

Meridian Media

What's Happening at Ormiston!

7

Senior Team Introduction

As we move towards the end of the first half-term of 2024, it gives me great pleasure to update everyone on events here at Ormiston Meridian Academy.

On Wednesday 31st January, Year 11 maths students spent the afternoon at Keele University, working with the Stoke-on-Trent Mathematics Excellence Partnership. During the session, a competition was held between the six schools present; we managed to secure the top two team positions, a superb recognition of the hard work and endeavor of both our students and teachers.

Also in January, Councillor Desiree Elliott visited the academy and commented on the “beautiful, calm learning environment” provided, saying that it was a “real pleasure to see young people so engaged in lessons”. We’re proud to say that this is absolutely our expectation and typical for an external visitor to see.

In February, we held our Year 9 Options evening, with students finding out more about the GCSE choices that they will shortly make to decide upon subjects to study in Year 10 and 11. It was wonderful to see so many happy, engaged students taking the time to really consider this important choice, but also older students acting as ambassadors, role-models and supportive friends.

There have been so many other events that I could mention, such as a wonderful Christmas Carol performance, GCSE Catering examinations where students were proud to demonstrate their skills, a Year 11 visit to the Gladstone Pottery Museum, our celebration of Safer Internet Day and many inter-house and departmental competitions.

As a new Senior Leader to the academy, I would like to finish by mentioning how proud I am of each and every single student in our care. My first few weeks have been a whirlwind of meeting new young people, but each and every one has gone above and beyond to be kind and courteous. I am honoured to be a part of Ormiston Meridian Academy.

Mr Craddock (Associate Assistant Principal)



Teaching and Learning for Staff

Learning is not just for students!

Here at Ormiston Meridian Academy we are committed to ensuring our students get the most out of every lesson so they can do more, remember more and feel equipped and confident in assessments, exams and in everyday life. Similarly, our teachers and support staff are committed to on-going training and educational research to ensure they are aware of and use the most current strategies and techniques whether it is in classrooms, during support sessions or in interventions to get the best from our talented students. We thought you may be interested in our learning so far this year! Our Monday evenings are calendared across the year for staff training and our teachers and pastoral teams undertake specific training relevant to their subject or role. On INSET days we always ensure staff are in receipt of both statutory training and training relevant to ensuring our academy priorities are met in order to improve outcomes and the educational experience of our students. Learning really is our core business here at Meridian.

Since this academic year began, we have been focused on training around:

1. Critical Reflection to ensure students are correcting, modifying and improving their R and R and application tasks in class. This in turn will make exercise books great tools for independent revision. We have had representatives from the student voice come to sessions to talk about and model how they have benefited from this and to give us even more tips so it works best for students.
2. Extraordinary Learning Strategies to promote greater resilience and to encourage learning from peers. This is really helping to develop discussion about learning, oracy in general and learners confidence in lessons.
3. Promoting good behaviour for learning through Reflect, Reset and Reform.
4. The Omera Student Leadership Programme.
5. Social, Moral, Spiritual and Cultural aspects of the curriculum and the promotion of culture and diversity across the academy.

As safeguarding is our priority, this training takes precedence and is a statutory requirement and staff on-going receive updates on this aspect.

When we are not training as a whole staff, faculties meet to plan, mark and moderate assessments, further improve the curriculum and resources and to discuss enrichment opportunities such as theatre trips, museum trips, fieldwork visits and guest speakers. Our next INSET day on February 19th, 2024 will be packed with tips, advice and current educational theory to develop an inspirational learning culture across our academy.

Mrs Falamarzi

House Points
Scores So Far.....



Yousafzai



1st 1055171

Simmonds



2nd 1019592

Turing



3rd 977057

Bridgewater



4th 967164



Who will win? Your house points could make all the difference! You need to be in it to win it!



Extra Curricular Highlights

Brilliant Book Club

Miss Brammer runs a book club after school on Monday and Thursday 3.20-4.15pm. If you love reading or just want to improve, this is the club for you. We will be reading, sharing and reviewing books together, but most of all, having fun reading!



Love Your Library



Do you know we have thousands of books in the school library, that you can borrow and take home, to read and share with your family? Miss Brammer and the library team will be on hand to help you select from our wide range. The library is open to every students at lunch time. If you are interested, please get a pass at break time from the library.

