



INSPIRE
BELIEVE
ACHIEVE

The Oaks Academy Newsletter April 2025

Headteachers Update



Welcome to the Spring Term edition of our half-termly newsletter. We are justifiably proud of our school and the achievements of our community. Currently, we are busy supporting our Year 11 pupils in the lead up to their GCSE examinations and helping them work towards achieving their best outcomes. Over Easter pupils will be in school attending revision sessions which cover a range of subjects.

In this edition you will read about the support we offer our learners who have English as an additional language, as well as the nurturing bespoke provision we offer in Thrive. You will read about the work being undertaken within the Maths Team as well as the range of enrichment activities we offer including our approach to Careers.

With best wishes.

Peter Kingdom

Headteacher

Whole School Focus: EAL

'A different language is a different vision of life' (Federico Fellini)

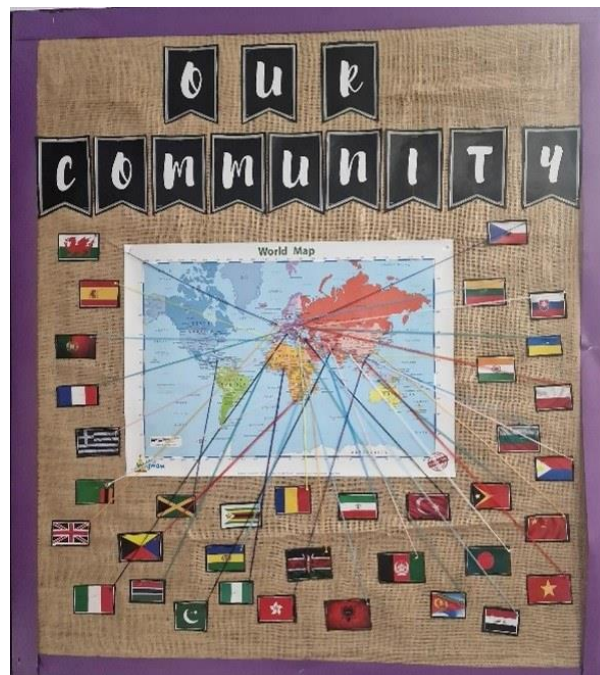
A year on from launching our EAL centre and providing pupils with a space to feel safe and be proud of their first languages, Mrs Fatu and I are so pleased with the progress of our EAL pupils.

There is some excellent work being produced across lessons and intervention sessions with our pupils taking great pride in their work and demonstrating amazing resilience in improving their English.

Mrs Fatu and I want to say a huge well done to all our EAL pupils and we look forward to seeing your hard work continue.

L. Ellams

Assistant Curriculum Team Leader - English and EAL Lead



2. Rhetorical Question
 = Doesn't need an answer = makes someone think
 = Can you imagine...?
 = Do you know...?

3. Description
 = Going into detail = objectivising
 = brutal = terrifying
 = violent = cruel

4. Ballroom Listing
 = words together
 ex: War is brutal, cruel and terrifying
Brutality: hard, make you sad, violent, harsh
Futility: useless, no point, should happen
Stupidity: dumb, crazy, stupid, foolish, shouldn't do it

QMF Thursday 13th March 2025

This is part of a letter that has appeared in a newspaper: "I hate war as only a soldier who has lived it can, only as one who has seen its brutality, its futility, its stupidity."
 Write a letter to the newspaper giving your views about war

Це частина листа, яка з'явилася в газеті: "Я ненавиджу війну так, як тільки солдат, який її пережив, може, тільки як той, хто бачив її жорстокість, її безглуздість, її безумство."
 Напишіть листа до газети, висловлюючи свої погляди щодо війни.

Tuesday 11th Feb

Tell-tale Heart

What is the tell-tale?

- Noun - A tell tale is a person who maliciously (with bad intention) reveals a private or confidential (secret) matter. A tell tale is also considered to be a tattler tale.
- Adjective - A tell tale is something that warns or gives notice to something that is intended to be unknown. For example, when the parents asked she was at the beach, the sand on her shoes was tell tale to her guilt.

2 Day 8

The old man opens his eye so the narrator kills him.

2 Decides to kill him 7 days

4 Hides the body

5 - Escapes - Confesses

1 the old man scares him

To encourage and reward consistent engagement with Sparx Maths, pupils are rewarded with 15 achievement points each week they complete their homework. This initiative not only motivates pupils to stay committed to their studies but also recognises their hard work and dedication.

