



WELCOME TO OUR END OF YEAR CELEBRATION NEWSLETTER!

As the '25 – '26 school year comes to an end, we would love to share with you some of the amazing experiences and achievements that have taken place here at OCA. It has truly been a great year to look back on and one that has created special memories for our students. We're so proud of Team OCA!



Becoming an
OCAER...

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



**OUR VISION AND
CORE VALUES**

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Whole School Assessment Week

Students have now completed all of their formal assessments for this academic year. A huge congratulations to everyone for the dedication, resilience and hard work shown during our Whole School Assessment Week. Year 10 students completed their first round of mock examinations, while our Key Stage 3 students sat their end-of-year assessments. We were incredibly proud of the mature, resilient and exemplary attitude shown by students throughout the assessment period. Despite the warm weather, they remained focused and approached each assessment with determination. During the week, the ice pops on sale at breaktime proved to be a popular way for students to cool down and stay refreshed between assessments.





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.

ATTENDANCE MATTERS

At OCA, we believe that great attendance doesn't just open doors to better learning, it builds confidence, friendships, and future opportunities. Every day in school helps students stay on track, feel connected, and make the most of everything we have to offer. That's why we're working hard to support students in building positive routines and celebrating all the fantastic attendance achievements we're seeing.

STARTING THE DAY RIGHT: OUR ENGAGEMENT CURRICULUM

Students take part in our brand-new Engagement Curriculum during form time. These sessions offer tips on how to make mornings (and evenings!) run smoothly, from organising school bags the night before to planning journeys and setting up morning routines that help students arrive on time and ready to learn.

Students also learn about when it's OK to stay off school—and when it's not, using clear, student-friendly guidance from the NHS. This helps everyone feel confident making the right choices when it comes to minor illnesses and attending school.

CELEBRATING ATTENDANCE – BIG STYLE!

We love celebrating students' hard work and commitment, and there have been some brilliant rewards this year.

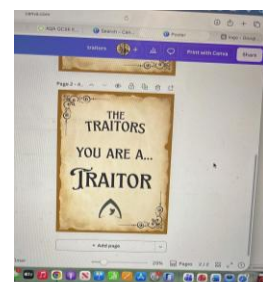


✨ **Glow Sports Afternoon** – to reward 7GFN for their whole form having a week of 100% attendance they had an energising session of glow-in-the-dark games.

LOOKING AFTER WELLBEING

Life isn't always smooth sailing, and our curriculum reflects that. With support from our school counsellor, our Engagement Curriculum helps students understand what to do when things feel tough like friendship worries, tricky lessons, or low-mood days. Importantly, students learn exactly who they can talk to in school and how we can help remove obstacles that may be getting in the way of learning. No one has to struggle alone.

Staff were also treated to some well-being activities, including a cookery course, football and "Staff Traitors" with Miss Bishoprick hosting as "Claudia Winkleprick"! Of course, the "traitors" won!

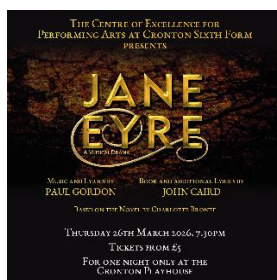


ENGLISH

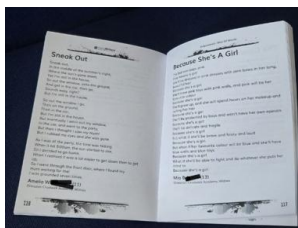
At the end of January, some of our Year 10s and Year 11s snapped up the opportunity to go to the spectacular Bridgewater Hall in Manchester to see the GCSE anthology poets read and talk about their work. They listened to Carol Ann Duffy, Simon Armitage and the very memorable John Agard.



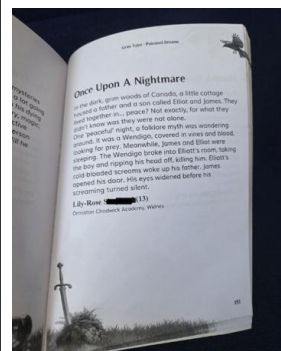
gcse poetry
live!



Our Year 9s went on a fabulous trip to Cronton Playhouse - part of Cronton College - to view the students' very professional musical performance of Jane Eyre, a text they study in English. In particular, the acting from Mr Rochester, the costumes, and the incredible live orchestral score, were the things our pupils were most impressed with!



Students have taken part in multiple young writers' competitions across the year. This has included writing their own twisted fairytale to creating a poetic masterpiece. Some students even managed to get their work published in a book. Teachers were blown away by students' creativity and determination when taking part in these competitions.