Sports Clubs

There are a large number of sports clubs in school including: swimming, dance, basketball, football, cheerleading and multi-sports . If you are interested in any of the above please speak to the PE Department or consult your club timetable.



Mindful Colouring

Join Miss Cooper and Mr Cotterill for a fun and peaceful colouring session in F64 every lunchtime. Calm your mind and relax with some artwork.

BE KIND
TO YOUR
MIND

ECO Club

ECO Club runs every Monday lunchtime in S04. This club is open to all year groups. Want to save the planet? Have a passion for recycling? Contact Miss Hodgetts for details.



STEM Club

Mr Taylor runs STEM club every Tuesday lunchtime in F72. Fancy being the next famous scientist? Or do you just love experiments? This is the club for you.



OMERA SPORTING HEROES

Etta-Rose Bradley

Role Models:
Sophie Ecclestone
& Jos Buttler



Age: 11
Cricketer



I first started playing cricket when I was 6 years old. I play for Porthill Park Cricket Club and I also played for Staffordshire Under 11 girls for 2 years. In my 2nd year I won bowler of the year 2023.

I like to bat in the top order because I can bat for longer as I am good at hitting far and bowl off spin because it's a good way of getting a lot of players out.

My ambitions are to follow a pathway into women's cricket starting with trying out for Staffordshire Under 13 girls & playing for the Northern Stars Women's team. After that my dream is to have a career in professional cricket and play International cricket all over the world.

Other sports I play are netball where I play for Newcastle Town. I also love acting and dancing. My favourite colour is blue.



MATCH					
Staffordshire Cricket Staffordshire Leopards Girls U11					
	R	B	4's	6's	SR
E Bradley	23	32	2	0	71.88
E Booth	4	15	0	0	26.67
I Rushbrooke	41	82	2	0	50.00
L Reid	10	25	0	0	40.00
L Ince	10	6	2	0	166.67
L Ince	38	24	9	0	158.33
L Reid					0.00
L Ince					0.00
L Ince					0.00



Club:



Also likes to play
Netball

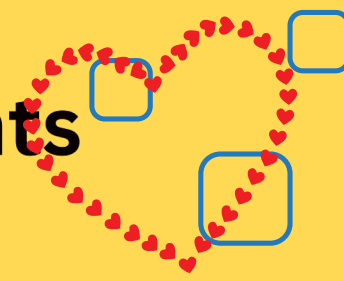


Most memorable moment was meeting Sophie Ecclestone, she signed my shirt and had my photo taken with her!



Extra Curricular Highlights

Oracy Trip



“Talk the Talk”

On 1st February, several students in years 7-10 attended an oracy workshop at Ormiston Sir Stanley Matthews where they worked on the art of rhetoric, honing the skills needed to be successful orators.

Students had an engaging and entertaining day, working with students from OSSMA, to improve their delivery of the spoken word in front of an audience.

Students learned about using body language to show confidence, structuring talk so it has a logical progression, and the importance of fluency when speaking.

Oracy is a vital tool in both academic and personal development, ensuring students can communicate knowledge, but also represent themselves well in situations such as interviews.

We clearly have some budding politicians, actors and spokespeople in our midst!

Students thoroughly enjoyed the day, gaining not only some important skills, but some new friends as well.

