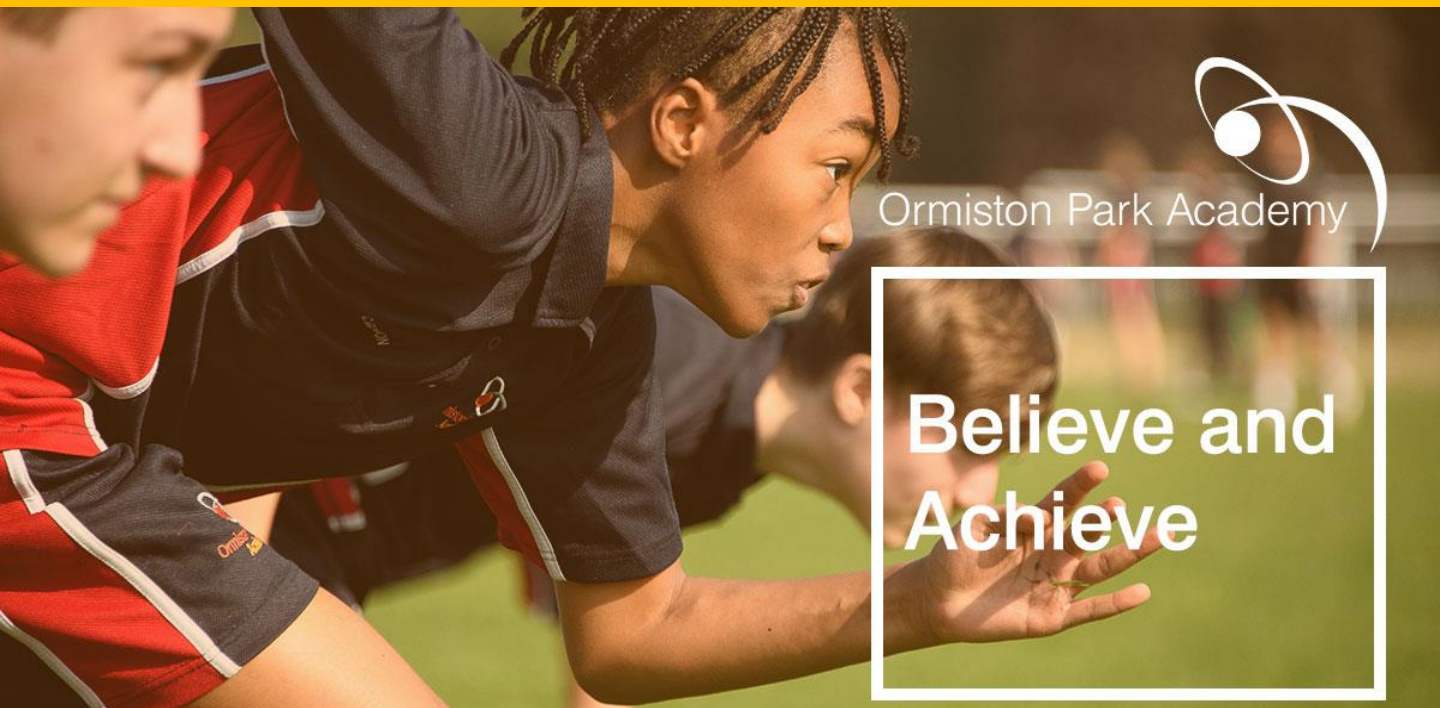


OPA Newsletter

Summer Term - 2021

Believe and Achieve



Message from the Principal

I am extremely proud of Ormiston Park Academy and how our students, staff, families and community have so efficiently and effectively adapted to everything that this academic year has presented to us. It has been a tremendous group effort since September and I truly believe that we have developed as an academy in so many different ways across the year despite the challenges that we have faced. This is a true testament to the very high aspiration that we have for all of our students and is combined with abundance of resilience and creativity our staff team and student body have. These are key academy values that we live by daily.

I hope that all of our families can have a safe and restful summer break and that our students return to the academy in September both refreshed and enthused for learning. We all very much look forward to teaching in September.

Thank you for the continued support for the journey we are on as Ormiston Park Academy and for the positive feedback that we receive. It is very much welcomed.

Mark Roessler
Principal
Ormiston Park Academy

Duke of Edinburgh's Award

All of our year 9 cohort have been given the opportunity to complete their Bronze level Duke of Edinburgh Award. We are taking a whole year group approach and are one of only 4 schools across the Ormiston Trust taking part in the pilot project. Working with DofE Thurrock, we will be delivering the skills, physical, volunteering and expedition sections within the school environment. Students will take part weekly for up to six months culminating in the expedition camping trip where they will learn first aid, orienteering, map reading and cooking on an open fire.

