



Newsletter

Christmas 2023



MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Families,

Welcome to our first newsletter of the year.

It has been one of the most challenging terms in the history of the Academy, but I could not be prouder of our students, staff, and wider community.

We have suffered two huge losses with Summer and Freddie, and the Academy will never be the same without them. Our students have learnt how to grieve, how to support each other, and what community really means. They have been exceptional throughout and a real beacon of hope for the future of Old Coulsdon.

Throughout the sadness we have had such amazing moment of joy, talent, and kindness. Our Carol Service this week was one of the best yet, and our students have been busy fundraising, showing such commitment and care. Our Year 11s have worked so hard, attending morning and after school sessions and being really resilient.

I am so thankful to our entire community; the commitment and care from the wider family has been second to none this year and our families have made this the special place it is. I wish you all an amazing holiday. We will be here on the 4th January ready to welcome your amazing children back.

Have a peaceful and restful break.

Best wishes,

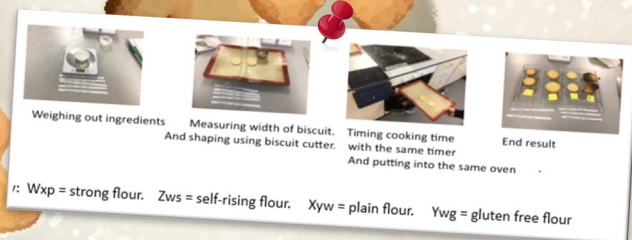
Ms Green
Principal



FOOD TECHNOLOGY

What an amazing start to the 2023 academic year in the Food department. The Year 7s have produced some high-quality dishes and are showing early signs to being competent and creative chefs. Year 11 food students have already completed their first part of the coursework, becoming food scientists. Their task has been to investigate what makes the finest biscuit, after researching the different elements of biscuit making, they completed 4 experiments using all their science skills to analyse and evaluate the outcomes from each experiment. We now know how we can get the perfect biscuit just in time for the Christmas celebrations.

The Christmas biscuit completion was a great success with lots of creative and festive designs entered. Well done everyone who entered, but a special congratulations goes to Elle Savannah Arthur who took first place, and Daniel Hickson who won second place– it was extremely close and so both students were presented with a prize in assembly.



International Men's Day

On Friday 17th November, students at Oasis Academy Coulsdon took to the rowing machines and exercise bikes in an attempt to row and cycle 101 miles for International Men's Day. This figure was chosen as it represents the number of men who commit suicide each week in the UK.

Students from across the year groups as well as staff signed up to support this event, donating £1 to either cycle one mile, or row 500 metres towards the target distance. Students had to go at quite a pace for us to be able to accommodate everyone who wanted to take part within the day. By the end of the day students and staff had managed to row and cycle a combined distance of 118 miles in support of men's mental health, and we are incredibly proud of their achievement.

Year 8 boys came up with the idea for the event and they were helped to organise it by Ms Kenison, Head of PSHE and Mental Health Lead at the Academy. Ms Kenison is passionate about creating open dialogues around mental health within the Academy and said of the event "The Year 8 boys who wanted to raise awareness of Men's Mental Health. They hoped the event would help create a conversation around mental health and to help remove the stigma. I am very proud of the students who ran the event and everyone who took part. It is important to normalise the conversation around mental health, especially for the boys and men in our school."



Gardening Club Report

As always, autumn is a term of two halves. The first half of the term is spent harvesting the last of the summer crops, the second half is spent 'putting the garden to bed', readying it for the winter when there's not much growing.

Returning from the summer break we harvested onions, beans (both runner, yellow and green French beans), tomatoes, courgettes, and carrots. Later in the term we dug up the carrots, parsnips and beetroot. But the highlight of the half term was harvesting the pumpkins. If you had visited the garden during the first half of the autumn term you would have noticed them, bright orange and LARGE! All the members who thought they'd worked hard during the summer or autumn term wrote their name on a slip of paper. It was Chloe's first time at gardening club, so she was given the honour of picking the names out of the bucket. Adam's name was drawn first, he chose the largest pumpkin he could find, it weighed 12.9kg! We had sufficient pumpkins, not all as large as Adam's, so that all the members who wanted one could take one home. Another highlight of the term was standing at the first floor window watching a squirrel stealing the sunflower heads! He didn't steal them all so we managed to save some for seeds for next year.