Mrs Hope and Miss Fenton



Careers

Y11 College/Sixth Form Application Advice



- 1. **Research**:** Begin by researching different colleges and 6th forms in the area. Look into their academic programs, extracurricular activities, facilities, location, and reputation.
- 2. **Identify Requirements**:** Check the entry requirements for the courses you're interested in. Each college or 6th form may have different requirements regarding grades, subjects, and additional qualifications.
- 3. **Attend Open Days**:** Whenever possible, attend open days or virtual tours offered by colleges and 6th forms. This will give you a chance to explore the campus, meet faculty and students, and get a feel for the environment.
- 4. **Choose Courses**:** Select the courses you wish to apply for based on your interests, career aspirations, and academic strengths.
- 5. **Application Process**:** Familiarise yourself with the application process of each college or 6th form you're considering. Some may have online application portals, while others may require paper applications.
- 6. **Personal Statement**:** Write a compelling personal statement that highlights your academic achievements, extracurricular activities, interests, and reasons for applying to the specific college or 6th form.
- 7. **References**:** Arrange for academic references from teachers or mentors who can speak to your abilities and character. Make sure to provide them with sufficient time to write your reference letters.
- 8. **Submit Application**:** Complete and submit your application before the deadline. Ensure that all required documents, including transcripts, personal statement, and reference letters, are included and sent on time.
- 9. **Interviews and Assessments**:** Be prepared for interviews or assessments as part of the application process. Practice answering common interview questions and familiarise yourself with the format of any assessments.
- 10. **Stay Organised**:** Keep track of deadlines, documents, and communication with colleges or 6th forms. Create a checklist to ensure you've completed all necessary steps for each application.
- 11. **Consider Financial Aid**:** Research scholarship opportunities, bursaries, and financial aid options offered by colleges or external organisations. Explore different avenues to help finance your education.
- 12. **Stay Informed**:** Regularly check your email and the college or 6th form's website for updates regarding your application status, interview invitations, or any additional requirements.
- 13. **Decision Making**:** Once you receive offers from colleges or 6th forms, carefully consider your options based on factors such as course content, location, facilities, and financial considerations.
- 14. **Confirmation**:** After making your decision, confirm your acceptance of the offer by the specified deadline and follow any additional instructions provided by the college or 6th form.
- 15. **Prepare for Transition**:** As you prepare to start college or 6th form, attend any orientation programs or pre-enrollment activities offered to familiarise yourself with the campus and meet fellow students.

By following these steps, you can navigate the application process for UK colleges or 6th forms effectively and increase your chances of securing admission to your desired institution. If you require any additional support please do not hesitate to speak to Mr G Davies or Mrs G Chambers.



NSCG



Universities in Focus



The University of Nottingham was established as a civic college in the city centre in 1881, taking around four years to build, in fact the foundation stone was laid by former Prime Minister, W E Gladstone! An anonymous donor offered £10,000 for a college to be built on the one condition that a suitable building be constructed by the Council and that the college should be provided with £4,000 a year. From that moment on, it has grown and developed to the large and well-regarded Russell Group institution it is today with campuses in Nottingham, as well as one in China and Malaysia. After the First World War, the college needed a bigger site and again, a generous gift of 35 acres of land at Highfields meant the university moved to the site where its main campus can be found today. Did you know? Even in its early days the College attracted some really high-profile visiting lecturers, these included Professor Albert Einstein and Mahatma Gandhi! In 1948, the college became The University of Nottingham, and could now award students with academic degrees in its own name.

The University of Nottingham also boasts some Nobel Prize winners amongst its alumni. In 2003, Sir Peter Mansfield received the Nobel Prize for Medicine for his work using MRI (Magnetic resonance imaging). His amazing work led to the Sir Peter Mansfield Magnetic Resonance Centre being opened in his honour. In the same year, the late Professor Clive Granger, was awarded the Nobel Prize for Economic Science. Today it still prides itself on being a university at the forefront of global research, hence its recognition by the Russell Group.

To get to the University of Nottingham, it takes roughly over an hour by car or by train. There are halls of residence for first and third-year students and the majority of second year students privately rent a house or room in the city. The city is well equipped for students, with a vibrant social scene and excellent sports links. Trent Bridge cricket ground, The City Ground (home of football team Nottingham Forest) and the National Water Sport centre, mean that Nottingham University also attracts many elite athletes as well.

Miss Eldershaw

Did you know?

THE UNIVERSITY OF NOTTINGHAM IS PARTICULARLY WELL RENOWNED FOR ITS COURSES IN HISTORY, PSYCHOLOGY AND ECONOMICS. SOME OF NOTTINGHAM'S MOST FAMOUS ALUMNI INCLUDE: NOTTINGHAM'S MOST FAMOUS FORMER STUDENT, NOVELIST DH LAWRENCE, PHARMACOLOGIST, AND CREATOR THE PAINKILLER IBUPROFEN, DR STEWART ADAMS OBE, AND DR AMANDA HORTON-MASTIN WHO IS THE DIRECTOR OF INNOVATION AT COMIC RELIEF.

**COMIC
RELIEF**





Year 9 Options

Since we returned in January, the year 9 options process has been launched. Assemblies, PSHE lessons and the options 'fortnight' has taken place. During this fortnight, students have listened to presentations, from their enthusiastic and passionate teachers, about the subjects that are on offer to study in years 10 and 11. In addition, we held our very successful options evening for Year 9 students and parents/carers. This provided a fabulous opportunity to listen to talks from the senior leadership team and then to speak to staff and students about the options available.

