



WELCOME TO THE PARENTAL NEWSLETTER DECEMBER 2021

A LETTER FROM OUR PRINCIPAL

I would like to take this opportunity to wish all our families here at OCA a very merry Christmas. It goes without saying that this year has been particularly difficult with no sign of the pandemic easing. So, I hope that this Christmas period will enable all of you to spend some much-needed quality time with the people you love. We should also all spare a thought for those families who are without loved ones this festive period and I would like to take this opportunity to say that all of us here at OCA have Alfie Humphreys and his family in our thoughts and prayers. Alfie, as most of you know, passed away earlier this year but he will always be remembered here as a member of our OCA family.

The testing plan has already been sent with details of our return in January and I would encourage you all to continue testing twice a week to keep everyone as safe as they can be. Nobody knows what the new year will bring, but we all hope that schools will continue to be open as normal so that students can continue with face-to-face teaching and learning. At present, all scheduled exams due to take place in January and early February in subjects such as BTEC Sport will go ahead so it is vital that year 11 students prepare themselves the best they can in the lead up to them.

We wish all members of our OCA community a happy and peaceful holiday.

Mrs J Lowry-Johnson



READING IN FORM TIME.

Pupils in Years 7-10 are continuing to read class books with their form tutors. The books we have chosen are here along with a website link if you would like more information.

Year 7 - Bubble Boy

Illness/disability

<https://www.theguardian.com/books/2016/sep/16/the-bubble-boy-by-stewart-foster-review>

Year 8 – Wonder

Disability/bullying/inclusion

https://www.telegraph.co.uk/culture/books/children_sbookreviews/9099174/Wonder-by-R.J-Palacio-review.html

Year 9 - Ketchup Clouds

Betrayal/democracy/death row

https://www.telegraph.co.uk/culture/books/children_sbookreviews/9778282/Ketchup-Clouds-by-Annabel-Pitcher-review.html

Year 10 - Pigeon English

Immigration/inclusion

<https://www.theguardian.com/books/2011/mar/13/pigeon-english-stephen-kelman-review>

FAMILY TALKING POINTS – IT'S GOOD TO TALK!

What do you talk about at home? Try one of our Family Talking Points! Each week in form time, our pupils have a Family Talking Point that they discuss, talk about the topic at home and then feedback the next week, ready for another Talking Point. Some of our ideas are below!



YEAR 11 LITERATURE LUNCH CLUB

Since its relaunch in September, Wednesday lunch times in the library have never been the same! A special thank you to our Year 11s for their beautiful reading every week of some, shall we say, challenging yet fun material!

We are reading 'Losing It' an anthology of short stories!

<https://www.amazon.co.uk/Losing-Keith-Gray/dp/1849390991>

READING PALS

Every Friday during form time, some of our especially selected Year 10s come to the library to listen to some of our especially selected Year 7s read!

The Year 10s offer advice, encouragement and they sign reading logs as well as being a friendly face.

A very big well done to everyone involved; we look forward to Fridays!

TALK THE TALK – YEAR 8 ORACY WORKSHOP

All of Year 8 took part in a workshop with Talk the Talk, a communications charity specialising in oracy. At the end of the day, every single pupil was able to stand up in front of their peers and deliver a talk that they had prepared themselves.

Here is some of the OUTSTADNING feedback from the trainers:

"The students were very mature, good listeners, supportive of each other, gave insightful feedback to their peers and generally a delight to be with for the day! They made great strides in terms of presenting themselves in a professional and confident manner and were very good at integrating personal anecdotes into their final talks."

"The students were lively and willing to challenge themselves, making a great start to the day by standing to introduce a partner. They were able to respectfully debate a range of topics and listen to others points of view. Their choices of final topics were varied and engaging with students speaking persuasively on everything from racism to hunting, reincarnation to cheese. I really enjoyed working with my group and was impressed by the strong opinions they expressed which they were able to support with appropriate evidence and detailed explanations. A really productive and positive day."

WELL DONE TO YEAR 8!

