

Meridian Media

What's Happening at Ormiston!

1

Senior Team Introduction

Principal - Mrs Claire Stanyer

Dear parents, carers and students,

We are very proud to present edit 1 of our newsletter, "Meridian Media - What's Happening at Ormiston!" I would like to say a huge congratulations to T. Bestwick and M. Nasir who won the competition to name the newsletter!

Over the spring term there have been a lots of exciting events taking place at the academy, including the trip to the Harry Potter Studios Tour, football success, Bake Off highlights, author visits, STEM show visit and I hope you enjoy reading about these in the Meridian Media, What's Happening at Ormiston. I would like to take this opportunity to share some highlights that have taken place so far this term...

The academy extension and building update

We have been working with the Local Authority and Ormiston Academies Trust and have confirmed the proposals of our academy renovation which includes full refurbishment of all 3 ICT suites, one additional maths classroom, one additional English classroom and 2 bespoke classrooms built in the Faculty of Performance, which will later become a full fitness suite! We have also confirmed the plans for our academy extension which is set for completion by August 2024. Within the plans we are addressing parking, dining, playground and library facilities to ensure that as the academy continues to grow, we have the right facilities that our students and staff deserve.

GCSE examinations update

On behalf of all the staff, I would like to wish our Year 11 cohort lots of luck during their AR2 mock exam season. The Year 11 students have already started their exams and these will continue after the half term break. I would like to thank our students for attending these extra sessions; I know that they will be of real benefit to you and help you achieve as highly as possible in the Summer exams. I would also like to thank the teachers for giving up their evenings, holidays and weekends to provide additional sessions for our Year 11 students and all the parents/ carers for all your support during this time. The GCSE season can be very stressful for students and parents/ carers alike, but I want to reassure you that we will do everything we can to help and support your child during this very important time.

The development of SEND, inclusion and student support services

I would like to congratulate Miss Vigus who has just been promoted to the Senior Team as Assistant Principal for Special Educational Needs, Inclusion and Student Support. Her work will include the development the inclusion and support services within the academy to ensure all students receive the personal help they need to achieve as highly as possible.

We also have a new Middle Leader joining us after the Easter break: Mrs Wooton (who was previously the Vice Principal at Ormiston Sir Stanley Matthews Academy) who will work with closely with Miss Vigus, focusing predominantly on the academy mental health strategy.

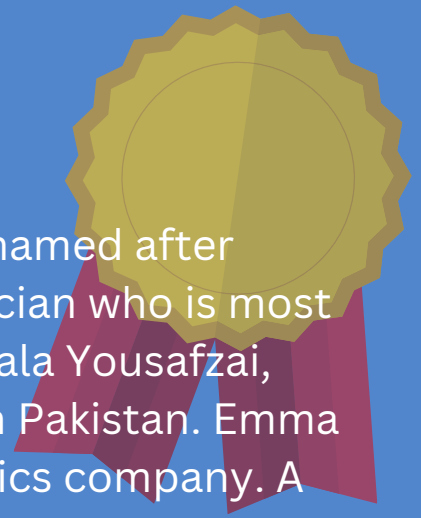
Finally, we have promoted three Teaching Assistants to the position of Higher-Level Teaching Assistant and their work is based around support for students with communication and interaction needs including autism, students with social and emotional needs and personalised post-16 pathways and careers advice and guidance for SEND students.

I look forward to seeing you all soon and if you ever have any questions or queries please do not hesitate to get in touch with us.

Kindest regards,

Claire Stanyer.

House Points and Competitions

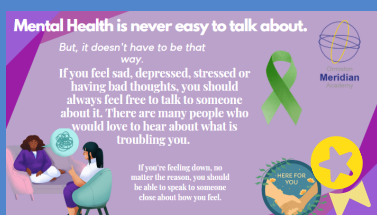
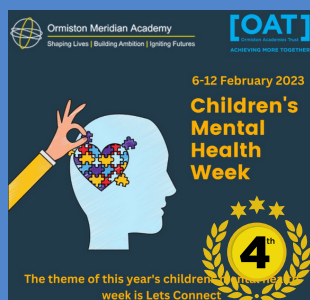
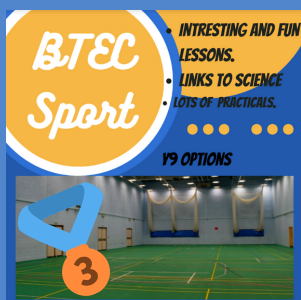


