



MERIDIAN MEDIA

Ormiston Meridian Academy newsletter made for
students and parents/carers

Senior Team Introduction

A Message from the Principal

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we reach the end of another academic year, I would like to take this opportunity to celebrate what has been an exceptional year for Ormiston Meridian Academy and to thank you for your continued support, encouragement and partnership.

This year has been filled with achievements, memorable experiences and significant progress for our students. From academic success and sporting accomplishments to performances, enrichment opportunities and personal development, our young people have continued to demonstrate ambition, resilience and determination. They are a credit to themselves, their families and our academy, and we could not be prouder of all they have achieved.





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A particular highlight of the year has been our recent Ofsted inspection. I am delighted to share that, under Ofsted's new and more ambitious inspection framework, the academy was judged to be Strong in Personal Development and Wellbeing, while meeting the Expected Standard in Achievement, Curriculum and Teaching, Inclusion, and Attendance and Behaviour. All safeguarding standards were also met.

This is a remarkable achievement and reflects the hard work and commitment of our entire academy community. Inspectors recognised the positive culture that exists across the school, noting that "Pupils feel valued and accepted for who they are. This creates a real sense of belonging throughout the school." They also highlighted our high expectations, ambitious curriculum, strong relationships and the exemplary conduct of our students. We are especially proud that we are one of only two non-selective secondary schools in Stoke-on-Trent to achieve a Strong judgement area under the new framework.

While we are celebrating this success, we are equally excited about the future. The inspection identified many strengths and provided a small number of areas for further development as we continue our journey towards achieving even more Strong judgements in the years ahead. In true Meridian fashion, this work is already underway.

As we prepare for the new academic year, please remember our staggered return arrangements:

- Wednesday 2nd September – Year 7 students only to arrive by 8:35am on the Year 7 yard.
- Wednesday 2nd September – Year 11 students to arrive by 10:00am.
- Wednesday 2nd September – Years 8, 9 and 10 students to arrive from 11:00am.



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Further details regarding entrances and tutor arrangements will be shared before the start of term. Students should return in full academy uniform, fully equipped for learning and ready to meet our high expectations from day one.

To support the new mobile phone initiative we will be allowing KS3 students to leave the academy at 3.10pm in the first 2 weeks only to give a few extra minutes to use the pouch magnets to open their pouch and remove their device.

As you read through this newsletter, you will see many examples of the talent, commitment and success that make our academy such a special place. Whether in the classroom, on the sports field, on the stage or through leadership opportunities, our students continue to embody our values of Ambition, Courage, Honesty, Inspiration and Respect every day.

Thank you once again for your unwavering support throughout the year. On behalf of all staff and governors, I wish you and your families a safe, restful and enjoyable summer holiday. We look forward to welcoming our students back in September, refreshed, ready to learn and eager to build on this year's successes.

Have a wonderful summer!

Mrs Claire Stanyer
Academy Principal
Ormiston Meridian Academy

Meridian Academy

FREE BOOKS!

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



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Important Dates and Events



Tuesday 20th August 2026

GCSE results day

Tuesday 1st September 2026

INSET day - Staff only

Wednesday 2nd September 2026

Year 7 students only – 8:35am on Year 7 yard

Year 11 students – arrive by 10:00am

Years 8, 9 and 10 – arrive from 11:00am

26th – 30th October 2026

October half term.



Year 7 Top Ten Equipment

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

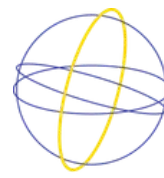
1 black pen x 2	2 red pen x 2	3 pencil x 2	4 rubber	5 whiteboard pen
6 scientific calculator	7 highlighter	8 reading book & timetable	9 plastic refillable bottle	10 ruler

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

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

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 additional logos or branding**.

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.

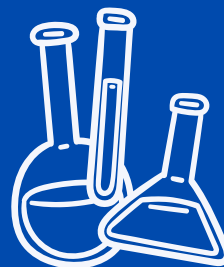
Where a medical condition, illness or injury prevents a student from changing safely or comfortably, an exception may be granted at the discretion of the teacher on the day.





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Youth Speaks Winners!!!

We are proud winners of the Youth Speaks Trophy for the THIRD YEAR
RUNNING!!!!!!

The whole academy is proud of your incredible achievement!





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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-Friday at lunch.

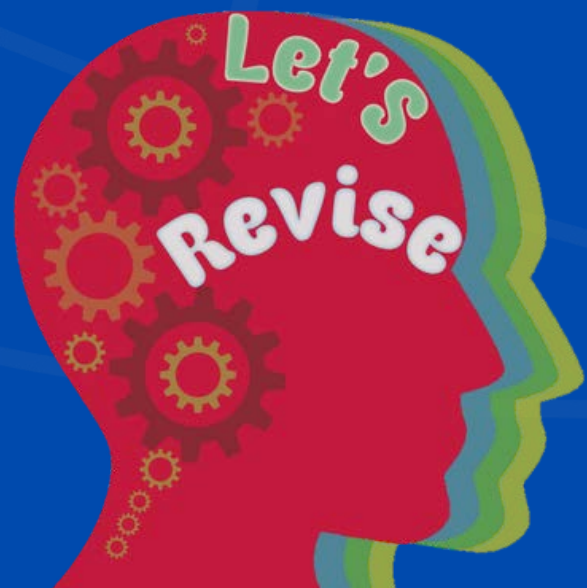
Monday-Thursday after school

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

🕒 **1.27 - 2.10 PM**

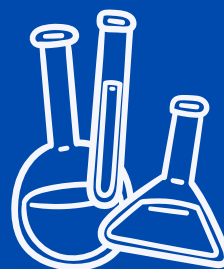
🕒 **3.15 - 4.15 PM**

📍 **Library-See Mrs Martin
for more details**





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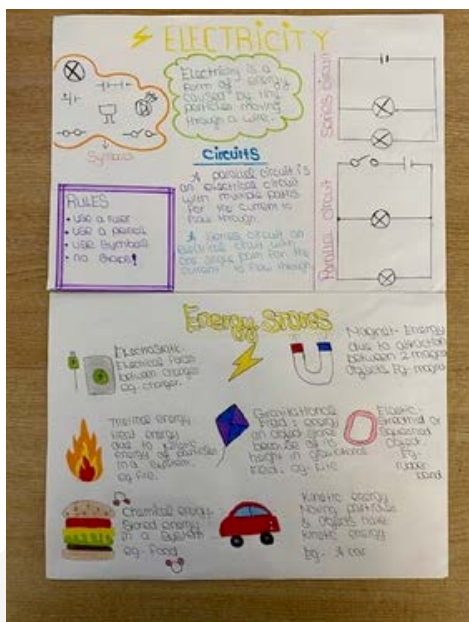


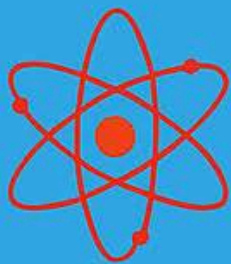
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Easter Science Competition Winners!!!