Some key points from the options process are;

- Research the subjects needed for particular post 16 courses and careers, so that you are making informed choices.
- Choose a range of academic and vocational subjects.
- Pick courses because of the subject, NOT because you like the teacher or your friend has chosen it.

Facilitating Subjects:

- Many courses at college build on knowledge which you will gain while still at school. Therefore, colleges need to make sure that the students they admit have prepared themselves in the best way to cope with their chosen course.
- For this reason, some college and university courses may require you to have studied a specific subject prior to entry.
- There are some subjects that are required more often than others. These subjects are sometimes referred to as facilitating subjects. Facilitating subjects are the subjects most commonly required or preferred by universities to get on to a range of degree courses.
- The Russell Group, which represents 24 leading UK universities, defines facilitating subjects as: English literature, History, Modern Languages (French), Physics, Biology, Chemistry, Geography
"Our consistent advice is that studying a breadth of facilitating subjects will keep a wide range of further education courses and career options open to you. This is because these are the subjects most commonly required by universities and hundreds of courses require one or more facilitating subjects."

English Baccalaureate:

"The 'EBacc' represents breadth and strength in academic achievement" The Department For Education (DFE)

The suite of subjects that you must achieve at national standard (grade 5 and above) to gain the EBacc are as follows:

- English language and English literature GCSE
- Maths GCSE
- Combined Science GCSE (or Triple)
- French GCSE
- History or Geography GCSE



Not only does studying French give you the opportunity to achieve the 'EBacc', it also opens doors to a wider range of jobs. We live in a globalised world and the ability to speak a second language is even more important than ever. It is a distinct advantage when applying for the more competitive universities.

What's more, we know that employers value languages, as they are increasingly important to make sure we can compete in the global market. Due to this, languages are increasingly becoming a requirement for many graduate schemes.

We wish all of the year 9 students the greatest success, in their chosen subjects, in years 10 and 11.

Mr Martin



Useful Contacts:



Mental Health Support

MHST Leigh Tams is in school on every Tuesday. For students to talk to with their mental health concerns.

Useful information for both parents and students:

combinedwellbeing.org.uk

<https://www.combined.nhs.uk/services/mental-health-support-team>

National Suicide Prevention Helpline UK 0800 6895652 A confidential and supportive listening service for anyone 18 and over with thoughts of suicide. Available from 6 pm till midnight every day. Shout www.giveusashout.org Text 'Shout' to 85258 if you are in crisis anytime, anywhere. It's a place to go if you are struggling to cope and you need immediate help. It's available 24/7.

NHS 111 Telephone '111' – for a 24/7 helpline for all health enquiries. They also provide an online service at 111.nhs.uk.

Samaritans FREE Tel: 116 123 www.samaritans.org For confidential emotional support for people in crisis, available 24/7.

Childline 0800 111 is a free, private and confidential service where you can talk about anything that you are worried about, at anytime.

Staffordshire Mental Health Helpline Call free on 0808 800 2234 For people 18+, 6 pm – 2 am weekdays, 2 pm – 2 am weekends, 365 days a year. Text FREE on 07860 022 821 Online webchat www.brighter-futures.org.uk; email: Staffordshire.helpline@brighter-futures.org.uk

CAMHS (Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services) Central Referral Hub for up to aged 18, 0800 0328 728 (Option 1) 9 am – 5 pm, Monday to Friday. Multi-disciplinary teams of social workers, mental health nurses, therapists, clinical psychologists, mental health practitioners and child and adolescent psychiatrists.

Changes Health and Wellbeing 01782 411433 www.changes.org.uk You can self-refer online. Groups promoting wellbeing, personal recovery and peer support.

The Dove Service 01782 683155 www.thedoveservice.org.uk Counselling and support for adults, including bereavement and social groups, and children and young people affected by bereavement or life-changing illness. Self-referrals will incur a fee for counselling.

Savana 01782 433204/433205 www.savana.org.uk FREE one-to-one counselling service for anyone who has experienced sexual violence (male and female), Independent Sexual Violence Advisor Service and Youth Support. Self-referrals can be made online.