We have four fantastic houses in our academy - each named after someone inspirational: Alan Turing, British mathematician who is most famous for his work in code breaking during WW2. Malala Yousafzai, activist against the prohibition of education for girls in Pakistan. Emma Bridgewater, founder of the 'Emma Bridgewater' ceramics company. A factory is based in Stoke on Trent. Ellie Simmonds, a former paralympian swimmer. These houses are fully immersed into our academy code of 'Honesty, Courage, Ambition, Respect and Integrity'. All students and staff are assigned to a house. We run numerous competitions where house points are awarded as well as being awarded for success in lessons and personal achievements and we all look forward to the friendly rivalry between heads of houses.

Our ICT House Competition was to create a social media post which conveys a positive meaningful message. Our winners were :

- 1st place M. Naveed, Simmonds House,
- 2nd place T. Bestwick, Bridgewater House,
- 3rd place J. Hussain, Yousafzai House
- and 4th place E. M. Allerton, Turing House.

Special Recognition goes to V. Dorobantu for Turing House. Well Done everyone!



Our latest House Competition invited students to come up with a name for our new academy newsletter. We had lots of insightful entries and the winners were T. Bestwick who suggested Meridian Media and M. Nasir of who suggested What's Happening at Ormiston. Well done Bridgewater House!

Students are invited to enter our latest House Competition by submitting a name for our new Academy Newsletter.

HOUSE COMPETITION
starting Wednesday 1st Feb until Friday 10th Feb 2023

Yousafzai | Simmonds | Turing | Bridgewater

The winning house will receive 1,000 house points, 2nd place 700 points, 3rd place 400 points and 4th place 200 points.

Extra Curricular Highlights

STEM Club

This term in STEM club, we made our first entry to the OAT STEMFEST 23 competition. The students designed a compost bin using recycled materials, this was used to try to compost any paper waste in the academy. The students demonstrated an excellent knowledge of the process of decomposition and created a video entry for the competition. Unfortunately, the students did not make it to the national final, but they should be very proud of their efforts. Over the next few weeks, we will continue to use recycled materials to create a hydraulic hands and claws. - Mr E Taylor

Swimming Club



Swimming Club runs every Tuesday from 3pm to 5pm at Fenton Manor Sports Centre for KS3. The sessions are £5 available on ParentPay. Come and join us for a fun swim session. Limited spaces are available. Speak to Mrs Kirkham in the school office.

Sister Act Jr

We are really excited about OMERA's up and coming musical production of Sister Act Junior. Sister Act is the feel-amazing musical comedy smash based on the hit 1992 film that has audiences jumping to their feet! Filled with powerful gospel music, outrageous dancing and a truly moving story, Sister Act will leave audiences breathless. A sparkling tribute to the universal power of friendship, Sister Act is reason to REJOICE! We want you to be able to experience this feel-good musical being performed on Wednesday 26th, Thursday 27th and Friday 28th April 2023.

Tickets are available from reception priced at £5 adults and £3.50 children (under 11 including a free drink) and concessions or directly through ParentPay. - Mrs T Hope



A Christmas Carol Performance

On 17th January, The Quantum Theatre visited OMERA to put on a production of 'A Christmas Carol' by Charles Dickens in conjunction with the study of the text in English Literature. A select group of year 10 student were enthralled by the performance and we believe this will enable them to have a fresh perspective of the text. Miss B Fenton



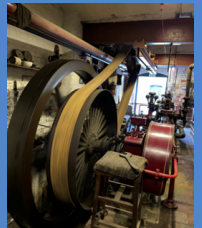
Subject Spotlight

Holocaust Memorial Day - History Department

27th January 2023 was Holocaust Memorial Day and as an OMERA academy and community, we came together to reflect upon this poignant day of commemoration. The theme this year was 'ordinary people' and all students explored this event during form time and in History lessons. We explored examples of 'ordinary people' who became perpetrators, bystanders, rescuers, witnesses as well as ordinary people who became victims during the Holocaust. As a community, we explored how we all have choices and that we are all ordinary people who can be extraordinary in our actions. We linked Holocaust Memorial Day to the fundamental British values of tolerance, mutual respect, democracy and individual liberty. History teaches us all at OMERA that ordinary people can all make decisions to challenge prejudice, stand up to hatred, and to speak out against identity-based persecution. Mrs E Bramwell



