

# OPA Newsletter

## Summer Term 2022

Believe and Achieve



# Message from the Principal

Dear Parent / Carer,

As we reach the final day of this academic year, I would like to take this opportunity to personally thank our students, parents / carers, staff and the wider community for supporting Ormiston Park Academy throughout what has been another eventful but really purposeful year. Your children, our students, have once again and continue to show huge resilience and character to navigate both familiar and unfamiliar conditions across the year, from the persistence of COVID19, to extreme weather conditions, be it excessively cold due to the windows having to be open all the time in during the winter to the recent heat waves and the challenges that this brought us. I believe we have managed these external factors very well and have continued to offer strong teaching and learning provision in the classroom and an extensive range of enrichment activities. Intervention and tutoring before + after school, across weekends and holidays has had particularly good take up across the year. Club uptake continues to rise with over ½ the academy regularly taking part in extra-curricular activities. Our Combined Cadet Force grows from strength to strength and mirrors the increasing sporting prowess that we now have in the local community, with both our Netball and Football teams, as well as our Basketball Excellence Programme and team doing ever so well.

As we wait for our Year 11 GCSE exams results to be published over the summer break, we wish all of our departing Year 11 students the very best of luck for these as well as their onward educational journeys. We also very much look forward to receiving our new Year 7's in September, most of these children we have seen as they have attended the full range of 'meet and greets' we offered, our induction day and will attend our Humanutopia Summer Camp next week. This is a seamless transition and I would argue that not many schools can match this.

Thank you for all responses to the consultation letter which was sent to you in June regarding some minor changes to how we intend to operate in the new year. I am pleased to announce that the feedback received was positive and the following changes will take place from September 2022:

**morning 'Line Up' will be at 8.20am Monday to Friday**  
**the academy day will finish at 3pm Monday to Friday**  
**every day there will be 5 x 60-minute lessons**

Please could I ask that you purchase in good time academy uniform, PE kit, a pencil case with equipment and a school bag, so that every child is fully ready for learning at the start of the new academic year.

I wish you all a safe, pleasurable and restful summer break and look forward to seeing your child back in the academy on Monday the 5<sup>th</sup> September.

**Mr Roessler**  
**Principal**  
**Ormiston Park Academy**

# Upcoming Term Dates

## Last Day of Summer Term

Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2022 (12 midday finish)

## GCSE Results Day

Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> August 2022

## Autumn Term 2022

Thursday 1st September 2022 to Tuesday 20th December 2022

**Half-term:** Monday 17th to Friday 28th October 2022

## Inset days:

Thursday 1st September 2022

Friday 2nd September 2022

Friday 2nd December 2022

# OAT's Got Talent Final



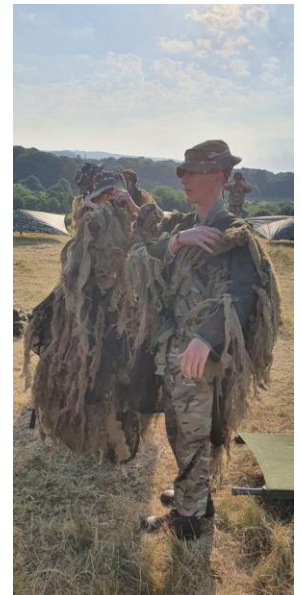
We nominated Year 11 Scarlett into the OAT's Got Talent, trust wide competition. She was shortlisted to attend the grand final, which was held in Birmingham at The Old Rep theatre. Mrs Austen accompanied Scarlett and some of our Year 8 performing arts students along to perform at the beautiful venue. The girls had a fabulous day, singing and dancing to two songs, with Scarlett as the lead. They were up against some incredible talent and made OPA extremely proud.

# Cadets

The cadets have been working hard all year, visiting Woolwich Barracks weekly for training, including drills and weapon handling. During after school clubs our cadets have been learning first aid, field craft, navigation, drills and all other aspects of cadet life. All of their hard work was put into practice at the Summer Camp held at St Martin's Plain Army base, Folkestone in July.

