



Newsletter

Easter 2024



MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Families,

Thank you for a wonderful term. It has been a pleasure to take celebration assemblies this week and to recognise the hard work that our students have put into school, day in day out.

There have been so many highlights this term from our sporting achievements to our production, our arts showcase to our Ofsted visit. It has been a really busy term and it has been wonderful to see your children grow and learn.

This has been our Year 11s last full term with us and very soon they will be starting their GCSEs, and before we know it they will be leaving us. We are so proud of their amazing effort, lovely personalities, and how they have come together as a family; we know they are going to do so well.

Finally, I would like to thank you all for your support in our fundraising efforts for Cardiac Risk in the Young this half term in memory of Freddie and Summer. This will culminate on Saturday 30th March, Summer's birthday, with a sponsored walk. Good luck to all those taking part, and we will announce the total amount raised from all activities this half term when we return.

Have a lovely holiday and a well deserved rest - next term promises to be even busier than this one!

Best wishes,

Ms Green
Principal



Speak Out Challenge

On Thursday 7th March, Oasis Academy Coulsdon had the honour of hosting their first ever Jack Petchey Speak Out Challenge Regional Final. This was especially poignant for the Academy as the reigning champion from 2023 was our very own Head Prefect, Nicolas Deeks.

Students from across the borough, including OAC Year 10 students Guy Stone and Dionne Menson, arrived at the Academy to deliver their speeches to the judges and an anticipating audience including the Civic Mayor of Croydon, Tony Pearson. Nicolas Deeks also had the opportunity to speak again, Patrick Seabroo, Year 8, and Rufus Warne, Year 11, wowed guests with their musical performance, and Ms Green addressed the crowd on what an honour it was to host this much loved annual event.

We would like to thank Mr O'Shea for organising this year's event, and a very big well done to all those who took part.



WORLD BOOK DAY TRIP- MS NEL REPORTS

On Thursday 7th March -World Book Day - a selected group of students from Years 8 and 9 were invited to attend an author's talk at Woldingham School. The author, Sarah Crossan, has written a series of books for young adults centring around the theme of love and loss.

She was one of the most engaging speakers I have seen in a long time. As an ex-teacher, she invited audience participation, used humour in her connection to the students and in turn, their connection to Shakespeare and poetry. The culmination of her talk lead into the notion that stories do not have to be written just in prose, but could be written in a poetic form (which was most of her stories). She talked about the rhythm and the sound of language and its connection in the modern world.

Afterwards, students were invited to purchase (at a discount) those novels that interested them, which were signed by the author.

Our students were polite and responsive and a credit to Oasis Academy Coulsdon. Here are some student reviews:

"The trip to Woldingham school was an amazing experience. The talk with Sarah Crossan was funny and exciting. The book signing after the talk was great. I was lucky enough to get a tour of the school and it was like walking into Hogwarts. It was a thrilling experience, and I would definitely 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."



THE WATERMELON CHALLENGE...

To celebrate International Women's Day this year, our Student Council challenged our staff to the Watermelon Challenge! During lunch on Friday 8th March, we were all thoroughly entertained by five of our male teachers having watermelons strapped to their stomach's and trying to carry out basic everyday tasks.

The idea behind the challenge is to replicate the difficulties faced by women during pregnancy when trying to carry out activities that we would normally not think anything of. Our team of volunteers all had to carry out tasks such as getting out of bed (off of a school gym mat!), tying their shoelaces, and picking something up off of the floor.

Watching our teachers trying to participate in these actives was certainly amusing for the audience, but was also very thought provoking. We would like to thank our Student Council for coming up with such a great idea, and also our team who got involved!



STUDENT PROFILE

Name: Henry Farr

Year Group: 7

Interest: Swimming

We caught up with Henry following him winning an impressive three silver Medals in 50m, 100m, & 200m backstroke at the Surrey County Swimming Championships!

When did you start swimming? I had my first swimming lesson at six months old, but my competitive swimming began when I joined a swimming club in March 2020.

How frequently do you train? I trains five times a week. Each session is around two hours long and one session includes land training where I builds on core strength.

Are you part of a club? I am part of the Sutton and Cheam Swimming Club and am in their youth squad.