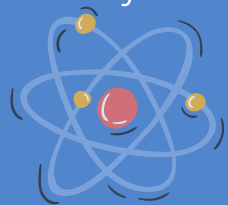
Trip to Gladstone Museum



As part of GCSE History, Mr Davies, Miss Derbyshire, Mrs Rice and I had the pleasure of taking our Y11 students to Gladstone Pottery Museum on Thursday 9th and Friday 10th February. Every student demonstrated the OMERA achiever values and eagerly listened to the fantastic tour guides who imparted their knowledge of the pottery industry and brought the past to life. They asked perceptive and interesting questions and actively immersed themselves in our local history.

From tracing the footsteps of teenage mouldrunners to exploring what a 'saggar maker's bottom knocker' did, it was a fantastic experience for us all. Y11 historians will now continue with their preparation for the History Around Us GCSE examination during curriculum time, through revision masterclasses and via the additional support offered to them through google classroom.

Well done to Y11 for showcasing your flawless manners and for representing the Academy so positively. Mrs E Bramwell



Subject Highlight

Royal Institute of Science Show

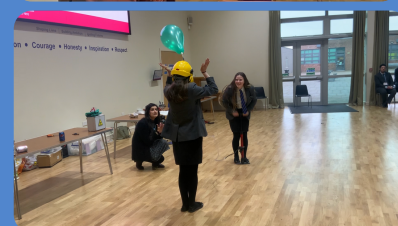
The Royal Institute that are responsible for all sorts of marvellous things science-wise came in to do a show with some of our pupils in year 7 and all of year 8. We also had 4 primary schools taking part: Belgrave St.

Bartholomew's Academy, Sandon Primary Academy,

The Crescent Academy and Springcroft Primary School.

The event was full of practical demonstrations of energy transfers in action including flames, explosions, radioactive bananas, gas cannons and balloon popping crash helmets amongst other things. It was an exciting event and the students all were keen to ask questions at the end about the different things they had seen!

Looking forward to the next Science Show already! - Mr A Morris





You're Hired !



All of our students at OMERa participate in "You're Hired" sessions during extended form periods on Thursday mornings. At KS3, students have recently completed a sequence of sessions called, "Start with a Subject," whereby careers are explored linked to specific subject areas within the curriculum. All of the options subjects have been explored, giving our year 9 students in particular some much needed food for thought in preparation for their options choices. At KS4, students are exploring "Pathways into Industry." Industry areas covered so far include Digital and IT, Logistics, Law and Legal Practice, Business and Office Administration and Agriculture, Animals and the Environment. These sessions explore local labour market information and jobs, apprenticeships and other routes into industry. - Mrs L Hughes

Careers and Work Experience

Work Experience is scheduled to take place from Monday 10th July 2022 to Friday 14th July 2023 (inclusive).

The main purpose of work experience is to introduce students to, and broaden their knowledge of, the world of work. At the same time, the emphasis is on providing them with the opportunity to develop skills seen as being most valuable to employers. These include: communication; problem-solving; teamwork; business awareness; use of technology; personal development and self-management.

Why is work experience important?

It provides students with an insight into the world of work.

It gives students an opportunity to showcase and develop your skills and motivation as an individual. It allows students to form an outline of the career path you may choose.

It enables students to build a foundation relationship with a local employer and possibly make a lasting impression. Students should have now downloaded the 'connect ed' app.

This supports the administration of work experience and ensuring that the academy has all the information required regarding your child placement.

Students need to ensure that they have sourced a placement and loaded to the app by 31st March 2023. Students will have an assembly regarding next steps after the February half term.

Welcome to OMERa.....our careers advisor!

OMERa would like to introduce you to our very own careers advisor, Mrs Ginette Chambers has worked with us for two years as part of the Young Persons' Careers Advice Service with Stoke on Trent City Council. Mrs Chambers has been working in careers for many years and we are so happy that she will be joining our OMERa family from April 2023.

