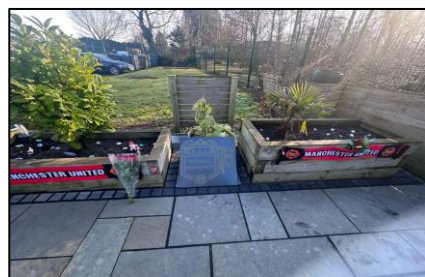
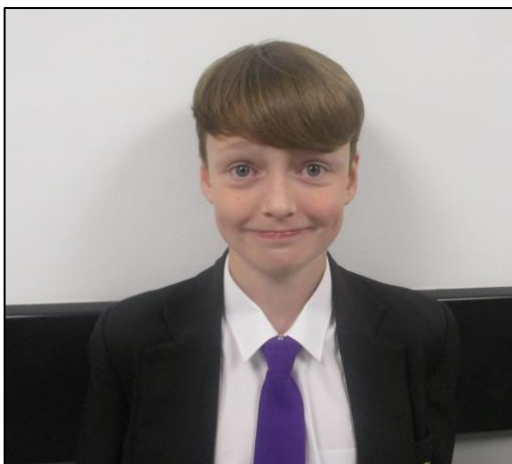


WELCOME TO THE INFORMATION NEWSLETTER APRIL2024

In February, the OCA community remembered Thomas Mahoney on the first anniversary of his passing and of course, Alfie Humphries. A football tournament was played in their honour and the joint players of the tournament were awarded with The Thomas Mahoney Player of the Match Award. The winning team was awarded with the Alfie Humphreys memorial trophy, presented by Alfie's brother, Dylan.

Year 11 spent time in the peaceful memorial garden, remembering Thomas and reflecting on their memories together.

Thomas' mum and sister Ellie released red balloons; in addition, Alfie's mum and brother Dylan, released red and blue balloons to commemorate the lives of such great friends.





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.

OCA CHALLENGES

The challenges each week include; highest number of achievement points, lowest number of lates both to school and to lessons, highest attendance, lowest number of behaviour reports, most improved attendance.

ENGAGEMENT WINNERS

Each week students with improved engagement/ attendance receive a reward! Our winners so far have been:
Riley B (7)
Nathan M c (8)
Amanda Z (9)
Amyleigh A (10)
Cara Louise J (11)
Elsie C (7)
Miley D (8)
Alfie D (9)
Ruby L (10)
Oliver L (11)
Well done to all of our winners and of course all those students who attend school every day.

WHY STUDENTS SHOULD 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.

IMPORTANT UPCOMING DATES

Return after Easter break on Tuesday 22nd April
Year 10 Parents’ Evening 24th April
DofE Bronze Expedition 1st May - 2nd May
Bank Holiday 5th May
Year 8 Parents Evening 8th May
Year 8 Trip to Formby Beach 9th May
Monday 26th- Friday 30th May; return to school
Monday 2nd June
DofE Silver Expedition 11th May - 13th May
Work Experience Week
Year 7 Parents’ Evening 19th June
Year 11 Prom 27th June
Whole School Assessment Week 3 23rd - 27th June
Year 6 Transition Day 30th June & 1st July
OCAER Week 16th July - 18th July – KEEP AN EYE OUT FOR TRIP LETTERS!
Sports Day 21st July
Close for the summer holidays on 22nd July at 12.15pm.

WHY ATTEND SCHOOL EVERY DAY?

School engagement 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.

DEPARTMENT NEWS

PE



Our Boys' Year 9 Rugby Team got through to the quarter finals of the North West Cup after beating Saddleworth by 36-26. Well done to everyone involved but of course, especially our team for getting so far in a very tough competition.



