan and their Head of House, with appointees being chosen based on their leadership, experience and communication skills.

Well Done to the following new Sports Captains, we look forward to you leading your Houses on Sports Day!

Broughton

Theodore McCarthy S9
Ethan Bumstead 8T

Fisher

Elliot Davies P9
Rory Clayton C8
Teddy Wood X10

Hazlitt

Reece Robertson P9
Lewis Cantello X8

Sadler

Harrison Munday S10

Wilberforce:

Henry Craig C8
Aristotel Calvert C8
Hayden Gilliard S10

Ms Ryan

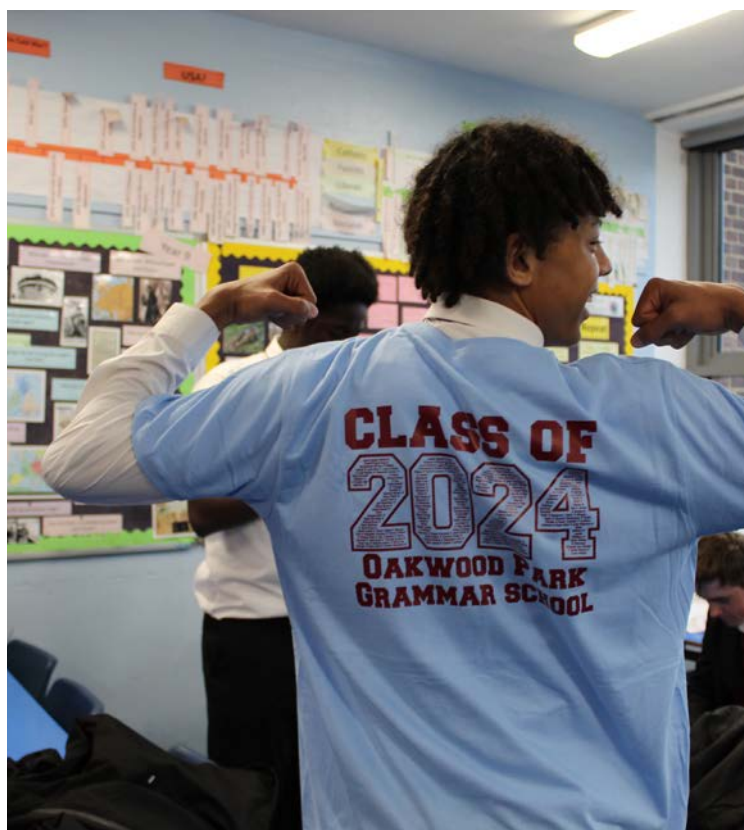
Year 11 Leaver's Day 2024

It is with mixed emotions the outgoing Year 11 students celebrated their previous 5 years of education at Oakwood Park Grammar School.

On arrival to the hall, the students were greeted by many staff, who had come to give their best wishes and congratulations. Mrs Stamp, as Head of Year for Year 11, had collated all the photos from the students in Year 7, school trips and enrichment day activities, which was well received, and provided many laughs throughout; challenging some students to identify themselves. However, there were a few who don't seem to have changed much at all!

Each form sat together and enjoyed a full English breakfast and collected their leavers T-shirts. It was lovely to see the students' sharing moments and reminiscing of the journey they have all made together across their educational career at OPGS. They all signed each other's shirts and many staff commented on the lovely positive atmosphere. This was largely heightened by the humorous awards ceremony, some of which included:

- Harry Dew got an award for The Best Goatee
- Rocco Macias got an award for Most Likely to Die First in a Zombie Apocalypse



- Josh Klein got an award for Most Likely to Get ID at 30
- Marcus Choi got an award for Most Likely to Make a Supercomputer
- Oliver Cates and Daniel Cassie Most Likely to Be Mistaken for One Another

However, on a more serious note, the main message was centred around the school's wish for everyone to continue to experience success in life, to be fulfilled in all that they choose to do in life, in whatever form that may take. As Ms Bevan asserted: "Growing up from a mining village herself, it is through doing GCSEs and A Levels one can help make a better life for yourself".

It concluded with some advice from Mr Moody, thinking ahead to the future and the need for students to cherish the values and beliefs they have developed in their time at Oakwood Park: "Don't wish anyone good luck, because luck is not real, it is all hard work and skill." This is largely echoing our school motto to "Strive and Serve".

We wish you all the best with your exams and look forward to seeing many of you back in the Sixth Form. Across the exam period, please bear in mind the infamous Nelson Mandela line: "It always seems impossible until it's done."



Year 13 Presentation Evening

We were delighted to welcome back the class of 2023 to our celebration of achievement afternoon last month.

Mr Moody and subject teachers proudly handed out the A level certificates and academic prizes. This was followed by a chance for students, parents and staff to catch up over drinks and a buffet. It was lovely to hear about the successes of university and employment transitions as well as the many gap year adventures.

Mrs Williams, Subject Leader for Year 13



Volunteering Day 2024

On Tuesday 21st May all Years 8,9, 10 participated in our 7th annual Volunteering Day.

This always presents a wonderful opportunity for students to give back to their local community, to work with a range of people, develop their leadership and teamwork skills as well as build pupil-staff relationships in a setting outside of the classroom. As Gandhi put it, "The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others."





This momentous day involves 474 students supporting over 21 originations and over 70 primary schools as well as other individual sites in our local area. The purpose of the day is for our students to have an opportunity to take the time to give back to the local community that supports their education, sporting development, local environment, and personal growth. It also provides an opportunity for pupils to contribute to local projects and charities that need additional manpower and help. This, as Ms Bevan champions is “a huge achievement. A fantastic community effort.”





Through working with the wider community students improve their own teamwork, communication, leadership and cohesion skills throughout the day. These placements are dotted around Maidstone and the surrounding localities, working with charities, local business and other organisations. Many students chose to return to the local primary school where they are a role model to the younger students, teaching them literacy skills, maths and even PE lessons. Others volunteer to support elderly neighbours with gardening, shopping and cleaning which builds students personal bonds and caring skills. We also work with a range of organisations such as Hayle Park Nature Reserve and Mote Park to plant trees, improve the environment, complete groundwork and coppicing. Several local sporting clubs rely on the volunteers such as As Aylesford Rugby Club and Larkfield Football Club to prepare the grounds for the next season, repair clubhouses and fences. This is an excellent opportunity and chance for students to repay the organisations that have supported them and the local community leaders who are also volunteers.





We are proud of all the work our students have taken part in throughout the day and would like to thank them for their hard work. As well as parents for their support in this huge achievement and the local organisations who have worked with OPGS to make this day a fantastic success.

Ms Ryan