Over Easter we ran a Science poster competition. There have been some incredible entries, here are the top 4:

- First place goes to Julien Abraham-John 9R2 for his working model of the solar system, fit with planets and working lights. Winning a £10 amazon voucher, a box of chocolates and a badge.
- Second place goes to Faizah Rehman 9G2 for her amazing poster on the solar system and the planets. Winning a box of chocolates and a badge.
- Third place goes to Wajeeha Zahoor 8G1 for her posters on electricity and energy. Winning a bar of chocolate and a badge.
- Fourth place goes to Ayesha Ata-ur-Rehman 9Y1 for her incredibly detailed essay about electron arrangement in atoms. Winning a bar of chocolate and a badge.





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

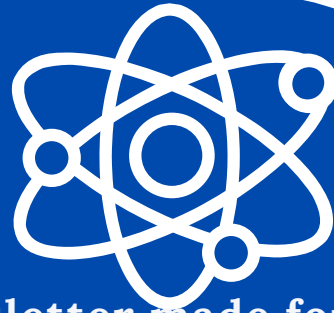


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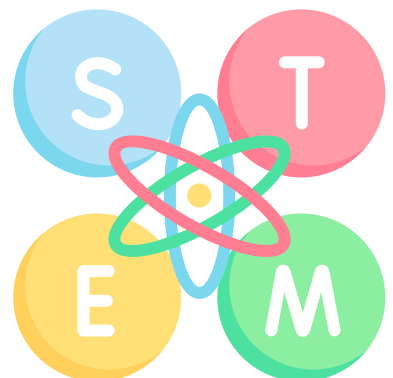
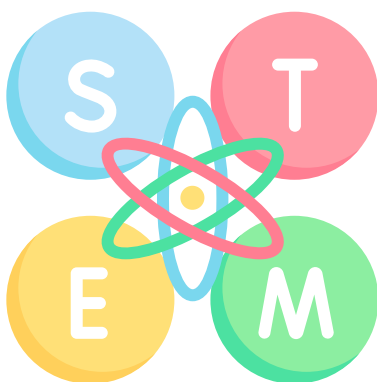
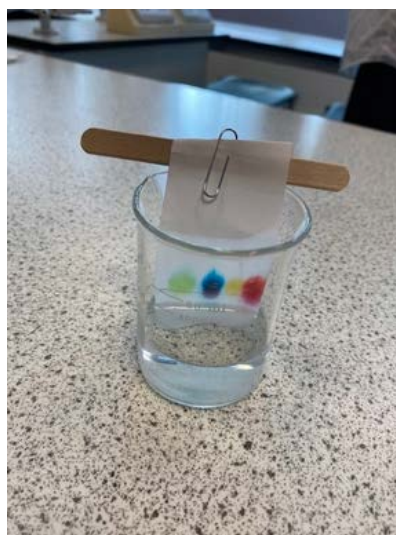
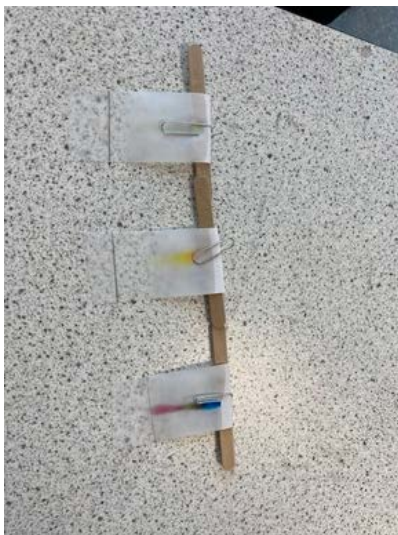


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STEM Club - Forensic Scientists

STEM Club this term students became forensic scientists testing different inks to find out who had written a document.

They tested a range of different inks, and then tried to identify who had used what pen





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Y7 STEM Project Day

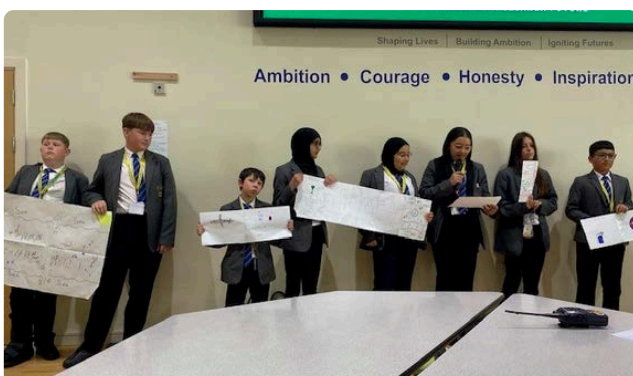
In June, The Inspirational Learning Group, partnered with Air Products to deliver a STEM project day for all of our Y7 students.

This involved them being in teams working together to create a sustainable town, thinking about what company they could partner with and designing all of the town's features.

They built on their communication, team work and presentation skills, designing their town from the ground up including their own logo and town plan.

The winning team not only thought about the gases needed, linking to the Air Products, but also directly linked their town to their sponsor and the academy's values.

Miss Bebbington





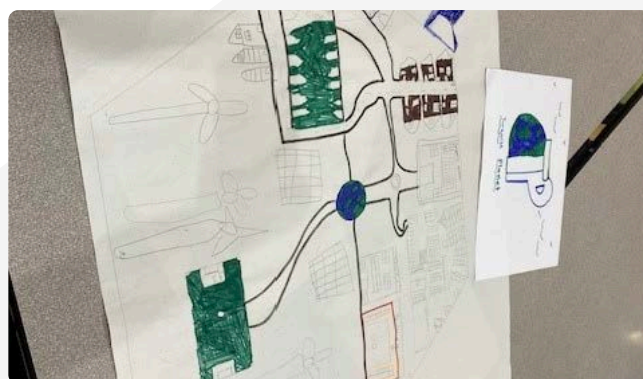
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Y7 STEM Project Day



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**



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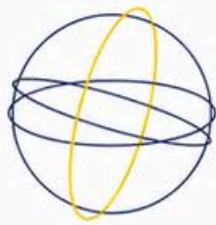
Table Cricket

What is Table Cricket?