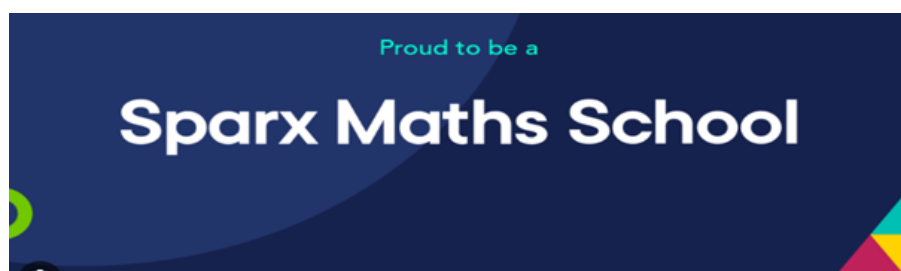
Sparx Maths includes a wealth of instructional videos that cater to various learning styles. Unique codes have been introduced to assist pupils in their revision for in-class assessments, specifically the QMF and QMS, ensuring they are well-prepared and confident going into their tests. With these resources readily accessible, pupils have support at their fingertips whenever they encounter challenges.

As we implement these enhancements, we encourage parents and guardians to support their children in utilising Sparx Maths as a part of their homework routine. Together, we can foster a love for mathematics and a commitment to academic excellence within our school community.

We are so proud of our pupils, here is how much they have achieved since November this academic year.

C. Highfield

Curriculum Team Leader - Mathematics Faculty



Thrive

What is Thrive?

Thrive is an alternative provision which is an evidenced-based approach supporting the social and emotional needs of young people. Adolescence can be a challenging and confusing time for our pupils and Thrive helps them to understand how to manage their emotions. The brain is going through change at a rapid rate and this gives pupils the chance to re-shape stress regulation systems and support their understanding of themselves and their capacities. Understanding brain development and using evidence-based practises helps support young people to be emotionally and mentally healthy and ready to learn.

Thrive's mission is to help children and young people to be emotionally resilient and better placed to engage with life and learning.

In Thrive pupils follow a programme tailored to their needs and behaviour with work focused on critical thinking, problem solving, effective communication and teamwork. A bespoke timetable ensures they still complete core lessons (English, Maths and Science) and allows time for a personalised approach to learning. Thrive creates a curriculum that meets academic requirements and nurtures each pupil's unique potential.

In Thrive this month we have 2 competitions running:

1. Attendance competition - the winner receives a £10 Amazon voucher
2. Sunflower competition - for fun and the pupils will get to take their sunflower home at the end of term

Successes This Month

Our successes are that attendance has improved, suspensions are lower and three of our Thrive pupils have entered back onto full timetables using the Thrive exit plan.

How can you help?

Thrive encourages families to get involved at home and this can be done by sparing time for the little things such as eating together as a family, having a movie night and being curious about their hobbies and the school day. Below are some other ideas that may interest you.

We hope you find these activities fun and entertaining. We would love to see any photos of things you have made.

L. Uddin

Thrive



Let's help every child
thrive

Thrive activities useful for parents of children up to 16 years old – week one

If we think of giving our adolescents a rich diet of social and emotional support, The Essence of our diet needs to contain the right ingredients. Dr. Dan Siegel recommends all adolescents have a balance of what he describes as Essence to create the right recipe for healthy social and emotional growth.

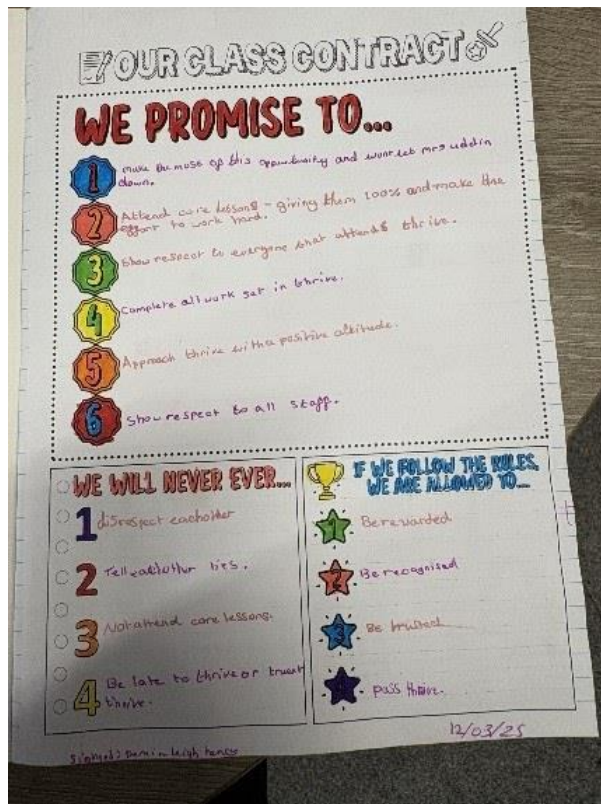
Each week we will focus on a different ingredient of **ESSENCE** (**ES** – Emotional Spark, **SE** – Social Engagement, **N** – Novelty, **CE** – Creative Exploration). This week the focus is on **Emotional Spark**.

