

MERIDIAN MEDIA

Ormiston Meridian Academy newsletter made for
students and parents/carers

Senior Team Introduction

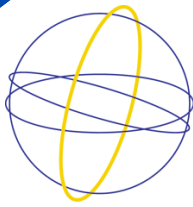
Hello, Mrs Falamarzi here,

A warm welcome to Parents and Carers as we summarise the term. Even though it is only March, 2026 has already been a whirlwind of events and activities at Ormiston Meridian Academy with a plethora of amazing opportunities for our wonderful students.

I have attempted to provide a snapshot of academy life to illustrate that our commitment to teaching, learning and personal development is second to none and yet beyond that, our teachers and support staff are constantly ensuring we provide stimulating, enrichment opportunities.

Please read on...





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The New Year has seen hundreds of students (and many staff members) join our newly opened gym which is superbly led and managed by Miss Beckworth.

Students have been participating in induction sessions and have the opportunity, several times a week, to attend and work out either on their own or with friends. Students are relishing the benefits of working out to become fitter and healthier both physically and as part of their well-being and mental health. The atmosphere and commitment seen at the gym is second to none. Keep going folks and enjoy this fantastic facility!

We are proud to announce the OMER production this year is Newsies JR. and we send huge thanks to the students and staff who have been endlessly rehearsing and practising and learning their lines for what is sure to be another incredible triumph for Miss James and her team. Hope you have your tickets!

World Book Day saw the staff step out of their comfort zones and dress as plentiful characters from a range of genres of literature. Students excelled and joined in the fun with many also swapping their uniforms to portray famous characters. Lessons focussed on the life skill of reading. As ever, it was an enjoyable and memorable event and hundreds of students used their tokens to purchase books to read for pleasure. Reading is a joy, a skill and a vital leisure pursuit but many of our students are already also getting the writing bug and it is a real treat to see them creating their own characters and stories- watch this space for the Dickens, the Shakespeare, the Roald Dahl and the Julia Donaldson's of the future.

Miss Bebbington has been hard at work with our Y10 students who have participated in the OAT STEM CHALLENGE and the STEM Olympics...



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On 24th Feb at Keele University, 7 of our Y10 students learned about renewable energy resources like solar and wind power.

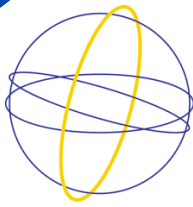
The STEM Olympics take place on Thursday 5th March. This event sees the 5 highest performing science students competing against other schools in Staffordshire on a range of different STEM based tasks. We have everything crossed for our representatives and challengers.

In January we sent 6 of our fantastic female footballers to an event entitled Your Game, Your Plan at the University of Staffordshire. The rationale for the day was “Empowering girls in football” and 6 of our talented female footballers thoroughly enjoyed the experience.

On Wednesday 11th February, Year 10 French students visited Stafford Grammar School to take part in a Languages and Careers Day themed around the Intelligence Services.

Students had an excellent and enriching day, working collaboratively with peers from other schools while learning how languages, code-breaking, and analytical skills are used to help keep countries safe from a range of threats. They also gained insight into how different international agencies cooperate to address global challenges.

As part of the GCSE History Around Us, Mr Daley-Cresswell, Miss Derbyshire, Mrs Rice, Mrs Bicketon and Miss Bramwell had the pleasure of taking our Y11 students to Gladstone Pottery Museum. 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.



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They asked perceptive and interesting questions and actively immersed themselves in our local history.

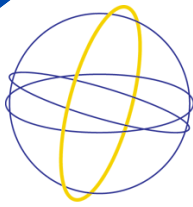
From tracing the footsteps of teenage mould runners, to exploring what a 'saggar maker's bottom knocker' did, it was a fantastic experience for all. Y11 historians will now continue with their preparation for the History Around Us GCSE examination during curriculum time, through revision masterclasses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

Y11 showcased flawless manners and represented the Academy positively as is the feedback we always receive.

Talking of Y11, they are about to enter the GCSE Exam season following their final mocks which took place in January. We wish them all the very best as Art exams and Languages speaking exams begin immediately after Easter and then they start their written exams in May. Show what you know Y11!

Future Pathways: Mrs Latham took 5 of our Year 11 boys for a Post 16 visit to Burslem College on 14th January 2026 to have a look around their facilities. Future pathways, further education and next steps are at the fore front of everyone's mind at the moment as it is a crucially pivotal time for our Y11.

The Y9 Options process has begun and students have submitted their forms which will shape their KS4 journey and lead them to a vast array of future pathways, careers and further education opportunities. To support them as they move from KS3 to KS4 and to encourage and embed great learning habits, they have participated in a Revision Skills Day this half term delivered by the academy leadership team which



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saw a range of revision tools and techniques modelled and practised so they have tried and tested strategies for use in their option lessons and of course as part of their independent learning. Good luck into KS4 Y9.

Mr Watt reports that 15 Year 9 students are currently involved in the Brilliant Club tutorials with an external provider and encountering learning around a university based topic with an actual university lecturer. Their commitment, positivity and ambition is impressing all involved. Well done the Brilliant Club!

A selection of our student leaders have visited and participated in the '6 Towns, 1 Voice Conference' at Stoke College. This is where young people across the City of Stoke-on-Trent get together to talk about how we can improve the local area. They have certainly ensured their voices were heard and we are very proud of how they conducted themselves and engage in this democratic process.

I am sure you will agree that as well as the lessons, societies, P6's, sporting events and the wrap around care and personal development our students can access, it has been a pretty busy term! We are already excited for the residentials, the trips to Normandy and Paris and the D of E expeditions that we know are coming up in the Summer term. Not to mention AR3, the Y9 ROA's, Option decisions and the Y10 Mocks.

I hope you all have a fabulous Easter Break and return with vim, vigour and vitality for the Summer term,

Kind regards, Mrs Falamarzi

COMMUNITY BOOKCASE



Ormiston

Meridian Academy

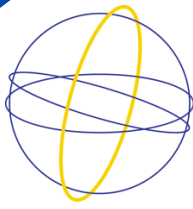
Shaping Lives | Building Ambition | Igniting Futures

FREE BOOKS!

Take home a book today from our community bookcase. We have a variety of genres and age ranges available.



FIND THE COMMUNITY BOOKCASE IN THE WAITING ROOM NEXT TO RECEPTION.



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Important Dates and Events



What: Inset day

When: 13th April

School open for students Tuesday 14th April

What: Bank Holiday

When: 4th May

School open for students Tuesday 5th May

What: May Half Term

When: 25th-20th May

School open for students Monday 1st June





Year 7 Top Ten Equipment

As a student at Ormiston Meridian Academy, you are expected to attend your lesson with the following 'TopTen' items:

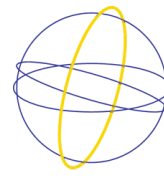
1 black pen x 2	2 red pen x 2	3 pencil x 2	4 rubber	5 whiteboard pen
6 scientific calculator	7 highlighter	8 reading book & timetable	9 plastic refillable bottle	10 ruler

Years 8-11 Top Ten Equipment

As a student at Ormiston Meridian Academy, you are expected to attend your lesson with the following 'TopTen' items:

1 black pen x 2	2 red pen x 2	3 pencil x 2	4 rubber	5 whiteboard pen
6 scientific calculator	7 highlighter	8 timetable	9 plastic refillable bottle	10 ruler

Uniform Checklist



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Getting it Right....



Getting it Right....



GETTING IT RIGHT MEANS:

You respect the school
You are part of a team

You will get praise from your teachers
Visitors will think you are a good student

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You respect the school
You are part of a team

You will get praise from your teachers
Visitors will think you are a good student

Performance Kit Expectations

Male students compulsory kit includes:

an academy branded round neck t-shirt, academy branded shorts, plain black football socks, trainers and football boots.