MATHS

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It has been another successful year for the Maths Department, with students across the year groups continuing to develop their confidence, resilience and problem-solving skills through their lessons. A particular highlight was seeing three of our Year 7 students – Bradley, Alissa and Kaiden – represent the school at the OAT MathOlympics competition. Competing against schools from across the academy trust, they achieved an outstanding 3rd place finish, demonstrating excellent teamwork, mathematical thinking and determination. We are incredibly proud of their achievement and look forward to seeing what they accomplish in the future.

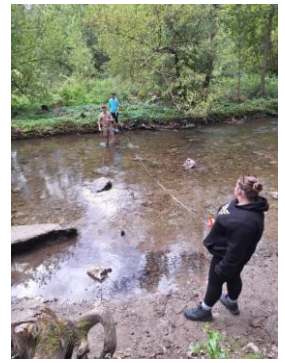
Since the passing of our beloved colleague Lindsey Farrington in 2023, we have taken time each year to award a student with The Farrington Award, given to students who embrace the fantastic qualities of Mrs. Farrington with a particular focus on Resilience and an attitude to try everything. This year's winner was Isaac K in year 11. A fantastic edition to the line up of previous winners and a worthy winner of the award.



DEPARTMENT NEWS

GEOGRAPHY

Our Year 11 GCSE students completed Human Fieldwork and Physical Fieldwork study trips. The human fieldwork was completed in Mold town centre, considering whether Mold is in need of regeneration. The physical fieldwork was a river study at Loggerheads Country Park investigating whether the River Alyn meets the Bradshaw Model.



Additionally, Year 7 geographers showed effective teamwork undergoing onsite fieldwork in the summer term, investigating microclimates on the OCA site.



HISTORY

Year 10 trip to London for GCSE Historians. We went on the Jack the Ripper Walking Tour and then on to London Dungeons to aid their knowledge for Crime and Punishment History.



In October, six Year 10's went to Cronton College for the Humanities Challenge. We came 6th out of 20 schools.

Newsletter Notice:

Year 10 Historians. Please look out for your information letter about the next history trip to Hardwick Hall. On October 16th we will be visiting Hardwick to further develop your knowledge of Early Elizabethan History! Don't miss out!

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On Monday 6th July, our year 10 students went to Riverside College to work alongside their talented chefs. They made chicken Parm, spaghetti in ragu with garlic and parmesan bread rolls. For dessert, they enjoyed sticky toffee pudding and ice cream.



Back in April, they showcased their presentation skills with a beautiful seasonal fruit tart, complete with creme pâtisserie and sweet short crust pastry.

As part of 2026 British Science Week, our KS3 students took part in an exciting week of lessons. The theme was 'curiosity; what's your question' and students were encouraged to think scientifically and ask questions about the world around them. Lessons included morse coding, where students worked in teams to build their own circuits and use them to send and decipher morse code instructions. Students then got curious about the environment and asked what we do to make water safe to drink. They experienced some hands-on fun by making their own water samples safe to drink! To finish the week, students asked questions about what makes objects float. All students took part in a competition where they designed and built a boat. The winning team's boat could hold the most weight without sinking. There were lots of fabulous prizes for the winning teams. Students had a great week and were able to develop their curiosity and, most importantly, have lots of fun!



DEPARTMENT NEWS

STEM Bridge Building Challenge

Our students recently took part in an exciting STEM Challenge, competing to design and build the strongest bridge possible using only straws, masking tape and lollipop sticks. Working in teams, they used their creativity, problem-solving skills and engineering knowledge to create innovative bridge designs. The challenge concluded with a strength test, where weights were added to each bridge to see how much it could withstand. The students' efforts were so impressive that they far exceeded our expectations, and we had to find additional weights to continue testing the bridges! The determination, teamwork and resilience shown throughout the challenge were outstanding, and we were incredibly proud of the high standard of work produced by all participants. Well done to everyone involved for demonstrating such enthusiasm, ingenuity and engineering excellence.



