





Meridian Media What's Happening at Ormiston!

Senior Team Introduction

Welcome to another exciting edition of Meridian Media! I am very pleased to be able to update everyone on what's been happening in the academy this half-term.

We recently held our Year 9 Options Evening, where Mr. Martin and other senior leaders explained the options process. Parents and students were then able to discuss their potential choices with subject teachers. Thank you all for your amazing feedback on this and other Parents' Evenings which has been shared with staff.

We have moved this term to recording all HAIL tasks, set for homework, on Synergy. For students, this means that there is no longer any excuse to not know what work has been set or when it is due. For parents and carers, this means that you can now support your child to maximise their learning outside of lessons and encourage them to keep track of deadlines. This is something that parent feedback has told us is wanted and we're really pleased to be able to offer this.

This term has also seen a re-iteration of the academy rules regarding mobile phones. All students have had assemblies on this topic and reminded about our expectations. Put simply, Ormiston Meridian Academy is a mobile free zone; phones are allowed if they are switched off and in a bag or inside pocket. I am massively grateful for your continued support on this.

We've also had many sporting events, including notably the Boccia tournament at Stoke College, a year 9 netball tournament and many others. The mathematics faculty have been in overdrive, running not one but two separate challenges, the UKMT challenges and the Inter-trust OAT Matholympics! We eagerly await the results. A number of students also visited Harry Potter World, the Computing faculty celebrated Safer Internet Day and the Performing Arts faculty continue to prepare fastidiously for "The Wizard Of Oz" – make sure to get your tickets soon.

I wish you a relaxing and peaceful February break and look forward to seeing everyone refreshed for another important half-term soon.

Mr Craddock (Associate Assistant Principal)

House Points Scores So Far.....



1st Place Yousafzai: 1644,995 2nd Place Simmonds: 1563,000 3rd Place Bridgewater: 1528,950 4th Place Turing: 1509,375



Top Scoring Forms:

7Y1

8R1

9Y2

10ANI

11CWI

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 Society

Mrs Martin runs a book club, after school, on Monday and Wednesday, 3.15-4.15pm. 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? Mrs Martin 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.



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





Active Lunchtimes

Join staff, every lunch time, in your year group areas for active fun. This includes walking, badminton, football and netball/basketball to name but a few...

ECO Society

ECO Club runs every Tuesday, lunchtime, in S29. This club is open to all year groups. Want to save the planet? Have a passion for recycling? Contact Miss Kirkham for details.



Reading and Writing Society

Fancy yourself as a budding journalist? Love to read and write? This is the club for you every Friday lunch time in S73.



HAIL/Revision Society



Don 't have access to a computer at home or just need some help with HAIL? Do you need to revise?

Then come along to the library.....

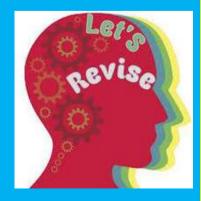
Monday-Thursday 1.20-2.00pm & 3.15-4.15pm.

All are welcome.

Just turn up, no need to book.











For more information, please speak to Miss Bailey or Mrs Gibson .



I am a ballet dancer and I have been dancing for the last 5 years. I currently attend the Michelle Moss, School of Dance, specialising in Ballet. Although, this activity also unlocks other dance styles like, Jazz, Lyrical, Acro and Tap. I am currently performing at a grade 6 and continue to work hard to progress towards future grades.

This sport requires a lot of hard work and commitment as training requires, strength training, toning, ankle strength plus lots of flexibility training. I train Monday to Friday for 4-5 hours. 1.5 hours of this is flexibility and strength training and the remaining time is completing Ballet Coursework that goes towards the grade. This might include practical skills, 30 different exercises, including two full dances. Following on from this I can complete a Foundation level exam which is a progression on from the grades and it involves very similar activities but they are just more difficult and harder to master.

I see myself in a professional company such as the Royal Ballet in Birmingham, Manchester or London dancing across different areas and countries. Please keep a look out for me in the future.