Optional kit includes:

an academy branded quarter zip mid-layer, academy branded tracksuit bottoms, and plain black trainer socks.

Female students compulsory kit includes:

an academy branded round neck t-shirt or an academy branded polo shirt, academy branded shorts, hair bobble, plain black football socks, trainers and football boots.

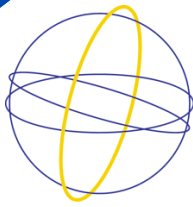
Optional kit includes:

an academy branded quarter zip mid-layer, academy branded leggings, and plain black trainer socks.

If you choose to wear non-academy branded kit from an alternative retailer, you must ensure that this is **plain black** with **no logos**.

If students are not fit or well enough to take part physically in PE, they are still expected to bring their full performance kit to take part in an officiating or coaching capacity.





NEWS AND EVENTS

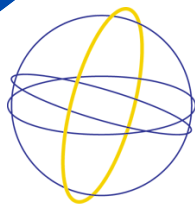
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Easter Science Competition

What is it?

Make a Scientific poster of a topic you have learnt about so far this year in Science. This can be any topic you like and doesn't have to be just information you have been taught, you can do your own research to get more exciting information.





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Easter Science Competition

Who can get involved?

Everyone! The competition is open to all year groups.

When is the deadline?

Tuesday 19th April (first day back from Easter) to Miss Bebbington in F38 and the winner will be announced on Wednesday 20th April. Bebbington for more information.

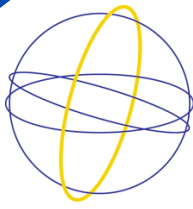
What is the point?

This is a great opportunity to revise topics you have already learnt. It also gives you a chance to find out new information about a topic you have enjoyed and obviously to win prizes!!!

The winners will be displayed around the school and there will be chocolates, house points and maybe even an amazon voucher or two!

Speak to your Science teacher or Miss Bebbington for more information.





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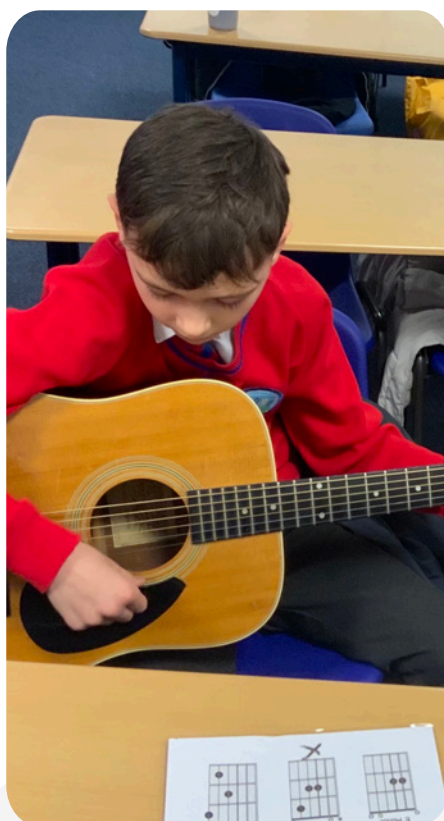
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Music Transition Day

The music transition event was held on, 6th February 2026. We welcomed 60 Year 4 pupils from Park Hall Primary for a morning of music and fun!

The students took part in two sessions led by Mr Jones and myself, where they developed their keyboard skills and vocal confidence. Over the course of the morning, they learned how to perform a four-chord song on the keyboards while singing along.

Mr Hurdley and Mr Jones





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HAIL 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...

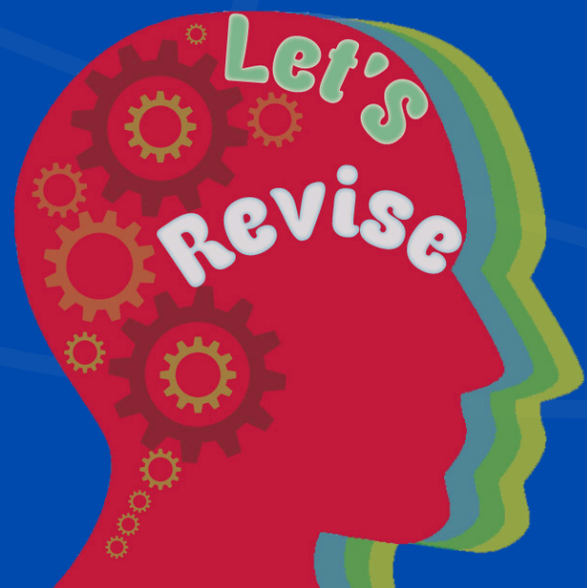
Monday-Thursday

All are welcome.
Just turn up, no need to book.

🕒 **1.25 - 2.10 PM**

🕒 **3.15 - 4.15 PM**

📍 **F15 Library**



What Parents & Educators Need to Know about

ROBLOX



Roblox is one of the most popular video games among children. In 2020, the game's developers claimed that more than half of the USA's children had played it. As a 'sandbox' title, the game lets players create their own gaming experiences with Roblox Studio to build custom levels, which can then be shared online.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

ONLINE PLAY RISKS

Because Roblox connects random players across the world, it can put younger players into an environment with anonymous users who could use the platform for nefarious reasons. For example, some role-play games are used for online dates and mature role play, which could expose youngsters to inappropriate messages in the public chat box.

MATURE CONTENT

Content is difficult to moderate throughout Roblox, due to the number of games available. This is particularly notable on smaller games and experiences, but in summary, some of the games and experiences offered on the platform contain age-inappropriate content that could easily be seen by young players.

IN-GAME SPENDING

The majority of games within Roblox have extensive monetisation options, usually through season passes or microtransactions. Purchases can range in value from a few pennies up to much larger sums of money. While some games offer a lot of content via purchases, others can offer very little for real world money, causing younger players to end up out of pocket.

ANONYMOUS PLAYERS

The anonymity of users can leave players vulnerable to bullying, harassment, and predatory behaviour. Without the right parental controls or monitoring, users can connect with each other via personal messages or friend requests, and it is very difficult to know who's behind a username in this vast online world.

RISK OF ADDICTION

Roblox games can feature rewarding or satisfying mechanics that keep players coming back – or persuade them to stay logged-in for much longer. Like most games, they focus on interactivity, with constant rewards via in-game unlocks and currencies, which can sometimes lead to an addictive need to remain online for long periods of time.

SCAMS

Many of the games on Roblox feature collectible items, pets, or characters. These objects, while digital, are worth a lot of real money on certain online markets. Scammers will attempt to trade with younger users in the hopes of getting rare items that can be sold for real money, manipulating the child into handing them over, usually via misleading information.

Advice for Parents & Educators

MONITOR THE CONTENT

While Roblox does implement plenty of moderation tools and parental controls, it's up to parents and guardians to monitor the types of games a child or impressionable player is experiencing. If a youngster wants to play Roblox, be sure to check out which specific games they want to play within it, and get a good idea of their content.

TAKE ADVANTAGE OF TOOLS

Use the parental controls within the game itself and teach youngsters how to report and block other players. Knowing the powers within their reach will make Roblox a safer, happier experience. You can set age ranges for who's allowed to contact you, close public chat boxes, block spending, and even make your Roblox profile completely private. All these options are helpful in cutting off bad actors from engaging with children.

PLAY TOGETHER

Consider playing Roblox with the children in your care. There are few more effective ways to see how monetisation works, gauge whether the game could lead to addictive behaviours, or even witness how interaction between players works, than sitting down and trying the game for yourself. This should help you figure out whether it's suitable for particular children.