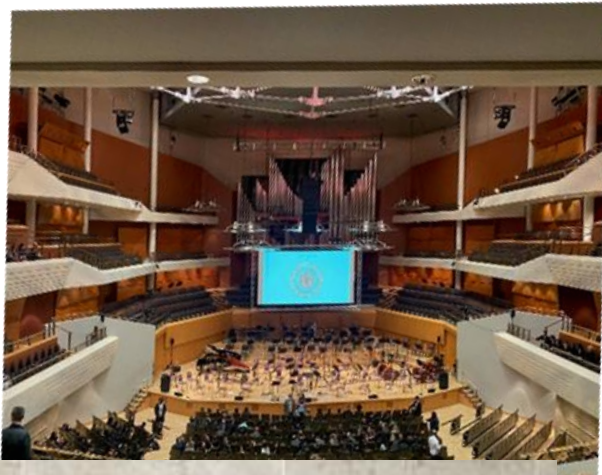


HALLÉ ORCHESTRA VISIT

On Tuesday 5th October 2021, students from Year 11 GCSE Music visited The Bridgewater Hall in Manchester to attend the 'Orchestra Through the Ages' concert performed by the prestigious Hallé Orchestra. The concert was dedicated to the set works, which the students are required to study as part of their GCSE course, and the performance included their specified set work '*Mozart's Clarinet Concerto in A major, K. 622, movt. 3, Rondo.*'

The concert included several famous pieces played live by the Hallé, producing a guided tour of music from the Baroque era through to modern day film music. Students were given a brief history of each era as well as a live musical analysis of the chosen pieces. The orchestra expanded in size before the students eyes, beginning with a relatively small orchestra containing strings and a few woodwind instruments to a vast symphony orchestra including a whole host of unusual instruments such as a cimbalom and cor anglais.

It was a fantastic experience for the students to see a range of music played by an orchestra and thank you to all the students who attended for their impeccable behaviour throughout the afternoon.



CAREERS

Year 10 - On Wednesday 17th November, Cronton college hosted a Prestigious Universities afternoon and OCA was one of the fortunate schools selected to take part..

The 10 Pupils who attended took part in two academic masterclasses from the following:

- Computer Science
- English Literature
- French
- Geography
- History
- Law
- Maths
- Philosophy and Religion
- Science (Engineering pathway)
- Science (Medical pathway)
- Social Sciences (Sociology and Psychology)

Pupils were praised on their efforts during the session and they received a certificate of achievement from the college.



Over 60 of our Year 11 students took part in a range of mini vocational sample courses at Riverside college, which have been running after school 3-5pm from the 2nd November and continue to the 2nd December.

Students could sign up for sessions in:

- Painting and decorating
- Joinery
- Plumbing
- Catering and hospitality
- Hair and beauty
- Electrical installation
- Motor Vehicle
- Engineering
- Health and social Care
- Early years



On Friday 5th November, Miss Woolley from the Maths department organised for two representatives from the University of Liverpool to visit for the day to speak to year 10 & 11 students about STEM careers, study skills and maths problem solving. Students were delivered a one hour careers and STEM assembly followed by a hour workshop in advanced mathematical problem solving.

CAREERS



CRANTON SIXTH FORM COLLEGE

Ofsted
Outstanding
Provider

CRANTON OPEN EVENTS

- **Wednesday 13th October 2021**
5.30pm - 7.30pm
- **Thursday 14th October 2021**
5.30pm - 7.30pm
- **Tuesday 9th November 2021**
5.30pm - 7.30pm
- **Wednesday 16th February 2022**
5.30pm - 7.30pm

www.cronton.ac.uk



Riverside College
Widnes & Runcorn

Ofsted
Outstanding
Provider

RIVERSIDE OPEN EVENTS

- **Tuesday 16th November 2021**
5pm - 7pm
- **Wednesday 9th March 2022**
5pm - 7pm
- **Tuesday 7th June 2022**
5pm - 7pm

www.riverside.ac.uk

We have had over 100 of the year 11 pupils attend open events at local colleges.

Most open events are now finished for 2021 and they will resume 2022. Please find dates attached.

Students and parents are being urged to take notice of the deadline dates for local colleges. For most, the deadline is February 2022. We ask you continue to support your child in their decision and where possible get them to attend open events and apply online as soon as possible to avoid disappointment.

YEAR 11 CAREERS CONNECT - Students are currently receiving one to one career guidance from our partner provider, Careers Connect. Alison Belmont our careers advisor is in school every Thursday and provides unique guidance and information to individuals in a 30-minute face to face appointments.

YEAR 11 MOCK INTERVIEWS

These took place on the 8th December for all Year 11 pupils. Pupils had the opportunity to apply for colleges and have a 15 minute face to face interview with our liaison officers and our local colleges and universities.