Table Cricket brings cricket to everyone. It's inclusive, easy to deliver, and encourages teamwork and respect. For pupils with additional needs, it provides an equal opportunity to take part and shine. For others, it offers a new way to experience cricket in a fun, fast-paced, and supportive environment

The sport is played on a table tennis table (although it can be adapted) and encourages teamwork, communication, decision-making, and understanding of cricket's spirit of fairness and respect. It also provides opportunities for leadership, officiating, and scoring roles – ideal for young leaders in schools.





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JOIN THE **CHOIR!**

SING • SHARE • SHINE

Love singing?
Come and be part of our
Ormiston Meridian Academy **Choir!**



WHEN?

Wednesday Lunchtime



WHERE?

In the Music Room



WHO?

All students welcome!

No audition, just a love
of singing!

**COME ALONG AND
MAKE SOME NOISE!**



★ SING TOGETHER. GROW TOGETHER. SHINE TOGETHER. ★



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ssat the schools, students
and teachers network

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IN THE PRESS!!!! Student Leadership

Congratulations to Miss Campbell and the Student Leadership team for being published and celebrated in SSAT (The Schools Students and Teachers Network). For the full article please go to: <https://www.ssatuk.co.uk/blog/recognition-the-secret-sauce-for-enhancing-student-leadership>
Please see an excerpt from the article below.

In December last year, we were delighted to be able to recognise Ormiston Meridian Academy in Stoke as our very first Platinum Award school for their inspirational work on student leadership. Based on their submission of an audit and supporting materials, followed up by a day in school to externally validate their work in this area, we were able to support the school in re-seeing and knowing-again what they had achieved and where they could go from here.

During the process, we were able to see the way in which the school has a clear and extremely coherent approach to ensuring student voice is listened to, heard and acted upon. We also saw how they had embedded 'Leaders of Learning' in every classroom and for every student in the school, as well as how the school systematically empowered established student leaders to bring innovative ideas to fruition, aligned with but not controlled by adults around them.

Millie Campbell, the Lead Teacher for Student Leadership at **Ormiston Meridian**, has said...
"The School Recognition Scheme has been invaluable to our Academy, offering a meaningful opportunity to showcase how student leadership is embedded across our school and to have this recognised at the highest level. It has enabled me to reflect on our strengths and the wide range of ways we support students in developing their leadership skills, while also identifying clear next steps to further enhance our practice with the benefit of expert guidance."

And one of the student leaders who contributed to the review, said...

"I felt nervous in the moment, but I appreciated having an opportunity to share my experiences as well as hearing the experiences of others. Having someone to input our feedback to feels like a helpful way to improve our school to better suit students."

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about

ROBLOX

AGE RESTRICTION
PEGI
7

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.



#WakeUpWednesday®

The National College®



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GOODBYE Y11!!!





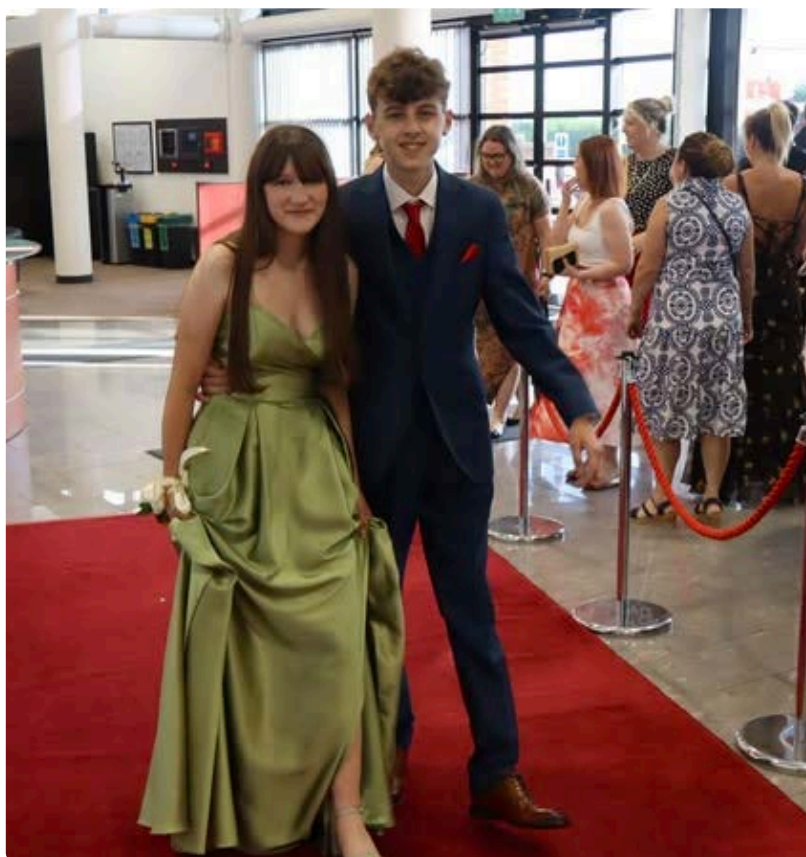
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*Goodbye
&
Good Luck*

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Y11 Prom!!!



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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University Spotlight The Open University

"The Open University is a public research university and the largest university in the United Kingdom by number of students. The majority of the OU's undergraduate students are based in the United Kingdom and principally study off-campus; many of its courses can also be studied anywhere in the world."

Today's University Spotlight shines on a slightly different type of institution. The Open University (often referred to as the OU) is a public university in the United Kingdom that specialises in flexible, distance learning. It allows students to study from home, making higher education accessible to people who may not be able to attend a traditional campus due to work, family commitments, or other circumstances. The university is particularly well known for its open-entry policy, meaning most courses do not require prior qualifications, which helps widen participation in higher education. Whilst obtaining a degree might take you a little longer with the OU, it allows people of all ages and academic backgrounds to further their knowledge and study subjects they are passionate about without the traditional entry pathway!





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University Spotlight The Open University

The Open University was established in 1969 under the government of Harold Wilson, with the aim of making university education available to all. It officially welcomed its first students in 1971, many of whom were adults returning to education. Early teaching methods were innovative for the time, including the use of television and radio broadcasts in partnership with the BBC, which was not common practice then! Over the decades, the OU has continued to evolve, becoming a global leader in online and distance learning. Today, it serves tens of thousands of students annually and has taught over two million learners worldwide!