The second half of the term mainly involved composting the old plants, harvesting any remaining carrots and parsnips, and finally finishing moving the dirt and replacing the last of the old raised beds. Although the soil moving is hard physical work the members really enjoy it and get into lively competitions for who will drive the wheelbarrow.



REMEMBRANCE DAY

This year our Head prefects attended the Remembrance Sunday service at the War Memorial in Old Coulsdon with Ms Green to represent the Academy and lay a wreath on behalf of the school. Our Head Prefects, Nicolas Deeks and Meira Crosley-Lo, were amazing ambassadors for the Academy and it was lovely to be involved in the community event.



MESSAGE FROM YEAR 11 FAMILY LEADER, MS OGUNDELE

We are reaching the final hurdles and will be celebrating our final Christmas together as a year group.

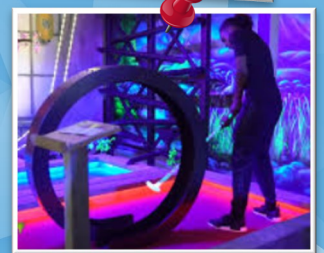
This term has been very busy, and it has been a pleasure to see so many students focused on their learning, by attending early intervention and giving up their evenings to do extra work. The students have sat their first set of Year 11 mocks, which have helped to identify their strong points and things they need to work on. Not only have the mocks been helpful for the students, but also helpful for the teachers as this informs their planning and teaching.

On a lighter note, we have had several activities to raise money for the prom, from the Teacher Car Wash to the Candy Cane Gram, with lots more planned next term.

We will also be attending our year group reward trip...the first trip we have had together, since the infamous trip to PGL in Year 9! That's a memory that will live on forever!

While the year group has shown a lot of promise, with regards to their dedication to study, the one thing that holds us back is attendance and punctuality. Many students are still taking days off, which will have a huge impact on learning, and/or attending late, which also has an impact of learning and affects the final attendance figure which goes to colleges and can impact place offers. Due to the importance of attendance, with regards to this, there is a cap for a prom invite. If a student has below 92% attendance, they will not be invited to the prom. I really don't want to revoke invitations, so let's work together to turn the attendance around in the new term.

I hope you all have a restful and enjoyable Christmas and I look forward to seeing you all again in the new term.



The Nativity

Year 9 performed the Nativity Story during their assembly this week; here Maya and Jack report on what took place...

We were proud to show the Year 9s the Nativity story for our assembly. We began it by reporting the news of Emperor Augustus wanting all boys to be registered, this made Mary and Joseph travel to Bethlehem accompanied by their donkey.

The roads were hard and treacherous and there was nowhere to stay, but one kind innkeeper allowed the baby to be born in a stable.

Three wise men brought gifts of Gold, Frankincense and Myrrh and were told by the Angel Gabriel to "Follow that Star".

We all then sang to the Nativity song "The Brightest Star".

Let us remember the Nativity this Christmas and also the spirit of the season for selflessness, empathy, and love.

Merry Christmas Everyone.

C h r i s t m a s

C a r o l

S e r v i c e

With thanks to Ms Richardson & Ms Laurent for the 2023 Carol Service

On Wednesday 13th December, students from Oasis Academy Coulsdon got us all into the Christmas mood as they put on one of the best Carol Services we have had.

There were so many items included on this year's programme that we ran over time slightly! From the choir, to instrumentals, bands, and dance— this year really had it all!

We would like to thank everyone who attended in support, all of the students who gave up their time to rehearse and perform on the night, Lay Minister, Christine McCuthion who came to open and welcome the service and say a closing prayer and blessing, to the team at St John's Church who made it possible for us to celebrate in the beautiful church, but most of all, we would like to thank Ms Richardson and Ms Laurent who pulled everything together.



Message from Year 8 Family Leader, Ms Clarke

It has been wonderful to begin to get to know the Year 8s over the Autumn term. They are a wonderful group of students who have so much to contribute to the Academy.

I was fortunate enough to accompany 54 Year 8 students to Lingfield Racecourse on a Maths trip. The students and I learnt a lot about the measurements of the course and the ages and statistics of the racehorses.

