

ORMISTON PARK ACADEMY

NEWSLETTER



**EASTER
2025
EDITION**

Message from the Principal - Munira Said



As we approach the Easter break, it's a moment to reflect on the hard work and dedication that has marked this busy term at Ormiston Park Academy.

Our Year 11 students have been working diligently as they prepare for their upcoming GCSE exams, and I know you will join me in sending them our very best wishes as they head into this critical period. We are proud of their efforts and the commitment they've shown.

One of the highlights of our school is the strong sense of community we share, something that is continually expressed by our students. They talk about the friendships they build, the support they receive from teachers and the encouragement from their peers. This sense of belonging is seen in the way students work together in class, take part in activities and help each other succeed. It is this shared sense of connection that makes our school more than just a place of learning—it's a place where students thrive, grow in confidence and build lifelong relationships.

I would also like to take this opportunity to express my sincere gratitude to all our staff members for their unwavering commitment to the success and well-being of our students.

Spring is a time for renewal and hope for the future. A time to reflect on personal growth, the lessons learnt and the opportunities that lie ahead. It is an invitation to embrace change, shed old habits and cultivate new habits. As we break for the Easter holidays, I encourage everyone to take a moment to appreciate the many blessings we have in our lives. The season of Lent, observed by Christians, and the just concluded month of Ramadhan, both invite us to reflect on the suffering and sacrifices of others, as well as our own personal growth and blessings.

I would also like to thank our parents for staying involved and showing such dedication. Your involvement and partnership play a crucial role in our collective success.

Have a wonderful and restful break. We look forward to welcoming all students and staff back to school on Tuesday, 22nd April 2025.



P A R K

Perseverance Aspiration Responsibility and Knowledge



Message from the Executive Principal - Jodie Hassan



Celebrating success and looking ahead

The sun is shining and there is a happy and positive atmosphere as we reach the end of the Spring term at Ormiston Park Academy. This is a great time to reflect on our achievements over the past few months as we look forward to the opportunities ahead in the Summer term.

This year, we have fully embraced our PARK values: Perseverance, Aspiration, Responsibility and Knowledge. Our PARK values shape everything we do. They remind us that every member of our community - students and staff alike - have an important role to play in making our school a place where everyone can 'Believe and Achieve'.

As we move forward in an ever-changing world, the principles behind our ethos and values are vital. This year, we have also focused on belonging, opportunity and excellence. Our school in 2025 is focused on empowering young people to become confident, capable individuals who contribute positively to our society.

By fostering a strong sense of belonging, we want to ensure that every student feels valued, supported and motivated to succeed. By creating opportunities, we provide students with the skills and experiences needed for their future, whether in higher education, apprenticeships or careers. By striving for excellence, we encourage everyone to push themselves to be the very best they can be.

At OPA, we celebrate the hard work, determination and successes of all our students and staff. Whether it's in the classroom, on the sports field, in creative arts, or through acts of kindness in our community, everyone has something positive to contribute.

With the Summer term on the horizon, there is much to look forward to. Exam season will see our students in Year 11 demonstrating their hard work and resilience. Our enrichment activities, sports events and trips will offer exciting opportunities for growth and discovery. As we move towards the end of the academic year, let's continue to support, inspire and uplift one another.

Together, as part of Ormiston Park Academy and the wider Ormiston Academies Trust, and through our work with Unity Schools Partnership, we will continue to 'Believe and Achieve', making the most of every opportunity and striving for excellence in all that we do.



Message from the Chair of OPA IAB



Mr Aron Whiles



I have been really impressed by the OPA students on my recent visits to the school. They are always very polite and respectful, as well as being keen to talk about their school and their learning. Without exception, they are reporting a significant improvement in their lessons through calm and purposeful classrooms, strong teaching and an increased expectation that they work and think hard.

The school environment is also a key factor in inspiring and motivating students both in terms of their attendance to school but also their attitude when they are here. The Trust and school continue to invest in OPA through the remodelling of classrooms, new digital classroom display boards, an ongoing redecoration programme and the much improved school grounds. These all contribute to an excellent learning environment that students and staff are proud of.