Have you competed in any other competitions? I have competed in many swimming competitions. Since competing I have achieved 21 Golds, 14 Silvers and 16 Bronze medals. My biggest competitions to date are the Surrey County Championships and the London Regional Championships. This year I achieved three silver medals at the Surrey County championships and have qualified for five events at the Regional Championships. My favourite pool to compete in is the London Aquatic Centre which hosted the Olympics. I have competed at the Aquatic Centre three times so far.

What do you love about swimming? I have always liked swimming and then someone suggested I try for a club as I was showing some talent in the sport. I suffer with severe asthma but since taking up competitive swimming my asthma symptoms are well under control. I think the exercise and breathing techniques associated with swimming have really helped my asthma.

What would you say to anyone thinking about getting into swimming? It's a very competitive sport. It's fun to swim with a club and meet new people. It is great for your fitness and keeps you healthy. You can easily track your progress and work towards new goals. It's a great way to clear your mind and give you something to focus on.



GEOGRAPHY – SPRING 2024

During the spring term students in their Geography lessons have been studying a range of exciting topics, from weather and climate change, to hazards, physical landscapes in the UK, and the range of biomes on earth. Year 11 have successfully completed their second set of mock exams and will be continuing with their hard work over the Easter period, please do support them at home with lots of drinks, healthy snacks, and perhaps even offer to read their revision cards out to them so they can give you the answer. Now the warmer weather is upon us we are looking forward to getting out into the open and going on some fieldwork trips to Kew Gardens, Eastbourne and Birling Gap. Have a lovely break.



KEW
GARDEN
TRIP
COMING
UP
LATER
THIS
YEAR

MATHS LIVE! DISNEYLAND TRIP

Chloe Challoner and Daisy Turner, Year 10, Report...

From the 3rd-5th March, 42 Year 10 mathematicians went to Disneyland Paris. We left school at 4am on the 3rd March and went into the park the same day as we got there early afternoon. The real Maths of the trip is not spending all your money on the first day!

We had a conference on the 4th March where we had an array of speakers and activities to complete, including which Disney film was the best (Ratatouille!), magic tricks and more. We had free rein of the park and rides during the day, we also had three emergency contact numbers and meet up points in case anything happened. We got the opportunity to stay and watch the fireworks until 11pm! We eventually got home after an eight hour trip all the way back to school.

I would definitely recommend this trip to the current Year 9s if they get the opportunity, you will never forget the memories you make and it could possibly be a once in a lifetime experience.



YEAR 9 UPDATE FROM MR GORDON

Another jammed packed term has passed. Our Year 9 students have been preparing for their GCSE options this term, with them all having an opportunity to have 1:1 advocate sessions with a member of staff. **A reminder:** the options form will be released shortly after the return to school.

Towards the start of the Spring Term, the year group had a fantastic opportunity with Ms Kenison to take part in the careers speed networking event. External speakers from a range of career settings gave an insight into what their job roles entail. A unique opportunity to spend some quality time with some high-grade professionals to share wisdom and expertise into how to be successful. Thank you to all the staff and guests involved.

It was great to attend and support the Bob Marley cinema visit at Croydon Grants this term. It was a wonderful opportunity for selected students to watch a remarkable film dedicated to a legendary figure in the music community.

Attendance continues to be a focus for Year 9. We are restlessly bothered to ensure that all students are in the academy daily, reaching their potential. Please encourage your child to attend the academy if they don't feel 100% in the morning; often once we get up and get going we start to feel better and can manage well in school. Providing resilience to our students will benefit them for future life.

Have a fantastic Easter Break with your families and friends.



Holocaust Memorial Day

On Friday 26th January 2024, students from Oasis Academy Coulsdon were invited to attend the local Holocaust Memorial Ceremony at Croydon Townhall. With addresses from the Civic Mayor, Councillor Tony Pearson, and speeches from Marilyn Arbisman from the Croydon Synagogue and Timothy Locke from Generation2Generation; the theme of this year was the 'Fragility of Freedom'.

However, the highlight of the event for OAC students was seeing their peer be awarded first place in this year's Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE) competition. Students of Croydon were asked to create an artwork, a short story, poem, essay, or short film on this year's theme, and Year 10 student, Chaniya Brooks, was announced as the winner at this year's ceremony.

Chaniya was asked to read her short story at the ceremony at the townhall to the captivated audience, which included Ms John, Head of RE at OAC, who said "I am so proud of Chaniya, she spoke so eloquently in front of the audience at the Town Hall and her entry was truly moving; she was a very worthy winner".