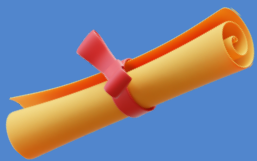
Welcome

Year 9 Scholars' Programme



Mr Watt continues to run the incredibly successful Scholar's Programme for 13 students in Year 9 this year. The Brilliant Club PhD tutors deliver The Scholars Programme in school where they share their subject knowledge and passion for learning in lecture and seminar style sessions. These help them to develop the knowledge, skills and confidence to secure a place at a competitive university. The programme is structured around seven tutorials, and pupils also attend a Graduation Event at a partner university, which this year is the University of Leeds, to speak with current undergraduate students and learn about university life. Students will work towards completing a challenging final assignment which is marked and moderated using university grades, with a graduation ceremony at the partner university at the end of the year. The students enrolled this year have been a credit to us so far, displaying fantastic determination, enthusiasm and total professionalism. They recently travelled to the University of Leeds with Mr Watt to get a taste for student life and found it to be both an inspiring, informative and enjoyable trip, thank you Mr Watt! We can't wait to see how they progress and flourish and to read their final assignments! - Mrs R. Eldershaw

On Friday 27th January 2023 a group of thirteen Year 9 students travelled to Leeds University as part of the Scholars Programme. The students took part in a series of lectures, toured the university campus with a student guide and had lunch in the student dining area. The students excelled in the lecture answering a range of questions that impressed the lecturer who was delivering their topic. The students will now work in school with a PhD Graduate on a project that will last for 8 weeks. Each student will complete a weekly assignment and after the final tutorial will have to complete a 2000 word essay. This essay will be marked to university standard and the students will be invited to another university in the summer term for their graduation. Well done to all and thanks to Mrs Rostron who helped support the students on our trip. - Mr D Watt



Brilliant Club



The Brilliant Club works to partner schools and universities across the UK, to work collaboratively to spark the imagination of our academically very able students and set them off on an exciting path to higher education. The Brilliant Club mobilises the PhD community (the experts in their fields, working in research in Britain's universities) to support students from state education schools who are less advantaged to access the most competitive universities and succeed when they get there.



Library and Reading



The Library So Far.....

Our library, which reopened in September 2022 is almost how we dreamed it would be. We have lots more texts for students to choose from, both fiction and non-fiction and the seating areas are designed to give a more comfortable, homely feel. The students really enjoy the space and enjoy having lessons in the library as well as free reading time. Students can also access the library after school for reading and HAIL.

Author Workshop

We were fortunate enough to have a local author visit our Academy to run our very first Writer's Workshop. Jo Haywood, who lives in Stoke-on-Trent and is a published author met with our students and gave them some first hand advice on writing their own stories. We look forward to welcoming her back soon to develop our students creative writing abilities. - Mrs E Mellor



Author -
Jo Haywood

Competitions

Our latest competition was in line with National Storytelling Week from 28th January. We invited students to be as creative as possible and they really impressed us with their entries. The winner was C. Wheat with a very imaginative story about a girl who dreams of reconnecting with her mother who sadly passed away. A special mention to B. Gascoigne who wrote an incredibly moving piece of writing about mental health.

On February 10th we launched our Black History Month competition which encourages students to think about inspirational people surrounding this subject. Find details on Google Classroom!



Thank you to members of staff who have kindly donated books to the library so far including some biology non-fiction texts from Dr. Hill, a wonderful Enid Blyton Famous Five Box Set from Mr Burgess and various Horrible Histories, and Science non-fiction books from Miss Brammer. We welcome contributions of books in good condition.

*Thank
you!*

Academy Good News

Harry Potter Studio Tour Trip

On Monday 30th January, an intrepid coven of 100 witches and wizards set out for Watford. Known most famously for its 'gap', it's also the home of Warner Bros Studios and we were off to visit the Harry Potter Studio Tour. Our excitement brimmed over like a cauldron of Polyjuice as we disembarked from our coaches.