MODERN FOREIGN LANGIAGES

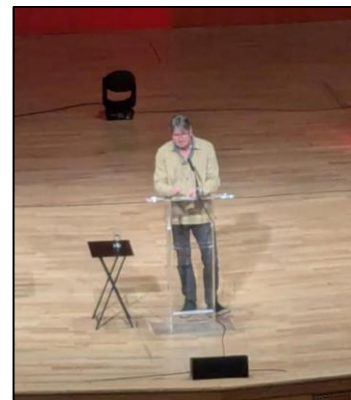


At the start of February, Eseosa and Abigail in Year 7 got the opportunity to travel to Cambridge University to take place in the final of the OAT National Spelling Bee; the girls were phenomenal and gained second and third place. Miss Molina, who travelled with the girls and their families said, "When it came to the last three it was so tight that no winner could be decided so the three finalists were given just under five minutes to learn a new list of words. The person spelling more correct words in two minutes would be announced as the winner of the competition. Eseosa and Abigail were amazing! They did incredibly well!"

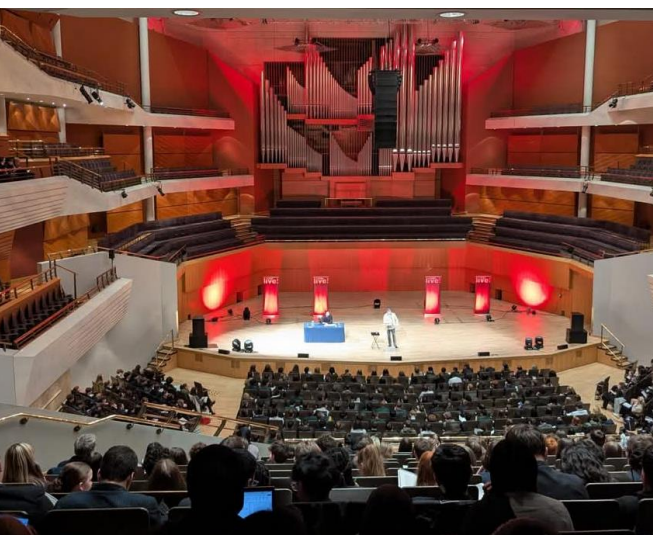
We are so proud of their accomplishment and what a fabulous experience!



ENGLISH



At the end of January, some of our Year 10s and Year 11s snapped up the opportunity to go to the spectacular Bridgewater Hall in Manchester to see the GCSE anthology poets read and talk about their work. They listened to Carol Ann Duffy, Simon Armitage and the very memorable John Agard.



OCA VISITORS AND THE COMMUNITY

We would like to give a big thank you to Nick from NWH Landscapes who very kindly brought in Easter eggs; these were distributed to students as part of our rewards programme for engagement, improvement in engagement and attitude to learning.

MIND OF THE STUDENT



Mind of the Student brought their mental health workshops to OCA ahead of Children's Mental Health Week in February. Over the course of the sessions, they engaged with all five year groups, reaching more than 900 students, to equip them with essential knowledge and practical strategies for managing their mental health. Covering key topics such as depression, anxiety, social media pressures, exam stress, and confidentiality, their workshops aim to empower young people with the tools they need to navigate challenges and build resilience.

ASPIRATIONS

FRIDAY NIGHT TAKE AWAY



Each Friday at about lunchtime, Mrs Wyss will inform one of our Year 11s that they are the winner of the Friday Night Take Away! This treat is awarded to a Year 11 for their hard work, resilience and independent revision as voted for by staff. Our winner can choose any takeaway they like though Domino's is a very popular option! The takeaway is delivered to their house for them and their family to enjoy.

Our winners so far have been:

Keira M, Ewan G, Neve and Freya D, Callum W, Lacey H, Lilly Radley and Sofia Bourke.

The Friday Night Take Away will be running right up to the start of the GCSE examinations.



CAREER'S FAIR

We had a wonderful day at our annual Careers' Fair in January for all year groups. We had representatives and stalls from colleges, universities, nurseries, the NHS, the Civil Service and the Air Force.