You can read Chaniya's winning short story entry [HERE](#).



Food Tech News

This academic year has flown past so fast so far! The Christmas biscuit competition was amazing, many themed biscuits were submitted and our two winners walked away with a piping set with many different nozzles so that they can continue to create spectacular designs at home.

The Year 11s completed their three-hour GCSE practical exam at the end of January, to the right are a few of the professional dishes that were produced. I was so proud of every student and they all achieved amazing grades to take forward to the June written exam.

Key Stage 3 have also been very busy, their organisation and independence skills are so strong this year, I am looking forward to seeing what they produce by the end of this carousel unit.



MESSAGE FROM YEAR 10 FAMILY LEADER, MS BERKELEY

The Year 10s have started 2024 with such focus, determination and drive as they draw closer to their GCSEs. The behaviour this term as a year group has been brilliant, it has been so positive to see so many students focused on their learning and getting ready for their end of year mocks. As a year group we have had additional focus during Family Leader assemblies to support with creating revision timetables and looking at ways to revise.

Attendance this term has fallen short, with us regularly being the worst attending year group. It is essential that students are at school, as well as on time; it is a vital year for the students as every lesson counts towards their GCSEs. We have also highlighted to the students that colleges will not accept them with attendance under 92%. As a year group this is our focus for the summer term to ensure students are in a good position when applying for colleges in September.

Year 10 have thrived with lots of extracurricular events from the Speak out Challenge, Annie, Maths Disney trip, languages trip, and many more. Staff have praised the year group for their excellence outside of the classroom, which is always wonderful to hear.

Year 10s have a lot to look forward to in the summer term, from running for Head Prefect, to their last Sports Day at Oasis! I hope the Year 10s come back refreshed and ready to hit the ground running for the final term before Year 11!

WORK EXPERIENCE REMINDER!

As you know, work experience is looming. We want every child in the year group to have the opportunity doing something they really enjoy.

So, if you haven't found somewhere, please use the Easter break to finalise a placement. And don't forget – Public Liability Insurance!

Message from Year 11 Family Leader, Ms Ogundele

We are at the final stretch of our secondary school journey. This is our final full term together – it feels like only yesterday when I was welcoming all the students on their first day.

We have had a very busy term, and it has been nice to see many students focused on their learning, attending early intervention, after school intervention, and attending Saturday school. The students have sat their final set of Year 11 mocks, and they are making expected progress, so I am looking forward to seeing how well our students perform in their GCSE exams.

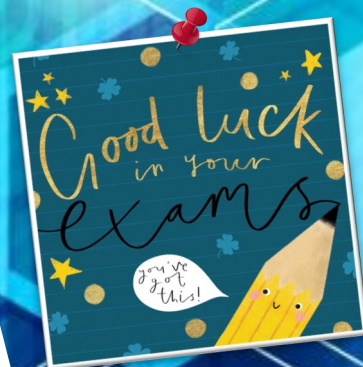
This cohort is a very special year group. They have shown a lot of promise and have the potential to get the best grades we've had in a while. However, attendance may hinder that. Several teachers have mentioned that while marking the mock exams, they could see gaps in knowledge, and this has come from where students have been absent and missed important topics. Many students are still taking days off here and there and/or attending late, which will have a huge impact on learning.

Due to the importance of attendance, I did put a cap on the figure for an invite to prom. Some students have already received their invite and many more will be receiving theirs this week, as I have seen a significant increase in their attendance. However, I don't want it to fall off because the invite has been received. Attendance is for achievement of grades and to do well, not just to attend the prom.

Nevertheless, I hope you all have a restful and enjoyable Easter and I look forward to seeing everyone in the warmer term with the zest to do extremely well.

I have a lot planned for the final weeks. I look forward to a lovely send off and hope to see good attendance.

Best wishes, Ms Ogundele



Gardening Club – Spring Report

After the excitement of the harvest in the autumn term, the spring term is always a lot quieter with not as much to report; the ground is too cold, the plants don't grow much (not even the weeds!), and the pond was iced over back in January and February. So gardening club headed indoors and took over F7 during Wednesday lunchtimes!