I look forward to the behaviour rewards event on Friday 15 December where the top 30% of students with merits will be able to enjoy snacks and a Christmas movie in celebration of their efforts in and around the Academy.

Please be reminded that there are rewards for attendance. Each week there is a raffle for an Amazon voucher for 100% attendance for the week. For 100% attendance of a whole mentor group for 4 days the group are rewarded with a tub of chocolates and 5 days the group are rewarded with an own clothes day! Please also be reminded that if your child is struggling at school please do contact their mentor.

I hope you all have a wonderful Christmas break and look forward to welcoming the students back in January.



JACK PETCHEY AWARD WINNERS

Winner	Isabella Dyer	For organising the student volunteers to help at the Year 6 transition week. She supported the new Year 7 intake with their transition to school by volunteering in the school holidays to come in and run activities for them, and also got other students from her year group to sign up and do the same.
Winner	Preet Thethi	For her care for other students, getting involved in numerous school activities and projects, excellent attitude to learning, and general positivity. She takes advantage of all opportunities given to her and is an outstanding ambassador.
Winner	Owen Marquis	Our Year 8 mental health champion who was the person behind organising the International Men's Day and cycling 101 to represent the number of men who die by suicide each week. The was excellent on the day organising the team and motivating those taking part .



We are pleased to share the Jack Petchey Award winners and runners-up for the Autumn Term. Winning students will get a £200 grant to spend on a school project of their choosing. Congratulations to all winners!

Drama Department Rundown

Ms Laurent reports on the latest from this term:

Annie The Musical: In Rehearsals

Annie rehearsals have been well and truly underway this term as the students master the songs, scenes, and dances. We have had a visiting choreographer working with Zoe Henrick and Aisha Barry to develop the dance numbers and we can't wait to invite everyone to come and see it....Tomorrow (OK, so you need to wait a little bit longer than that!)

The show will be on 31st January and 1st February 2024.

Philharmonic Orchestra Trip

On 27th November, the Year 10 and 11 GCSE Music students travelled to London's South Bank to watch the Philharmonic Orchestra.

Students loved hearing a live orchestra in a purpose-built venue.

"I loved how they played music that was relevant to the OCR course. I didn't realise it would be that useful to our listening exam." Josh Kushuro.

"I really enjoyed the trip. It was quite a thrilling experience." Jack Baker



News from English

This term, in addition to the Book Fair, multiple intervention and reading sessions, and the rest of the extra-curricular activities (Chronicle, Cross Talk, Creative Writing club) the highlights this Autumn Term have been the Poetry Workshops and Debate Club sessions. We are pleased to share our report– all poems will be published in the next edition of the Coulsdon Chronicle). All clubs and sessions are open to all!

Poetry workshops

We were fortunate to be visited by the Croydon Poet Laureate and her team who ran workshops with a receptive group of Year 9 students. They reported back as follows:

"I was truly amazed by the talent and awareness these 13-14 year olds have about the world and how in touch they are with their emotions. They are polite, eager to learn and share and inspired me in many ways. Thank you for the amazing opportunity and please pass on my praises to them all."

Here are a few comments from the participants:

"The poetry workshop was essentially a free therapy session where you could write all your thoughts and feelings. It gave me a place to express my poetic ideas and I would gladly do it again." *"I found the poetry workshop a really nice experience - it was a way to express my thoughts and feelings. Overall, it was good and I would definitely do it again."*

Debate Club

Over the past year, Debate Club has been developing and growing from strength to strength. We have had a core group of students who always attend and look forward to participating with many other students who attend when they can. Students who attended this year received a badge, which acknowledges their dedication and willingness to go the extra mile.

The discussions are always lively and engaging; pushing and extending their thoughts and ideas and exploring counterarguments by taking the opposite perspective to the one they adhere to, which can be quite a challenge.

This enrichment activity supports students thinking about bigger ideas and concepts, which then, in turn, feeds back into their written work and supports students learning and achieving higher grades.

It has been a joy supporting students develop their cognitive abilities, stretching their minds and making them think outside their parameters and comfort zone.



MESSAGE FROM YEAR 9 FAMILY LEADER, MS BERKELEY

I am extremely proud of the Year 10s for their focus and maturity shown on my return to their GCSE options. Students have been working hard and many are excelling across their studies. Alongside this it is fantastic to see a high number of students still taking part in extracurricular from sports clubs, to rehearsing for the school production.