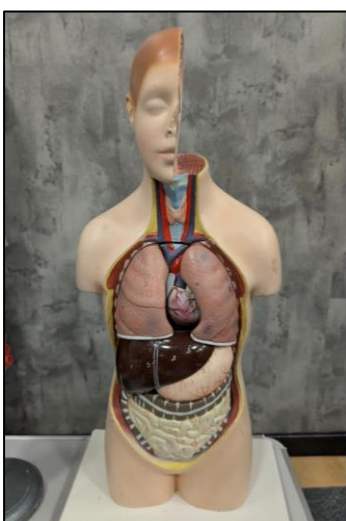
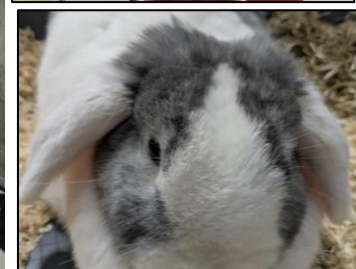
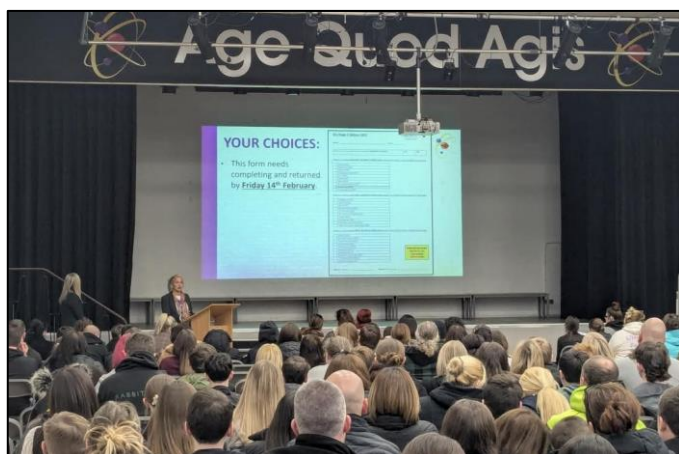
Our visitors were very impressed with the engagement and enthusiasm of our students.



ASPIRATIONS

OPTIONS EVENING

We started the new year with our Options Evening which was very well attended by Year 9 students and their parents and carers. Ater a talk from Mrs Johnson in which she outlined the options process, staff ensured that students knew the ins and outs of the various subjects on offer by holding 'subject stalls' in the gym. Our students could therefore make a well-informed decision about those important option choices!



WORLD BOOK DAY

World Book Day is an annual event that celebrates authors, illustrators and our favourite books and characters. More than 100 countries across the globe participate in events to encourage reading.

The day encourages more children and families to find enjoyment in reading.

UNESCO, which promotes global education, culture and heritage, created the annual event on April 23, 1995.



The theme this year was Read Your Way, encouraging children and young people to discover reading on their terms. This year, the official World Book Day website states: "World Book Day doesn't suggest a theme, instead we hope that schools and families encourage children to read for pleasure, focussing on the 6 elements of reading for pleasure."

The six elements are: Being read to regularly, having books at home and at school, having a choice in what to read, finding time to read, having trusted help to find a book and making reading fun.

This year at OCA our library turned into the Mad Hatter's Tea Party in celebration of Lewis Carroll's Alice in Wonderland. As a reward for excellent attitude to learning and engagement, many Year 7s were invited to take part in various activities in the library as well as a tea party! And of course, many staff dressed up as their favourite character or something/someone relevant to their subject!





Sparx Reader

Sparx Reader has already been launched with students in school time and in Years 7-9 and next term it will be used to complete weekly one hour reading homework. Please see below for a letter to parents regarding Sparx Reader:

Dear Parents,

Developing a love of reading continues to be a key aspect of our curriculum intent at OCA and we are always keen to develop new strategies to support students' reading. This term, we have partnered with Sparx Learning, to start using their new platform, Sparx Reader. Sparx Reader is an online platform which provides students with access to a wide range of age-appropriate eBooks and helps to promote careful, focused reading.

Students can log into Sparx Reader using their existing Sparx Maths details or by using Microsoft 365 log in from the OCA homepage, via any device with internet access. More detailed visual log in information follows on the next page. Once logged in, students will be able to choose from a range of eBooks selected based on their own reading ability.

