

Meridian Media

What's Happening at Ormiston!

2

Senior Team Introduction

As another exciting term comes to an end and we await the return of the warm weather and sunny evenings, it gives me great pleasure to inform you of all the exciting things that have been happening here at Meridian. The atmosphere around the academy during Spring Term has been incredible! At the end of February, we celebrated the students' hard work with the 'Praise Parade' which gave all students an opportunity to show how exceptional they can all be and they did not disappoint! When we returned from half term, Mrs Hope set the tone with 'World Book Day' with almost all staff and large number of students dressing up as their favourite literary characters. To celebrate this further, we then created the 'Brilliant Book Brigade' to close the Spring Term; this gave all students an opportunity to show off their amazing work in their exercise books. Once again, our incredible students demonstrated how exceptional they are by producing some outstanding work.

This half term has also seen BBC Radio Stoke interview Adam Dunn and Angus, our exceptional Dog Therapy duo, to discuss the hard work they are doing in school. Adam and Angus work with small groups of students to help support their emotional wellbeing and offer a bespoke therapy.

As momentum builds towards the GCSE exams, a number of Year 11s have completed their Geography field work: an essential opportunity for our budding Geographers to apply their knowledge outside in a real-life situation. Mr Falamarzi and the Geography department had the pleasure of taking a group of students to North Wales where they explored their surroundings. We also saw the launch of our new Duke of Edinburgh cohort organised by Mr Walker. Parents and students from Year 9 were welcomed into the academy for the presentation evening.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a fantastic break and thank all the students and staff for their hard work during the Spring Term. Fingers crossed the sun will shine over the next weeks as we wave goodbye to the long, grey winter nights. I'll also try not to eat too many Easter Eggs!

Many thanks for reading and I hope you enjoy reading this exciting second edition of the Meridian News Letter. - Mr S Darlington, Vice Principal



GO TEAM!



House Points and Competitions



Praise Parade!!!

During the final weeks of half term in February, the academy took the opportunity to actively praise the students who regularly go above and beyond in terms of their behaviour and attitude during lessons, and their demeanour around the academy on a daily basis. Our students are wonderful and the staff wanted to praise them as much as possible. Special cards were printed and staff dropped in on lessons all day to hand out 'Praise Parade' cards to the students who impress them on a daily basis. We never want our students to feel overlooked and this was incredibly important to us, especially over the last few years and the effect those events have had on us as a whole. We felt we needed some extra positivity and our students and staff had a fabulous week. We really are so very proud of our students!

House Points So Far!!!

As you all know, our staff and students are really invested in our House System. There is some rivalry (friendly of course!) between the Heads of Houses and our students really get excited about who will win the yearly House Competition. Last year was a close call but Turing House managed to come out on top. More updates on this to follow as the year goes on.

Brilliant Book Brigade

During the week of 27th March the academy launched the 'Brilliant Book Brigade' which allows the students who really take a pride in their work to gain recognition and rewards for the excellent presentation in their books. We expect our students to aim high and encouraging them to reach for the highest standards means they can be proud of their achievements.



Extra Curricular Highlights



STEM Club

During February in STEM club, we have tried to make use of recycled cardboard around the academy. We are trying to make hydraulic claws using pieces of cardboard and plastic syringes. The students have cut all of the pieces of cardboard out and have drilled holes where these pieces will be joined together. We will also make a control board for the syringes that will control each part of the claw.

Sports 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



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

Polyglot Players

Join us to try out a different language every week! Play games, win competitions, and be a polyglot! Tuesday Week A, Annex 1!



Craft Club

Craft Club runs at lunchtime every Thursday for years 8 and 9 run by Mrs Gibson and Miss Bailey. There are only 10 slots available so register interest quickly.

Singing Club

Mr Jones runs the Singing Club every Monday after school. Please speak to Mr Jones to register interest.