Staffordshire and Stoke on Trent Talking Therapies <https://staffsandstoketalkingtherapies.nhs.uk/> Can self-refer online or on Tel: 0300 303 0923. Multi-agency partnership (Midlands Partnership Foundation Trust, North Staffs Combined Healthcare Trust, Changes Health and Wellbeing, North Staffs Mind, Burton and District Mind and the Dove Service), offering free psychological treatments


HAPPY
Valentines
DAY

Is your child entitled to 'Free School Meals'?

At Ormiston Meridian Academy, we believe it is important for students to have a nutritious meal at lunch time. If your circumstances have changed in these difficult times then you may be entitled to 'Free School Meals'.

More than 12,000 children in Stoke-on-Trent already receive a free school meal. This saves their families around £400 a year and also gives additional funding to their school.

Your child may be able to get 'Free School Meals' if you receive any of the following:

- 
- Income Support or Income-based Jobseekers Allowance
 - Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
 - Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
 - The guaranteed element of State Pension Credit
 - Child Tax Credit (provided you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £18,190)
 - Working Tax Credit run-on - paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit
 - Universal Credit

Please ask for an application form at reception.

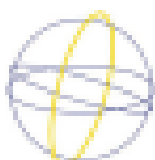
If you require assistance in completing the form, our staff are here to help you.

Miss Peacock (Assistant Principal)

Email: jpeacock@omera.co.uk

Mrs Kirkham (Office Manager)

Email: dkirkham@omera.co.uk



Ormiston
Meridian Academy
Shaping Lives | Building Ambition | Igniting Futures

Subject Spotlight Geography

GCSE Geography Fieldwork:

It was an absolute pleasure to take 73 Year 11 Geography students to Castleton, to carry out their human GCSE fieldwork, at the end of last term. The students enjoyed exploring the environmental impacts of tourism in the village and the rain held off allowing them to independently carry out a series of data collection methods that could be used to answer their enquiry question. The students were very engaged in their tasks; these included a footpath erosion survey at Cave Dale, a traffic and pedestrian count in the village itself and conducting an environmental quality survey at specific points in the village – brilliant!

Whilst carrying out the research, students also saw career opportunities in the real world as The Environment Agency were also completing their own geographical inquiry; this demonstrated to students why these skills are an important facet to their geographical education.

Our young geographers were also treated to a trip into Peak Cavern, funded by the Academy. Whilst visiting they had the chance to make their own rope and were taught all about life as a rope maker in this enchanting environment. They were entertained by the geological features in the cavern, but also tales ranging from TV filming in the cavern to sagas from Victorian Britain and beyond. The students were exemplary throughout the day and were a credit to the academy and their families. Well done Year 11, we are so proud of you for being excellent ambassadors for the Academy! We are so excited for our next fieldwork, at Talacre beach, where we will be studying the human impact on the sand dune ecosystem. This is always a favourite with the students!

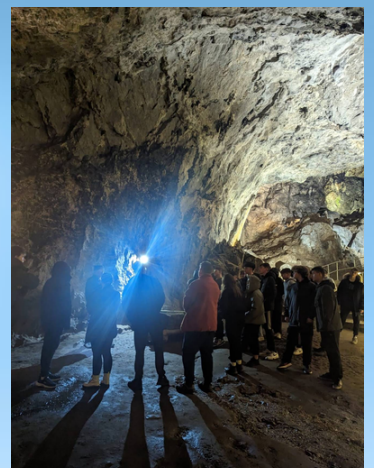
Why is Geography important?

Studying Geography opens up a wide range of career opportunities, and qualifications in this area of study are highly respected by employers. As the Royal Geographical Society say ‘there is no such thing as a geography job; rather there are multiple jobs that geographers do’, and so this is the basis of our broad and balanced curriculum.

Throughout a pupil’s time studying Geography at OMA, it tells the story of what a global citizen is. It opens up the world beyond their own world and starts with ‘me’ (in year 7 via ‘My Place’) and ends with ‘us’ (at GCSE studying the interconnected nature of the planet). The whole curriculum is aimed at teaching the key message of ‘no man is an island’, and helps pupils to understand the interconnected nature of what we experience at every level in our everyday life.