First on our list was the fantastic workshops which gave us a behind-the-scenes look at graphic design and storyboarding. Students were wowed by the scale and detail that goes into film-making

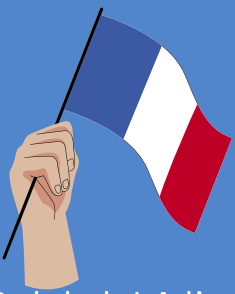
After a lunch during which some of the largest and most magical ice creams known to the wizarding world were consumed, we began our journey through the sets, props and costumes that make up the studio tour. We could not believe our eyes! It was exactly like being in the films! Students were left astonished by the beauty of Gringott's Bank, terrified by the Forbidden Forest and awe-struck at the detail that went into every costume and prop. It was a day that was truly magical in every sense.

- Mrs T Hope

OAT Regional Bake Off



On 2nd February, Mrs Brereton took two of our very talented students, G. Moores and G. White to the OAT Regional Bake Off Final. They were up against stiff competition from GCSE Catering students and performed extremely well, however on this occasion, it was the taking part which mattered the most. We are all so proud of you both! Well Done!



Focus on French!

French Café Experience

Ooh la la! A little bit of France came to OMERA this week as Year 8 students were treated to a French Café experience. Students took part in language related activities and an authentic French breakfast served by French-speaking waiting staff. EVERY student demonstrated the confidence and ability to order food and drink politely in French; solve a problem and express their likes and dislikes in the target language. We look forward to further building their confidence and enhancing their motivation. All of Year 8 took part and their behaviour, enthusiasm and ability to consume copious amounts of croissant was exemplary.



French Film Event

Last week Year 9 students were invited to watch the popular French film, 'Les Choristes,' a film about a boarding school which is home to lots of naughty boys! The film was a huge success. We chose this film as it is funny yet gives a message of hope and comradeship at a difficult time in the lives of the young characters such as Pierre and Pepinot. Our students were drawn into the story, and with the help of subtitles followed this charming story of a nostalgic flashback. Students also completed activities which accompanied the film - often without even being asked to!

We actively encourage students to explore popular online streaming services, such as Netflix, to discover appropriate foreign language programmes and films. Current recommendations include 'Nailed It! France,' (PG rating) 'Spoiled Brats' (12 rating) and 'Lupin' (15 rating). English subtitles are available so you don't need to worry about not understanding what you are watching. Press play, broaden your understanding of the world and enjoy!



Trip to France 2024

Are you interested in going to France? Year 7 are travelling to Paris in the summer term, and putting their freshly learnt French into practice! If you would like to join us on a trip in 2024, watch this space. Some exciting news is on the way...!





Sport at OMER A



The PE department at OMER A is dedicated to providing our students with the very best provisions for encouraging a love of sports and team activities. Sport is incredibly important in our society, creating camaraderie, teamwork and good sportsmanship.

We know that taking part in sport can increase confidence, which has a positive effect on the mental health of our students as well as the physical health benefits. It is imperative that our students are encouraged to take part in physical activity for at least 30 minutes a day. Students can spend time at lunchtime playing football and basketball either outside on the field or indoors in the sports hall.

As well as the curriculum lessons, we offer many extracurricular clubs and we have fantastic football and netball teams which compete in local fixtures against other schools in the area.

Extra-curricular clubs:

Multi-sports every Monday with Stoke City Football

Netball every Tuesday with Mrs James

Cricket practice on Wednesday - invite only. Register interest with Mr Goodwin

Badminton every Wednesday with Miss James and Mrs Sutton

Girls' Football every Thursday with Mrs Sutton

Come and join in with our clubs. You can learn a new sport, improve the skills you may already have and make new friends.

Coming soon.....

We will be taking part in two City Cricket competitions in March at Fenton Manor Sports Centre. We will be taking our under 13s team on 15th March and our under 15s on 30th March. Watch this space for more information.



Football Result

Our fantastic boys football team took on Blythe Bridge High on 7th Feb. Our boys played brilliantly and came away with a win of 3-2. Goal scorers were C Malbon and K Tanatswa. Well Done!