The camp consisted of 2 nights in dormitories and 2 nights camping out in the field with just bivvy bags for shelter, cooking all their own food from ration packs. The camp days activities were varied, including archery, navigation, clay pigeon shooting and army assault courses.

OPA took 29 cadets to the camp this year which is the most we have ever taken. Our students conduct and behaviour was exemplary and we couldn't be prouder of their maturity and determination. The camp was a real challenge with all cadets being taken outside of their comfort zones in many different ways. This was a great character building exercise and valuable life skills were learned, as well as many new friendships made.



# OPA Basketball Excellence Programme

What a fantastic first year it has been for our OPA Basketball Excellence Programme. In 11 months, the project has grown exponentially and achieved so much.

The timetable is full with breakfast, lunch and after school clubs as well as small group or individual training sessions throughout the day. All age groups have had a busy schedule of appropriate competition from friendlies to National League.

We have had some great successes already, winning the Thurrock Schools League and the Writtle University College tournament, as well as getting to the JNBA semi finals.

The year culminated in a fabulous awards evening to celebrate the achievements of everyone, say goodbye to our Year 11's and have some fun with parents, carers, siblings and friends.

We are looking forward to future developments and to what the programme can achieve in the next 12 months.



# Duke of Edinburgh Award

This year saw more than 20 of our Year 9's complete their Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award with 10 of our Year 10 & 11 students progressing through their Silver Award. The tough challenge was embraced with everyone learning new skills and pushing themselves further than ever before on the expedition.



What is the DofE

A life-changing experience. A fun time with friends. An opportunity to discover new interests and talents. A tool to develop essential skills for life and work. A recognised mark of achievement; respected by employers.

The DofE is many things to many people, supporting generations to successfully navigate adult life.

14-24 year-olds can do a DofE programme at one of three progressive levels which, when successfully completed, leads to a Bronze, Silver or Gold Duke of Edinburgh's Award.

## House Points

Our students have been earning house points relating to our whole school values of Aspiration, Resilience, Creativity, Respect, Integrity and Responsibility throughout the year. Winners receive prizes at their end of year assembly and also get to share a pizza with the Principal. The table shows the top 5 students for each year group.

This year has seen the introduction of a number of house competitions throughout the school calendar. The last event is the whole school Athletics event where each year group compete for their relevant house to be crowned the 2022 house champions.

Name	House Points
Year 7	
Brooke M	1249
Emmanuel A	1145
Mia V	1040
Katie H	1038
Babatunde O	1012
Year 8	
Darasimi S	1146
Nicholas M	906
Tianna E	843
Lyla H	735
Amy L	734
Year 9	
Millie C	999
Akshayan M	957
Rinnah B	933
Sam T	908
Taqwa C	895
Year 10	
Sean A	816
Ade O	815
Gracie B	785
Matthew M	720
Harley W	579

## Thurrock Education Awards

We are incredibly proud to have three of our staff members short listed as finalists at the prestigious Thurrock Education Awards. They attended the gala evening with their family members and Mr Roessler. Although we had no outright winners, to reach the last three out of hundreds of nominations was a huge achievement.



# ASCEND

This term our staff and students of ASCEND have experienced lots of enrichment trips to help build responsibility, resilience and self esteem. This included visiting Thriftwood for a range of activities including staff team building. Working in a small team, this is a vital skill for our teachers and support staff. ASCEND have also had visits from artists and practitioners through the Royal Opera House Trailblazer projects, enabling our students to try new things and develop their creativity. Students have been integrating into more mainstream lessons this year after Covid restrictions were lifted and this will continue to expand from September.



The ASCEND team secured their RHS level 2 and 3 garden awards and a £50 voucher and gardening book. Thank you to all of the lovely community members that have supported us and a special thank you to Miss Ewa who has been maintaining the garden with our young people.

We are also excited to be launching the AQA unit award scheme in September which means all of our KS3 learners can be certified through a new wider learning curriculum. More details to follow on launch day in September.



# Goodbye to our Class of 2022

We say a fond farewell to the OPA Class of 2022, our wonderful Year 11 cohort. We will all miss you and wish you every success in your next series of adventures.



## 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

# Gallery