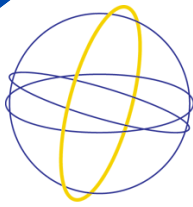
TEACH ONLINE BEHAVIOURS

Have an open conversation about the risks of online play and how to spend money wisely. By being honest and giving tips on how a younger user can protect themselves, you can empower them to not only take care of themselves, but others too. Any user can be reported to Roblox moderators by other players for behaving inappropriately. With this knowledge, younger players can be aware of what to look for and help prevent it.

Meet Our Expert

Dan Lipscombe is a videogame journalist and author of over 20 books on gaming, including books on Minecraft, Fortnite, Roblox, and more. For 15 years he has been writing about his passion for gaming. When he's not playing games, he's talking about them at GAMINGbible.





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STEM Project

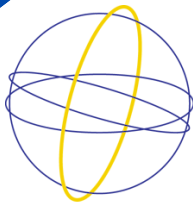
In February, seven Y10 students, represented the academy in a STEM project against other OAT schools. They attended the project launch day at Keele, where they have learnt about renewable energy resources, their benefits and drawbacks.

They are spending the next 6 school weeks designing their own self-sufficient weather station using renewable energies like solar and wind. Next, they have to identify an area that it could be built in, doing a cost-benefit analysis compared to a second location, plan what resources they will use and the potential financial and environmental consequences.

Finally, we took our 6 OAT STEM Challenge students to Harper Adams. They learnt about the engineering process, reducing errors in data and even how to change a tyre. We changed the inputs on a 'statapult' to see how it affected the trajectory of the ball (Jack, Enzo and Sam managed the impossible task of finding what settings would throw the ball set distances!) and then we got to race against the clock to change the tyre of a rally car (Victor getting the best time of 1 minute 2 seconds!!).

Miss Bebbington





NEWS AND EVENTS



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STEM Week Science Week Core Time Challenges

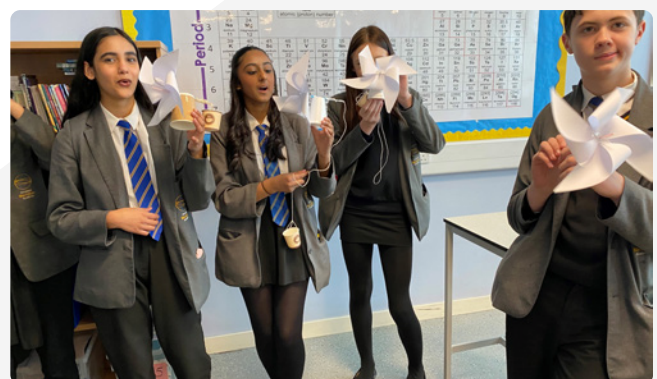
Two champions from each Y7 and Y8 forms completed 2 STEM challenges. The first was building a boat out of tin foil to hold as much weight as possible before sinking.

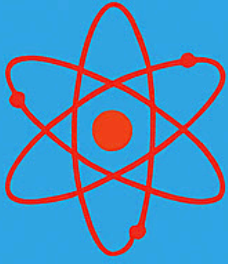
The Y7 winning house for the boats was Bridgewater with 320g, and the Y8 winners was Simmons with 310g. Y9 winners were 9G2 who stormed ahead with an amazing 580g!!! 9B2 followed second with 480g and 9Y1 came third with 430g.

In addition to the Tin Foil Boat Challenge we explored the science of surface tension in our 'Penny Challenge'. With a steady hand and perfect pipette skills, students from each house were set the task of adding as many drops of water to a penny without the surface tension breaking.

The winner of the penny challenge was Faizah from year 9, representing Turing, with 54 drops!!

Finally, students learnt about alternative energy sources and how we could make the blades of wind turbines more efficient. They designed their blades and built a turbine to lift a paper cup.





STEM CLUB

**HAND-ON LEARNING
& PROBLEM SOLVING!**



**DEVELOP SKILLS
EMPLOYERS WANT!**



**LINK TO STEM
CAREERS!**



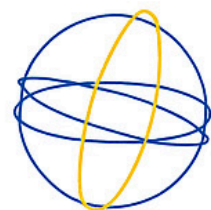
**ACHIEVE HIGHER
OUTCOMES AT GCSE'S
& IN LATER LIFE**

WEDNESDAYS

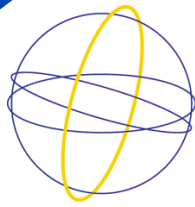
WEEK A Y7&8

WEEK B Y9&10

3:15PM-4:15PM



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Academy



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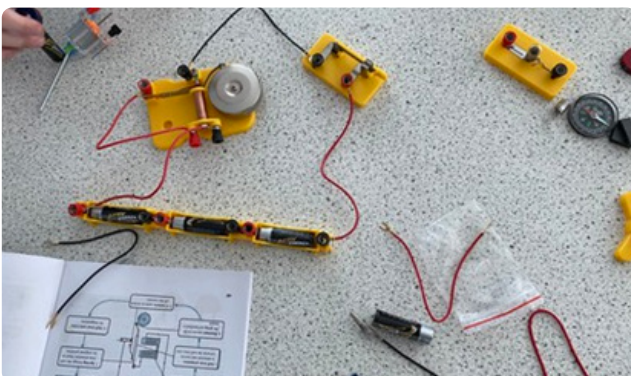
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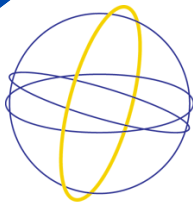
STEM Club

In STEM Club with Mrs Bebbington, the students were learning about structures. The students were given paper and Cellotape and tasked to build a bridge to support as many masses as possible! As you can see, the engineering was brilliant, with the winning bridge holding 4.92kg!



Students became electrical engineers during STEM club. They made circuits with buzzers, bulbs and motors, discovering how different types of circuits affect the components in them. They then each made their own electromagnets and competed to see who could pick up the most paperclips in one go, with the winner picking up 13!





NEWS AND EVENTS

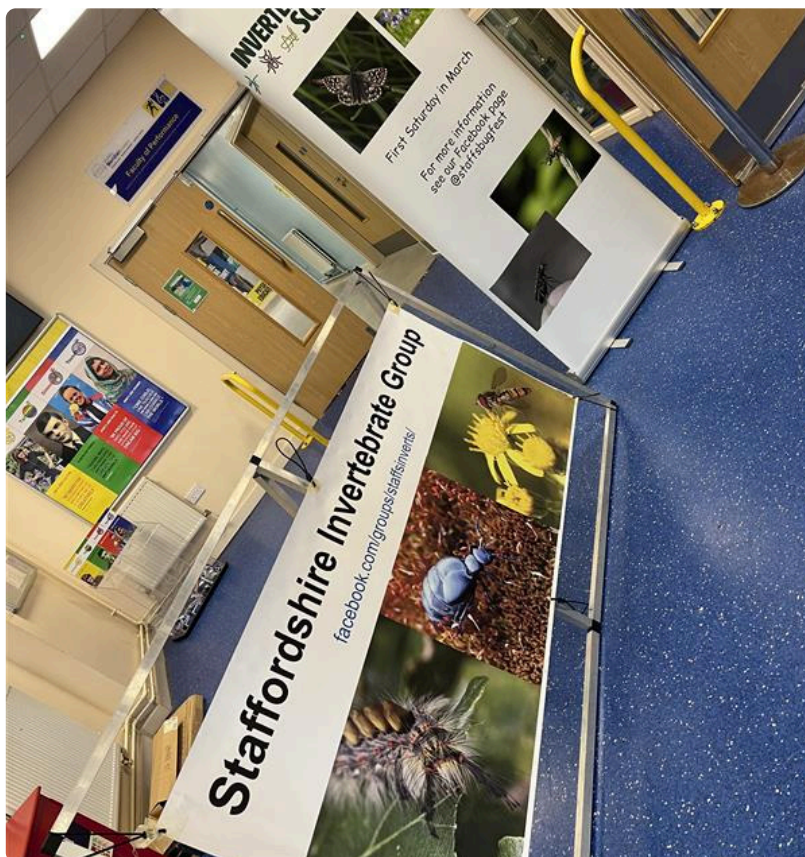


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Staffordshire Invertebrate Science Fair

A huge thanks to Miss C Williams for hosting the Staffordshire Invertebrate Science Fair at OMERA this weekend! With interactive displays from the University of Derby, University of Staffordshire, University of Chester, University of Reading, Keele and Harper Adams University, the Royal Entomological Society and the Beaver conservation team at Trentham there was so much to do and see!