The Duke of Edinburgh Award teaches life skills, builds character and resilience and is great to add to your CV.

For further information see Mr Nicorici.



Ormiston Park Academy have mental health champions

By Staff Reporter on April 27, 2021 [Education](#), [Headlines](#), [Health](#), [Lifestyle](#), [Secondary](#)



ORMISTON Park Academy are working closely with the Thurrock School Well-being Service to promote positive mental health across the Academy. On Tuesday 20th April The Thurrock School Well-being Service delivered a one-day workshop and training for students across all Year Groups.

Olympic sprinter visits Ormiston Park Academy

By Staff Reporter on April 20, 2021 [Education](#), [Headlines](#), [Secondary](#), [Sport](#)



ON a bright but very cold morning Ormiston Park Academy were very lucky to host the British Athletics 'Street 2 Stadium' event.

UK Wallball

We are teaming up with The Jack Petchey Foundation and UK WallBall to start a fun new sport at OPA. We will be installing wallball courts in the playground and sports hall for students to play during PE and extracurricular clubs.

How to play Wallball:

Hit the ball to the wall so it hits it without bouncing and then rebounds and bounces somewhere in the court on the floor.

Your opponent (or opponents in doubles) has to hit the ball back. It has to hit the rectangle on the wall and then land in the court lines. Keep going until someone misses, the ball bounces twice or you knock it out of bounds.

Keep going. Every point counts. When you win a point you keep serving.

Watch this space – it's coming soon to OPA...



Aveley Football Club

Mr Roessler met with the directors of Aveley Football Club to build a relationship with our closest neighbour. The meeting went really well and discussions were had about how we can work together in the future, including use of their amazing facilities for our students. We are looking forward to working together in the near future.



Ascend Garden Project

Our Ascend Garden Project is going from strength to strength. Having received additional funding from Thurrock CVS and Rotary Club Grays, we have been able to buy lots of equipment, compost and seeds to really get things growing. We have also had some generous donations of plants and sundries from parents. Ascend has achieved the Royal Horticultural Society Level 1 award and are working towards Level 2.

Quote from a parent:

“It was great to receive all the information about ASCENDs Garden Project, it’s going to look great! We would like to say thank you to the staff at ASCEND especially Mr Smith for supporting my son to strive and reach his full potential. We really appreciate everything that you do.”



Careers Information

Our fabulous Year 11's have now finished all of their assessments, coursework and mini exams that make up their Teacher Assessed Grades (TAG's) that will give them their final GCSE results. They are now officially on study leave until the end of the school year before they embark on their journey into further education. All of the current cohort have either a placement at college or will be starting an apprenticeship.

Mrs Shorey heads up the Careers department at OPA and is always available to support our students. We have a dedicated careers area where we have lots of information on work and further education opportunities, including college prospectuses.

The majority of Year 11's had a one to one interview with a professional careers advisor to help them make the right choices for years 12 and 13 and assemblies on apprenticeships were delivered to years 9, 10 and 11.

For further information email tshorey@ormistonpark.org.uk



Food Break Fridays

The Music department have been spoiling us this half term by putting on musical performances every Friday Food Break 2. Our students have been singing and playing instruments with the help of Mrs Austen and Mr MacMillan. The performances have been fantastic and really brighten up break times.



National Diversity Day

On Friday 21st May we celebrated National Diversity Day with staff and students encouraged to come to school dressed in their National costume. Tutor time consisted of many different cultural experiences including listening to music from different countries, singing and watching Bollywood movies. We had some wonderful examples from all around the world. The kitchen staff joined in by offering a more culturally diverse menu for the day.

For the last period of the day, all classes took part in a lesson on Cultural Diversity where some fantastic discussions were had.

Here are some of the brilliant efforts that were made:



Mental Health Awareness Week



Our fantastic trained Mental Health Champions took the lead on Mental Health Awareness Week and each delivered an assembly in their form time around the theme of 'Connect to Nature'. They spoke about their roles within school and the support they can offer to their peers and signpost where necessary. They used the Meaningful May calendar from Action for Happiness, which was displayed in all classrooms, to look at ways to support our mental health every day.

The Performing Arts and Music departments got very involved delivering lessons outside including drumming sessions in the amphitheatre.

We are moving forward with our whole school approach to mental health and wellbeing. Miss Mussenden is meeting with Thurrock Schools Wellbeing Service discussing our action plan and future targeted training sessions for our champions. Miss Mussenden is also working closely with the safeguarding team and setting up a dedicated area for break times where our Mental Health Champions will be on a rota to provide a drop-in service for any students that need to talk. This area will also be supported by our staff team of mental health champions. We also have staff and student champions in our Ascend provision to ensure everyone has access to this valuable support.



