



WELCOME TO THE INFORMATION NEWSLETTER DECEMBER 2023

Our OCA Vision.

We will make the biggest difference to the lives of our students by laying down the foundations to encourage a successful future.

Welcome to the new edition of the Parental Newsletter which contains a round up of the year and crucial information!

We want all of our students to feel part of our family and understand what it means to be a 'true OCAer'. We do this through our core values of:

Originality, Community, Aspiration, Excellence and Respect.

Part of our culture is having some non-negotiables which our students understand happen as part of their daily routine.

A copy is below for you to familiarise yourself with it.

OCAER Culture

Arrive to lessons on time and line up outside the classroom

Have the correct equipment

Write out the date, learning objective and complete the "Do Now"

Engage and participate in the lesson

Demonstrate resilience and be an independent learner

Use the opportunities provided to act upon feedback e.g green pen, questioning etc

Embrace the OCAER values and have a love for learning

Reflect on your learning in preparation for the next lesson

CURRICULUM JOURNEY

As we approach the Spring term, we continue with our curriculum journey, which you can find on our school website under each subject area of the curriculum. As you are aware, your child has recently completed their end of Autumn term assessment for each subject, of which their attainment has been shared with you on their progress card. They will now embark on the next stage of their 5-year journey.

OCA CHALLENGE

This weekly challenge focuses on our top school priorities of attending school & being in on time alongside encouraging a positive learning environment through achieving high attitude to learning grades, earning multiple Epraise points & refraining from receiving any behaviour points. This weekly challenge is competitive amongst each form within their year group with the top 3 forms earning points and rewards for the winning form & form tutor. The form at the top of the leader board by the end of the year will receive a trip in the summer term. Please encourage your child to embrace this challenge & become a successful member of their form. The current leaders of the OCA Challenge are:

Y7 ASE, Y8 BWS, Y9 HPR, Y10 AWD, Y11 ADN

ASSESSMENT

The next whole school assessment window starts week commencing 26th February for 3 weeks. Timetables of your child's assessments will be sent home in the usual letter, alongside their Spring revision mats informing you of the topics covered this next term. The assessments they complete are cumulative, so you will need to refer to the Autumn term revision mats (topics) also. These can all be found on the school website, under curriculum and assessment.

THE PURPOSE OF THESE END OF TERM ASSESSMENTS IS TO:

Check students' knowledge and understanding and how they can apply this

- Enable students, staff and parents to track and monitor progress
- Provide feedback to help support students addressing gaps or misconceptions in understanding
- Provide targets to help challenge their future improvements
- To support your child at home please;
- Encourage 100% attendance at all times so your child is not missing any learning time.
- Ensure your child has the correct equipment for school (pen, pencil, ruler, green pen, highlighter and calculator in a clear pencil case)
- Utilise the revision mats to recall the topics covered so far
- Check assessment timetables so you know what to revise for and when
- Encourage your child to independently revise and prepare for their assessments using their knowledge organisers and lessons on Microsoft Teams.

Please could you provide some feedback on our assessment process using the following link:

<https://forms.office.com/e/nqNkLzQCfl>

UPCOMING DATES

Students return - Thursday 4th January

Y9 Options evening - Thursday 18th January

Employers' Market - Thursday 25th January (all students and parents welcome)

Y9 Progress Evening - Thursday 8th February

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Please do not drive down the school drive to collect your children at the end of the day. There are too many students exiting the school site to control traffic flow and your child's safety is paramount.

WHY ATTEND SCHOOL EVERY DAY?

Good school attendance will give your child the opportunity of success and help them develop the necessary skills for future life. Your child should attend school everyday unless there is an unavoidable cause such as illness.

Missing school damages a student's learning and their grades; research shows that missing 17 days (4 weeks) of school often leads to a drop of one full grade at GCSE, this can equate to 20 hours of English, 20 hours of Maths and 20 hours of Science missed. Absence also disrupts routines and can make a student vulnerable to crime.

WHY BE PUNCTUAL TO SCHOOL EVERY DAY?