This term the members have been building bug hotels, using scrap wood from pallets, some wire mesh, lots of nails, and a whole lot of hammering – sorry to our neighbours in surrounding rooms for the noise! The bug houses were stuffed with foraged pine cones, grass, and sticks etc. to provide crevices and holes for all sorts of creepy crawlies.

Once the bug hotels were placed out in the gardens, we've spent the rest of the term planning what we're going to grow this year, with the final couple of weeks outside getting the beds ready.



MFL NEWS FROM MS MADDOCKS

Hola! Bonjour! Guten tag!

We have had such an amazing term! Each year group has been fully immersed in the range of our interesting topics. Year 7 swapped languages and everyone is trying to adjust from French to Spanish and the other way round! Year 8 has been learning about food and how to order food in a restaurant. Year 9 has been making plans for the future, and Year 10 – debating the importance of marriage. Year 11 completed the speaking mock and they are getting ready for the real thing! How exciting!

This year we have introduced the homework and revision on the learning platform Memrise. It has been really inspiring to see the students competing against each other to take the pole position on the leaderboard each week. We would like to mention our Memrise champions:

- Year 10:** Jamie C, Esme M, Evie P, David O - A and Jasmin V
- Year 9:** Hannah G, Edi S, Shinead A, Shavonne A, Keanu W, Caleb W, Jacob P, Rosa W and Flynn G
- Year 8:** Zoe D, Belle S, Molly H, Loise E and Isabella D
- Year 7:** Amy G, Kitty S, Haider N, Asha B, Shailey F, James S, Olivia K, Alvin D, Harry S, Lena S, Maisie H and Greta G



JACK PETCHEY AWARD WINNERS

We are pleased to share the Jack Petchey Award winners for the Spring Term. Students will get a £250 grant to spend on a school project of their choosing.

Congratulations to all winners! Nominations for the summer term will open later in the year.



Forename	Surname	Reason	Money donated to
Xena	Davis	An exceptionally hard working student. Always last to leave the class after school due to her dedicated efforts, often helping to clear up the practical room. Very kind and offering helpful advice to students that are struggling. Pushes herself to always produce outstanding work, always willing to go the extra mile.	Textiles for additional materials
Chaniya	Brooks	For her contribution to Holocaust Education. Chaniya has helped to organise assemblies for the entire school on Holocaust awareness and has written an award winning story that was presented at the Town Hall. Chaniya remains selfless in her attitude.	Drama equipment
Ria	Ahn	Ria has been unable to be in school for a long time. During this time she continued to catch up on work and completed homework. Ria is a true warrior and shows determination to achieve the best she can in the face of any obstacle she faces.	iPad stylus' for Art and new Library books

Annie Jr the Musical

This year's annual musical production from the students of OAC was the popular adaptation of Annie for schools; **Annie Jr the Musical!** Running for a matinee and two evening performances, the show was a sell out and wowed audiences who gave it a standing ovation!

In the leading roll of Annie was Year 10 student Olivia Gesese who gave an outstanding performance as the young orphan trying to forge a new and better life for herself. Her supporting cast featured Jamiella Farina as Miss Flannigan, Daniel Hickson as Oliver Warbucks, Elle-Savannah Arthur as Grace Farrell, as well as many other outstanding performances from students who played roles including orphans, New Yorkers, and dancers.

The first performance saw Annie performed to local primary school students followed by a meet and greet with the cast over lunch. The cast received a very warm welcome from the Year 5s and their teachers, and the two evening performances to OAC families had a similar reception. Of course, none of this would be possible without the time and dedication of staff, and we would like to say a very big thank you to Mrs Richardson and Ms Laurent for making the production possible.



Year 8 update from Ms Clarke

This has been a very eventful term. It is so good to see the Year 8s so cheerful as the days get lighter and warmer.

I was so proud to see 40 year 8 students receive the new habit badges for receiving no demerits and 100% attendance. They were celebrated at the Principals breakfast with Ms Green and awarded badges. Keep up the fantastic work.

24 students have completed Reaching Higher Sports and Leadership programmes and have developed skills such as building confidence, receiving feedback, leadership, and communication. It has been fantastic to see them develop in confidence.

Thank you to all the Year 8s for their outstanding behaviour while we had Ofsted last week. I was very impressed to see their conduct and attitude to learning while this inspection occurred.