As a year group the students have now taken on leadership roles; some students volunteer to read with students in the lower school, others have been supporting with clubs and helping out with parents' evening. I was especially proud of students who took part in the recent *It's a Knock Out* event run by the local Lion's group. All of these fantastic opportunities are open to the whole year group and are an important part of giving back to the school community. In the summer term we will be holding elections for head prefects and supporting prefects. Well done to those students who are already helping out are well on their way to becoming the next student leaders.

During family assemblies and across mentor times we have been looking at motivation, setting targets and creating healthy routines. We will continue to do this into the new year to help develop students understanding of ways to revise and begin to create revision timetables to support with mocks approaching.

A massive well done to those students who are consistently attending school. Unfortunately, this term there has seen a rise in absence, it is essential that students where possible attend school every day, if not they are missing key information that is fundamental for their GCSEs.

It has been a pleasure to return from maternity leave to a group of students who are flourishing, and I hope this continues into the new year.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.



MESSAGE FROM YEAR 9 FAMILY LEADER, MR GORDON

What a term!

Firstly, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for the warm welcome I have received this academic year. The support from both students, parents, and carers has been truly amazing.

The year group as a whole matured over the six weeks in the summer, and have approached this term with a sense of hopefulness towards all subjects. Throughout this term and next we will be discussing the GCSE options process, and the importance of all subjects learnt this year. I strongly believe that this year group will be the most focused and organised when it comes to picking their options in Spring 2024.

On 14th December we hosted our Year 9/10 rewards event for our top 30% students who have been consistently making the right choices and working hard to earn merits. The students had the afternoon off timetable and relaxed with a Christmas movie and some sweet snacks. Well done to all those who attended!

Writing this newsletter, I would never have expected to write this following piece. As you all know, this November we lost one of our own, Summer. News which as a year group and an Academy we were not ready for, nor would we ever be ready for. Summer was caring, thoughtful, clever, and funny and she had a bright future ahead of her. Her loss has been felt deeply by the year group, and especially her close group of friends with whom we have worked closely to ensure her legacy continues at the Academy, including painting pebbles in her favourite colours to go around a tree in her memory. We have also committed to raising money and supporting the charity, Cardiac Risk in the Young (CRY). This term we raised money by selling ribbons in red and blue, two of Summer's favourite colours, which were available to all via ParentPay. Subject departments have also been raising awareness and money to support the charity. We will continue to support CRY into the future and will have further fundraisers in the new year.

A massive thank you to all the staff involved, especially Ms Elvin, Mr Hodges, and Ms Kavanagh for all their support.

Have a fantastic well deserved Christmas Break



YEAR 7 UPDATE, FROM MS ELLERY

Year 7 have settled into life at Oasis Coulsdon brilliantly, with success in academia as well as in their social circles: developing friendships and partaking in clubs. Lots of Year 7s are involved with creative arts projects across the school, be it the Carol Service or Annie The Musical, we are so proud of all of our superstars!

Attendance has been a real focus for us this term because we know that when we're here and learning we are playing such an important part in our community. As a result, we have seen several students win Amazon Vouchers for 100% attendance and we have had some non-uniform days for mentor groups that have achieved 100% attendance for a whole week. Next half term we are striving for a whole year group non-uniform day!

We are also celebrating all those pupils who have an amazing number of merits! We had a movie day to watch a Christmas movie for all those pupils who are really trying their best and are achieving lots of merits for so many different things, well done to everyone who was invited! A reminder that we always consider Merits/demerits, so the key is to get as many merits as possible to be able to attend trips and events at the end of the year!

We are really looking forward to the new term, but until then, I wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.



Feeling Crafty with Mrs Booth

Year 7s look forward to craft club every Friday at lunch time and have created some beautiful items this term; from glass lanterns to felt bears, and their latest craft was pebble painting. They are so artistic and come up with wonderful ideas and I look forward to spending my lunch hour with them each week.



Languages Update

We had a fabulous term in the MFL department! In Year 7 we have learnt a lot about how to talk about ourselves, in Year 8 we spoke about free time activities, in Year 9 we explored the vocabulary related to houses and our local area. In Year 10 we learnt to order food in a restaurant and in Year 11 – well, we had a set of mock exams which saw some students achieving some incredible results already.

