

Message from the Principal

I would like to thank all students, parents and carers for being incredible and showing absolute resilience and adaptability in the way you have all coped during what has been an extremely difficult year. I'd like to take the opportunity to wish you all a Merry Christmas, Stay Safe and I look forward to seeing you all in January.

Mr Roessler

OPA Grand opening of the Library #iwill

Staff and students celebrated the opening of the new library earlier this term. The event, was attended by the CEO of the Ormiston Academies Trust, Mr Nick Hudson. The new library, funded by £17,000 from the government and Ormiston Academies Trust's iWill programme, features 1,500 new books, a new suite of technology and comfortable and innovative reading spaces. After an 18 month long fundraising campaign by the iWill student team, books were also donated by the local community, the Book Trust and WH Smith. Speaking at the event, one of the student librarian team, Tomi Olowookere said 'the campaign has helped unlock our potential and has given us the opportunity to do something really special for the school.'

The library is the cornerstone of Ormiston Park Academy's drive to improve student reading and literacy. Over lockdown, school Reading Lead, Mrs Sabine Scott, delivered hundreds of books to local students. Also, at the start of this year, all Year 7 students were gifted a new book in order to better embed a love of reading. Prior to the formal opening of the library, Director of English at Ormiston Park, Mr Rhys Shercliff said 'Discovering a good book is a magical, sometimes life-changing moment- the more books we have and the more students who have access to those books, the more chance we have of making that moment happen.' All year groups are encouraged to come along and enjoy this wonderful new facility.

Upcoming dates and events:

Progress Evenings:

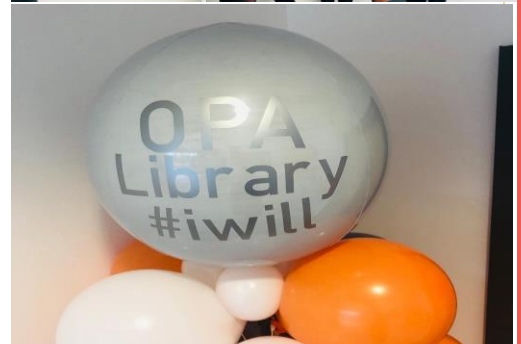
For the foreseeable future, tutors will make phone calls home to parents/carers over a two-week period, to offer feedback regarding reports in place of the progress evenings, which would usually follow our assessments and reports for a year group.

Tutor Feedback Windows:

Year 11 Mock feedback -
11/01/2021 - 22/01/2021

Year 9 DC2 Assessment feedback -
08/02/2021 - 26/02/2021

Year 10 DC1 Assessment feedback -
01/03/2021 - 12/03/2021





Remembrance Day is a day that's particularly close to the hearts of the community at **Ormiston Park Academy** because a former student, Lance Corporal Nicky Mason, was sadly killed while on duty in Afghanistan. This year every student in the academy created a personalised poppy that formed part of our Remembrance display in the heart space. The display was designed and created by Miss Berry and looked fantastic.

Ormiston Park Academy's cadets conducted a socially distanced ceremony outside, which was then streamed for students across the academy to watch from their classrooms. This was followed by the Last Post bugle call and two minutes of silence, wherein students watched a photo montage of those who have served our country. Nicky's father and sister attended the ceremony and were presented with a plaque that will hang in the school's reception.

Mark Roessler, Principal at Ormiston Park Academy said: *"We're pleased to have been able to honour all those who have fought for our country over the years, particularly Nicky Mason, who we are extremely proud to count amongst our Ormiston Park Academy alumni. Nicky's bravery and love for his country are an inspiration to all of us."*



Update from History

'In order to reflect the community and world we live in, the History Department at Ormiston Park have worked on diversifying their curriculum at KS3. Alongside learning about British monarchs, the British Empire and WW1, students at Ormiston now learn about Mansa Musa from Medieval Africa, Black Tudors such as John Blanke and Mary Fillis, Caribbean and Indian soldiers who fought for Britain during WW1, as well as the many women who contributed to keeping the country safe at that time. To ensure students at Ormiston truly understand this country and world they live in, a unit dedicated to the migrants that built and shaped the Britain we know today is studied along with a unit dedicated to analysing the fight for civil rights in Britain.