Within our curriculum we explore how ‘physical geography’ cannot be ignored, and how humans (us) are not the most important element on our planet, but, we are the most influential. This is fully supported by our fabulous Eco Club! All pupils are valued and shown that they can be the change, ‘now we know better, we can do better’ – showing a strong link to the school values of ‘respect’, ‘ambition’ and ‘courage’. This is not only our educational duty, but our moral duty and we want our pupils to go and change the world!

Miss Hearson



COMING SOON!
WORLD BOOK
DAY AND
CAREERS WEEK
NEXT ISSUE.....

Library and Reading



BREAKING NEWS!

Welcome to our school Library page. I hope you have enjoyed this half term in are looking forward to a well-earned break.

This term we have busy in the library celebrating STEM.

This took place in January and students were encouraged to take out STEM related books for bonus prizes. In addition we had a wide range of STEM careers materials for the students to explore.

As we come to the end of the term we are celebrating St Valentines with our books on romance and relationships.

See below for more details of our valentines day sale.

Next half term we are planning for our biggest event of the year. World Book Day. More news on this next issue. Finally, check out our new community bookcase, where we are offering access to free books for all members of our community. See below for more details.

Donations

Are you having a clear out ?
Do you need to make space for more books at home?

We welcome donations of any books or magazines, which are in good condition.

To donate, please leave them at reception or pass them directly to Miss Brammer in the Library. These books will help to keep our library and new community bookcase stocked.



FEBRUARY

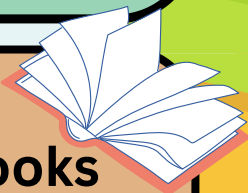
Books of the Month

This month we are celebration St Valentines Day in the library. You will find a selection of displays and books from our romance and relationships sections on display in the library.

Take out any book from the St Valentines related related book in February and earn double library loyalty points. Please look out for more competitions to come as well!

Winter Books

We know that it can hard to keep yourself entertained, on the long, dark, winter nights. So, why not grab a wintry tale from the library? We have everything from festive tales, to polar bears and arctic adventures. Any Winter themed book you take out earns you double loyalty stamps. Swap your completed library loyalty card for prizes. Why not sit in your favourite chair and cosy up with a book this evening?



Book Corner

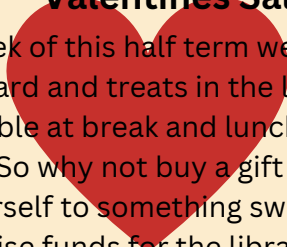
Mrs Hope's favourite book is Jane Eyre by Charlotte Bronte. It is a story of a young woman who has to have great inner strength and uphold her personal values. Set in a patriarchal point in time, Jane Eyre demonstrates 'girl power' and a refusal to accept any less than she is worth.

This is a must read for any feminist!



Valentines Sale

In the last week of this half term we will be selling valentines card and treats in the library. These will be available at break and lunchtime from as little as 50p. So why not buy a gift for a love one or treat yourself to something sweet. This is to raise funds for the library.



Winner!!!!!!!

Congratulations!



Congratulations, to Sapphire Headley Flearly, Y8. Her book review was drawn, at random, from the hundreds of reviews we received for the Book Christmas Review competition. We hope you enjoyed your prize and would like to thank all the students who entered; the standard was extremely high.

Look out for our Easter competition coming soon.....

REMEMBER: Every time you take out a book from the library you will earn a loyalty stamp. Fill your card and exchange it for a prize. Double loyalty points are earned on any book from our theme of the month display. See Miss Brammer, in the library, and pick up your loyalty card today.

LOYALTY PROGRAM

LOYALTY PROGRAM

Reading Rewards

New!

New!



Launching, after the half term is our new reading rewards programme.

Every time you take out a book from the library you will earn a loyalty stamp. Fill your card and exchange it for a prize. Double loyalty points are earned on any book from our theme of the month display.

Rewards are as follows:

20 stamps- book mark

40 stamps- Bronze certificate and badge

60 stamps- Silver certificate and badge

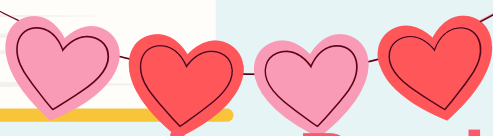
80 stamps- Gold certificate and badge

100 stamps- Platinum certificate and badge

See Miss Brammer for more details.

LOYALTY PROGRAM

LOYALTY PROGRAM



Community Bookcase



Who doesn't like a freebie?

Come along to the our community bookcase (opposite the school office) and pick up a book for FREE.