School starts at 8.30am every day; students who are late are missing out on vital education that is covered in Morning Enrichment. Being on time sets students up for a positive start to the day and gives them the opportunity to discuss any concerns with their form tutor. Any student who arrives after 9am will be given a U code. This late code is classed as an unauthorised absence and could result in a fixed penalty notice. Remember, when students leave school we are often asked for references. The two main enquiries of employers and course providers are punctuality and attendance; not only will absences and lateness impact on grades and education, it could also impact on future education or job opportunities.

OUR OCA STANDARDS

As we venture into the New Year with the typical resolution of self-improvement and the hope of a positive year, this annual tradition is also reflected in OCA's school ethos of 'Age Quod Agis;' whatever you do, do it to the best of your ability! Therefore, as we enter the New Year we wish to reiterate the standards and expectations we have of all students upon their return to school in January.

UNIFORM & STANDARDS

We are proud of our OCA uniform as we believe that it is a presentation and reflection of ourselves. We have strict uniform policies that students are expected to adhere to.

As per the uniform policy, shoes must be plain black with no logos, in either leather or leather like material. Large decorative bows, flowers, logos or rings are not permitted. Training shoes (even plain black) are not permitted.

If a student arrives to the academy in incorrect footwear then they will be asked to change into formal footwear provided to them for the day. Their footwear will be taken until the end of the school day where they will be exchanged at 3pm. Please be assured that any footwear provided is clean and of good quality. We will not accept trainers as an alternative even if shoes are on order, as we have an adequate supply of new shoes in school.

All students must have the correct coloured tie for their year group; this is a gold tie for Years 7 and 8, a purple tie for Year 9 and 10 and a red tie for Year 11.

Coats may be worn to the academy and whilst students are outside on break and at lunch time. Whilst students move around the building, they are expected to carry their coat with them.

Hooded or tracksuit tops are not allowed to be worn by students at all in the academy; this includes before and after school, lunch time and breaks. Please do not send your child to school in one as these will be confiscated until the end of the school day. All students must wear a school blazer.

MAKE-UP AND HAIR STYLES

The school does not allow the wearing of any obvious make up. Nail varnish is completely banned and we will ask for it to be removed if worn. Acrylic nails should not be worn at any time and students will be asked to remove these. Eyelashes, semi or permanent and drawn on eyebrows are not allowed and students will be asked to remove them or rectify the matter before they can return to lessons.

For Health and Safety reasons, and to support the general business-like values of the academy, we expect students to have reasonable hairstyles and colours. This means no extreme colours e.g. pink, blue, purple or bright red or extreme styles such as a number 1 haircut (skin head), track lines, rollers or pin curls. If the Principal, or a member of staff acting for the Principal, considers a student's hair style to be unreasonable, then the student will be asked to rectify the matter before they can return to lessons.

Any boy or girl with long hair that covers their faces will be asked to tie it back, with either a plain headband, bobble or clip. The clip must be plain, sparkly oversized clips will not be allowed.

Girls can wear small ribbons in hair however these must be black or the colour of their tie, they are not allowed to wear JoJo bows or any similar to this.

OUR OCA STANDARDS CONTD.

JEWELLERY

The academy has agreed that one small ear stud may be worn in the bottom of each ear. These must be a plain gold or silver stud. Students will be asked to remove their earrings if they do not comply with the academy regulations, this includes removal of earrings from the top of ears.

Apart from this, for Health and Safety reasons and to promote the general business-like values of the academy, no other jewellery apart from a wrist watch may be worn. This includes rings, neck chains, bracelets and facial piercing such as nose, tongue and lip studs. If a student has jewellery on, it will be confiscated.

EQUIPMENT

All students **MUST** bring a 'School Bag' to school every day. A 'School Bag' is defined by the academy as a bag which is suitable to carry books of up to A4 size, basic equipment and kit (including trainers/football boots) for other subjects.

They must all have a clear pencil case (these are the only type they can take into an exam) this must contain pens, pencils, ruler, rubber, highlighters, protractor and compass. It is very important where possible that students also have a calculator (Casio FX-83GTX). It is vital that students come prepared.