The university offers a very wide range of courses and qualifications. Students can choose from hundreds of modules that contribute to undergraduate degrees, postgraduate degrees, diplomas, and certificates. Subjects span areas such as business, psychology, law, education, science, computing, engineering, health, and the arts. This flexibility allows students to tailor their studies to their interests and career goals. Many courses can be studied part-time, enabling learners to balance education with other responsibilities, such as jobs, family life or hobbies.





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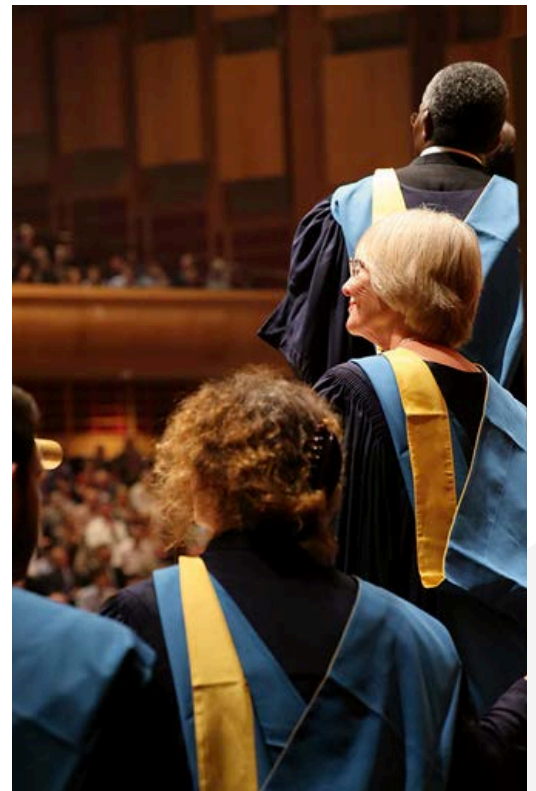


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University Spotlight The Open University

Some of the most popular courses at the Open University include psychology, business management, law, and computing and IT. These subjects are especially popular because they offer clear career pathways and are relevant to a wide range of industries. The university is also well regarded for its science and engineering programmes, as well as teacher training and health-related qualifications.

The OU has an impressive list of notable alumni and individuals associated with it. One of the most famous is Lenny Henry, who earned a degree later in life and has been a strong advocate for education. Another well-known figure is actress Julie Walters, who studied with the OU early in her career. The OU has also collaborated with respected organisations such as the BBC, which helped it reach a wide audience through educational programming.



In conclusion, the Open University is a unique and influential institution that has transformed access to higher education. Through its flexible learning model, wide range of courses, and commitment to inclusivity, it continues to provide opportunities for people from all backgrounds. Its strong reputation, popular courses, and notable alumni highlight its importance both in the UK and internationally and prove that you can sometimes teach an old dog new tricks! For more information on the OU visit:
<https://www.open.ac.uk/>



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LOVE YOUR LIBRARY SOCIETY



Do you want to read the latest
books and magazines?
Are you looking to improve your
reading?
Check out a book today!

Monday-Friday at lunch.

Monday-Thursday after school

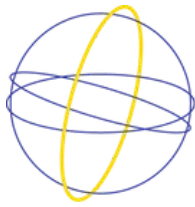
All are welcome.
Come to the Library, for a pass,
at break .

🕒 **1.27 - 2.10 PM**

🕒 **3.15 - 4.15 PM**

📍 **Library**





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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.

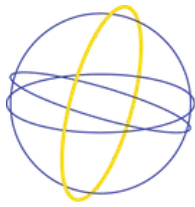
This can be found in the waiting room, off reception and can be accessed by students and the public. We have wide range of books from babies to adults. Many are brand new and have been donated by our friends at The National Literacy Trust.

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.

"Research shows reading for pleasure can support reading, and wider literacy, skills, wellbeing, empathy, confidence and aptitude for learning.- National Literacy Trust





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READING AND THE LIBRARY

This term, we have been very busy in the Library,

In May, we supported our Y11 student with revisions guides and study materials galore!

In June, we celebrated the diversity in our academy with Pride month.

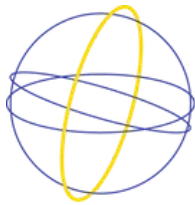
In July, we had the great reading race. Students competed to see which house could check out the most books. The reward for this was additional house points to be added to end of year totals.

Finally next term, we will be focusing on settling in. Welcoming Y7 student,s to our academy and welcoming back the rest of the school to their new classes.

In addition, look out for our seasonal displays.

In September it is Autumn, full of cosy reads, for you to curl up with as the weather starts to change.





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READING AND THE LIBRARY

Looking for something to do after school?

Come to the library and explore our seasonal and theme of the month displays. Take out any book from these displays 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

In September, we are welcoming our new Y7 cohort and will be helping you all settle into your new classes. Look out for the Spooky Book Review competition launching in October!!!

I hope you all have a fantastic Summer and I look forward to seeing you all in the library, in September.
Mrs Martin