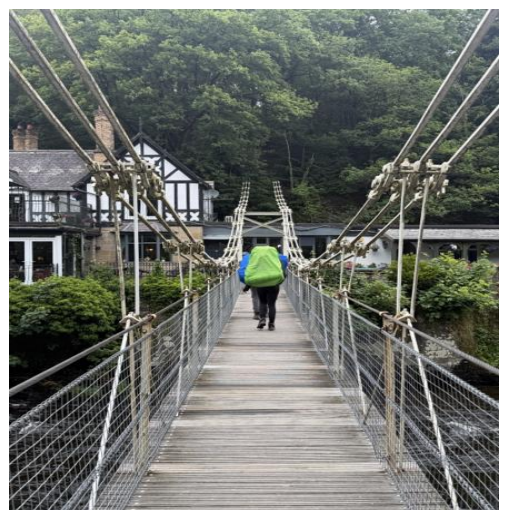




DEPARTMENT NEWS

DUKE OF EDINBURGH AWARD

It has been another successful year for our Duke of Edinburgh students. Our Year 9 cohort has embraced every aspect of the Bronze Award, taking part in a wide range of physical, skills, and volunteering activities. These have included cooking, sports coaching, learning a new language, and giving their time to support others in the community. Throughout the year, students have shown outstanding commitment while developing valuable life and employability skills such as organisation, communication, resilience, and time management. Mr Clothier and Mr Bragger have been particularly impressed with the students' dedication at the weekly Duke of Edinburgh Club, held every Monday after school. During these sessions, students have developed their navigation skills and campcraft knowledge in preparation for their expedition. We look forward to seeing them put these skills into practice during their expedition in OCAER Week. Our Year 10 cohort has continued to thrive, building on the knowledge and experience gained during their Bronze Award. Many students have successfully completed their Bronze Award and have now progressed to the Silver Award, taking on even greater challenges. The Silver Award includes longer and more demanding expeditions, more complex navigation, and the requirement to complete both a practice and a qualifying expedition. Once they have successfully completed the Silver Award, students will have the opportunity to progress to the prestigious Gold Award from the age 17+. Those who achieve Gold may even have the honour of attending a celebration at the Palace gardens, recognising their outstanding commitment and achievement. We are incredibly proud of all our Duke of Edinburgh students and look forward to seeing what they accomplish next.



Can you run? In the Autumn term, OCA is hoping to put together a cross-country team to take part in the Cheshire Schools Cross Country fixtures. Please let your PE teacher know if you would be interested in representing the school.





OCAER WEEK 13TH -17TH JULY 2026



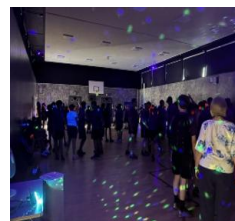
OCAER Week – A Week to Remember!

This year's OCAER Week was packed with exciting opportunities, unforgettable experiences and plenty of fun, all centred around our academy values of Originality, Community, Aspiration, Excellence and Respect.

Our Year 9 students took part in an inspiring Humanutopia workshop, developing confidence, resilience and stronger relationships with those around them. Through teamwork, honest conversations and shared experiences, students explored the importance of supporting one another and building a positive community.

Students also enjoyed memorable trips to Chester Zoo, Alton Towers and Monkey Forest, where they demonstrated curiosity, enthusiasm and respect while creating new memories with friends and staff. These experiences encouraged students to challenge themselves, try something new and celebrate excellence beyond the classroom.

OCAER Week showcased the very best of our students — their teamwork, creativity, kindness and willingness to embrace new opportunities. We are incredibly proud of the way our community came together to make the week such a success.





FROM FAREWELL TO FUTURE...

Year 11 celebrated the end of their secondary school journey in style at their Prom on 26th June, following months of dedicated hard work and commitment to their GCSE examinations. After working tirelessly to prepare for and complete their exams, students enjoyed a well-deserved evening filled with laughter, dancing, and memorable moments with friends and staff. The event provided a fantastic opportunity for everyone to reflect on their achievements, celebrate their resilience, and mark the end of an important chapter in their education. Prom was a fitting reward for the determination and effort shown by the year group throughout the year, and it was wonderful to see them enjoying a special evening together before beginning the next stage of their journeys. Well done class of 2026!



Transition took place on the 6th and 7th of July. 180 pupils from 24 primary schools came together for the first time to meet their form tutors and enjoy a variety of lessons. All the students were lovely. They displayed our OCAER values of excellence and respect, forming our new year 7 community. Lots of new friendships were made and relationships developed with the staff that will help them through the next five years. Well done class of 2031!

Goodbye from the our OCA
community.

Have a lovely Summer.

See you in September!!!

OCA VISITORS AND THE COMMUNITY

A mixture of year 7, year 9 and year 10 students took part in the Diana Award on Wednesday 8th July.

The Diana Award is a UK charity set up in memory of Diana, Princess of Wales. Its aim is to help young people develop leadership skills, make a positive difference in their communities, and recognise those who have gone above and beyond to help others.



This week, we were honoured to welcome John's parents back into school for a special community litter pick alongside our Year 10 prefects. Caring for the environment was something John was passionate about, making this a meaningful way to remember him while giving back to our local community. We were also proud to present the John L Endeavour Award for Science to Sonya in year 10, created in John's memory to recognise the curiosity, determination and enthusiasm he brought to learning. It was a special opportunity to celebrate John's legacy, reflect on the positive impact he continues to have on our school, and spend time with his family in a way that we hope brought comfort and connection.