As well as our big garden project, we now have a staff wellbeing garden area where colleagues can connect with nature for a short break.

Our goal is to be as connected as possible during a time when we have not been allowed to connect. We are lucky enough to have fantastic facilities to be able to do this.

For further information speak to Miss Mussenden.

OPA Basketball Academy

In September 2021 OPA will be starting a Basketball Academy of Excellence. Head Coach Diana will be joining the school on a full time, permanent basis to set up and manage the programme. Coach Diana is an ex professional Basketball player who has represented the Bulgarian National team as well as playing at the highest level in a number of countries before coaching men and women at National League level in the UK.

- Played FIBA, Euroleague
- Professional basketball player- Bulgaria, Hungary, Croatia, Italy Macedonia & Austria
- Bulgarian National Team International for 25 years
- European Championship – Bulgaria Runners Up twice
- Head coach at Barking Abbey School
- Greenhouse Sports Coach at Clapton Girls Academy, Pioneers U18 girls, Pimlico Academy, WEABL-Barking Abbey, Academy WBBL assistant coach, Baltic Stars Basketball Club Coach.



The programme will offer opportunities for all OPA students to participate and compete at all levels, develop Basketball playing and officiating skills and prepare for a future career as a player, if this is their goal. Keep posted for further information.



Our CCF Cadets are lucky to be visiting the Woolwich Barracks once a week to be trained by the Cadet Training Team. They are now fully qualified to use an air rifle safely. Fifteen of these cadets undertook some extra training to pass the weapon handling test in preparation for the CCF summer camp. This camp took place at the beautiful Frimley Park, National Cadet Training Centre. The OPA cadets were up against a number of fee paying private schools on the day, being tested on drills, marching and a number of other skills. Our OPA cadets came out on top to win Best Section 2021. We are incredibly proud of our team as they only train for two hours a week currently, where other schools do much more. For further information see Mr Nicorici.



Excellence Evening

To finish the school year, we held our first Excellence Evening. This was to celebrate the absolute best of OPA, based on our core values of Aspiration, Resilience, Creativity, Respect, Integrity and Responsibility. Twenty students were invited to attend with a guest, where senior leaders spoke about each individual and gave out their very well deserved awards. It was a fantastic evening to showcase the talent at OPA.



Reward Assemblies



All Year groups had a dedicated reward assembly, where heads of year gave out certificates and prizes for behaviour, attendance & punctuality, as well as some special awards for individual achievements. Our new house system has been introduced where all students can win achievement points each day with a very special 50 points awarded by Mr Roessler himself for extra special achievements.

WHU

This term we sadly say goodbye to our three amazing coaches from the West Ham Foundation. Mr Parkhouse, Mr Thomas and Miss Hooper have been supporting our students in lessons, as mentors and of course with football coaching for a number of years



They are adored by staff and students alike and we wish them all the best for their futures.

Eur-OPA finals



OPA held their own Euro tournament this term where teams were selected to represent different countries and play a number of rounds leading to the grand finals. Here are our winning teams from Yr 7 (Wales), Yr 8/9 (Scotland) and Yr 10 (Germany). A special recognition was awarded to Daniel in Year 7 who spent many hours helping to organise and officiate the tournament. He was a great help to the PE team and embodied the OPA values.



OAT Awards

Ormiston Park Academy in Aveley scooped three top prizes at the annual Ormiston Academies Trust Awards. Ormiston Academies Trust (OAT) is one of the largest not-for-profit multi-academy trusts in England. Multi-academy trusts are charities that run schools to give local children a great education. OAT educate over 30,000 pupils across six English regions, in 32 secondary schools, seven primary schools and one special school. The awards are highly contested each year with hundreds of nominations being received by OAT.

We are extremely proud of our amazing staff and student winners to have beaten so many to be awarded the best of the best. The successful recipients were:

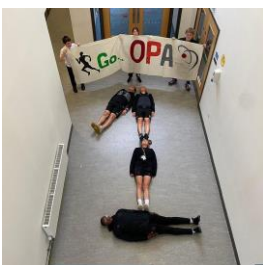
Sylvia Stavreva (Year 10) – Winner - Covid-19 Response Champion – Remote Learning Superstar Award

Florin Nicorici (Head of Year 9) – Winner - Enrichment Champion – Looking Beyond Covid-19 Award

Oluwatomilola Olowookere (Year 11) – Runner Up - #iwill Pupil Social Action Award



OAT Sports Cup



The OAT Sports Cup is an annual 4 week event, where the OAT schools take part in a number of physical activity challenges, logging progress to a central database. OPA scooped two of the top prizes winning the £750 first place prize for total participation in the event and another £250 for the best social media engagement. The £1000 will be spent on new sports equipment for our students.