The series of academic lectures will also be recorded to be viewed in school in a series of STEM lunchtime sessions! The perfect start to Science week!



Stay Safe on TikTok!

A Guide to Keeping Children Safe Online



Keep Accounts Private

Turn on Private Account in settings
Only allow friends to view videos
Approve followers manually



Only Connect With People You Know

Never accept requests from strangers
Avoid chatting with people you haven't met in real life



Use Family Pairing

Parents can link their account to their child's account. This allows them to manage messages, searches, images and more



Think Before You Post

No sharing:
school uniform, home address
phone number, personal details



Avoid Trends & Challenges That Seem Dangerous

If it looks risky, skip it
Some challenges can cause real harm



Talk to a Trusted Adult

If something feels wrong
If someone online is unkind
If you're unsure about a message or comment

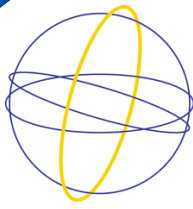


Know How to Report & Block



Stay Smart. Stay Kind. Stay Safe!

Stay Smart. Stay Kind. Stay Safe!



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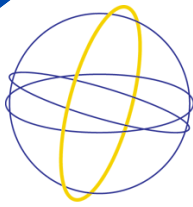
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University Spotlight University of Glasgow

"Glasgow is one of the oldest, and regarded as one of the most prestigious, universities in the English-speaking world. Founded in 1451, it is the fourth oldest university in the United Kingdom."

For this edition of our 'University in Focus', we are crossing the border! The University of Glasgow is one of the oldest, and regarded as one of the most prestigious, universities in the English-speaking world. Founded in 1451, it is the fourth oldest university in the United Kingdom. Over more than five and a half centuries, Glasgow has grown from a small medieval institution to a major research-led university with a global reputation for teaching and innovation.





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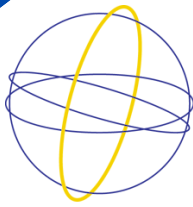
University Spotlight University of Glasgow

Originally situated on Glasgow's High Street, the university gradually outgrew its historic location. In the late 19th century, it began relocating to the Gilmorehill campus in the West End of the city, where its iconic Gothic revival architecture now dominates the skyline. A notable campus landmark, the Memorial Gates, was erected in 1952 to mark the institution's quincentenary and celebrates distinguished figures associated with Glasgow's long history.

The modern University of Glasgow is a comprehensive institution offering a wide range of undergraduate, postgraduate, and research programmes spanning the arts, sciences, engineering, health professions, business, and social sciences. Glasgow is a proud member of the Russell Group, a UK association of leading research universities, and is regularly placed in the world's top 100 universities in global rankings, and is ranked as number one in Scotland across a range of categories.



University
of Glasgow



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University Spotlight University of Glasgow

Glasgow has also been a progressive force: in 1837 James McCune Smith became the first African-American to earn a medical degree, having been denied entry to American universities because of racial discrimination.

Glasgow's academic structure covers hundreds of degree programmes across numerous fields. Undergraduate degrees include traditional arts and sciences subjects such as History, Classics, and Chemistry, as well as professional and technical programmes like Aeronautical Engineering, Medicine, Law, and Veterinary Medicine & Surgery. Glasgow also supports a vibrant study abroad and exchange programme, connecting students with institutions worldwide.

Glasgow's alumni community extends across the globe and includes influential figures in politics, science, literature, and the arts. They include: Katherine J Grainger (MPhil 2001) Olympic Gold medallist, London 2012, and Nicola Sturgeon, First Minister of Scotland.

The university's contributions to science are highlighted by figures such as Lord Kelvin, a pioneering physicist; John Logie Baird, inventor of the television; and several Nobel laureates, including Sir David MacMillan, who won the Nobel Prize in Chemistry in 2021.

The University of Glasgow combines centuries of tradition with forward-looking scholarship. Its historic foundations and modern global outlook make it a dynamic environment that continues to influence academia, culture, and society worldwide.



FREE STREET CRICKET



CHANCE TO SHINE
Spreading the power of cricket

WHERE:

Ormiston Meridian
Academy
Sandon
Stoke on Trent
ST3 7DF

WHEN:

Fridays
3:30pm until
4:30pm



Ages 8-14

All abilities welcome

CONTACT:

Rich Adams

Tel: 07765 240695

r.adams@staffordshirecricket.co.uk



**STAFFORDSHIRE
CRICKET**

Origami Society

Who?
Miss Shaw and Miss Rowley

Where?
S59

Why?
Learn a new skill, enjoy mindful craft,
learn about Japanese culture

When?
Fridays WEEK B



Anything else?

Miss Shaw might teach you a
little bit of Japanese if you want
to learn the language!

**ORIGAMI
.CLUB**

Debate Society

Do you enjoy debating?
Do you like to voice your opinion?
Do you enjoy hearing other people's points
of view?

Then debate society is just the place.

**Every Thursday Week A in S62
3:15pm-4:15pm with Mrs Sims**

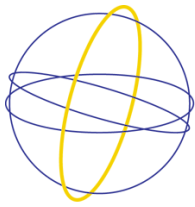
We will hold topical, humorous and fun
debates each fortnight.

How does this lead to a career?

If you are thinking of becoming a lawyer, barrister, a politician, a journalist or a broadcaster
(just to name a few) this could be just the place for you!

Maybe you want to improve your debating skills?
Develop your confidence or oracy skills or learn something new.
This is the society to do all of those things and more!





READING AND THE LIBRARY

I hope you are looking forward to a well deserved rest over the holidays.

I would like to start by reminding you all of our Academy Community Bookcase.

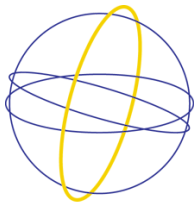
This can be found in the waiting room, off reception and can be accessed by students and the public. We have wide range of books from babies to adults. Many are brand new and have been donated by our friends at The National Literacy Trust.

All are free for you to take away at no cost and with no expectation for you to return the book.

We hope you take this opportunity to read for pleasure with your family, outside of the academy and share your love of reading.

"Did you know we have laptops you can use to complete HAIL, with support from Mrs Martin, during lunch and after school...?"





READING AND THE LIBRARY

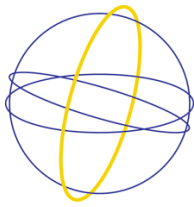
This term, we have been very busy in the Library, in January we explored the world of STEM. Experimenting with Science and exploring technology.

February was a time for love, showing self love with Children's Mental Health week and love for others with St Valentine's Day.

In March we had World Book Day 2026, with a week of Literacy based activities. More information in this issue.

Finally this month we are focusing on the World of Work, looking at different careers and celebrating International Women's week.





READING AND THE LIBRARY

Looking for something to do after school?

Come to the library and explore our Spring display with books on new life, plants and animal life. Take out any book from this display and receive double stamps on your library loyalty cards.