On the 26th September every year we celebrate the European Day of Languages which creates an opportunity to talk about the languages, have some lingo fun, and ... bake a cake! This year we had some beautiful and delicious entries inspired by the European countries. The winners were:

KS3

James and Ellie Archer (year 8) with their strawberry Profiteroles, and Harry Simon (year 7) with his chocolate French cake.

KS4

Star Lane with the Loch Ness monster cake, and Hannah Garwood with the Fish and Chips cake.

Thank you to everyone who took part! Gracias, Merci, Danke!



GEOGRAPHY ROUND-UP

What a fantastic term we have had in geography! Year 11 had their fieldwork trips in September to Stratford to collect data on whether the regeneration of the area since the Olympic Games in 2012 has been successful. They were put through their paces collecting different data including having to ask questionnaires, which was daunting in itself! It was interesting to hear people's views and how the regeneration has impacted on local people. The students were a credit to the Academy and came away with lots of knowledge that will help them with their GCSE paper 3 exam.

Year 7-10 students have been learning about the geography of the UK, social and economic development, population and urbanisation, cold environments, how interconnected we are and what future threats there are for the world, urban issues and challenges in the UK and in Brazil.

We have lots of trips planned to embed the knowledge students are learning in class so please look out for more information on these.



KS3 Games Club News from Ms Maddocks

Monopoly, Halli-Galli, The Farmer, 5 seconds, Logo, Last Word are just a few of the games we played in our weekly KS3 games club. We all enjoy competitive Tuesday lunch times, we laugh a lot and amaze each other discovering our ability to play using different strategies. Thank you all who take part! I look forward to another term of games club!



SPORT REPORT

Another busy term in the PE Department. We have welcomed Ms Warren who has started at the Academy this year, and we have welcomed back Ms Berkeley from maternity leave.

We started this term with our yearly trip to Croydon Cross Country Championships. All involved representing the Academy against other schools in the borough were amazing and pushed themselves to be their best. A few students finished in the top 5 of the year, which meant they were able to represent Surrey in the Cross-Country Championships.

We have continued our rugby programme this term over the road at John Fisher Rugby Club. They have provided us with great facilities, including Floodlights, to ensure we are able to provide rugby throughout the year which is a huge achievement in itself.

Mr Gordon and Mr Attenborough are currently planning an international football tour in October 2024. Please keep an eye out for the letter of interest after the Christmas break. These trips in the past have been a great experience for students.

Looking forward to January, we are entered into the Croydon Schools Basketball and Netball leagues. Fixtures will be coming thick and fast. Please ensure that you participate in training after school to be involved in these fixtures.

The PE team would like to wish you have fantastic Christmas and New Year.

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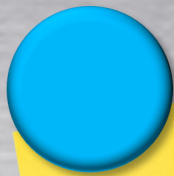


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Dates for
your diary in
2024:

TERM DATES

Our 2023-2024, and 2024-2025 Term Dates are available to view on our website. Click on the below link to view downloadable copies.

[Term Dates](#)



TERM DATES

Spring Term 2024

- Tuesday 2nd & Wednesday 3rd January: **INSET Days**
- Thursday 4th January: **First day of Spring Term**
- Monday 12th - Friday 16th February: **Half Term**
- Thursday 28th March: **Last day of Spring Term**
- Friday 29th March - Friday 12th April: **Easter Holidays**

Summer Term 2024

- Monday 15th April: **First day of Summer Term**
- Monday 6th May: **Bank Holiday**
- Monday 27th - Friday 31st May: **Half Term**
- Friday 21st June: **INSET Day**
- Wednesday 24th July: **Last day of Summer Term**

Autumn Term 2024

- Monday 2nd & Tuesday 3rd September: **INSET Days**
- Wednesday 4th September: **First Day of Autumn Term**
- Friday 11th October: **INSET Day**
- Monday 21st October - Friday 1st November: **Half Term**
- Friday 20th December: **Last day of Autumn Term**
- Friday 3rd January: **INSET Day**
- Monday 6th January: **First Day of Spring Term 2024**





Merry Christmas