Two OPA students through to last round of Sixth Form Full Scholarship



Two of our Year 10's, Aruwaba and Sylvia, have reached the final stage in the selection process to receive a full scholarship to a top residential sixth form college. This will be paid for by OAT. Only 8 students from all of the Trust's schools are in the final round, so for us to have two of these is an amazing achievement. Final selection residential aptitude tests will take place in September for a 2022 start. Well done and best of luck.

Pride Day



At OPA we celebrate diversity and difference. For Pride Month, students were encouraged to wear rainbow accessories for a day to show their support. The Academy was filled with colour.



Annie – The Musical



This Christmas, OPA students will be performing 'Annie', the musical. Auditions for parts were hotly contested, overseen by our judging panel of Mrs Padmore, Mr MacMillan and Mrs Austen. Parts have been allocated and rehearsals are well under way. Look out for more information on dates of performances next term.

CSI



All Year 9 & 10 students were lucky enough to take part in a 'Crime Scene Investigation' Day delivered by Pulse CSI. They had the opportunity to study their own finger and hand prints, look at DNA techniques and try to solve a crime. It was a fantastic experience for all involved.



Respect Camping Trip

The Respect project is run by the Essex Boys & Girls Clubs, who aim to 'Help Young People Realise Their Potential'. 30 OPA students were put forward for the project and the organisers selected the top 15. The 12 week project concentrates on a number of life skills such as team work, communication, manners and of course respect. The project culminated in a weeks camping trip in the Brecon Beacons in Wales. The Year 9 students were pushed out of their comfort zones, camping, cleaning up, hiking and gorge walking through rivers. Mr Nicorici was extremely proud of how everyone represented themselves and the Academy.



Year 7 Camping



A great time was had by all at the Year 7 overnight camp on the school field. Tents, BBQ, campfire songs and friendships was all we needed for a fun adventure for our youngest members of OPA.

BBC at OPA



STUDENTS at Ormiston Park Academy, which is sponsored by Ormiston Academies Trust (OAT), had an exciting visit this week from some experts at the BBC, who taught them about storytelling.

The event was hosted by popular BBC Radio 1Xtra DJ, Nick Bright, who was accompanied by two staff members.



They ran a series of sessions for students, which included discussion and video content around how best to tell a story, how to communicate content in an interactive way and understanding the power of a narrative.

The representatives each shared their own compelling tales with the students and taught them how to frame information in a way that captivates their audience.



Students at the academy, with support from their teachers, had written, directed and produced five short films, with each film looking at a powerful story from an individual. They explored a range of topics, from racism to gender and immigration. During the sessions, students had the chance to share their videos with their classmates and receive feedback from the experts.

Staff Goodbye's and Hello's

This term we are very sad to say goodbye to:

Kristina Gerk

Eric Wormsbecher

Madison Hooper

Gideon Thomas

Alex Parkhouse

Omar Faruque

Imaan Wallace

Megan Ryan

Olivia Maynard

Perry Coldrick

Zoe Olumoyegun

Aniqa Islam

Welcome to our new staff for September:

LSAs: Fiona Taylor, Rajni

Motwani, Emma Walsh

English: Peter Mills, Jocie Leigh

Bayliss, Lynda Smith, Katrina Smale

Science: Omolola Ilumoka, Shibila Robin

ICT Ascend: Maria Hussain

Basketball Coach: Diana

Naydenova-Goryanova

Cover Teacher: Craig MacMillan

Information

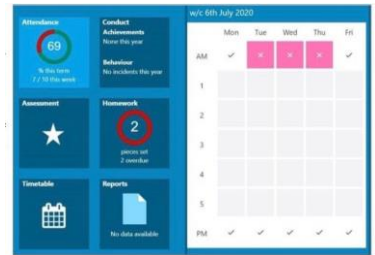
- We have recently launched the Parent SIMS app for you to communicate with OPA and keep track of your child's homework, timetable, information etc straight from your device. You should have received your log in details via parent mail.
- We have recently made a promotional video for the school, showcasing our fantastic students, teachers and facility – look out for it coming soon on our website and social media.
- GCSE Results will be emailed to school email addresses on 12th August, followed by a letter in the post. contact dbranch@ormistonpark.org.uk if they are not able to access it, before Monday 26th July.
- Return in September:

Wednesday 1st and Thursday 2nd September INSET

Days – Staff only

Friday 3rd September Years 7 and 11 only

Monday 6th September all students to return.



Social Media

This year we have been working hard to improve the quality of OPA social media posts, aiming to ensure as much information as possible is shared with students and parents.

Check out our Twitter, Instagram and Facebook:



@ormistonpark



ormistonpark



@ormistonpark