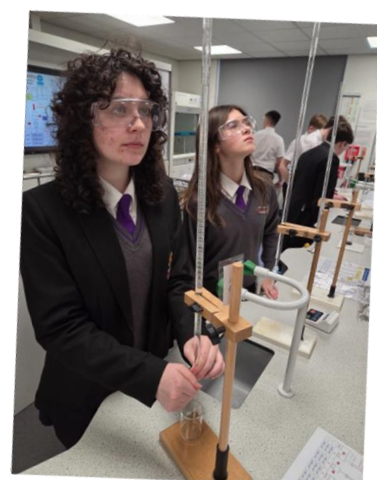
ASPIRATIONS

STEM MOND TROPHY – CRONTON COLLEGE

Forty teams...
Five challenges: physics, biochemistry, engineering, maths and an escape room (maths/physics)

Our girls won!

(And reduced Miss Lyne to tears!)



ASPIRATIONS

YEAR 10 WORK EXPERIENCE

In May, our year 10 students completed a one-week external work experience placement. Students had a fantastic week working at various workplaces including Liverpool John Lennon Airport, Jaguar Land Rover, Medivet, Toby Carvery, NatWest and various local businesses including primary schools, garages and gardening businesses. Feedback from both students and employers was overwhelmingly positive and some invaluable experience was gained that will no doubt be put to good use in future careers.



IMPROVING LITERACY

WORLD BOOK DAY – 5th MARCH 2026

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 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 magical, dream- like forest from A Midsummer Night's Dream. As a reward for excellent attitude to learning and engagement, many Year 7s were invited to take part in various creative activities in the library. And of course, many staff dressed up as their favourite character or something/someone relevant to their subject!



Lexonic Leap is a phonics-based literacy intervention designed to rapidly address reading, spelling, and oracy gaps in learners of all ages, particularly those struggling with basic literacy skills or learning English as an additional language.



Sparx Learning

SPARX Homework

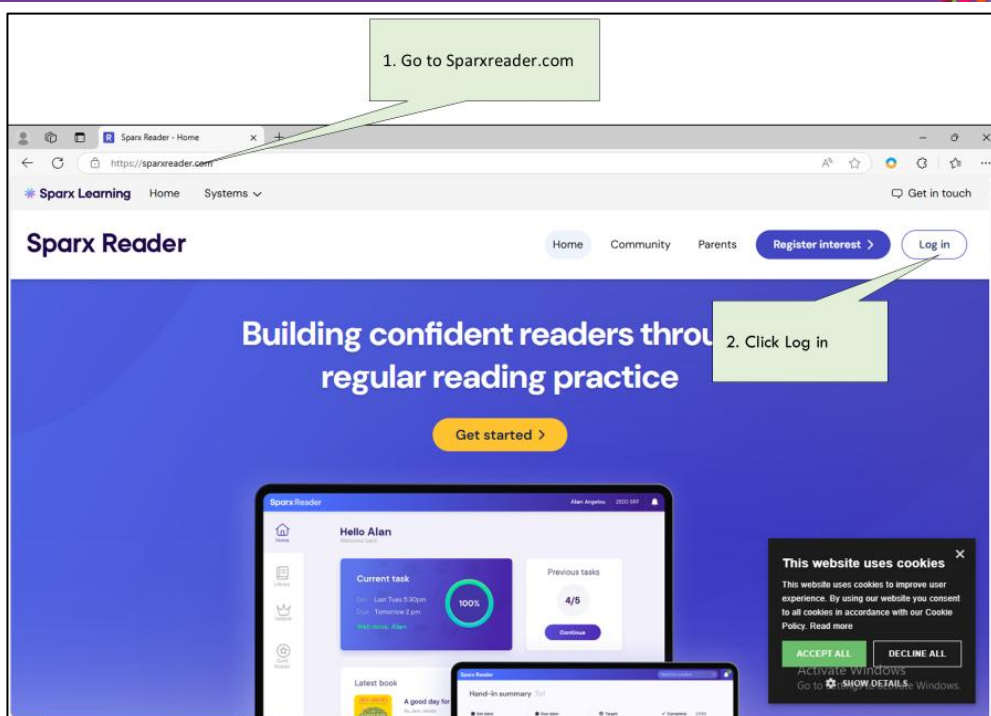
This year saw the introduction of SPARX online learning for all KS3 students in Maths, English and Science. The platform has been a great success, with students enthusiastically completing their weekly homework and competing to climb the subject leaderboards.

Regular engagement with SPARX has been shown to support student progress, and it has been fantastic to see so many students embracing the challenge. To recognise their commitment and consistency, students who top the weekly leaderboards in each subject have been rewarded with queue jump passes, while those demonstrating sustained effort throughout the term have enjoyed early lunch passes as an end-of-term reward.

Congratulations to everyone who has taken part so far. Keep up the excellent work and continue engaging with SPARX to make the most of your learning!



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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.