10

10 Stamps

Bookmark

20

20 Stamps

Bronze certificate & pin badge

30

30 Stamps

Silver certificate & pin badge

40

40 Stamps

Gold certificate & pin badge

50

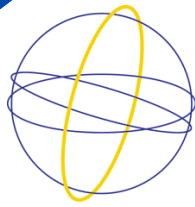
50 Stamps

Platinum certificate & pin badge

Next half term, we are supporting our Y11 students during their GCSE's with Revision Month, celebrating during Pride Month and finally competing in the OMER A Reading Race.

I hope you all have a fantastic Easter break and I look forward to seeing you all in the library after the holidays.





NEWS AND EVENTS



Ormiston Meridian Academy newsletter made for students and parents/carers

Stoke 100 Reads Launch

On Tuesday, 3rd March, Mrs Martin attended the Stoke 100 Reads launch on behalf of Ormiston Meridian Academy at City Central Library, Hanley.

Our academy contributed to the Stoke 100 Reads list for secondary schools by students working with the National Literacy Trust and recommending their favourite books.

The Stoke 100 Reads list will be available in the Community Bookcase area and academy library for all to explore!

Please see below more details from Stoke-on-Trent library.

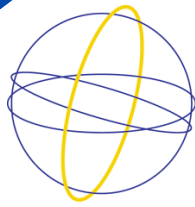
Stoke-on-Trent's favourite children's books have been revealed after more than 3,300 submissions from people across the city.

The city's library service has launched two Stoke 100 Reads book lists, created in partnership with the National Literacy Trust from 3,317 recommendations gathered during last year's Centenary celebrations.

By putting local recommendations at the heart of Stoke 100 Reads, the libraries aim to help more children discover books they genuinely enjoy.

Suggestions were made by children and families, teachers, librarians and speech and language professionals.

Overall, 3,317 votes were received which has helped shape the two lists: A primary list (children aged 0-5 & 6-11) and a secondary list (children aged 11-16).



NEWS AND EVENTS



Ormiston Meridian Academy newsletter made for students and parents/carers

Stoke 100 Reads Launch

They contain diverse books and cover a wide range of genres, including action, horror, romance and fantasy. There is also space for poetry, nonfiction and graphic novels.

This comes as this year has been designated the National Year of Reading, which is encouraging people of all ages to fall back in love with reading.

The lists were launched on Tuesday 3 March at the City Central Library in Hanley and resources will be made available in the city's libraries.

The project - made possible through funding from Arts Council England - has already made an impact. As part of the nomination process, schools across the city took part in classroom challenges. In one class, a pupil receiving extra support with early reading began reading comics at home with a family member and grew in confidence as a result.

Lois Bateman, Manager for the National Literacy Trust in Stoke-on-Trent, said: "Reading for pleasure is one of the most important indicators of a child's future success, however we know that it is currently at crisis point in the UK. By creating a beautifully designed book list which has been made by Stokies, for Stokies, we hope to encourage more children to pick up a book and immerse themselves in a world of stories."

To see the full lists, visit:

<https://www.stoke.gov.uk/stoke100reads>



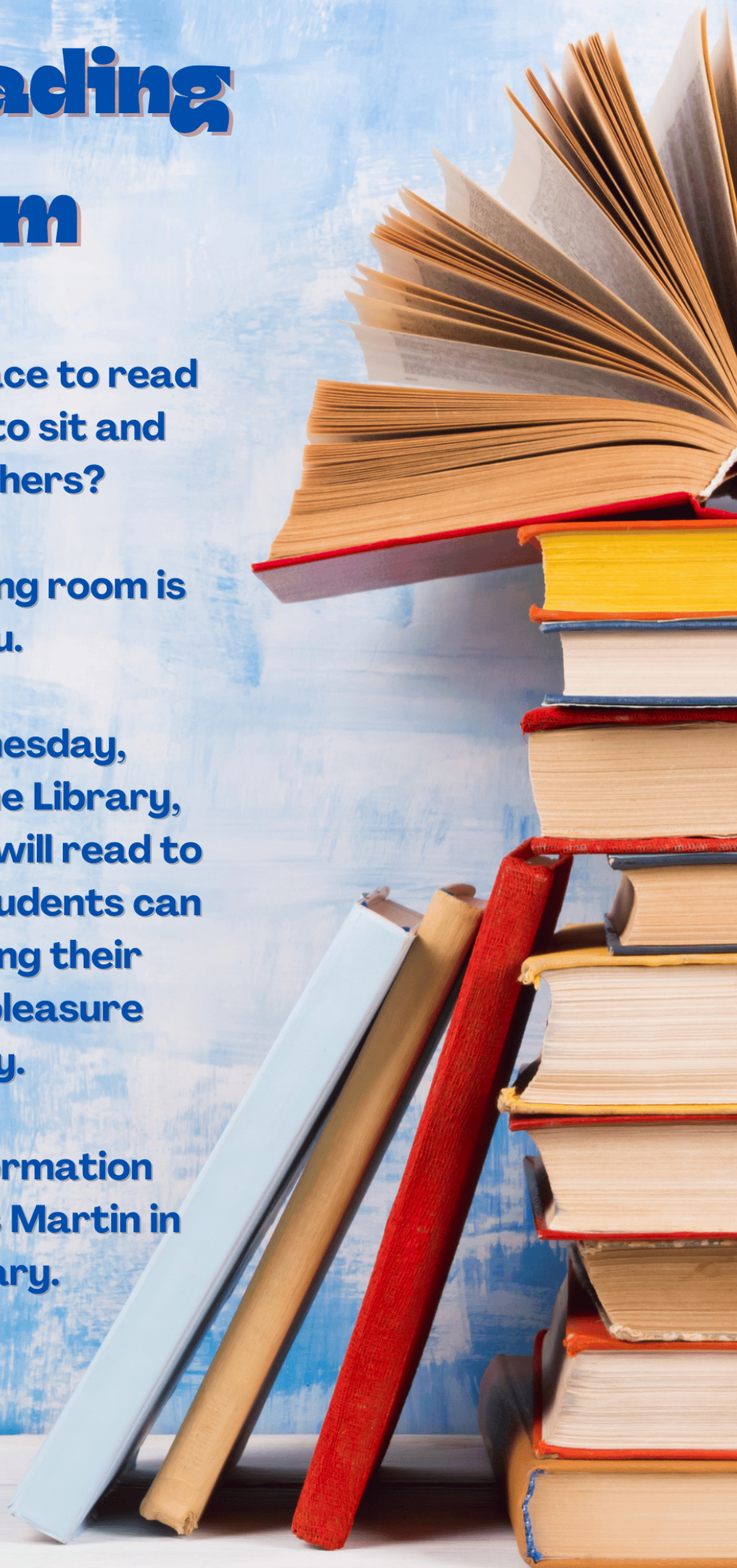
The Reading Room

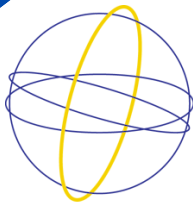
**Need a quiet place to read
or do you like to sit and
listen to others?**

**Then the reading room is
for you.**

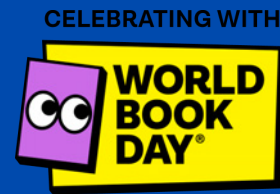
**Every Wednesday,
lunchtime, in the Library,
staff members will read to
students and students can
enjoy exploring their
reading for pleasure
journey.**

**For more information
please see Mrs Martin in
the Library.**





NEWS AND EVENTS



Ormiston Meridian Academy newsletter made for students and parents/carers

World Book Day

Thursday, March 5th was World Book Day and what a wonderful day it was!

Staff and students dressed up as their favourite book characters.

Key stage 3 students participated in a range of lessons linked to reading.

We had competitions in the Library at lunch time and announced the winners of the students' fancy dress.

Alongside all of this fun we joined the OAT competition of creating a character potato, we were thrilled the entries and everyone's time and effort! Overall a great day was had by all to promote our love of reading, we can't wait for next year!