Subject Spotlight

Geography



The Royal Geographical Society recognises fieldwork as a vital part of a student's geographical career recognising that it is an "opportunity to develop skills, such as leadership, teamwork and communication skills which further contributes to students' personal and social development". This is something our year 11 students demonstrated on Tuesday the 21st March when they ventured out to North Wales as a part of their GCSE Geography course.

After a (long) pleasant journey in the morning sun, we arrived to a wonderful beach scene in Talacre to begin our physical fieldwork on the sand dunes. It was a pleasure to see the team learning how to use equipment in the field and recording results that will contribute to success on Paper 3 in the summer. All groups worked hard and overcame challenges such as the wind, sand and navigating the dunes! Every group was successful in collecting valuable data and developed crucial skills that will equip them for the future. It was brilliant to see them working as teams and supporting each other. Every group was successful!

The sun continued to shine and we took the short journey to our human fieldwork location. In Rhyl, students were tasked with evaluating the impact of regeneration on the town. Observation skills were tested and opinions gathered as students worked hard to find evidence to support their opinion. It was super to see our students thinking like geographers and making decisions on where to conduct their fieldwork and which strategies to use to get the best possible results. Their skills were tested but they shone through and many members of the public stopped to answer questionnaires. The conduct of every student was exceptional and it was clear that they were really getting to grips with the issue of regeneration and the impact it was having.

We were very proud of everyone and as we drove back to OMERA in the late afternoon warmth we could all reflect on a job well done. This is my third decade of taking students into the field to work and I have to say that these students were the best I have ever seen. They truly demonstrated the values of our academy and we are very proud of them.



Universities in Focus

What is a Russell Group University



The Russell Group defines themselves as 24 world-class research-intensive universities based right here in the UK. Each institution has their own history and ethos, but essentially share some distinguishing characteristics, with the core belief that people and their ideas are the key to meeting global challenges of the future. These universities, through education and research aim to create a “dynamic economy, stronger communities and better future for the UK”. This is done by conducting the best research, employing outstanding teachers and lecturers and being closely linked with local and national businesses as well as the public sector (Police, NHS, Education).

Did you know?

- Despite only being composed of 24 institutions, Russell Group universities produce more than two-thirds of the research completed by the whole of the UK’s educational establishments, supporting more than 260,000 jobs across the country.
- They inject almost £87 billion into the national economy every year.
- Russell Group universities attract students and staff from all over the world, working with major multinational businesses and international organisations.
- Russell Group universities also have a strong role and influence within their local communities, collaborating with businesses on research projects to develop the next generation of highly-skilled, highly-motivational local workforce.
- Our closest Russell Group universities are The University of Manchester, Birmingham and Nottingham.





Sports Journalism Course



A group of 14 Year 10 students visited Staffordshire University on Wednesday 8th of March to meet the two lead lecturers that run the Sports Journalism course. They listened to the roles that a sports journalists could have and the various media areas that they could potentially work in. The students then worked in pairs and acted as a 'Sports presenter' in a studio or as the reporter outside a football stadium. Reading off the autocue and being counted in before they started to speak were new experiences to all but they were exceptionally good with their presenting skills. Both lecturers commented on the students work and their ability to work in a new environment.

Year 11 Mock Exams

This half term, our Year 11 students sat their final mock examinations. We would like to congratulate our Year 11s for the focus and determination that they displayed over this taxing fortnight; they were a real credit to themselves, their parents and the academy. To prepare for the examinations, many of our students went above and beyond by attending P6 sessions, bootcamps, and Saturday morning interventions. Parents, some of you may be wondering what you can do next to support your Year 11 child in the coming weeks. Firstly, any encouragement and support you can offer at home will be hugely beneficial to your child's success in their GCSEs and this will also help combat any potential negative stress. These are some additional steps that you can take to support your child's achievement:

- Ensure your child attends school every day– 90% attendance means one in ten days is missed; over the course of a school year this is the equivalent of four weeks and can be worth more than a grade!
- Talk to your child about: what they're learning, any HAIL (Home and Independent Learning) they have to do and deadlines in the remaining few months.
- Agree the balance of work and social life and stick to the agreement – flexibility is key.
- Help them plan their revision timetable around their areas for development from Assessment Round 2. There are lots of free revision timetable tools and templates available online.
- Use Synergy to contact your child's form tutor or subject teacher should you have any questions or concerns.
- Provide your child with a quiet place to study – Alternatively, direct your child to attend one of our HAIL clubs.
- Ensure that your child has a range of stationery available to them. If you would like support from the academy in providing this, please let us know.
- Test your child on the work he/she has been revising; this will help them (and you) understand what they know and where they need to focus more attention.
- Encourage your child to have a clear goal by the end of their revision period - e.g. 'At the end of these two hours I will be able to label a diagram of the heart and answer a question on how the heart works.'
- Ensure your child gets enough sleep – teenagers need between eight to ten hours sleep. Sleep hygiene is really important and avoiding the use of any technology around bed time can help students (and adults) sleep better.

A lot can still be achieved by Year 11 in the short time frame remaining; with hard work and determination, I am keen for them all to see that anything is possible!



Library and Reading



Library rebrand!

During the February half term holiday, the library underwent a magical transformation from plain walls to colourful books on the walls to an artistic depiction of a literary timeline from Homer in 850BC to J.K.Rowling. Featuring classic authors like John Steinbeck and George Orwell to playwrights like Shakespeare and Christopher Marlowe. It has truly brought the library to life and the students and staff alike are very impressed.

Easter Raffle

Our Easter raffle will be drawn on 30th March where lots of delicious chocolatey goodies can be won. Tickets are on sale at £2 per strip from ParentPay or the library at break and lunch. You have got to be in it to win it so get your tickets!!!!



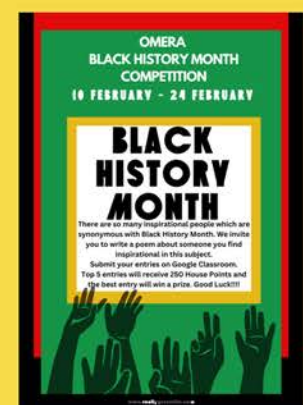
World Book Day

We celebrated World Book Day on 2nd March and hosted a cosplay competition to rival comic-con! We had Harry Potter characters, Fairytales characters, Where's Wally, Mary Poppins and Wednesday Adams. The overall winners were S.M. Pinnington as the ferocious Miss Trunchbull from Roald Dahl's Matilda and & L. Goodman as well known gothic author and poet Edgar Allan Poe. Well Done!



Black History Month Competition

During February the library, in conjunction with the History department ran a Black History Month competition which invited students to participate by writing a poem about an influential person in this field. There are so many to choose from and, as always, house points were available. The best entry was by A.C Dos Santons who wrote a very thought-provoking poem about black history. Well Done!



GOOD TIMES Academy Good News



Prayer Room

Miss Amoah has done a fantastic job of organising a multi-faith prayer room in the academy. The room is open every Friday lunchtime between 1.30pm and 1.50pm to staff and students who wish to make use of this wonderful facility. This is a brilliant addition to the academy and we hope it is enjoyed by many of our staff and students. To obtain a pass please speak to Miss Amoah.



Girls' Aspiration Day

Mr Davies and Miss Derbyshire took some of our Year 9 female students to Barclays Worldwide Technology Command Centre on 14th March on an Aspiration Day in honour of International Women's Day. The aim was to show them that technology does not have to be a male orientated role. The girls had a jam packed day where they had to take part in a range of tasks as well job shadowing women who work in technology. The nerve centres of Barclays technology are the Command Centres, based across three tech hubs in Pune, Radbroke, and Whippany. With a wall of screens constantly monitoring and updating the latest information on their systems, the Command Centres look like NASA mission control in a big budget movie. Some of the global senior managers of Barclays Banking Group commented on how impeccably they behaved and were a true credit to the academy! Well done girls!