Books are available for all ages, to take away, free of charge.

All that we ask is when you have finished your book you pass it on to another person and share your love of reading . Alternatively, you can return the book to the case and swap for another. There is no need to sign books in and out. So, pick up a free book today and share your reading experience with your family and friends.



Cressida Cowell has been a children's author and illustrator for 20 years and is best-known for her award-winning How to Train Your Dragon series, The Wizards of Once series and the Emily Brown picture books.



Cressida has been an ambassador for the National Literacy Trust for over a decade and is supporting the Read On. Get On. campaign to get all children reading well by the time they leave primary school.

Cressida Cowell's top tips for parents

Help your child discover the magic of reading

Ask for recommendations.

Ask your child's teacher, your local librarian or bookseller for recommendations of books that will get your child excited about reading.



Read aloud with your kids way beyond the age they can read for themselves.

Books read to you in your parents' voice live with you for your entire life. Reading together sends an important message to your child: books are important and are powerful, magical things that can make your dad cry or your mum laugh.

Make sure your kids see you reading.

reading role model for your child! Often parents read in the evening when the kids are in bed, which means they never really see their parents with a book. Show your kids that books are an important part of life.



Comics, graphic novels and magazines all count. So go with what your kids like.

Make reading together achievable and enjoyable.

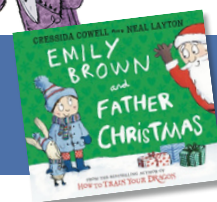
If it's stressful, no one is going to want to do it! Start off small, by reading together for just 10 minutes a day. Pick a time of day that works for you and your family. And it doesn't need to be 10 minutes all at once; little and often works just as well.

Don't force your child into finishing a book they don't like.

Follow your kids' interests – there really is a book for everyone. Go to your local library and let your child try out lots of different reading materials and genres.



Emily Brown and Father Christmas by Cressida Cowell and Neal Layton and Cressida Cowell's *The Wizards of Once: Twice Magic* are both out now! Both published by Hachette Children's Group.





Out and About....

Y7 December Pantomime Trip



Fi fi fo fun..... Christmas at the Regent Theatre definitely begun with the Performing Arts department, who were delighted to take Year 7 students to see the Pantomime 'Jack and The Beanstalk' at the Regent theatre on 17th December., which really did kickstart the festive season.

Joining Jonny on stage was Musical Theatre, TV personality and Hear'Say star, Noel Sullivan in the role of Fleshcreep, alongside Hollyoaks and Torchwood star Kai Owen who made a return to the Regent Theatre panto as Farmer Trot.

Doomed to sell his trusty cow, we joined Jack and his family as they fought to outwit the evil giant, win riches beyond his wildest dreams and the hand of the girl he loves. We were wowed with an amazing set, spectacular lighting, fabulous 3d effects and an outstanding choice of songs and music cleverly linked to the Potteries. The story of Jack and the Beanstalk was told with fantastic humour aimed at all ages and it didn't disappoint.

A highly interactive performance that left the audience in floods of laughter (and those at the front a little soaking wet at times!)

Miss James, Mrs Prendergast, Mr Jones



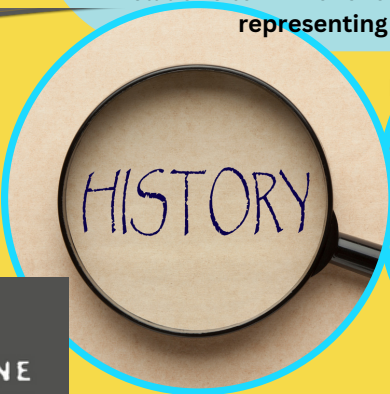
Y11 GCSE History

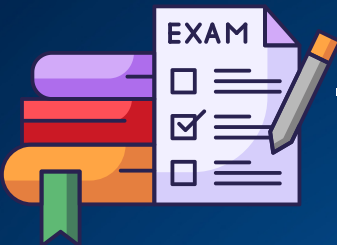
As part of GCSE History, Mr Davies, Miss Derbyshire, Mrs Rice, Mrs Macmillan, Miss Vigus and myself had the pleasure of taking our Y11 students to Gladstone Pottery Museum on Tuesday 16th and Thursday 17th January. Every student demonstrated the OMERA achiever values and eagerly listened to the fantastic 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.