Each week, students' English teachers will set them a homework task, which will require them to complete one hour of careful reading of one of the books from the eBook library. As students read, they will answer questions generated by Sparx Reader, to ensure that they are reading carefully. This homework will be set on a weekly basis each Wednesday and students will have until the following Wednesday to complete the reading homework.

We encourage you to watch a series of short videos explaining what Sparx Reader is, how it works and how you can support your child with developing their reading, this guidance is available via the QR code:

We are very excited about this opportunity to further develop students' reading skills, and enable them to become more confident, fluent readers. If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact your child's English teacher or Mrs Wyss: wysso@ocacademy.co.uk.

Please see a number of ways that you can support your child with their reading:

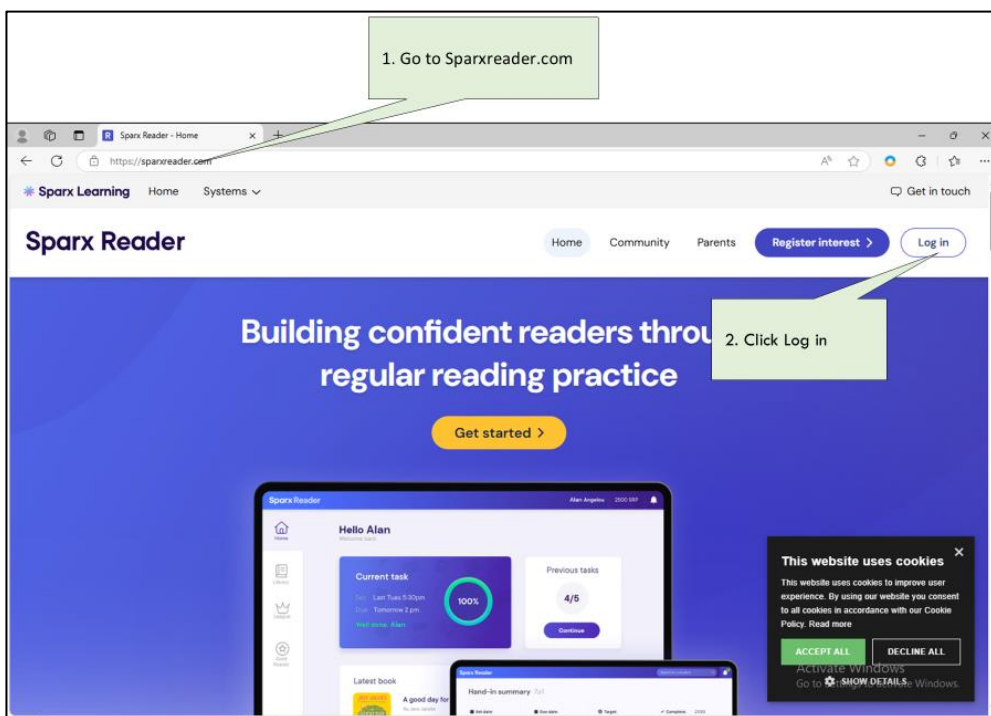
- **You can help by providing a quiet space and a set amount of time for your child to focus on their reading homework each week.**
- **The best way to support your child is to ask them about the book they're reading; which aspects they're enjoying, which characters and events they've recently read about or what they think could happen next.**

How can I monitor the reading my child is doing?

- **You are able to keep track of your child's reading by clicking through the link to the Parent Portal in your Sparx Maths weekly homework email.**
- **On the Parent Portal, you can choose to view homework progress for any Sparx Learning system your child is using. For Sparx Reader, you can see progress with the current and previous homeworks and browse books that your child has been reading as part of their current homework.**



1



2

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4

New Sparx User?

- Fill in your details.
- This will tell you your username (usually your first name and surname without a space)
- It will then let you make your own password – make it memorable!

5

Forgot login details?

- Fill in your details.
- This will send your teacher an email to allow you to reset your password.
- Wait a short while and click Forgot login details? Again
- Fill in this information again and it will then allow you to make your own password.