DRINKS

Students are only allowed to bring a reusable drinks bottle; however this must not contain fizzy or energy drinks. Any other bottles or fizzy or energy drinks will be confiscated and will not be returned.

Thank you for your continued support and cooperation in ensuring our high standards and expectations are maintained at Ormiston Chadwick Academy. If you have any questions or any issues please do not hesitate to contact your child's head of year.

BEHAVIOUR & ATTITUDE TO LEARNING

As a school we are committed to delivering the highest quality lessons that equally support and challenge our students knowledge and progress.

This means it is imperative that all students come with the right attitude and willingness to learn.

We acknowledge that some subjects and tasks are difficult, and we therefore encourage resilience from students; this will help support their confidence, success and emotional health and wellbeing.

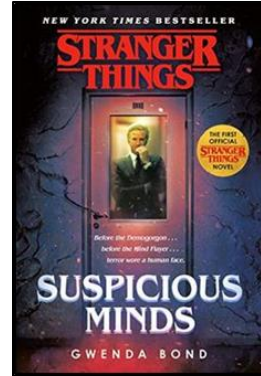
Finally, all teachers come to school with the sole motivation of doing the best for their students so therefore we also ask students trust teachers and staff and accept the help and support they offer.

THE HIGHEST STANDARDS

High standards is the gateway to success and fosters good habits for students' futures. With high standards and a commitment to maintaining this we ask that you support us with this, enabling us to work positively with students to lay the foundations to a successful future

LIBRARY

The Stranger Things books are now in the library! And to celebrate their arrival, Mrs Percival has created an upside-down display alongside our 16x16 display which recommends 16 books to read by the time our students are 16!



BOOK	READ	BOOK	READ	BOOK	READ	BOOK	READ
Wonder	Date:	I am Thunder	Date:	Charlie & the Chocolate Factory	Date:	The Outsiders	Date:
Chinglish	Date:	The Fault in our Stars	Date:	The Midwich Cuckoos	Date:	Alice's Adventures in Wonderland	Date:
Animal Farm	Date:	To Kill a Mockingbird	Date:	Lord of the Flies	Date:	Anne Frank: The Diary of a Young Girl	Date:
The Gifted, The Talented and Me	Date:	The Book Thief	Date:	The Catcher in the Rye	Date:	Great Expectations	Date:



The winners of the Carnegie Medal 2023 are *The Swimmers* (Knopf) by Julie Otsuka as the winner of the 2023 Andrew Carnegie Medal for Excellence in Fiction, and *An Immense World: How Animal Senses Reveal the Hidden Realms Around Us* (Random House) by Ed Yong as the winner of the 2023 Andrew Carnegie Medal for Excellence in Nonfiction. We are very lucky to have some 67 nominated titles in our library. Please see Mrs Percival for more details. The full list is available here:

<https://yotocarnegies.co.uk/writing-nominated-titles-2023/>

YEAR 10 READING LEADERS



We have a team of Year 10 reading leaders who provide reading support with our Year 7 students each Friday in the library. This role involves supporting the younger students with their reading and acting as role models to our younger students. In addition, this allows our Year 10 to add this to their volunteering section for The Duke of Edinburgh Award. On the last session of this term, all those involved, both Year 10 and Year 7, were rewarded with Christmas treats to say thank you for their dedication and hard work. The scheme is in its fifth year and continues to be a success!



ASPIRATIONS

Students are currently receiving one to one career guidance from our partner provider, Careers Connect. Alison Belmont our careers advisor is in school each week and provides unique guidance and information to individuals in a 30-minute face to face appointment.