**WELL
DONE**

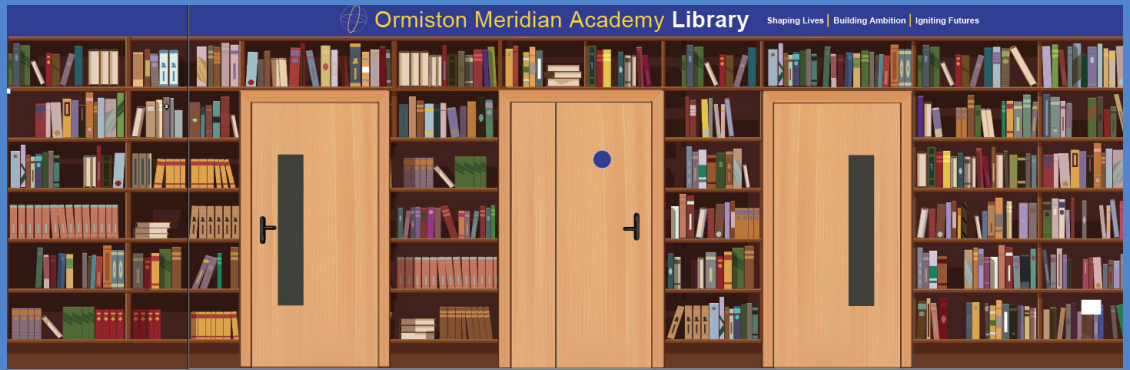


What's next at OMERA?

Re-branding of the academy library during half-term

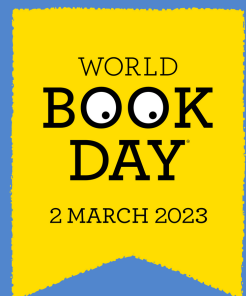
While students and staff are enjoying a well-earned break, our academy library will undergo a total transformation with vibrant wall art bringing our house system and famous writers from the past and present into glorious technicolour on our walls! More photos to come in our next issue!

*New
look*



World Book Day 2023

On March 2nd, 2023, our academy will be taking part in a variety of events to celebrate World Book Day. Come dressed as your favourite character from literature or even your favourite author! Students who participate in this cosplay competition will receive 50 housepoints and the winner will be gifted a reading related prize! Remember to bring in your entry form by 1st March! Good luck!

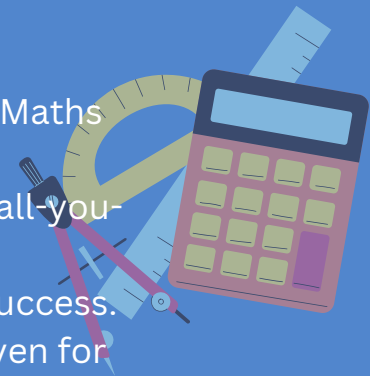


Maths Feast Competition

Taking place on March 10th at Keele University for year 10 students, 'Maths Feast' is a fun educational challenge which tests problem-solving and teamwork skills. Teams of students will test their maths skills with an all-you-can-eat feast of problems.

There are several rounds requiring different skills and strategies for success. Each event takes between two and three hours, and awards will be given for good teamwork and for the winning team of each round.

We also have the UKMT challenges closer to Easter (Junior for year 7/8 and Intermediate for year 10). Let's get those neurons pumping!





Student Leadership

A vital part of our academy community is the Student Leadership Team where students get to have a democratic say in the day to day running of the academy. Elected each year the team are made up of students who are interested in representing the Academy at events like Open Evening, Parents' Evening and fundraising events like Red Nose Day and Children In Need.

All our leadership activities are designed to develop self-confidence, self-esteem and personal responsibility in our students. Within the academy we have specific roles for which students apply and are then chosen via a democratic process. Through this process, students are either voted for by staff or by their peers depending on the role. Form Captains present their manifesto to their form. There is then a democratic vote from their peers within their form. In the case of our Senior Student Leaders, they present to staff and are then interviewed by senior leaders outlining their goals and ambitions. The programme is designed to be student-centric. Student leaders, once elected, work closely with staff in order to prioritise issues and projects that are pertinent to the specific year group. Doing this ensures that the programme is focused around the development of areas within the academy of importance to both students and staff.



Community Work



At OMERA we believe in the enrichment of our community, both locally and globally. Our community isn't just restricted to the local area, or even just our academy. We encourage our students to feel part of the global, human community and in doing so, contribute to humanitarian issues. Our wonderful students and staff pulled together to support the victims of the Ukraine war last year, we have taken part in food drives and our 'We Will' campaign late last year saw our students and staff contribute winter coats to those in need. Thank you to all who have contributed their time and money to these causes. We hope to do much more in the future with your continued support.