Miss Bramwell





Achievement Update... Spaced Learning and Revision Skills



At our academy, we are currently in Assessment Round 2. At the time of publication of this newsletter, your child may be in the pre-assessment phase and therefore have a revision list for each subject. Alternatively, they may be in the post-assessment phase where their class teachers will use question level analysis (QLA) to identify your child's areas of strength and where further development is needed.

Recalling knowledge is the first step for your child in mastering higher level skills and being able to demonstrate these skills in assessment conditions. For students to be able to explain, analyse, evaluate, and create, they need to have a firm knowledge of the information and key vocabulary first.

The Psychologist, Hermann Ebbinghaus, discovered the 'forgetting curve' which shows that we forget the majority of new information soon after it is initially learnt. Ebbinghaus defined forgetting as an inability to recall information in the absence of any cues. In a learning context, the forgetting curve shows that learners will forget an average of 90% of new information within the first seven days. As such, without retention, we remember less and less information as the hours and days go by.

Whilst this may sound quite daunting, do not fear! Our teachers will utilise their findings from the assessment QLA to ensure that areas for development are re-taught in lesson. Our teachers also carefully plan spaced learning and 'Recap and Retrieval' tasks into lessons to overcome the forgetting curve and to ensure that your child won't lose their key knowledge. This can be further supplemented at home through independent revision; the more frequently information is revisited and used, the more likely it is to move into your long-term memory store. Research therefore demonstrates that revisiting information frequently is more effective than a 'mass revision' (cramming) session just before an assessment period.

Please don't underestimate the positive effect that parents can have by encouraging their child to revise. As early as possible in your child's academic journey, you could encourage your child to record notes of the key knowledge that they are learning in lessons. These notes could be in flashcards, graphic organisers, mind-maps, or any other format that your child finds useful. Colour coding this information could then be an effective auditing tool to aid future revision as students can identify in green the knowledge that they are confident with, use orange to show information that is not yet firmly in their long-term store, and use red to identify information that they do not yet understand and need to explore further.

If your child can't remember something they've learned, encourage them not to feel disheartened. This isn't a failure, it's completely normal – and it's actually the most effective time to stretch their learning. Your child can address their 'red' areas by seeking further guidance from their class teacher, revisiting lesson resources on Google Classroom, or using other revision books/websites.

Social Media Relaunch Get Connected....

Are you following us on Social Media?

We've recently relaunched some of our social media pages and you may not be following us...

Make sure you're following for up-to-date information about academy events, an exclusive look at the building of our new classrooms and regular details about exciting and engaging lessons that students have taken part in.

Mr Craddock

**NEW
ARRIVAL**

Use the links or QR codes below to find out more :

**NEW
ARRIVAL**



Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/OrmistonMeridian>



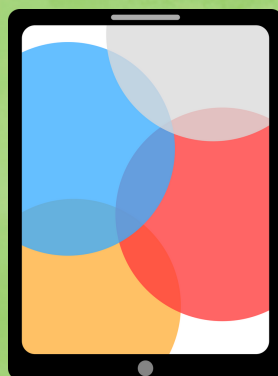
Twitter / X

<https://www.twitter.com/omastoke>



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<https://www.instagram.com/ormistonmeridian>





What's Next at Ormiston....



Ormiston
Meridian Academy

Academic Year 2023-24

AUTUMN TERM 2023

INSET Day	Monday 4th September (staff only)
Y7 and Y11 (only)	Tuesday 5 th September 8.40
All year groups	Tuesday 5 th September 11.00
Half Term	Monday 30 th October – Friday 3 rd November (inclusive)
Students in	Monday 6 th November
INSET DAY	Friday 24th November (Staff only)
End of Term	Friday 22 nd December

SPRING TERM 2024

Open for Students	Monday 8 th January
Half Term	Monday 12 th to Friday 16 th February (inclusive)
INSET DAY	Monday 19th February (Staff only)
Open for Students	Tuesday 20 th February
End of Term	Friday 22 nd March

SUMMER TERM 2024

Open for students	Monday 8 th April
May Day	Monday 6 th May (academy closed)
Half Term	Monday 27 th May to Friday 31 st May (inclusive)
INSET Day	Monday 24th June (Staff only)
Open for Students	Tuesday 25 th June
INSET Day	Monday 22nd July (Staff only)