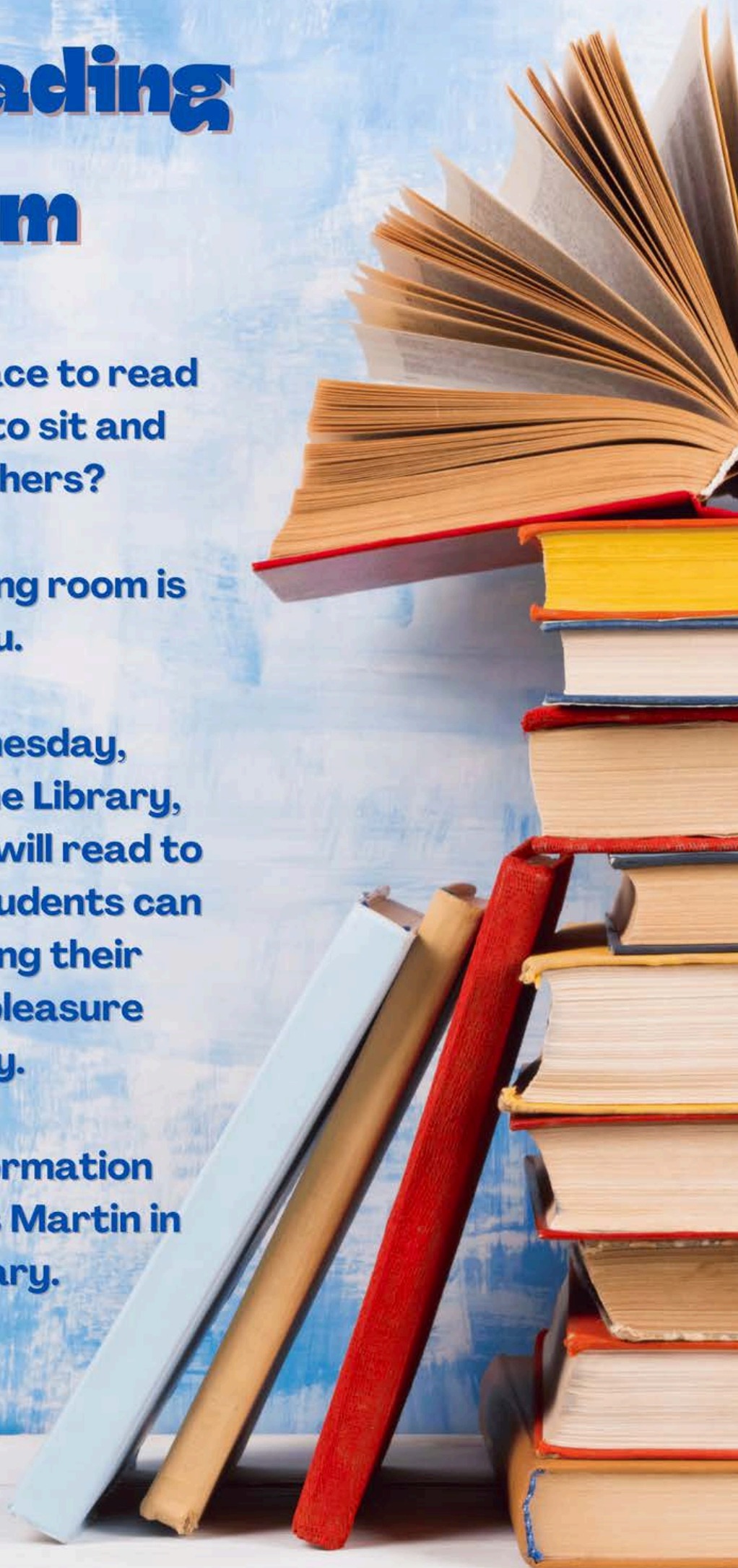
The Reading Room

**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

Stoke 100 Reads for Secondary

Our academy contributed to the Stoke 100 Reads list for secondary schools, our students worked with the National Literacy Trust and recommended their favourite books.

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).





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NEWS AND EVENTS



Ormiston Meridian Academy newsletter made for students and parents/carers

Stoke 100 Reads for Secondary

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.

Full Stoke 100 Reads lists, including passports, (for you to take tick off which book you have read) are available in the school Library. We also have the books listed on the Stoke 100 Reads for Secondary in the Library. For further information please speak to Mrs Martin or a member of the Library Team.

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>





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BRILLIANT BOOK SOCIETY



Love reading?

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.





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NEWS AND EVENTS

Ormiston Meridian Academy newsletter made for students and parents/carers

Higher Horizons : Student Scholars

In June, our Year 10 Stoke Scholars completed their programme with Higher Horizons, with their final visit to Keele University where they got a chance to experience lectures from some of the many courses on offer.

They learned to save lives with the paramedics, direct their own film in Film Studies and put their knowledge to the test with a quiz in History.

In addition they had a campus tour and listened to students sharing their experience of life on campus.





How do I report a problem?

Snapchat encourages self-expression but wants users to use the app safely and enjoyably. Snapchat doesn't tolerate Snaps that share:

- Pornography or nudity involving people under the age of 18
- Invasions of privacy or impersonation of others
- Threats, harassment or bullying of others
- Encouragement of self-harm



Snapchat may remove these types of content and suspend accounts, prohibiting them from using Snapchat in the future. For more information, see Snapchat's Community Guidelines: <https://support.snapchat.com/en-GB/a/guidelines>

Snapchat's reporting functions are the same across all devices. Mobile and tablet users can find all the reporting routes by tapping on your **Profile icon** on the Camera screen, tapping the **Gear icon**, scrolling down to Support and selecting **I Have a Safety Concern**. To report on desktop, visit: <https://support.snapchat.com/en-GB/i-need-help>

- To report a specific Snap or Story, press and hold on the content, then tap **Report Snap**
- To report a specific account, open your friend's list, press and hold on the user's name, tap **Manage Friendship** and tap **Report**



NEWS AND EVENTS

World of Work
Igniting Futures



Ormiston Meridian Academy newsletter made for students and parents/carers

Careers Education Half Term 6

World of Work Curriculum – Half Term



Employer Competency
Framework for Skills

Preparing Pupils for Success Through Behaviour, Attitudes and Aspirations

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

During Half Term 6, pupils took part in a series of World of Work lessons focused on developing the personal qualities that employers value most: positive behaviour, strong attitudes to learning, high aspirations and an understanding of the influences that shape our choices. The programme encouraged students to reflect on how their actions today can impact their future success.

Building Strong Foundations

The half term began with pupils exploring the links between behaviour, attitudes and aspirations. Students discussed what these terms mean and how positive conduct, a growth mindset and ambitious goals can help them achieve success both in education and future careers.

Understanding the Impact of Behaviour

Students investigated how behaviour affects learning and workplace success. Through discussions and calculations, pupils examined how even small amounts of lost learning time can accumulate over a school year. This helped highlight the importance of maintaining focus, meeting expectations and contributing positively to a productive environment.



NEWS AND EVENTS

World of Work
Igniting Futures



Ormiston Meridian Academy newsletter made for students and parents/carers

Careers Education in CORE

Raising Aspirations

Students spent time thinking about their futures and discussing where they see themselves in ten years' time. Lessons encouraged them to consider career ambitions and explore how schools can help raise aspirations through opportunities, guidance and positive role models. Pupils recognised that having clear goals can increase motivation and encourage greater effort.

Behaviour, Belonging and Inclusion

Another important theme was the connection between behaviour and belonging. Through case-study activities, students explored how motivation, interest and attitudes can influence behaviour in different situations. Discussions highlighted the importance of creating an inclusive environment where all pupils feel valued, supported and able to succeed.

Recognising Influences

In the final lessons, pupils examined the influences that shape behaviour, including friends, family, school and wider society. They reflected on how positive influences can support personal growth and help young people make informed choices about their education and future careers.