All About STEM NEWS

Five year 10 pupils have been selected to take part in a session run by five UK female ambassadors for STEM careers, specifically focusing on welding. Students will attend Riverside college for a full day of hands on experience. They will take part in virtual welding, chocolate welding and trophy making.

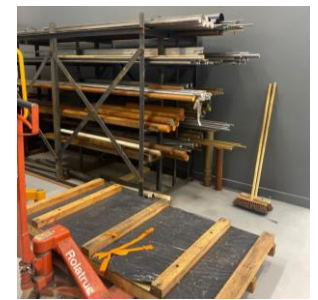
St Helen's College Links.

OCA staff and students were invited to attend the official opening of the St Helens Centre for Precision Engineering on Thursday 18th November. It was officially opened by Metro Mayor - Steve Rotherham who unveiled a plaque on the night.

St Helen's College have carried out a major refurbishment of the Centre after investing over £750,000 in state-of-the-art machinery, partially funded by the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority (LCRA).

This recent investment ensures alignment with employer requirements and industry demand through training the next generation of skilled engineers.

The OCA technology teaching team went over to the college to support their opening event and took some photos of their amazing new facilities.



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MODERN FOREIGN LANGUAGES

The Modern Foreign Film club takes place every Tuesday from 3:10 to 4 pm.

Last week we finished watching 'Zipi y Zape' in Spanish. This week, we will be watching a French film to boost our listening skills. The perfect opportunity to improve our Spanish and French understanding whilst eating popcorn!

ENGLISH

Thank you so much for your support at our Books for Breakfast last Friday; it was fantastic to see some old(!) and new faces! We will host more events in the new year and tweak the 'admissions' process!

If you were not able to get in due to the numbers in the canteen, we have your names; please be reassured that you will be top of the list next time!



All Year 11 students were treated to a live performance of *An Inspector Calls* at the start of term. A group of just three actors brought the play to life, using minimal but highly effective costumes, settings and props. Students will be assessed on their understanding of this play as part of their G.C.S.E. Literature exam next summer and many students immediately commented that it had helped to develop their understanding of the playwright's use of props and dramatic entrances and exits.

At the end of the performance, the actors were questioned whilst in role. Our students asked some interesting and challenging questions which the actors clearly enjoyed responding to.

A group of Year 10 students who are studying G.C.S.E Drama were also invited to attend and spent time discussing career options and even gained some tips for memorising their lines!

Our next step is to take students to the theatre once the official touring production comes to Manchester.

MATHS

Chess Club is provided by the maths department to help our students enhance their critical thinking skills and ability to problem solve. The club allows complete beginners to learn the rules and skills to play the game and also provides more experienced players the opportunity to develop their play by focusing on openings and check mates.



The club has a key focus of being for the students and we aim for it to be something that students are heavily involved in. Over the course of the club we will begin to do student led demonstrations and use videos to help us improve our play.

Eventually our aim is to have our students entering competitions to become chess champions! The club runs Wednesdays after school in H4 with Miss Daley. It's not too late to come along and get involved!

PE & SPORTS' SUCCESS.



HUGE congratulations to Rhys Barnett in Year 8 who was selected to take part in a football competition for hearing impaired students; his team came second out of the entire borough!
WELL DONE RHYD!

Sofia Bourke, Isabella Turton and Lyra Turton who attend Widnes Martial Arts won the European Championships and UK Championships by over 400 points clear of 2nd place, last month. This will be the 18th championship won by Widnes Martial Arts club since they started competing in 2009.
They welcome all OCA students for a free lesson at their purpose built dojang based in Westbank, Widnes. See the website for further information widnesmartialarts.co.uk