Ormiston

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BRILLIANT BOOK SOCIETY

**National
Literacy
Trust**

Love reading?

Change your story

Want to make friends and discover new books?

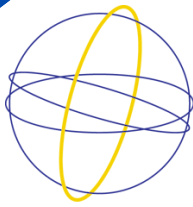
Then come and join us in the library...

**Monday and Wednesday
3.15 - 4.15pm.**

All years are welcome.

See Mrs Martin for a permission slip.





NEWS AND EVENTS

World of Work
Igniting Futures



Ormiston Meridian Academy newsletter made for students and parents/carers

Careers Education in CORE

Careers Programme Review (Jan–Feb 2026)

Over the first half of the spring term, students took part in a series of Careers activities designed to help them understand the world of work and build the personal skills they will need in future employment.

Across the term, students practiced communication, teamwork, timekeeping, confidence, resilience and problem solving. Teachers also linked these weekly themes to subjects in the curriculum, helping students see how classroom learning connects to real careers.

What the term included:

IT, Digital and Data

Students learned about keeping a positive online reputation and using appropriate professional language online (e.g., using “Dear Mr Smith” instead of informal greetings).

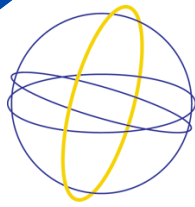
Estates and Facilities

This week encouraged teamwork and practical problem solving, showing students the importance of working well with others in hands-on professions.



Employer Competency Framework for Skills

Characteristic	Description
 Time Management	Being punctual and productive
 Communication	Sharing information effectively
 Resilience	Recovering quickly from difficulties
 Can-Do Attitude	Willingness to learn new tasks
 Self-Awareness	Reflecting on strengths and weaknesses
 Honesty	Taking responsibility for actions
 Positivity	Optimistic when facing adversity
 Confidence	Trusting in your abilities
 Teamwork	Adapting to meet team needs
 Problem-solving	Analysing situations to identify problems



NEWS AND EVENTS

World of Work
Igniting Futures



Ormiston Meridian Academy newsletter made for students and parents/carers

Careers Education in CORE

Ambulance Services

Students explored why punctuality, listening skills and calm communication are essential in emergency roles.

HR, Business and Finance

This theme highlighted leadership, teamwork and resilience—skills that support success in a wide range of office-based and business careers

Healthcare Support Worker

Students discussed appropriate dress, hygiene and tone of voice—important behaviours when working with the public or in caring professions.

What you could do to help:

You can support your child's careers learning by talking with them about punctuality, online behaviour and respectful communication. Encouraging them to notice how what they learn in school connects to real jobs can also make a big difference to their confidence and understanding of the world of work.

Mr Temple



Employer Competency Framework for Skills

Characteristic	Description
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 Positivity	Optimistic when facing adversity
 Confidence	Trusting in your abilities
 Teamwork	Adapting to meet team needs
 Problem-solving	Analysing situations to identify problems

Faith & Craft Club

A quiet space to reflect on your faith or to learn about other beliefs.



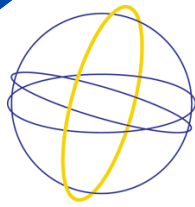
A chance to practise mindfulness along with arts and crafts.

A look at upcoming festivals and how they are celebrated.



*Every Week B
Wednesday
Lunch in S24*





NEWS AND EVENTS



Ormiston Meridian Academy newsletter made for students and parents/carers

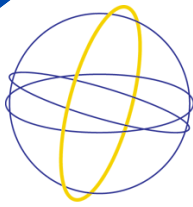
Drama and Dance London Visit

The Drama and Dance departments enjoyed an unforgettable residential trip to London in February, taking a group of enthusiastic KS4 students on a truly dazzling West End adventure packed with creativity, culture and unforgettable experiences.

We began our adventure at professional dance studios on Bond Street, where students took part in an exciting workshop inspired by the world-famous musical *The Lion King*. Led by industry professionals, the workshop allowed pupils to explore the choreography, storytelling, and physicality behind one of the West End's most iconic productions. The energy in the room was incredible, and the students rose to the challenge with enthusiasm and talent.

After an inspiring start, we headed to our hotel to check in and freshen up before enjoying a delicious meal together at Bella Italia. Spirits were high as we then made our way to the iconic Lyceum theatre for the evening performance of *The Lion King* brought spectacularly to life on stage. The production was truly breathtaking – from the stunning costumes and innovative puppetry to the powerful performances and unforgettable music. It was a magical experience and undoubtedly a highlight of the residential trip.





NEWS AND EVENTS



Ormiston Meridian Academy newsletter made for students and parents/carers

Drama and Dance London Visit

The following day, we visited the historic Theatre Royal, Drury Lane for a brilliant backstage tour. Students were fascinated to explore behind the scenes and learn about the theatre's rich history, stagecraft and technical elements that bring productions to life. It was an incredible opportunity to see what happens beyond the curtain and deepened everyone's appreciation for live theatre.

To round off our trip, we explored the world-renowned Natural History Museum. From impressive dinosaur skeletons to fascinating scientific exhibits, there was so much to discover. It was the perfect way to end an amazing two days in the capital.

The entire residential experience was fantastic from start to finish—packed with learning, laughter, and unforgettable moments. Our students represented the school brilliantly embracing every opportunity with enthusiasm. We can't wait for the next adventure!



What Parents & Educators Need to Know about WHATSAPP

AGE RESTRICTION
13+

WhatsApp is a free messaging app owned by Meta, allowing users to send text and voice messages, share multimedia, make video calls, and chat in groups. With end-to-end encryption, only the sender and receiver can view messages. This may offer privacy, but it also comes with risks that parents and educators need to be aware of.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

GROUP CHAT PRESSURES

Group chats enable multiple users to message in the same space, but this can also make it easier for young people to feel excluded or overwhelmed. Negative comments can escalate quickly, and young people may feel pressure to respond or stay engaged even when the conversation is uncomfortable or upsetting.

SCAMS TARGETING YOUNG USERS

Scammers are increasingly using WhatsApp to trick users into sharing personal information. Common scams include fraudsters posing as family members in an emergency or tricking users into revealing security codes. These can lead to identity theft or access to private conversations.

DISAPPEARING AND HIDDEN MESSAGES

WhatsApp offers features like disappearing messages and 'Chat Lock', which can give users a false sense of security. While intended to protect privacy, they can be used by young users to hide inappropriate conversations or content, making it harder for adults to spot potential issues.

EXPOSURE THROUGH CHANNELS

'Channels' are an optional feature that allows users to follow updates from public figures or organisations; however, there is no way to block this feature or filter its content by age. Young users may encounter adult or distressing content, including misinformation and harmful ideologies.

UNWANTED CONTACT AND LOCATION SHARING

WhatsApp users can share their live location, and if not managed carefully, this can allow others – even those in mutual groups – to track someone's whereabouts. Also, without the right privacy settings, young users may be contacted by strangers.

COMMERCIAL AND AI CONTENT

WhatsApp now includes ads in the 'Updates' feed and has introduced an AI assistant – Meta AI – across the app, which cannot be removed. These additions raise concerns about targeting, privacy, AI use, and the type of content children and young people might interact with.

...ONLINE...

Advice for Parents & Educators

REVIEW PRIVACY SETTINGS TOGETHER

Help young users check who can see their profile photo, status, and location. Activate the 'Silence Unknown Callers' setting and set group chat invitations to 'My Contacts' or 'My Contacts Except...' for added safety.

BE OPEN ABOUT HIDDEN CHATS

Discuss why children and young people might use features like disappearing messages or 'Chat Lock'. Encourage them to share if something made them uncomfortable, even if the messages are gone. Let them know that privacy should not mean secrecy.