The curriculum leader of history Mr Hayes says "I hope students will understand that the place they live has been diverse since humans first set foot on British soil. The history department has worked incredibly hard to bring this together and will continue to develop the curriculum in order to enrich the history experience for Ormiston students"

Parent Forum

The input from parents and carers is extremely important to all staff at OPA. There were 39 responses to the parental survey I put out this term. As the lead on parental engagement and communication I would like to see that number increase. I will be starting a parent forum next term to give parents and carers the opportunity to be more involved. The parent forum will be an informal group where parents can raise issues, be consulted on school policy and give their views. If you would like to be involved then please contact. Lynsey Padmore Assistant principal lpadmore@ormistonpark.org.uk



Parklife are a team of Student Ambassadors who drive student voice in the academy to ensure OPA is the best it can be for it's students. Parklife has some new recruits, there are 27 ambassadors in total and each member has a specific responsibility. New members include: Year 7, Ellie – Eco Ambassador, Sarah Jessica -Reading Ambassador, Tanisha- Anti Bullying Ambassador, Alfie- Sports Ambassador, Zuriel- Enrichment Ambassador. Year 8: Rinnah- Sports and Interform Ambassador, Reece Performing Arts Ambassador, Demi – Sports and Interform Ambassador, Cairo- Sports Ambassador, Sam- STEAM Ambassador. Year 10 Amelia- Mental Health Ambassador. Year 11 Blaine- SEN Ambassador.

Despite restrictions due to Covid Parklife has remained strong this term, a selection of the team meet with Mrs Padmore in their bubbles every Monday morning to discuss priorities for the year. Ambassadors met with the CEO of Ormiston Academies Nick Hudson Principal Mr Roessler and Mrs Padmore (Student voice lead) to share their plans and ask for financial support where necessary. The students have also presented in all year groups assemblies to keep students up to date with their plans

Priorities include:

- Improve Recycling in OPA, supply new recycling bins and Challenge the academy to go 'single use plastic free' from 2021. Review our kitchen waste and promote composting
- Supply students with reusable bottles and install a drinks dispenser in the canteen
- Organise extra inside space for students who don't want to be outside during food breaks
- Raise more money for charity
- Promote a love of Reading in OPA
- Organise more inter form competitions.
- Promote a love of Reading across the academy
- Support Performing Arts to organise 'Ormiston Park has got talent' event. A talent show (with a live or virtual audience) to raise money for our school.
- Launch an appeal for a school 'Therapy dog' Therapy dogs can help reduce student stress, anxiety and improve attendance.



OPA Winners

Year 10 students Sylvia and Grace were winners of the National Student Voice blog competition. The girls represented OPA with a great blog about the effects of mental health. The judges loved how they approached their blog and especially liked the personal touch to the piece, well done girls Miss Berry has your Amazon vouchers





Year 11

It's been an exceptional busy and challenging Autumn term for our Y11 students. We are very proud of the young adults they are becoming. OPA staff are continuing to work incredibly hard to support them throughout their final months with us.

Since September, there have been morning, food break and after-school revision sessions.

OPA11 has been used daily during food breaks for revision, coursework, careers research and college applications.

Our West Ham United hub officers have provided sports clubs at food breaks to give our students a break from studying and a way to destress.

More than 70 students have received a 1:1 meeting with the independent careers advisor from Thurrock.

Three days each week, registration time is spent for revision of English, Maths and Science.

Students have attended a study skills workshop in half term one and attended revision sessions delivered by specialist staff during both weeks at half term.

Students studying vocational courses have taken part in preparation sessions for exams in Child Development, Health and Fitness, Engineering and Business and Enterprise.

We look forward to receiving the Business, Engineering and Health and Fitness results in January. We have had outstanding results for the Child Development exam thanks to both the students' and Ms Mabbott's hard work in preparation for the exam back in October.

In January, we have two more vocational exams:

Creative iMedia on Monday 11th January

Hospitality & Catering on Thursday 14th January.

Our online lessons will continue to support their preparations for these exams.

Last week, the students also received their mock exam results and predicted grades. The results they received were a good reflection of all of their hard work and perseverance despite these challenging times.

Results days are always a mixture of emotions; many will feel happy and relieved but some may feel disappointed. For any students who may not yet have achieved what they had hoped for in their mock assessments, there is still plenty of time for them to change things around in time for their second and final round of mock exams after February half term, and go into the exam season feeling more confident. It's really not too late to turn over a new leaf!