THE FUTURE
IS FEMALE



Random Acts of Kindness

March 20th was International Happiness Day and a mysterious person in the academy spread their own version of happiness by leaving Random Acts of Kindness around the school in the form of tiny ducks. They really made everyone's day, although it is a mystery who left them around. Whoever you are, we thank you!

Dance Performance at Victoria Hall



Well done to our Y7 and Y10 dancers, who performed at the Victoria Hall on Tuesday 7th March. Their performance was outstanding and we are all extremely proud of them. - Miss K Cooke



OMERA SPORTING HEROES

Ruben Brammer

Age: 16
Professional
(Scholar)

My footballing journey began at the age of 3 when I first kicked a ball, I then played Sunday league football from the ages of 5-7 where I was scouted by Manchester United. The feeling of being scouted by one of the biggest football clubs in the world was an incredible one, and it instilled in me a strong passion for the game. From then on, I dedicated myself to football and worked hard to improve my skills.

Soon after, I was offered a 2-year contract at Stoke City at the age of 9, where I continued to develop my talent as a footballer. My hard work and dedication paid off when I was selected to play numerous games abroad, including matches against some of the biggest clubs in the world such as PSG, Real Madrid, and Barcelona.

Despite the challenging opposition, these experiences allowed me to develop as a player and learn valuable lessons about teamwork, perseverance and the importance of hard work. These games provided me with memories I will never forget for the rest of my life. One of the highlights of my career so far was receiving my scholarship offer from Stoke City in December 2022. This was a culmination of years of hard work and dedication, and I felt incredibly proud to have achieved this milestone in my footballing journey

Another significant moment in my journey was getting into the Albert Phelan Cup final, in which I played probably the best game of my career so far against Everton in the semi-finals. It was a testament to the hard work and dedication of the entire team, and I felt proud to be a part of it. Unfortunately, due to the covid pandemic, the final was postponed, but the experience itself was unforgettable and one I will always cherish.

Over the years, I have played against and alongside some of the soon to be footballing wonder kids, which has been a pleasure of mine.

My footballing journey has been a challenging but rewarding one. The dedication and hard work required to be a professional footballer are immense, and it has taught me valuable life lessons about determination, resilience, and teamwork. As I continue to develop as a player, I am excited about the possibilities that the future holds and look forward to seeing where my football journey takes me.

Most memorable moment was playing against Barcelona!

Also likes:
Cricket & Golf

Position:
Goalkeeper
Playing football for:
10 years

Favourite goal?
Assaidi scored an
absolute worldie of a
goal to beat Chelsea
3-2 in 2017

Favourite team:
Stoke City FC



Mental Health Support at Ormiston

The Arch

The Arch is a dedicated classroom within the Academy offering a small, calm and quiet area for any of our students in need of any additional support. This can be for varying reasons such as: health, wellbeing or academic needs and each student would be supported based on their individual needs, including a bespoke timetable where necessary. As part of the support on offer at the Academy to meet the health and wellbeing needs of our student community, the following are available: Any students with medical needs will be supported if, and when, required within the Arch. We offer a Breakfast Club to some of our Year 7 students each morning. This is a relaxed and nurturing atmosphere to give them a positive start to their day, helping them to share time with peers and staff in a social environment. To support the transition of Year 6 students, we offer 'enhanced transition visits' for selected students. These can be arranged as bespoke visits to suit the student's needs. We also work alongside some of outside agencies in school:



-Leigh Tams from the Mental Health Support Team is in school each Tuesday offering classroom engagement sessions such as: exam stress, assemblies also group and 1:1 intervention for mild worry management, low mood, anxiety and problem solving.

-Rob Dawson from Younger Minds is working in school each Wednesday and offers individual counselling session depending on the student's needs.

-Dove Service offer online counselling to our students for loss and bereavement. This is facilitated by The Arch on a weekly basis via Zoom or Teams.

-We will also work along side the school nurse team to support any students and families that may need additional support.