I would like to thank all parents and families for their ongoing support over the spring term and hope that you have a safe, enjoyable and restful Easter break.

SAFEGUARDING & BEHAVIOUR



Celebrating Positive Behaviour

We want to take a moment to celebrate the positive behaviour that continues to shape our school community. At Ormiston Park Academy, we believe that good behaviour is the cornerstone of a thriving learning environment. Our students consistently demonstrate respect for themselves and others, take responsibility for their actions and actively contribute to creating a positive school culture.

Their dedication to our PARK values has been evident throughout the term. Whether it's showing kindness to a peer, staying focused in lessons, or taking ownership of their learning, our students are setting a strong example for one another.

We also want to thank parents and carers for their ongoing support in reinforcing these values at home. Your partnership is essential in helping our students grow into responsible, respectful individuals. Wishing you all a peaceful and restful Easter break!

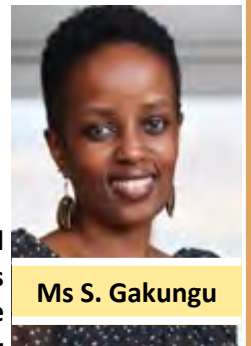
Safeguarding: Everyone's Responsibility

At Ormiston Park Academy, safeguarding is our top priority.

We are committed to keeping all students safe and supported. This means protecting young people from harm—whether online or at school.

Our Pastoral Team and Mental Health Lead are available to support students' well-being. Parents and carers also play a key role in safeguarding. Open conversations at home about online safety, friendships and well-being can make a big difference.

Together, we create a safe and supportive environment where every student can thrive. If you have any concerns, please reach out—we are here to help.



Ms S. Gakungu

Safeguarding is
Everyone's
Responsibility



Year 11 Easter Newsletter - Ormiston Park Academy



Mr Clark

As we approach the Easter break, we want to take this opportunity to reflect on the incredible hard work that Year 11 students have been putting in as they prepare for their GCSE exams. We are incredibly proud of how much effort has already been made, and as we enter the final countdown to these important exams, we'd like to share some key reminders and updates to ensure everyone stays on track. [The Final Countdown to GCSE](#) exams has well and truly begun, with exams set to start in the second week after Easter. This is an incredibly important time for Year 11s, and we encourage every student to make the most of this period by staying focused on their revision and completing the final steps of their preparation.

Interventions - After-school and during school

We want to remind all Year 11 students about the importance of attending extra intervention sessions both during and after school. These sessions are specifically designed to help boost their grades and reinforce key areas of learning. All Year 11s are welcome to attend.



[Prom](#) - The Countdown Begins! It's hard to believe, but Prom is fast approaching! We know this is an exciting event for our Year 11s, and we are looking forward to celebrating with all of you. Please be reminded that payments for Prom need to be made as soon as possible to ensure your place. Further details on how to make payments were sent out earlier in the academic year, and we encourage families to complete this promptly.

[Year 11 Hoodies - Order Deadline](#) :Year 11 hoodies are a fantastic way to celebrate your time at Ormiston Park Academy, and the deadline to place your order is [Friday, 13th April](#). Don't miss out on this opportunity to have a keepsake to remember your final year at school. Please make sure your orders are submitted on time!



[A Restful Easter Break](#): We understand that the lead-up to exams can be intense, and we encourage all Year 11 students to take some time over the Easter break to relax and recharge. A balance between revision and rest is important to ensure that you come back refreshed and ready to tackle the final stretch of your GCSE preparations.

[Thank You to Our Parents and Carers](#): We would like to take this opportunity to thank all parents and carers for your continued support. We are grateful for everything you do to encourage and support your child. We look forward to seeing you return after the Easter break ready to continue your journey towards exam success.

Wishing all of our families a very happy and restful Easter break. We can't wait to welcome Year 11 back to school, ready to shine in the final push before GCSEs!