TEACH HOW TO SPOT SCAMS

Encourage caution around unusual and unexpected messages, especially if they involve money or codes. Help young users understand the signs of scams and what to do if they receive a suspicious message. Enable two-step verification to add an extra layer of protection.

TALK ABOUT ADVERTISING AND AI

Explain that WhatsApp now includes ads and AI tools. Discuss the difference between genuine and sponsored content, and the potential for AI to share inaccurate or age-inappropriate responses. Encourage young users to think critically before trusting or interacting with these features.

Meet Our Expert

Dr Claire Sutherland is an online safety consultant, educator and researcher who has developed and implemented anti-bullying and cyber safety policies for schools. She has written various academic papers and carried out research for the Australian Government comparing internet use and sexting behaviour of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College

See full reference list on our website

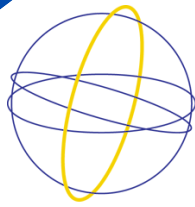
@wake_up_weds

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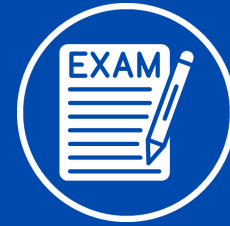
@wake.up.wednesday

@wake.up.weds

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NEWS AND EVENTS



Ormiston Meridian Academy newsletter made for students and parents/carers

Achievement Navigating the Exam Season

Whether it be a Learning Checkpoint, a BTEC Set Assignment, an Assessment Round, or a formal qualification exam, tests can cause worry and stress in young people. As parents and carers, it can be difficult to know what you can do to support your child. As the Summer GCSE and BTEC exam season is rapidly approaching, and as Year 10 students will start to prepare for their Common OAT Assessments taking place in April, I'd like to share some tips on supporting your child if they're feeling stressed about exams.

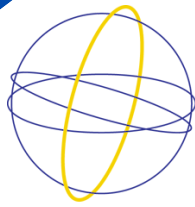
Look for signs of stress:

Stress can present itself differently in everyone. Signs of stress could include a change in eating and sleeping patterns, being irritable, having headaches or stomach aches, being negative about school, feeling hopeless, or withdrawing from activities they once enjoyed.

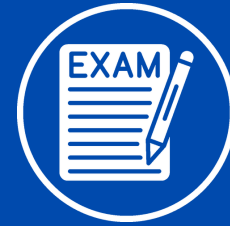
Talk about stress and nerves:

Remind your child that it's perfectly normal to feel worried or stressed about their exams. The key is to put these nerves to positive use. Talk openly about how you cope with your own stressful situations, so your child has a positive role model for managing their emotions and time. Being well prepared for your exams is the best way to overcome stress and anxiety.





NEWS AND EVENTS



Ormiston Meridian Academy newsletter made for students and parents/carers

Achievement Navigating the Exam Season

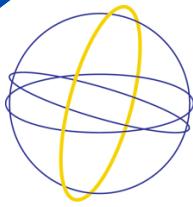
Support your child to create a routine:

Routines and rituals can help your child to keep healthy habits, and can help you ensure your child is getting enough sleep and eating well. If they haven't already, encourage your child to create a revision plan or timetable, splitting their day up into chunks. Your child's class teacher will also be able to support with this. Encourage them to take regular breaks - which they could use to have a meal, get some exercise or unwind - and try to discourage them from staying up late revising.

Try not to add to the pressure:

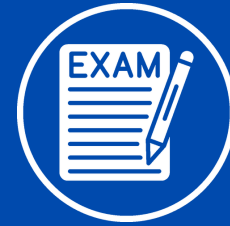
The support group, Childline, states that many children who contact them feel that most pressure at exam time comes from their family. Try not to add to this pressure. Be reassuring, positive, and help put things into perspective. After each exam, encourage your child to talk it through with you. Discuss the parts that went well rather than focusing on the questions they found difficult. Then move on and focus on the next test, rather than dwelling on things that cannot be changed. Remind them that their results don't define who they are. Reassure them you will be proud of them 'no matter what'.





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NEWS AND EVENTS



Ormiston Meridian Academy newsletter made for
students and parents/carers

Achievement Navigating the Exam Season

If you're concerned about your child, or find they don't want to talk to you, encourage them to seek help from our academy staff.

From Heads of Year to form tutors, SLT to class teachers, pastoral staff to support staff, we have a remarkable number of staff available to support your child with exam-related worry and stress.

Please contact us via Arbor, email, or a make telephone call to reception and we will guide you and your child through the next steps.



Arbor





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CRICKET SOCIETY



Who?

All levels of experience and ages groups welcome!

When?

Wednesday 3.15 - 4.15pm.

Where?

In the Sports Hall.

Please see Miss Gregory for more details.





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LANGUAGES & **BUSINESS** DAY

On Wednesday 11th February, Year 10 French students visited Stafford Grammar School to take part in a Languages and Careers Day themed around the Intelligence Services.



Students had an excellent and enriching day, working collaboratively with peers from other schools while learning how languages, codebreaking, and analytical skills are used to help keep countries safe from a range of threats.

They also gained insight into how different international agencies cooperate to address global challenges.

Through a series of engaging, detective style activities, students were tasked with intercepting a stolen diamond and locating a kidnapped victim.

These challenges required effective teamwork, problem-solving, and the practical application of their language skills.

The students conducted themselves exceptionally well and were a credit to the Academy.



What Parents & Educators Need to Know about

SNAPCHAT

AGE RESTRICTION
13+

With over 900 million active monthly users and billions of 'Snaps' sent each month, Snapchat is a popular messaging app among children and young people. It allows users to share fun, spontaneous pictures and videos with friends and family while using playful filters. One of Snapchat's unique features is that pictures, videos and messages are only viewable for a short period of time.

SNAP STREAK

97

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

Snapchat's use of artificial intelligence (AI) includes features like the 'My AI' chatbot and AI-powered filters, offering interactive experiences that can be fun but also pose risks. These tools may share unfiltered or inaccurate responses, promote unrealistic beauty standards, and collect personal data. Advanced filters and deepfake-style lenses can distort reality, potentially leading to manipulation, impersonation, or inappropriate content.



SCREEN ADDICTION

Snapchat boosts user engagement and daily use with features like streaks (daily Snapchat exchanges between you and a friend). When a streak's been going for a few days, users will see a 🔥 emoji. The number alongside it shows the number of days, but if users miss a day and break the streak, the only way to restore it is to pay. This encourages daily use habits, and frequent notifications can keep users returning to the app even more often.



SEXTORTION

Because Snapchat's disappearing messages feature may foster a sense of safety, users may become targets of sextortion. For example, a predator may pressure someone into sending nude images, then somehow capture those images to threaten and intimidate the victim. This might involve claiming they will share the images with friends or family unless money is paid.



SNAPCHAT+

Snapchat+ is the platform's premium subscription service, offering early access to new and exclusive features. In June 2025, Snapchat introduced a new tier called Lens+, giving subscribers access to hundreds of lenses and AR experiences for playing, creating, and sharing Snaps. These paid features may encourage young users to spend money to access exclusive content, increasing the risk of overspending or feeling pressured to make in-app purchases.



ACCESSIBILITY

Snapchat is now accessible from a web browser, meaning children can use it on a laptop or tablet without downloading the app. This can make activity harder to monitor, reduce the effectiveness of parental controls, and increase the risk of unsupervised communication or exposure to inappropriate content.



INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Some content on Snapchat isn't suitable for children. The hashtags used to group content are determined by the poster, so even an innocent search term could still yield age-inappropriate results. The app's disappearing messages feature also makes it easy for young people to share explicit images on impulse – so sexting continues to be a risk associated with Snapchat.