Employer Competency
Framework for Skills

Characteristic	Description
 Time Management	Being punctual and productive
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NEWS AND EVENTS

World of Work
Igniting Futures



Ormiston Meridian Academy newsletter made for students and parents/carers

Careers Education in CORE



Employer Competency Framework for Skills

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 Confidence	Trusting in your abilities
 Teamwork	Adapting to meet team needs
 Problem-solving	Analysing situations to identify problems

Key Skills for the Future

Throughout the half term, pupils developed and strengthened a range of employability skills, including:

- Self-awareness
- Resilience
- Responsibility
- Motivation
- Goal-setting
- Positive communication
- Reflection and decision-making

These lessons have helped students understand that success in the workplace is not only about qualifications, but also about the behaviours, attitudes and aspirations that enable people to thrive in education, employment and life.

World of Work continues to play a vital role in preparing our pupils for their future pathways by helping them develop the confidence, character and ambition needed for success.

Mr Temple



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NEWS AND EVENTS



Ormiston Meridian Academy newsletter made for students and parents/carers

PSHE

Exciting Learning Ahead in PSHE & Citizenship for 2026/27

Students across Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4 can look forward to an engaging and thought-provoking PSHE and Citizenship programme in 2026/27, designed to help young people develop the knowledge, skills and confidence they need to thrive both in school and beyond. The curriculum covers a wide range of real-life topics that support students' personal development, wellbeing, relationships, careers education and understanding of the wider world.

The journey begins in Year 7 with an exploration of identity, healthy relationships and friendships. Students will consider important questions such as "Who am I?" and learn about self-esteem, physical health, emotional wellbeing and the changes associated with puberty. They will also develop their understanding of citizenship through learning about Parliament, elections, political parties and the role of MPs. These topics encourage students to reflect on their place in society while building confidence and resilience during the transition to secondary school.

As students progress into Year 8 and Year 9, learning becomes increasingly focused on preparing them for the challenges and opportunities of modern life. Lessons explore the law, financial literacy, budgeting, banking, gambling awareness and communication skills. Students will also examine media reliability, misinformation and manipulation, helping them become critical thinkers in an age where information is constantly at their fingertips. Topics such as healthy romantic relationships, consent, online safety and recognising abuse ensure that students are equipped to make informed and responsible decisions.

Health education remains a strong focus throughout the curriculum. Students will learn valuable life-saving skills including CPR, choking response and first aid, alongside lessons on vaccinations, prescription drugs, alcohol awareness, physical health and mental wellbeing. By exploring subjects such as body image, resilience, eating disorders and stress management, students develop a deeper understanding of how to look after both their physical and emotional health.



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PSHE

A key strength of the programme is its commitment to keeping learning relevant to the world that young people experience every day. Students will investigate cyberbullying, social media, phishing scams, county lines, gangs, grooming and the influence of the media. These lessons help them recognise risks, stay safe and make responsible choices in both online and offline environments. They also promote empathy, respect and awareness of the experiences of others.

Students will also engage with important themes surrounding equality, diversity and social justice. Learning about racism, hate crime, stereotypes and the changing attitudes towards race, gender and sexual orientation helps foster an inclusive school culture where everyone feels valued and respected. Social Action Projects in Year 8 provide opportunities for students to move beyond the classroom and consider how they can contribute positively to their communities.

For older students, the curriculum places a strong emphasis on preparing for the future. Year 10 and Year 11 students will explore careers, employability skills, CV writing, interview preparation and work experience. They will also develop practical financial knowledge through learning about taxes, pensions and mortgages. Alongside this, lessons on managing exams, coping with disappointment and dealing with stress provide crucial support as students prepare for their next steps after school.

The 2026/27 PSHE and Citizenship curriculum reflects the school's commitment to developing well-rounded, knowledgeable and confident young people. By combining essential life skills with opportunities for discussion, reflection and personal growth, the programme ensures that students are not only prepared for academic success but are also equipped to become healthy, responsible and active citizens in an ever-changing world.



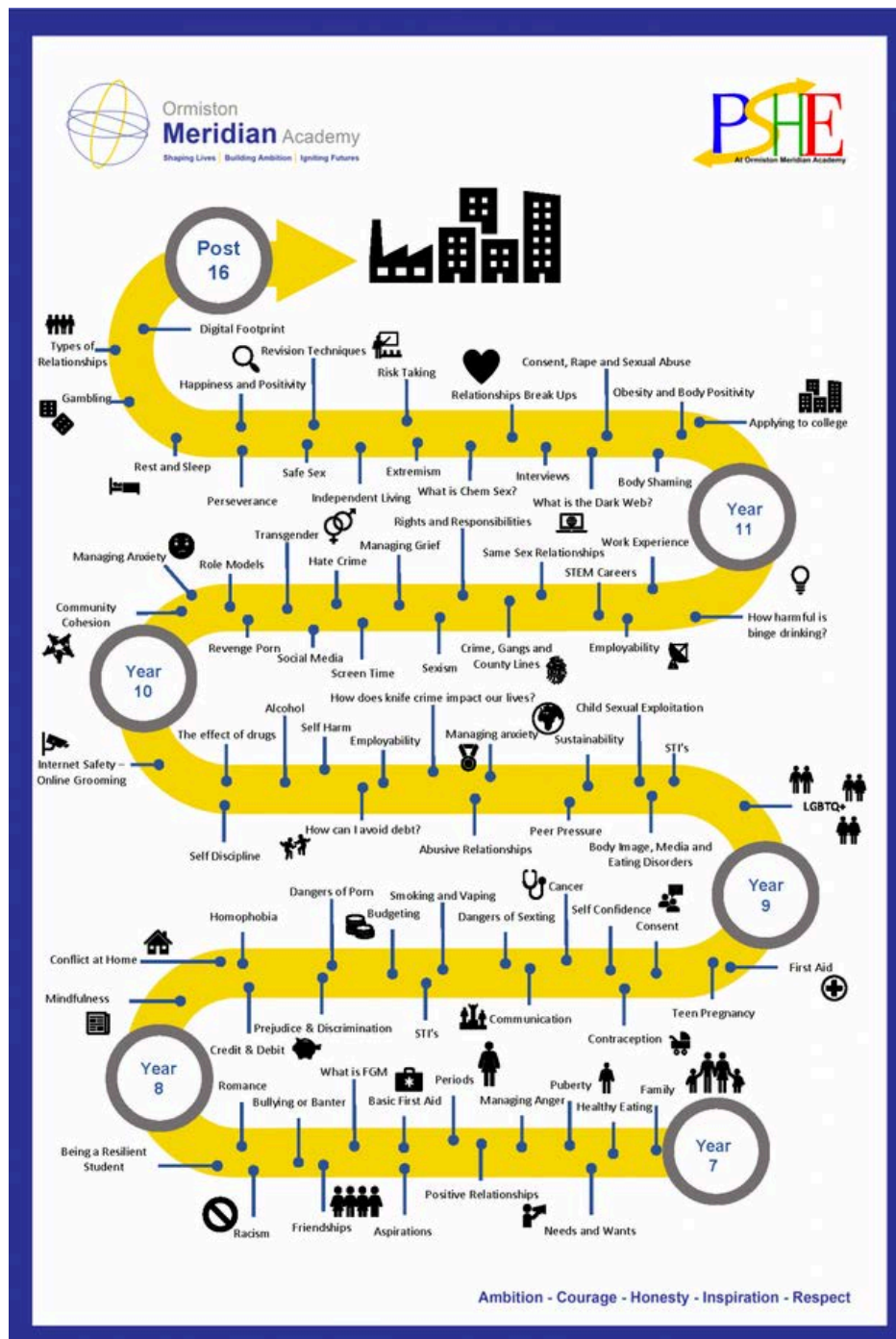
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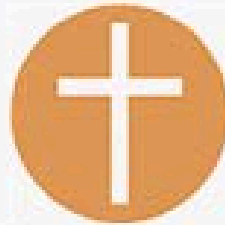