Lego Therapy

Lego Therapy is a social development program for children with social communication difficulties, like Autism. It uses children's love of Lego play as well as their strengths and interests, to develop their communication and social skills. This course improves self-esteem, encourages students to think about the way they communicate with others, improves how students deal with their emotions and helps students prepare for the world of work. - Mrs A Gibson



Dogs Minds Matter



Dogs Minds Matter work with local schools and colleges . Providing bespoke training for students, developing positive social cohesion, communication skills, self-confidence and how students behaviour influences others. Developing emotional crisis intervention protocols for students, enabling them to recognise and respond to emotional crisis. Business objectives include reducing classroom exclusions and behavioural incidents. Improved engagement, class attendance, relationships with teaching staff, self-confidence and overall wellbeing of students and staff. To listen to a recent interview with BBC Radio Stoke interviewing Mrs A Vigus, some of our wonderful students and Dogs Minds Matter please see the link <https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/p0f31ml0> and play from 1:08:20.



Autism Awareness Week



What is Neurodiversity?

Neurodiversity is about recognising that everyone's brains work differently. Differences in the way our brains work means everyone has different strengths and difficulties. Some of these differences have been given a name; for example, Autism, Asperger's Syndrome, ADHD, Dyspraxia, Dyscalculia, Tourette's.

What is Autism?

Autism is a developmental disability which affects how a person communicates with and relates to other people. It also affects how they make sense of the world around them. It is a spectrum condition which means that while all people with autism share certain difficulties, their condition will affect them in different ways. Social understanding and communication: some autistic people will find using words difficult.

Sensory processing and integration: some autistic people get overwhelmed by loud noises, bright lights or strong smells.

Flexibility, information processing and understanding: some autistic people get upset by changes to their daily routine.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aPknwW8mPAM> access this link to see what it is like to be autistic



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xTLUYda-008> access this link to hear from young people with autism.

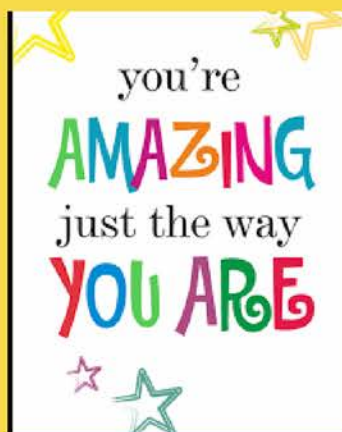
How can I help?



To help people with Autism, you can help by;

Being kind, being patient, try to understand differences, being a friend!

To find out more about Autism visit the National Autistic Society (autism.org.uk)





What's next at OMERA?

Year 8 'Jet Set' Creative Writing

Our Year 8 'Jet Set' group of students are taking currently writing poetry as part of a creative writing assignment. They are writing poems from an alternative perspective. The best 3 will be featured in the next edition of 'Meridian Media' so keep an eye out for the lucky winners! Good luck everyone!

Sister Act Jr



Rehearsals for 'Sister Act Junior' are well underway and students are working extremely hard to make this a fantastic performance. They are demonstrating high levels of commitment, organisation and of course, talent!! 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

Year 11 Leavers Prom 2023



Our current year 11 students only have a few months left of academy life until their time with us comes to an end. It's always an emotional but exciting time for all our year 11 students, as well as for our staff who have seen most of these students through their whole time at secondary school. One of the ways we celebrate their time with us is our fantastic prom which takes place on 30th June at Bet 365 Stadium. It is always a fun evening and a brilliant opportunity to let your hair down and enjoy being dressed up. Thank you to Mr Maxwell for organising such a glamorous event.

Year 6 Transition Days

On 5th and 6th July, our academy will host 2 transition days for the year 6 students from local primary schools to come and get a flavour of what life is like in our school. They will take part in specialised lessons, get a tour of the academy and meet our staff. We can't wait to see them!

Sports Day



The academy sports day this year will be held on 14th July with the students taking part in fabulous, fun, sporting activities. Last year was a brilliant success with great weather, inflatables and lots of different stations manned by our wonderful staff members. We are really looking forward to seeing our students enjoy this fun packed day.