The Spirit of Ormiston Park Academy



Mrs L Padmore

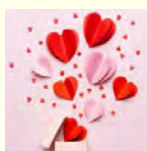
This term has been packed with exciting school events, bringing students together for celebration, awareness, and giving back to the community.

We began with Chinese New Year, where students embraced the festive spirit with cultural activities and decorations. We ate fortune cookies and found a deeper appreciation for traditions. Valentine's Day wasn't just about hearts and flowers, students took the opportunity to spread kindness by sharing positive messages and uplifting one another.

Chinese New Year Students' Workshop



Ms Fekih delivering fortune cookies to students.



VALENTINE'S DAY



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Believe and Achieve

In March, we honoured **Inspirational Women on International Women's Day**, recognising the achievements and contributions of remarkable women in history and within our school community.



Red Nose Day

The day brought out our fundraising spirit, with students participating in creative activities to support charitable causes.



Mental Health and Well-being

Mental health and well-being remained a priority as students attended special assemblies by 'Mind of the Student' charity. Students gained valuable insights into mental resilience and self-care.

It's been a fantastic term filled with energy, compassion, and school spirit, and we look forward to more exciting events in the Summer term.

We are delighted to celebrate the achievements of our students through the **Jack Petchey Achievement Award**. This term, the prestigious award was presented to **Izzie B** and **Elsie J** for their outstanding contributions to school life. Their dedication, hard work, and positive impact on the school community make them truly deserving recipients—congratulations!

Our **Jack Petchey Speak Out Challenge** was a resounding success! Over two days, 60 of our Year 10 students took part in an engaging programme designed to develop their communication skills. The sessions focused on building confidence, structuring speeches effectively, and preparing for workplace communication. Students had a fantastic time and gained invaluable skills that will benefit them in the future.

We had a wonderful **World Book Day** celebration! Students got creative by designing **Book Jars**—beautifully decorated jars inspired by their favourite stories—and crafting unique **Book Hats** showcasing literary characters and themes. The event was a fantastic way to bring books to life, and it was great to see so much enthusiasm for reading across the school.

Well done to all involved.
Mrs Everitt - Literacy Lead



Careers at Ormiston Park Academy

Uni Connect Project:

Designed for Year 9 students, the aim of this six-week programme (5 taught sessions in school, plus 1 HEI campus visit) is to give learners an opportunity to learn and develop metacognition through self-regulated learning, using a focus of careers, pathways and Labour Market Information (LMI) content. The programme is designed for the skills learnt to be transferred across curriculum subjects. Carefully designed guided practice, with support gradually withdrawn as the pupil becomes proficient, can allow pupils to develop skills and strategies before applying them in independent practice.

On completion of this programme learners have an increased ability to:

- ♦ Ask questions
- ♦ Organise thinking
- ♦ Make connections between ideas
- ♦ Link concepts
- ♦ Generate hypotheses
- ♦ Edit and review work

The 30 Year 9 students had a fantastic day at the University of Essex, putting their newly acquired skills into practice whilst learning about University life.



Careers Carousel

On 29th January, the whole of Year 9 were involved in our first Careers Carousel, where four different employers came in to do a mini workshop with students. The employers talked about the different roles in their industry, pathways into employment (including apprenticeships) and the educational requirements needed to be successful.

The Department for Work and Pensions, The Army, The Royal Opera House and Sternberg Reed Solicitors were fantastic guests and imparted a huge amount of valuable information to our students.

We hope to keep in touch with these guests for further joint working events.