My current achievements include achieving a Grade 4 ballet high merit and a Grade 5 ballet distinction, I have performed for the Northern ballet with a successful audition, I have enrolled in the Elmhurst Ballet program, the Hammond summer school and the Royal ballet program plus I have been involved in the spring term,

Hot Hot Show, the Rhythm of the night show and the Sleeping beauty show with English Youth

Maria Kharova is my role model as many of her exercises help me to improve.





Careers

Year 10 Work Experience Programme



We are pleased to share details of the Year 10 Work Experience Programme, which will take place from 7th to 11th July 2025.

This programme is an invaluable opportunity for students to develop essential work and life skills that will support their future endeavours, whether in further education, apprenticeships, or employment.

Work experience plays a crucial role in helping students build confidence, resilience, and professional skills that will benefit them beyond the classroom. It enables them to explore potential career paths, develop key employability skills, and gain first-hand insight into the world of work.

To ensure students make the most of this opportunity, we will be officially launching the programme with an assembly in the first week back after half term. We encourage all students and families to start thinking about potential placements and look forward to working together to make this experience a success.

If any parents or local businesses are able to support our students by offering placements, we would love to hear from you. Please get in touch with the academy for more information.

We are incredibly proud of the proactive role our students are taking in shaping their academy experience, and we look forward to seeing these initiatives come to life.

Mr Davies











PSHE/SMSC

Student Leadership at the **Heart of Academy Progress**



On Monday, 27th January, our student leaders came together as part of our OMERA Parliament to discuss and plan key initiatives for the academy. One of the main focuses of the meeting was the upcoming Red Nose Day, with students beginning to organise events to support this important cause. In addition, the meeting provided an opportunity for students to raise topics brought forward by their form groups, ensuring that student voices are heard and acted upon.

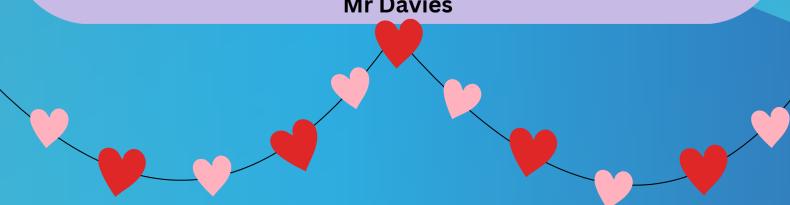
A key element of this student parliament is its role in teaching the principles of democracy. This dynamic forum is democracy in action, offering students a firsthand look at how government is run. By debating and deliberating on issues that affect our academy, our student leaders are not only planning events and initiatives but also gaining valuable insights into leadership, civic responsibility, and the democratic process.

One key proposal was the introduction of an academy shop that sells a selection of top ten items identified by students. We are excited to announce that we are now in the process of developing this initiative, with our student leadership team taking the lead in its creation and management. This is a fantastic opportunity for our students to develop leadership, teamwork, and enterprise skills.

Furthermore, students expressed a desire to take a more active role in our SMSC (Spiritual, Moral, Social, and Cultural) and reading programmes. As a result, we are training student leaders to deliver SMSC sessions during form time, empowering them to contribute to their peers' development. Additionally, we are in the final stages of planning a mentoring programme, which will provide further opportunities for students to support one another

Mr Davies

and strengthen our academy community.



Universities in Focus

The University of Sheffield is well-regarded as a prestigious public research university and was established in 1905. Sheffield has a strong reputation for both its academic rigor (excellent student outcomes) and vibrant student life. The university is a member of the Russell Group of research-intensive institutions in the UK, known for its excellence in research, teaching, and international outlook.

The University of Sheffield has a rich history dating back to the late 19th century. It evolved from a number of local, smaller educational institutions into a world-renowned university. The University of Sheffield was officially formed in 1905, following the merger of three educational institutions: The University College of Sheffield (established 1879), The Sheffield Medical School (which had been educating doctors and medical professionals since 1828) and The Sheffield Technical School, which contributed to the university's engineering and industrial expertise. This merger created a strong foundation for a comprehensive university with a focus on both practical and academic subjects.