Advice for Parents & Educators

ACCESS THE SNAPCHAT FAMILY SAFETY HUB

Created with guidance from Common Sense Media, Snapchat has developed a Family Safety Hub that explains how the app works and how to use its in-app protections for teens. It's recommended that you review this guidance before allowing a child to download Snapchat. Remember, the app is only intended for children aged 13 and over.



ENCOURAGE OPEN DISCUSSIONS

Snapchat's risks can be easier to handle if you nurture an open dialogue. Talk about scams and blackmail before letting children sign up. If they're lured into a scam, encourage them to tell you immediately. Talk openly and non-judgementally about sexting, emphasising its inherent risks. Furthermore, explain how popular 'challenges' on the platform can have harmful consequences.



BLOCK AND REPORT

If a stranger connects with a child on Snapchat and makes them feel uncomfortable by pressuring them to send or receive unwanted or inappropriate images, the child can tap the three dots on that person's profile to report or block them. There are options to state why they're reporting that user, with a tailored reporting section under the 'Nudity and Sexual Content' category. In this category, there's the option to report somebody for threatening to leak sexually explicit images, or 'nudes'.



USE PRIVACY SETTINGS TOGETHER

Sit down with the children in your care and explore Snapchat's privacy settings as a shared activity. You can help them adjust who can contact them, view their stories, or see their location on Snap Map. It's a good opportunity to explain why some settings are safer than others, reinforcing their understanding of online boundaries. Encourage them to regularly review these settings, especially after app updates or changes in their friendship groups.



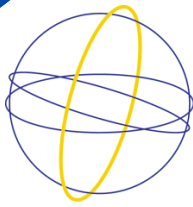
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The National College



NEWS AND EVENTS



SAFEGUARDING

Ormiston Meridian Academy newsletter made for students and parents/carers

Safeguarding Staying Safe

During School Hours children can report or disclose any Safeguarding Concerns to their year group Pastoral Manager:

Year 7	Mrs P Walters
Year 8	Mrs A Berrisford
Year 9	Mrs M Bills
Year 10	Mr A Martin
Year 11	Mrs C McGlynn

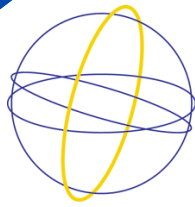
The Designated Safeguarding Leads are:

Mr S Darlington (DSL)
Mrs A Berrisford (DDSL)

Mrs H Stott - Safeguarding Link Governor
Vice Chair of Governing Body

 Mr S Darlington Designated Safeguarding Lead Vice Principal	 Mrs A Berrisford Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead Year 8 Pastoral Manager		
 Miss P Walters Year 7 Pastoral Manager & Safeguarding Support	 Miss M Bills Year 9 Pastoral Manager & Safeguarding Support	 Mr A Martin Year 10 Pastoral Manager & Safeguarding Support	 Miss C McGlynn Year 11 Pastoral Manager & Safeguarding Support





NEWS AND EVENTS



SAFEGUARDING

Ormiston Meridian Academy newsletter made for
students and parents/carers

Safeguarding Staying Safe

Safeguarding over the Easter period:

If you think a child is in immediate danger, call the Police on 999 or 101

- If the child is not in immediate danger, but you're still concerned that they need risk support, you can make a referral to the Integrated Front Door for Stoke-on-Trent Children and Family Services on the online portal: childrensportallcs.stoke.gov.uk/web/portal/pages/marfprof
- If you have reasonable cause to suspect that a child has suffered or is likely to suffer significant harm, you can call the Integrated Front Door on 01782 235100 (Mon-Thurs, 8.30am – 5pm and Fri, 8.30am – 4.30pm), or call the Emergency Duty Team on 01782 234234 if you are calling out of office hours, at weekends or on bank holidays.
- To request information and advice: childrensportallcs.stoke.gov.uk

Internet Safety over the Easter Period

safetynet.skipseducational.org

Thank you

Safeguarding Team



STAY SAFE ONLINE

1

Don't share your personal information



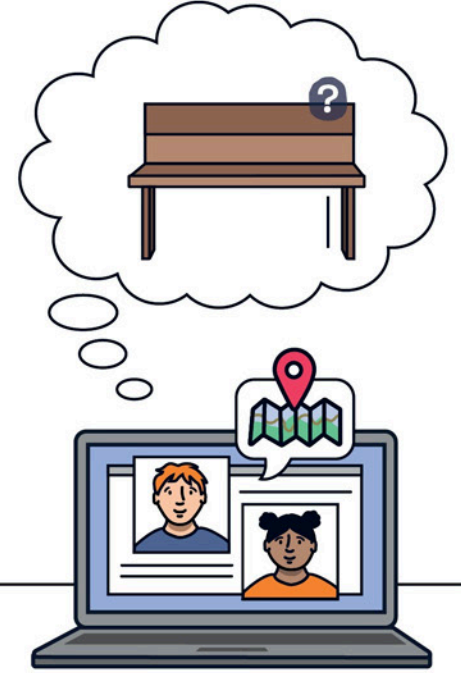
2

Only talk to people that you know



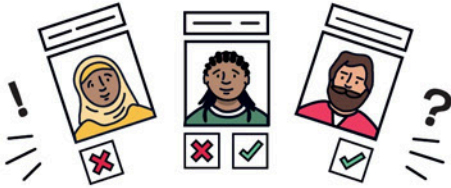
3

Don't meet up with anyone you have only met online



4

Only accept friend requests from people you know personally



5

Always think carefully about what you post



8

Report inappropriate content immediately



6

Make use of the privacy settings on all of your social media accounts



7

Remember that not everyone online is who they say they are



9

Only share images that you'd be comfortable with your friends and family seeing



10

Never share your passwords



The Mental Health Support Team

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

Panic Management Sleep

Anxiety Coping Strategies



Low Mood Problem Solving

Worry Management Exam Stress



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

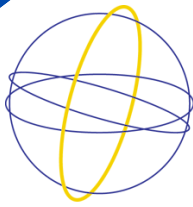
Scan the QR code to be taken to the Combined Wellbeing Portal, where you will find a list of Mental Health Support Team schools, as well as a range of self-help resources and other services. Alternatively, please contact us on the email address below.



MHSTenquiries@combined.nhs.uk

<https://combinedwellbeing.org.uk/>





NEWS AND EVENTS



Ormiston Meridian Academy newsletter made for
students and parents/carers

Parent Partnership

In January, we launched access to the Arbor app for parents and students. This system replaced Synergy and allows you to see timetables, behaviour data and attendance all in one place. Lots of you have already signed up and are accessing your data, but here's a quick how-to guide if you've not already done this.

Visit www.ormistonmeridianacademy.co.uk and click on the "Arbor MIS" link from the top menu.

Click on "First time logging in"

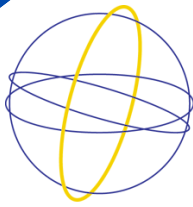
Enter your email address:

Parents – this must be your address previously registered with Synergy.

Students – this must be your school email address
e.g. xxxx@ormistonmeridian.co.uk)

Click on "set password"

You will be emailed a link to choose a password. You must click on this link and set a password.. There are also mobile apps to use to access Arbor, but please be careful – there is a dedicated parent app and a separate student app! Both are available on Google Play and the Apple App Store.



YOU SAID, WE DID...



YOU SAID...

You'd like to see attendance data through the Arbor app

WE DID...

We've now added this feature to Arbor. You should be able to see your child's live attendance data in the app.



YOU SAID...

You want name labels for teachers at parents' evenings so you can identify the right teacher.

WE WILL DO...

Exactly this! Thanks for the suggestion, we'll make sure this is in place for the next parents' evening.



YOU SAID...

You said your children love the gym club and hope that this keeps going!

WE SAY...

Thanks for your feedback! The gym is being well utilised in and out of lessons. We're continuing to offer it to students.