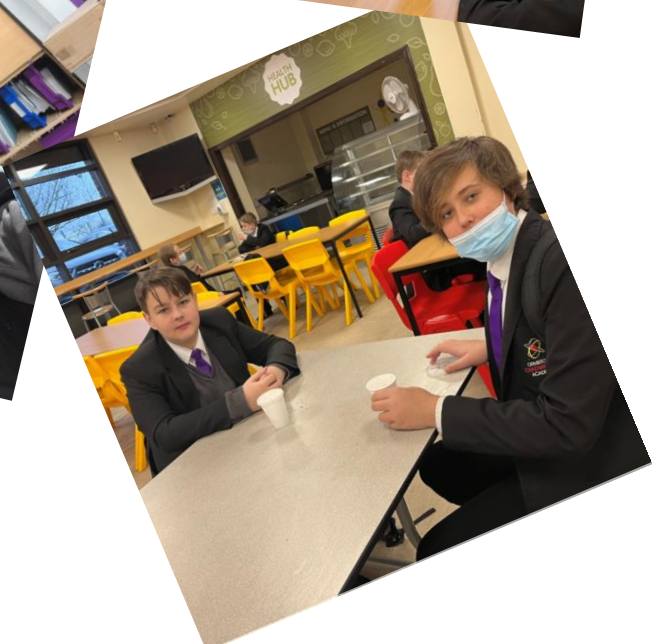


Our Year 7 boys football team competed in a football tournament at Wade Deacon. They were unbeaten throughout the whole tournament but unfortunately lost in the final on penalties after a draw at full time.
And here is the team with coach, Mr Woods.



ATTENDANCE MATTERS

OCA are working hard to improve attendance this year with students having suffered 18 months of sporadic attendance during the covid pandemic. The attendance team have compiled a new strategy to work alongside parents in improving student attendance through early intervention and supportive processes that hopefully helps students to overcome any barriers. Rewards are in the plentiful to encourage and promote excellent attendance alongside those students working hard to improve it. These include; weekly breakfasts, vouchers, chocolate prizes, half termly reward afternoons and coming up is the 12 days of Christmas Bonanza. Every minute in OCA is a learning minute, so be in it to win it!!!



ATTENDANCE MATTERS



The Attendance Elves will be bringing 'The 12 days of Attendance Christmas' starting on the 1st December
Be in to Win some Amazing Attendance Rewards!!!



ON THE 1ST DAY OF CHRISTMAS ATTENDANCE GAVE TO ME.... AN INCREDIBLE ADVENT CALENDAR

ON THE 2ND DAY OF CHRISTMAS ATTENDANCE GAVE TO ME.... A SWEET & CHOCOLATE SURPRISE

ON THE 3RD DAY OF CHRISTMAS ATTENDANCE GAVE TO ME.... A COSTA COFFEE VOUCHER

ON THE 4TH DAY OF CHRISTMAS ATTENDANCE GAVE TO ME.... A LUXURY PAMPER TREAT

ON THE 5TH DAY OF CHRISTMAS ATTENDANCE GAVE TO ME.... A BOX OF KRISPY KREME DONUTS

ON THE 6TH DAY OF CHRISTMAS ATTENDANCE GAVE TO ME.... A DELICIOUS CHOCOLATE FOUNTAIN TO SHARE

ON THE 7TH DAY OF CHRISTMAS ATTENDANCE GAVE TO ME.... A SCRUMPTIOUS McDONALDS BREAKFAST

ON THE 8TH DAY OF CHRISTMAS ATTENDANCE GAVE TO ME.... A GAMERS/BEAUTY DELIGHT

ON THE 9TH DAY OF CHRISTMAS ATTENDANCE GAVE TO ME.... A FOODIE VOUCHER TO SHARE

ON THE 10TH DAY OF CHRISTMAS ATTENDANCE GAVE TO ME.... A CINEMA TREAT FOR TWO

ON THE 11TH DAY OF CHRISTMAS ATTENDANCE GAVE TO ME.... A BOWLING TRIP WITH FRIENDS

ON THE 12TH DAY OF CHRISTMAS ATTENDANCE GAVE TO ME.... A FAMILY THURSDAY NIGHT TAKEAWAY!!!!



Our 12 days of Christmas themed rewards started on 1st December for 100% attendance.
CONGRATULATIONS to our winners so far!



OCA IN THE COMMUNITY

DEAR PARENTS, CARERS, FRIENDS AND GRANDPARENTS

JOIN OTHER MEMBERS OF THE OCA COMMUNITY FOR A CHAT, COFFEE & CAKE WHILST RAISING MONEY FOR MACMILLAN CANCER SUPPORT.

COME FOR COFFEE AND CAKE

WE ARE MACMILLAN CANCER SUPPORT

COME ALONG AND BRING A SMILE

LET'S BREW THIS!

NO SET PRICES! VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS GRATEFULLY RECEIVED!

1ST OCTOBER
8.30AM-9.45AM
SCHOOL CANTEEN

POP IN ON YOUR WAY TO WORK!

ORMISTON CHADWICK ACADEMY



IT WAS AMAZING TO HAVE PARENTS, CARERS, GRANDPARENTS, PAST PUPILS, YOUNGER SIBLINGS & STAFF JOIN US LAST FRIDAY FOR OUR MACMILLAN COFFEE MORNING.