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PSHE



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*



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NEWS AND EVENTS



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Y10 Trip to Normandy

The year 10 students travelled to Normandy, France.

Students visited the Commonwealth War Graves at the Bayeux Cemetery, paying their respects to those who gave their lives for our freedom.

Students then visited the 360 degree cinema in Arromanches.

We hope you all had a fantastic time!





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NEWS AND EVENTS



Ormiston Meridian Academy newsletter made for students and parents/carers

Y8

Trip to Yorkshire Sculpture Park

Our year 8 students were all given the opportunity to visit an outdoor Sculpture park to experience large scale artworks from world renowned artists such as Damien Hirst, Henry Moore, Barbara Hepworth and Elizabeth Frink, in 500 acres of beautiful parkland.

They were all incredible even in the 33-degree heat!!

This is the first time our students have visited the Sculpture park and as it was so successful we hope to visit again next year.





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SALFORD QUAYS Y10

Our Year 10 Geography students enjoyed a field trip to Salford Quays, In June, investigating regeneration in action. They showed fantastic engagement, asked thoughtful questions, and applied their classroom learning to a real-world urban environment. A brilliant day of fieldwork—well done, Year 10!





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NEWS AND EVENTS



Ormiston Meridian Academy newsletter made for students and parents/carers

Y10

Trip to Stoke Sixth Form College

Year 10 students were given the opportunity to experience 'a day as a college student' at Stoke Sixth Form College.

Students were able to take part in a number of taster sessions, from performing arts and dance through to games design and science.

Thank you to Stoke Sixth Form College for organising the event and supporting our students learning journey.



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.

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.

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.

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

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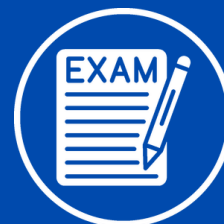
@wake.up.weds

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NEWS AND EVENTS



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Achievement Update

As we come to the end of the Summer Term, I am absolutely delighted with the focus, commitment and maturity that our students have demonstrated across the summer assessment window. From our incredible Year 11 Leavers, to the Year 10s who sat their first formal mock examinations, and the Year 9 students that undertook their first Rank Order Assessments – we couldn't be prouder of you! The staff and external invigilators, who work across several schools, continue to be impressed by our students' resilience, the mutual support they show one another, and their positive spirit during these times.

For this final newsletter of the academic year, I asked some of our Year 10 students to reflect on their first mock examination experience in order to share their best pieces of advice with the year groups that follow in their footsteps.

This is what some of our students had to share:

'Start revising earlier – months in advance!' – Lacey

'Give yourself patience. There will be stressful moments but these will pass.' – Louise

'Revision will make your life a lot easier. Don't give up!' – Liam

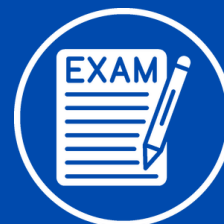
'Prioritise your sleep. You will need it' – Scarlett





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NEWS AND EVENTS



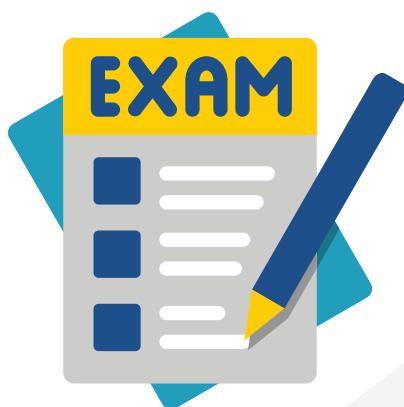
Ormiston Meridian Academy newsletter made for
students and parents/carers

Achievement Update

'Don't leave revision until last minute. This will help to lower your stress around exams.' –Grace

It is clear that our Year 10 students have already developed essential revision and time management skills that will serve them effectively throughout their next stages of education and employment. I am so proud of them all and look forward to guiding them, as the class of 2027, through their exams next academic year.

Miss Peacock – Assistant Principal for Achievement



COMPUTING »»» SOCIETY «««



WEDNESDAY LUNCHTIMES
AT2

IMPROVE YOUR PROGRAMMING
SKILLS, INVESTIGATE AI, BUILD
WEBSITES AND MORE!

MR CRADDOCK



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FRENCH CAFE

Y8

Year 8 students visited Monsieur Collins' (Mr Collins)' French café.
They ordered typical breakfast cuisine and drinks in French as well as playing Le jeu des 7 familles.
C'était vachement -super!



What Parents & Educators Need to Know about

SNAP STREAK

97

SNAPCHAT

AGE RESTRICTION
13+

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.



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.