Students must attend all of their online lessons while learning from home, so that they do not fall behind and complete all of their homework set.

Take deadlines for your coursework very seriously and try your best. Your teachers will give you all the support they can. The majority of coursework deadlines are around March/April, and will therefore be completed and out of the way, ahead of the exam season.

All Y11 students have received revision guides for their GCSE courses and should be using these on a weekly basis at home. Map out a timetable for this, in 45-60 min chunks and have a 15-20 minute break between study sessions. Just two hours a day from now until June is 350 hours of revision! Amongst your studies, make sure to find time to rest and relax, and enjoy the Christmas break with your families. We look forward to seeing you back in the academy in January. Keep safe and well.

Best wishes,

Mrs Thacker & Ms Nkallo

SLT link for Y11 Head of Year 11





Year 11 Creative and Performing Arts

Students participated in Commedia dell' arte workshops with Bernadette Wakeling; a specialist in Commedia. Students learned how to express themselves through exaggerated movement, used witty dialogue, trickery and comic effects in their performances. Workshops will continue in the new year.

Assessments and Reports in Half Term 3:

Year 9 students have their second round of assessments at the start of the Spring term (Tues 5th - Fri 15th January). The assessments will be used to identify your child's progress so far this academic year, areas of success and any areas for development. Students will receive an assessment grade and predicted grade for the end of Y11 for each of their subjects. This will help them when choosing their options for Y10 later in the Spring term. The reports will be posted home to parents and carers in February.

More information regarding the options process will be shared with students and their families next term.

Year 10 students will have their first round of assessments for reporting at the start of the Spring term (Mon 11th - Fri 22nd January). The assessments will be used to identify your child's progress so far this academic year, areas of success and any areas for development in each of their KS4 courses.

Students will receive an assessment grade and a predicted grade for end of Y11 for each of their subjects. Reports will be posted home in February, followed by telephone appointments from your child's tutor, in place of progress evening.

Should you have any questions on assessment and reporting, please contact Mrs Thacker, Assistant Principal. sthacker@ormistonpark.org.uk.



New Art work and Branding in the academy

Ormiston Park values branding has been installed to the ground floor of the academy. This work is the culmination of OPA students and staff and it reflects who we are and what we believe in at OPA.

Our mission- is what drives us to do everything possible to 'Believe & Achieve'

Our Vision- Always excellent teaching, support and encouragement so that every student believes in themselves and achieves their full potential

Our Values- We instil academic values of Aspiration, Resilience and Creativity and equip our students with personal values of Respect, Integrity and Responsibility so that all become successful members of society.

- Aspiration
- Resilience
- Creativity
- Respect
- Integrity
- Responsibility

Festivities at OPA

Giving to Charity at Christmas

The Ormiston Park community collected 12 food parcels for the 'Friends of Essex and London homeless charity'. *The Charity organisers were over the moon with our donations!! One year 7 student said while carrying parcels "It makes you feel really good inside when you give stuff to others who have less than you" I think all we all had a good feeling while filling the charity van with our donations. Mrs Padmore and PARLKIFE would like to thank all parents and carers who donated to those less fortunate. **Thankyou thankyou, thankyou !!!***



Mrs Berry and Mrs Padmore asked all students to design a Christmas Bauble for the school tree, some brilliant baubles were hung on the tree, designed by our creative and talented students in year 7.

Christmas Jumper and Christmas lunch went well, we tried to make the day as festive as possible for the year 7 bubble, there was even a surprise visit from Santa who gave gifts to students wearing the most original Christmas jumpers.



Christmas Card competition



Christmas card competition winners, well done to Victoria and Ruby for their lovely card designs Both were put forward to the OAT national Christmas Card competition, The curriculum leader of Art; Miss Clark says well done girls. Ruby turned her design into a Christmas bauble.



National Online Safety App - A free online safety guide.

Making sure that young people stay safe online can be tough when there are new apps, games and sites every day.

National Online Safety have launched a new app. Packed with hundreds of insightful guides, it'll keep you informed about the latest online crazes – and hazards. You'll find out about the most beneficial features of the app, such as personalising your content, staying up to date and get online safety advice instantly.

There's also a free online safety parents' course, compiled by experts.

The National Online Safety app is available to download now from Google Play and the App Store.