Attendance continues to be a priority. I know there have been a few bugs going around and hope that with the warmer weather we will see fewer sickness absences. Just a reminder that if your child requires medication, you can bring some to school for Student Service to keep and they can get this if they should need it. Please remember to clearly mark the packaging and complete the medication form. Students should not keep medication on them.

The upcoming Summer term promises to bring some exciting events such as the Rewards trips, First Aid training, and more.

I look forward to seeing you at Year 8 parents evening on Wednesday 17th April.



A Holy Time of Year

Students have been busy learning about what this time of year means in different faiths. Here we learn how some of students are observing the holy month of Ramadan and how they will be celebrating Easter.

Ramadan

This year San is fasting for the Holy Month of Ramadan. It is the month that families traditional come together to end the fast with an iftar meal.

How old were you when you started fasting?

San: I started the fast earlier than usual at the age of 9.

Why do you fast?

San: Fasting brings deeds and helps self-discipline and your health.

What is the hardest thing about fasting?

San: Getting thirsty – PE has been fine for me but Food Technology can be particularly tough.

How do you celebrate the end of the fasting?

San: We celebrate by saying "Edi Mubarak". We also donate to charity and it's time to meet with the family.

Easter

Bella in Year 9 tells us about what Easter means to her.

"Our Church has always celebrated in a fun way, each sermon has an important message. During Holy Week we hear how Jesus enters Jerusalem for the final time.

It is a time for fellowship and meeting with other Christians. We dress in colourful clothing. They have an Easter Egg hunt for the children with Bible verses hidden in the eggs, your Bible is the decoder.

The overarching message is the resurrection of Christ and everlasting life."

An Orthodox Easter

Keira in Year 9 tells us a how she will be celebrating Easter.

"For Easter in my family we all celebrate together at my nan's house who we call Yaiyai. After our big meal that includes roasted lamb on a barbecue spit and Tsourekki, a sweet Easter bread, we would play games together including getting a big basket of colourful eggs.

The colour red is used to symbolise life and victory and the eggs themselves symbolise the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Traditionally the eggs are dyed on Holy Thursday. Everyone will try to smash each other's egg against each other and the last person standing wins a prize. The Greek Orthodox Easter this year is 8th May. We say "Christos Anesti" which means "Christ is risen"."

Year 7 Message from Ms Ellery

Year 7 have had a wonderful term. From assemblies to musical showcases, the students have really settled into Oasis and have formed a huge part of our school community. Many Year 7s have received Habit badges for 100% attendance and others have received certificates for completing the Attending to Achieve programme. Next term we have lots to look forward to with the Residential at Kingswood in the summer too!

Year 7 continue to go from strength to strength and I look forward to celebrating more success in the new term.

Wishing everyone a very Happy Easter and a restful break.

Ski Trip 2024: Freddie Blake reports...

We left Oasis on Friday at lunchtime on our way to Austria. It took us about 26 hours to get there from school to Hochfugen, which seems long, but the journey was quite fun, including seeing the transition from the grass to the snow, and from the hills to the mountains.

Getting up and down the mountain of where we stayed was quite the trip though as we were in a coach and the corners were very narrow, which lead to some nervous moments, but we got there! Some of the activities were bowling for a couple hours during the week as well to a pizza place which were both fun.

The skiing was absolutely brilliant! Although it was my first time doing it, I absolutely loved it and enjoyed it. They put us in to 4 different groups based on ability, and all of us improved during the week.

The food was a bit different, as it had a focus on local foods. It wasn't always to everyone's liking, but we all tried it! Their hot chocolates and breakfast made up for it though!

I also want to say thanks to all the teachers who organised it and helped us out!



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

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 Year 7 & 11**
- Thursday 5th September: **First Day of Autumn Term Years 8, 9 & 10 (Y7 & 11 in too)**
- Friday 11th October: **INSET Day**
- Monday 21st October– Friday 1st November: **Half Term**
- Friday 20th December: **Last day of Autumn Term**

Spring Term 2024

- Friday 3rd January: **INSET Day**
- Monday 6th January: **First Day of Spring Term**
- Monday 17th—Friday 21st February: **Half Term**
- Friday 4th April: **Last day of Spring Term**
- Monday 7th—Monday 21st April: **Easter Holidays**
- Tuesday 22nd April: **First day of Summer Term**

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