THANK YOU ALL FOR YOUR LOVELY COMPANY. AND WE RAISED £86!

It was an absolute pleasure to host the Macmillan coffee morning at the beginning of October; it was so lovely to meet some parents, friends, siblings and grandparents, have a chat and of course coffee & cake and raise £86!

Thank you to all our staff and pupils who contributed to the 'Wear It Pink' for breast cancer research. The sale of pink ribbons, cakes and bands raised a staggering £270.80!

WEAR IT PINK BREAST CANCER. NOW.

YOU WORE IT PINK, RAISED MONEY AND ARE HELPING MAKE LIFE-CHANGING BREAST CANCER RESEARCH AND CARE HAPPEN.

THANK YOU

To everyone at Ormiston Chadwick Academy

for raising an amazing

£270.80

Remembrance Day

11 NOVEMBER

In Flanders Fields

poem by Lieutenant Colonel John McCrae, 3 May 1915

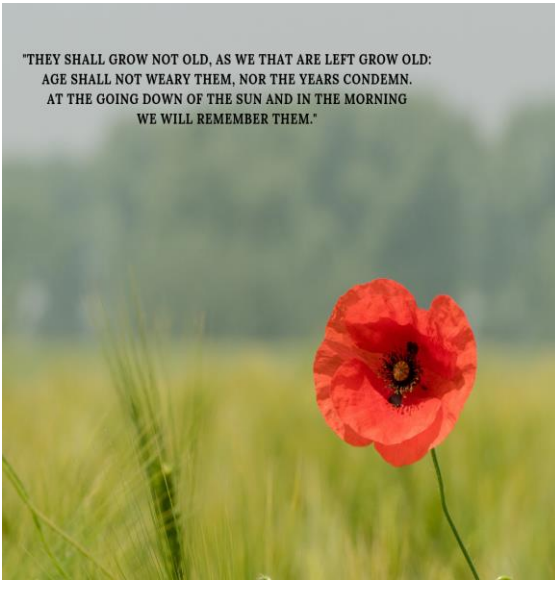
In Flanders fields the poppies blow
Between the crosses, row on row,
That mark our place; and in the sky
The larks, still bravely singing, fly
Scarce heard amid the guns below.

We are the Dead. Short days ago
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
Loved and were loved, and now we lie,
In Flanders fields.

Take up our quarrel with the foe:
To you from failing hands we throw
The torch; be yours to hold it high,
If ye break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow
In Flanders fields.

lest we forget

Miss Martindale organised a break time cake sale on 11/11/21 in which £67.20 was raised for the British Legion.



OCA IN THE COMMUNITY

Our Year 9 hosted a community event in October as this was the theme for their personal development lessons. Prior to the event, students learnt all about communities: what makes a community and how to promote greater community cohesion. As part of the sessions students talked about what community means to them and how they were able to have a positive impact on their local community.

All Year 9s took part; each form took part in a fundraising event. They firstly selected a local charity of their choice and their preferred method of fund raising funds. The students set up in the school hall for their event after school before the doors opened to the rest of the school!

The event started with a 30 minute talk from Nicola Donoghue who is part of the team from the Widnes and Runcorn cancer support group. Nicola discussed with students the challenges that families face living with cancer. Students set up stalls selling cake, raffle tickets, bingo, hot drinks and sweets, as well as a wet sponge challenge where students and staff nominated themselves to have wet sponges thrown at them to raise funds! One form decided to collectively run a marathon in a hour with some of the students running over 6 miles towards their 26 mile total. That one form raised over £130 in sponsors alone. The event was a success raising nearly £300 for the students chosen charities.



TECHNOLOGY



The Technology department have rewarded students with a Christmas themed after school enrichment to say well done for all their hard work. Students received a personalised invitation from Santa and they get to take part in 3 enrichment sessions including cooking, card making, embossing and making hand stitched Christmas tree decorations.



TECHNOLOGY

On Wednesday the 2-year 10 Hospitality and catering students visited the catering department at Riverside college. The staff showed them how to set up a room for an event and the skills for waiting tables as well as the systems for recording orders and informing the kitchen or the customers requirements. They also had the chance to work with the chefs and make a full Christmas dinner including deboning a turkey. As well as this they made all the trimmings and pudding. After all this hard work we sat together to eat the meal - it was delicious. The trip was valuable as it allowed out students to see and take part in a real life catering situation.