In the 1960s and 1970s, it underwent significant growth, with the introduction of new departments and campuses. During this period, the university also became involved in more international partnerships and research collaborations. The modern-day university emphasizes cutting-edge research, global engagement, and student satisfaction, continuing to attract students and scholars from around the world and today, the University of Sheffield stands as one of the UK's leading institutions.

Sheffield (like all universities) offers a wide range of undergraduate and postgraduate programs, but their most popular courses include: Engineering (including Mechanical, Civil, Electrical, and Chemical Engineering, possibly to do with the city's inks to the Steel Industry), Computer Science, Business and Management, Law, Social Sciences (such as Sociology and Politics) and Architecture.

The University of Sheffield has a diverse student body, with over 25,000 students and around 20% of their students come from outside the UK, making it a culturally rich institution, of which they are very proud.

Postgraduate students (those who have done a degree and then go on to do higher level qualifications such as a Masters or PHD) comment on the support they receive and the university as a whole boasts a high level of student satisfaction, particularly for its supportive campus environment and academic facilities. Students speak highly about the abundance of societies, social events, and other enrichment opportunities they offer.

Did you know?

Sheffield also has some notable alumni graduates who have made significant contributions across various fields including: Sean Bean (actor, known for roles in Game of Thrones and The Lord of the Rings), Helen Sharman (the first British woman in space), Richard Hawley (Musician known for his career with the Arctic Monkeys) and Nick Park (Animator and creator of Wallace and Gromit).





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 <u>www.samaritans.org</u> 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 <u>www.changes.org.uk</u> You can self-refer online. Groups promoting wellbeing, personal recovery and peer support.

The Dove Service 01782 683155 <u>www.thedoveservice.org.uk</u> 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 <u>www.savana.org.uk</u> 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



The Mental Health Support Team



Available now in your local Stoke-on-Trent and Staffordshire schools and colleges

Panic ManagementSleep

Worry ManagementExam Stress



Low MoodProblem Solving
AnxietyCoping Strategies



The Mental Health Support Team works with schools and colleges to embed a better whole school approach to mental health and wellbeing, as well as offering support to parents, carers, children and young people. We use CBT (Cognitive Behavioural Therapy) informed principles to provide support and interventions for a range of common mental health difficulties.



Where To Find Us

Scan the QR code to be taken to the Combined Wellbeing Portal, where you will find a list of Mental Health Support Team schools, as well as a range of self-help resources and other services. Alternativley, please contact us on the email address below.



MHSTEnquiries@combined.nhs.uk https://combinedwellbeing.org.uk/









Subject spotlight - Computing

Students in Key Stage 3 (Years 7, 8 and 9) have been exposed to an updated curriculum offer this year, with far more of a focus on Computer Science topics such as programming and problem solving.

Year 7 students began, in September, with an introduction to IT systems at Meridian, learning how to log onto our computers, stay safe online and use Microsoft Teams and Synergy to access their work. They then moved onto programming, using Scratch to develop programs using selection, sequence, iteration and subroutines. Next, students will be exposed to the use of computer hardware, networks, spreadsheets and a creative IT project.

Year 8 students also experienced programming, but this time in Python, a high-level textual language that is a serious competitor in the jobs market for developers. Students built on their existing knowledge of Scratch to develop and modify programs, by themselves. They then completed work on how data is represented in a computer, including images, sound, text files and binary representation of numbers. Students are currently learning about staying safe online and avoiding scams, before moving onto future work on the processor, the fetch-execute cycle and logic gates.

Year 9 students are currently readying themselves to choose their options and so have been covering three units of work that link directly to this. We began with further programming in Python, linked to the GCSE Computer Science course, before learning about how branding is used, in businesses, to prepare for the GCSE Business course. Students will next, complete a taster unit of work for the Digital IT course involving planning tools and design then evaluation of a user interface. We end Year 9 with a focus on sorting and searching algorithms, comparing how instructions, given to a computer, to complete simple tasks can massively change the efficiency of that task.