Ms Montgomery - Careers Lead



Careers Carousel

Lifesaving Skills



Our Year 8 students have been taking a hands-on approach to learning in PSHE. They have practiced lifesaving skills, including how to put someone in the recovery position and even attempted CPR. These vital skills could one day make a real difference in an emergency. Well done year 8 ! **Mrs Shorey – Curriculum Lead PSHE**



Year 7 French competition



Year 7 French students participated in a French research competition. They were asked to research and create a poster, with some key facts about France. The Winners of the competition were rewarded with a **special French treat** of "pain au chocolat /croissant and un chocolat chaud." Bravo! Year 7 . **Mrs Biyekele - Head of MFL**

Winners: Richard T, Kajus, Ansh, Francesca F, Krisith, Arifa



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Student Leadership Team

Newly Appointed Year 10 Student Leadership Team

We are delighted to introduce our new Year 10 Student Leadership Team! Over the last couple of weeks Ms Collins, Ms Montgomery, and Mrs Padmore had the pleasure of interviewing and selecting students. The students impressed in the leadership workshops with their confidence, dedication, and innovative project ideas.

The new leadership team will officially take over from Year 11 after Easter, and we are excited to see them step into their roles, making a positive impact within our school community. Please join us in congratulating them on this achievement!



Year 10 Student Leadership Team:

Head Boy: Dorin M

Head Girl: Michelle R

Deputy Head Boy: Emmanuel A

Deputy Head Girl: Louise S

Prefects:

- ♦ Teddy B
- ♦ Sophie J
- ♦ Destinee I
- ♦ Ayomide S
- ♦ Pragnasri A
- ♦ Austin S



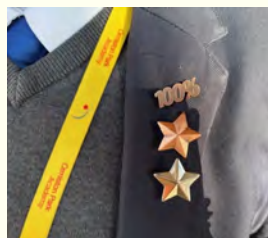


Celebration Assemblies – Recognising Student Success



◆ Reward Assemblies

This week, all year groups participated in Celebration Assemblies. Heads of Learning took the opportunity to acknowledge and reward students for their outstanding achievements this term. Our Heads of Learning presented a significant number of certificates, chocolates, Easter eggs, and vouchers to students who have excelled across various subjects and demonstrated excellent effort, achievement, and attendance.



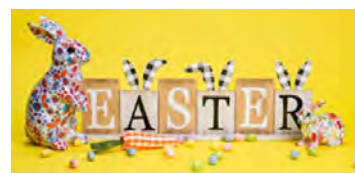
Congratulations to all our students on their well-earned achievements, we are incredibly proud of their efforts and look forward to even more successes next term.



Rewards

REWARDS LUNCH

WITH THE PRINCIPAL



Exciting Enrichment: A Fantastic Term of Activities!

Since Christmas, our school has hosted an incredible 107 enrichment sessions, offering students a diverse range of opportunities to learn new skills, develop their passions, and have fun!

We have expanded our enrichment offer and we're thrilled to see a significant increase in club participation, with over 75% of pupils, 602 in total taking part in clubs since January. This fantastic engagement showcases our students' enthusiasm for extracurricular activities and personal growth. **Mr Ancora—Enrichment Lead**



As mentioned, this term, we've introduced some exciting new clubs, including **Girls' Volleyball**, **E-Sports** and **Thurrock's Next Top Boss**, giving pupils even more options to explore their interests. Additionally, Ms. Simpson has recently launched a **Year 9 Baking Club**, which I'm sure will be a big hit among aspiring young bakers!

The **Science Club** with **Mr. Utomi** is also going really well, sparking curiosity and creativity among our young scientists. Meanwhile, the library has become a hive of activity at lunchtimes, with **Crochet Club** run by **Ms Everitt** and **Chess Club** led by **Year 11 pupil Leo**. Looking ahead, we're excited to announce a **Pupil vs. Staff Chess Tournament** taking place after Easter; a fantastic opportunity for some friendly competition!

A special congratulations goes out to the **singing club choir** and to **Summer**, a student in Year 8, who participated in OAT's national talent competition "**OATs Got Talent**". Summer did particularly well by getting to the regional final in Wolverhampton. This is a remarkable achievement, and we are incredibly proud of her success!

With such fantastic participation and enthusiasm, we look forward to even more enriching experiences in the coming months.

Have a restful Easter and keep up the great work, everyone!



CHOIR



Have a wonderful and restful break.

We look forward to welcoming all students and staff back to school on Tuesday, 22nd April 2025.