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Source: See full reference list on guide page at: <https://nationalcollege.com/guides/snapchat>

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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)

IF YOU ARE WORRIED ABOUT SPEAKING TO SOMEONE IN SCHOOL, OR IT'S THE EVENING OR WEEKEND... Let's talk

letstalk@omera.co.uk



Report a Concern School Synergy SIMS Connected Quick Links Contact

CEOP
CPOMS
Let's Talk

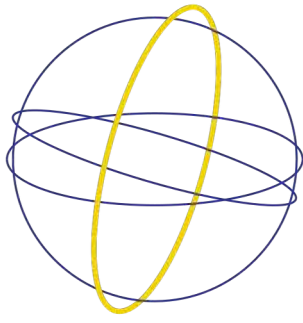
EMY

KEY INFO

FOR STUDENTS

CURRICULUM

If at any time you find yourself feeling unsafe, are experiencing bullying, or know someone who is, we are here to help. Our 'Let's Talk' reporting system is a safe and confidential platform to ensure that your worries are addressed promptly and with care. Remember, you are not alone, and reaching out for help can make a world of difference, to you and students in our community. Complete and submit the form if you are experiencing any difficulties, and we will support you.



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Mr S Darlington
Designated
Safeguarding Lead
(DSL)



Mrs A Berrisford
Deputy Designated
Safeguarding Lead
(DDSL)



Mrs H Stott
Safeguarding
Governor

Pastoral Managers



Miss P Walters



Mrs C McGlynn



Mr A Martin



Miss M Bills

**If you have any concerns
regarding safeguarding,
please contact
one of the staff above.**

**All staff are here, ready and waiting to listen to you.
Alternatively, you can email letstalk@omera.co.uk**



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NEWS AND EVENTS



SAFEGUARDING

Ormiston Meridian Academy newsletter made for students and parents/carers

Safeguarding Staying Safe

Safeguarding over the Summer 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 Summer Period

safetynet.skipseducational.org

Thank you

Safeguarding Team



STAY SAFE ONLINE

1

Don't share your personal information



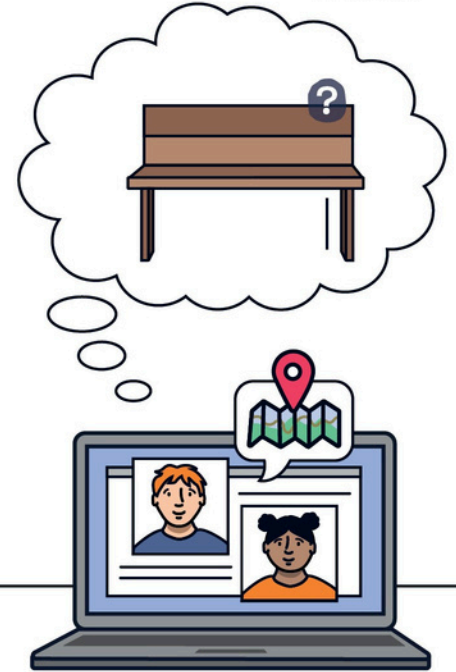
2

Only talk to people that you know



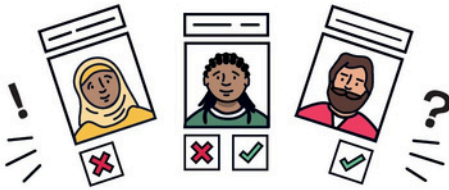
3

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



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



8

Report inappropriate content immediately



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/>





YOU SAID, WE DID...

This time our feedback comes from the recent Year 7 Parents' Evenings. We read and analyse each comment that is left. Please do take the time to fill in a Parent Voice Form when you visit school.



YOU SAID....

I'd like to know more about the revision that my child should be doing for ARs.

WE SAID...

It's great that you're supporting this! Every subject produces a revision list for students. We'll make sure parents also get access!



YOU SAID....

It was hard to find teachers on the Year 7 Parents' Evening

WE SAID...

We're sorry - rooms had to be changed at the last minute due to an issue with one room. We hope you found everybody!



YOU SAID, WE DID...

This time our feedback comes from the recent Year 7 Parents' Evenings. We read and analyse each comment that is left. Please do take the time to fill in a Parent Voice Form when you visit school.



YOU SAID....

Parents' evening was great, it was lovely to meet all of the wonderful teachers.

WE SAID...

Thanks for your feedback! We've emailed the teachers individually that you mentioned.



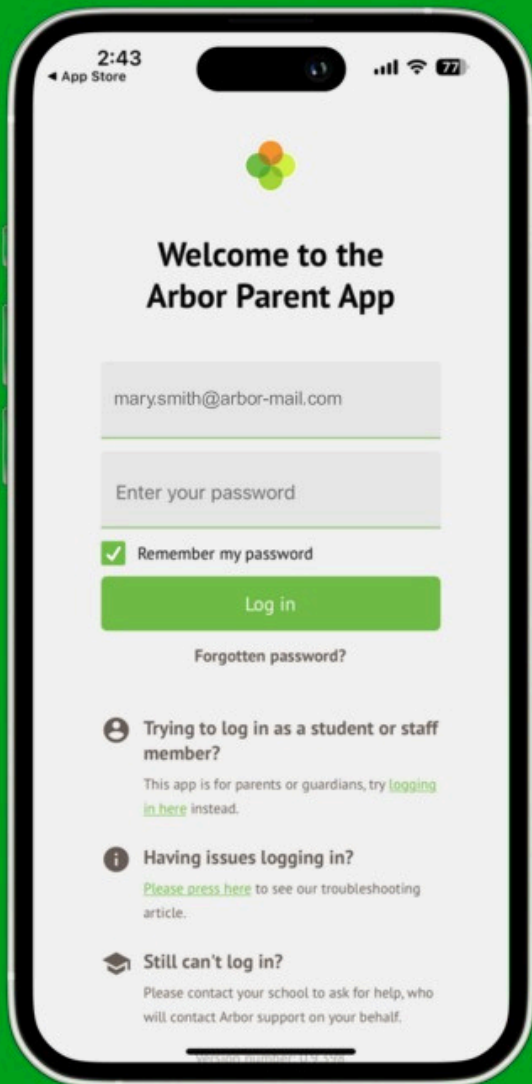
YOU SAID....

I struggle to log on to Arbor, can you help?

WE SAID...

Absolutely! The issue is usually that your email address is not on our system. If you email gcraddock@omera.co.uk we will get you set up.

Arbor Student and Parent Apps



Log in using your email address, click “**forgotten password**” if it’s your first time logging in.

If your email address is not registered with us, please email gcraddock@omera.co.uk

Receive in-app messages and reminders on your phone. See your child’s attendance, progress, behaviour points and more.

Student App



Parent App