When students reach Year 10, they can opt for one of three courses. GCSE Computer Science is perhaps the most academic and has strong links to mathematics and physics. Students spend a significant amount of time becoming expert programmers, alongside learning about the components that make up a typical computer and how data is represented and transferred between computers. The course is led by Mr Craddock and is assessed via two exams in Y11, each one and a half hours in length.

GCSE Business covers the foundations of how businesses operate. Areas of study include spotting a business opportunity, external influences on business, marketing decisions and finances. The course is led by Mrs Morris and is assessed via two exams in Y11, each one hour 45 minutes in length.

BTEC Digital IT is a relatively new course, to Ormiston Meridian, only launching last year. Students complete practical work in the classroom, on computers, that can count towards their final mark. Areas of study include, designing user interfaces, project planning and data analysis. Whatever your area of interest, we hope that the Computing faculty offers something for everybody!

Mr Craddock













COMING SOON! WORLD BOOK NEXT ISSUE...

Library and Reading CAREERS WEEK BREAKING



Welcome to our school Library page. I hope you have enjoyed this half term and 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.

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 community bookcase, in reception, where we are offering access to free books for all. 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 Mrs Martin in the Library. These books will help to keep our library and new community bookcase stocked.

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 book display, in February and earn double library Book loyalty points. Please look out for more competitions to come as well!

One of the most popular and checked out book series, in the library, is The Heartstopper Collection. We stock the full HELETSTOPPER set!!

Heartstopper" is the U.K.'s fastest selling graphic novel ever. The young adult series follows the story of Nick Nelson and Charlie Spring, who meet and fall in love at an all-boys school. In 2022, it was adapted into a Netflix series.









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?

Valentines Competition

In February students have been battling it out to write their most creative poetry. This is to demonstrate their love for reading. The winners will receive house points and be displayed around the school. The winner will also be announced next issue......

Brilliant Book Society







Love reading? Want to make friend and discover new books?

Then come and join us in the library....

Monday and Wednesday 3.15-415pm.

All years are welcome.

See Mrs Martin, in the Library, for a permission slip.



Winner!!!!!!!!