CAREERS CONNECT & MOCK INTERVIEWS



CRONTON COLLEGE

In October, Year 10 pupils attended the High Ability Event at Cronton College. These pupils were nominated by heads of department as embodying the OCA value of aspiration. As part of this event, pupils attended two academic masterclasses from the following:

- Business & Economics
- English Literature
- Geography
- History
- Maths
- Law
- Philosophy & Religion
- Science (Engineering pathway)
- Science (Medical pathway)
- Social Sciences (Sociology & psychology)



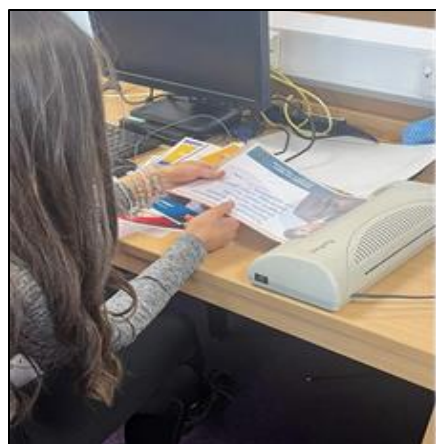
The students represented themselves and OCA brilliantly throughout the duration of the afternoon and were commended by the college for their participation and engagement throughout the event. Activities included analysing a sample of urine during the medical session and designing and marketing an innovate and eco-friendly product as part of business.

At OCA, we have recently installed some posters showcasing the post-16 achievements of various OCA alumni- we hope to see some of the students present at this event join them on our walls in the not-too-distant future!



IN-HOUSE WORK EXPERIENCE

Year 9 students have had a brilliant time doing their in house work experience. Students have assisted in the library, with the site maintenance team, first aid and the IT team!



TRIPS,VISITS & THE COMMUNITY!

TEXTILES WORKSHOP

In October, our Year 10 textiles class enjoyed a workshop with artist Priscilla Edwards. Students were introduced to new textile skills, creating beautiful outcomes to be continued in lessons. Thank you to Miss Archer for organizing this incredible opportunity!



BOOKS FOR BREAKFAST

Also in October we hosted a 'Books for Breakfast' event for our Year 7 parents. Reading has numerous benefits including improving brain connectivity, increasing vocabulary & comprehension in addition to being very good for our mental health; the experience of being immersed or engaged while reading a story is called narrative absorption. Researchers believe that mentally transporting ourselves away from our physical surroundings can provide an escape or opportunity for meaningful contemplation and improve our mental health!



WEAVER HALL

Year 7 went to Weaver Hall throughout this term to connect to their Oliver Twist module. Students experienced life in a workhouse and even had a Victorian lesson!

DISNEYLAND PARIS



In November Year 10 students had a fabulous time at Disneyland Paris! Students had a lecture on the business side of running such a huge theme park as well as a workshop when they built their own rollercoasters! And of course, we spent two days in the Disney Parks!

TATE GALLERY VISIT

What a fabulous day at the Tate Gallery in Liverpool today with Year 10 GCSE art students. Everyone they encountered was very complimentary. Miss Bridge sums up the day brilliantly: "Just a fab day with super talented, beautiful students!"



TRIPS,VISITS & THE COMMUNITY!

ICELAND

The geography department took Year 8 and 9 students to Iceland! The students were exemplary and they loved experiencing the winter wonderland!



OCA'S GOT TALENT CHRISTMAS CONCERT CHRISTMAS FAIR

This December we were treated to A Christmas Concert during the Christmas Fair and then OCA'S Got Talent House Competition after the fair! And the best news of all, we raised over £900 for Halton Cancer Support! Thank you to all members of the community who contributed in any way!



ROYAL NAVY VISIT

In October, our Year 10 food students spent an afternoon with the Royal Navy. A talk about how to become a chef in the Navy was followed by a challenge! Four teams, two dishes per team and just an hour and 5 minutes to create. Our students were amazing! And the food was delicious!



OPEN EVENING – DO SOMETHING NICE DAY!

It was so lovely to meet Year 6s and their parents & carers at our Open Evening on 5th October; thank you for taking the time to come and see us! We really couldn't have done it without the help of our phenomenal prefects who acted as tour guides and helped the activities run smoothly in various departments.

In English we had the Victorian classroom as well as a plethora of activities in the library, heart dissection and a range of experiments in science, painting of kindness rocks in art, origami hearts and positivity pennies in DT, hair and make up demonstrations in hair & beauty, dancing, history of biscuits, a maths sweetshop, tapas in Spanish, table tennis and numerous sports in PE – we could go on! And of course, our Year 6s and their parents were able to sample our delicious school dinners!