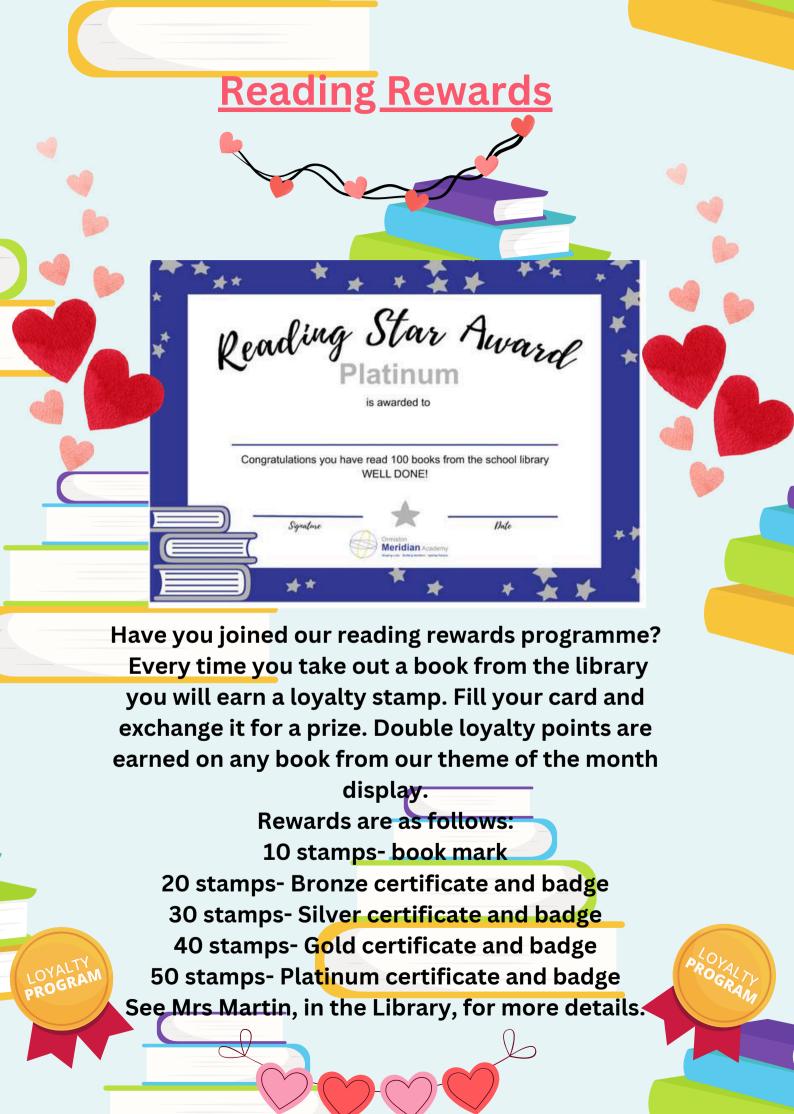


Congratulations, to Fatima, Y8. Her book review was drawn, at random, from the hundreds of reviews we received for the Big Christmas Book Review competition. We hope you enjoyed your prize and would like to thank all the students who entered; the standard was extremely high.

Look out for more competitions 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 Mrs Martin, in the library, and pick up your loyalty card today.







Community Bookcase







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.



Out and About....

Y7 December Pantomine Trip

Christmas, at the Regent Theatre, definitely begun with the Performing Arts department, who were delighted to take Year 7 students to see the Pantomime 'Dick Whittington' at the Regent theatre on 17th December, which really did kickstart the festive season.

Stoke-on-Trent favourite Jonathan Wilkes, celebrated 20 years
since his first Regent Theatre panto, led the cast as Dick
Whittington! Jonny was reunited with Christian Patterson who made
a triumphant return to play Sarah the Cook and Kai Owen who
starred as King Rat

We joined our hero Dick Whittington (and his trusty cat!) as he searched for fame, fortune and happiness journeying to become Lord Mayor. He outwitted King Rat to free the city.

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

Please seen a student review below by Alecia Ball Y7.





Theatre Trip

Today, ALL of Year 7 visited the Regent Theatre to see their Pantomime production for this year, Dick Whittington. The show was amazing and provided an amazing new experience for all the children, whether they'd experienced a stage show before or not. We all showed amazing theatre etiquette, especially cheering and booing the baddies! We'd like to thank Mrs Prendergast for arranging this amazing trip, she has done a great job in ensuring all the children had a good time! From this trip, we have all learned how to be respectful in a theatre and that pantomimes are great fun! We all also LOVED seeing Stokie pantomime royalty Jonathan Wilkes for his 20th year of Panto at the Regent. We enjoyed the classic '12 days of Christmas' with a pantomime twist and cheered as loud as we could when our school was given a special shoutout. Thank you again to Mrs Prendergast and all of the staff who took the time to go on this trip with us, we've had such a good time! Until next year! Merry Christmas!





Social Media Get Connected....

Are you following us on Social Media?

Make sure you're following for up-to-date information about academy events and regular details about exciting and engaging lessons that students have taken part in.

Mr Craddock

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











HAIL On Synergy....



A reminder that Home and Independent Learning (HAIL) tasks are now recorded through Synergy.

Students and parents can track work that has been set alongside deadlines for work to be complete. For further tutorials, on how to see this, search "Ormiston Meridian Synergy" on YouTube.

To access the system, please either download the Synergy app (there are separate apps for students and parents), use the link on our website (ormistonmeridianacademy.co.uk) or go direct to omera.schoolsynergy.co.uk.

Parental access to the system is via a dedicated login that you will already have been given. Students log in using the Microsoft button and use the same email address and password that they use to log into Teams in school. If you have any questions or problems accessing the system, please do not hesitate to email gcraddock@omera.co.uk.

Thanks Mr Craddock







Parent Voice From Parents' Evening....



YOU SAID...

Some parents said they found it difficult to get information about homework.

WE DID...

We have acted quickly and now use Synergy to support parents in monitoring HAIL.







YOU SAID...

All teachers are full of praise for my daughter for her and her attitude towards learning.

WE DID ...

We've shared all of your amazing feedback with staff in a regular summary email.

Parent Voice From Parents' Evening....



YOU SAID...

Some parents said that Parents' Evening appointments go over 5 minutes, leading to queues.

WE DID ...

We would love to make appointments longer but unfortunately, the number of students a class teacher needs to see means we cannot. We have reminded staff that they must stick to the 5 minutes and if further time is needed, to arrange an appropriate call back.



PARENT

Would you like to give us regular feedback and be part of shaping the way that we do things? Email us to be part of it!

feedback@omera.co.uk

Thank you, for your feedback, at our recent Parents' Evenings. We have shared this with staff and endeavour to work on tirelessly improving our school community.

If you have any feedback, either on things that you feel need improving or want to tell us about something we're doing particularly well, please get in touch! We have a dedicated email address to enable you do this. Please email feedback@omera.co.uk with your comments.





Coming Soon at Ormiston Meridian Academy....









Coming Soon at Ormiston Meridian Academy....

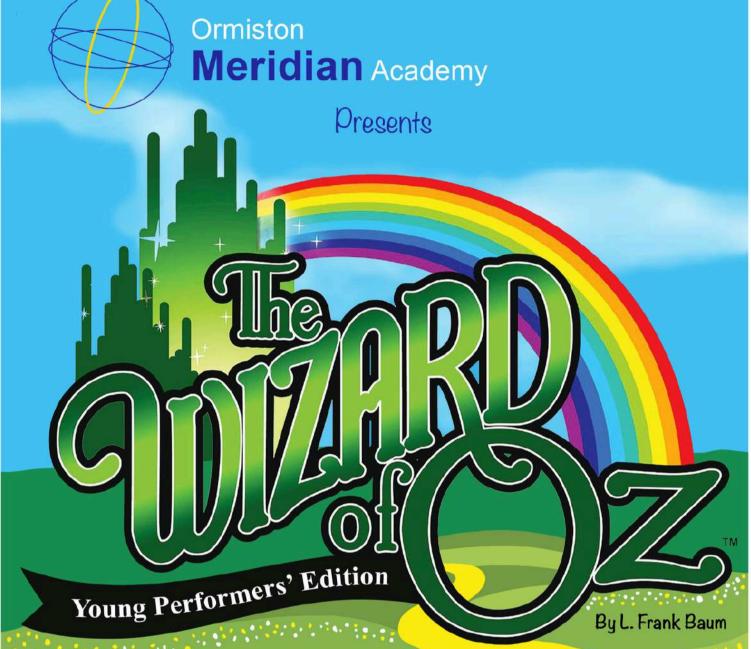
Ormiston Merdian Academy presents, 'The Wizard of Oz,'.

Join Dorothy and her loyal companion Toto as they "Follow the Yellow Brick Road," through the Land of Oz, determined to reach the Emerald City, where the great and powerful Wizard of Oz will help them get home. Of course, along the way, Dorothy encounters witches (both good and bad), Munchkins, talking trees and winged monkeys. But most importantly, she befriends three unique characters: a Scarecrow with no brain, a Tin Man with no heart, and a Lion with no "nerve." Their journey to happiness – and self-awareness – is a glowing testament to friendship, understanding and hope in a world filled with both beauty and ugliness.

Tickets can be purchased on Parent Pay: Adults £5, Children and Concessions £3.50

If you would like to advertise your business, in the programme, please contact the school office for details.

Date of event - 10th and 11 April 2025 Time of event - 7pm - 8:45



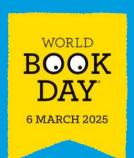
With Music and Lyrics by Harold Arlen and E. Y. Harburg

10TH- 11TH APRIL 2025

7.00pm - 8.45pm

Tickets: Adults - £5.00

Children & Concessions - £3.50



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