Emotional Spark	Creating meaning and vitality in our lives
Monday	Create a motivational item for your neighbour – maybe a painted rock with a quote or word for inspiration.
Tuesday	Create a small wildlife haven either in an old egg box on a windowsill or in your garden.
Wednesday	With your family members make a time capsule, bury it somewhere it will be found in many years to come. Share what you put inside!
Thursday	As a family all share the things you are grateful for.
Friday	Create a family blog – “Our life in Lockdown”

Top Tips:

- ✓ Adolescence is a time of significant brain growth, re-structuring and development. Neuroscientific research and understanding informs how we as adults can support adolescents to flourish and thrive.
- ✓ As adults it is helpful for young people to have us alongside them to reflect on their thoughts, feelings and experiences.
- ✓ It is useful to think with them when solving problems rather than offering up all the answers, coming up with solutions together.

- ✓ Making the most of small moments to connect during the day through a shared activity, meal, walk or whilst relaxing on the sofa, will help young people have a full cup to face any potential challenges or difficult feelings.
- ✓ To find out more about the growth and development in the adolescent brain, [click here](#).



CHANGE YOUR WORDS
CHANGE YOUR MINDSET
FIXED

thrive

Grounding With 5-4-3-2-1

The 5-4-3-2-1 exercise brings teens, or people of any age, back to the present moment through all of their senses.

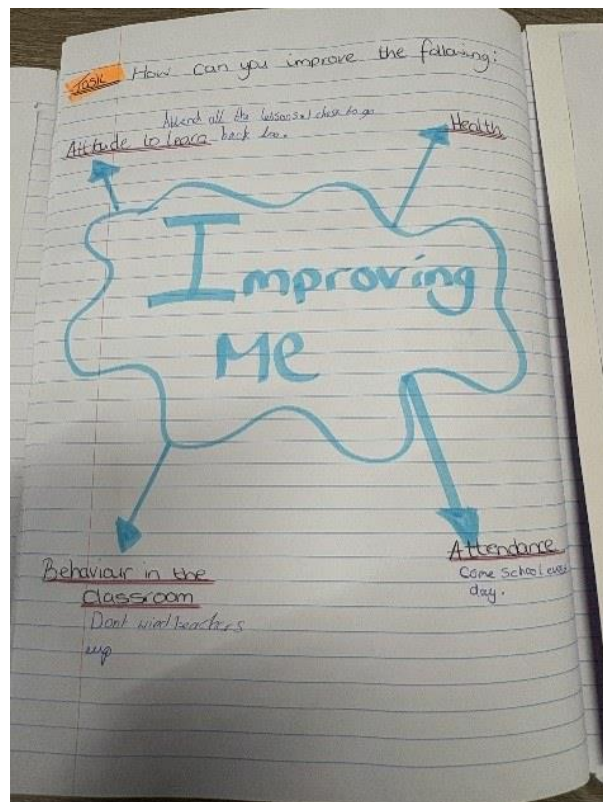
Notice and say out loud or internally:

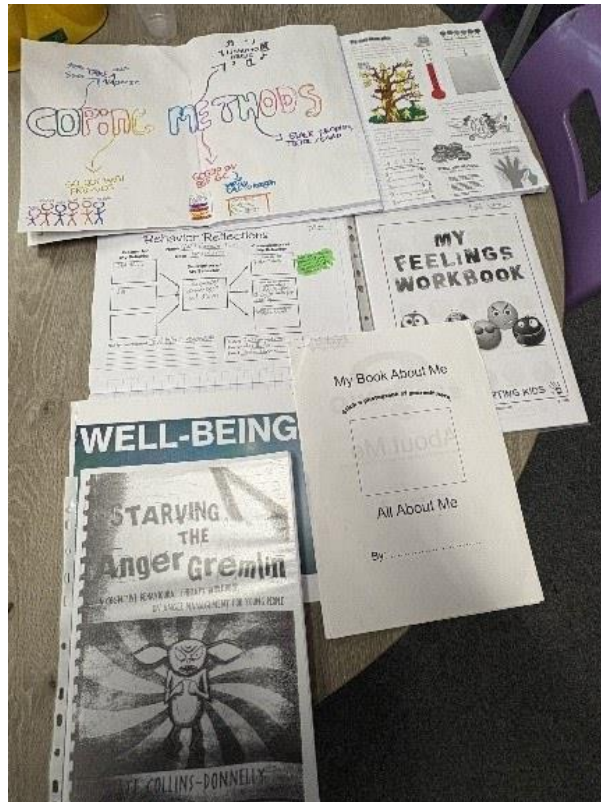
- 5 things you can see (pick a colour, for example, 5 blue things)
- 4 sensations you can feel (e.g., your back against the chair, cool air on your hands)
- 3 sounds you can hear
- 2 things you can smell (it's OK to actively smell things, like the laundry detergent on your clothes)
- 1 thing you can taste

Did you enjoy this exercise?
 It helped me to focus on the present moment.

Did you find this helpful?
 Yes

Name: Emily
 Date: 10.10.24





Attendance chart

Who will win this term?	India	Demi	Eate	Kayleigh	Lily	Billy	Lydia	Easha
Week 1	87.7%	93.3%	91.3%	94.2%	84.7%	92.8%	80%	81.3%
Week 2	87.5%	76.9%	91.7%	94.4%	84.7%	93.1%	77.3%	81.9%
Week 3	87.6%	75.2%	92.0%	94.6%	84.9%	93.3%	79.5%	82.3%
Week 4	86.5%	74.7%	91.6%	94.9%		91.1%	77.7%	83.1%
Week 5								
Week 6								

ATTENDANCE



Love Music Trust Capital Grant

We are delighted to have been successful in receiving a capital grant from the Love Music Trust, our local Music Hub, for musical instruments we can utilise within both our curriculum and enrichment programmes. We have received 10 authentic African drums and 3 digital pianos, which students will benefit from the experience of playing. These will enrich our existing range of instruments and music technology facilities and will enable us to develop our provision even further.

E. Wright

Curriculum Team Leader - Performance and Vocational Faculty



Sporting Fixtures

Our Year 7 and 8 boys proved to be the superior teams in the school winning against Ruskin Community High School in two comprehensive victories which led to them entering the next round versus Shavington High School. Our teams in Years 9 and 10 were not so fortunate with the Year 9s being narrowly defeated by just 1 goal in a game which went down to the wire with some fantastic performances from Romeo J and Jack I-B. The Year 7s were then knocked out in the semi final against a very good team from Shavington High School but all pupils who participated represented the school and the values we uphold. The Year 8 team took an unbeaten Shavington High School side to the wire and lost again whilst upholding all the school rules and values. All the boys who represented the school this year during football games should be proud and hopefully this places the school in a good stead for our summer sport activities.



Our Year 7s and 8s took part in the annual Sports Hall Athletics Competition. Competing against sides who had a vast number of pupils competing our 20 pupils used teamwork and resilience to come in the top 5 in all departments. Some pupils went on to win their races comfortably and others worked tirelessly to the very end of the races to gain the team points. They represented the school excellently and we look forward to taking a team again next year.



L. Bergin

Subject Leader - PE

Esports Competition

Since November our school Esports Team has been competing in the British Esports Students Champs Open 24/25 in Rocket League, a highly competitive 3v3 football-style video game played with rocket-powered cars. With incredible team work, skill and determination, our players have climbed the ranks to secure a spot in the top 16 out of 58 national teams.

After an impressive series of matches, the team won their most recent game, advancing to the final elimination rounds. If they continue their winning streak, they will move forward to the Division 2 Finals, which will take place after the Easter holidays.

Congratulations to our talented pupils who have made this achievement possible:

- Harvey S
- Tino D
- Riley T

The competition features school and college teams from across the UK, including some semi-professional players and pupils aged 16-18. Our team has held their own, demonstrating incredible discipline, motivation and teamwork. Their outstanding performance has not gone unnoticed and they have even been encouraged to consider an Esports BTEC course based on their exceptional gameplay.

What's Next?

The elimination rounds continue and we'll provide updates as soon as we know more. If the team keep up their winning streak, they could make it all the way to the Division 2 Finals.

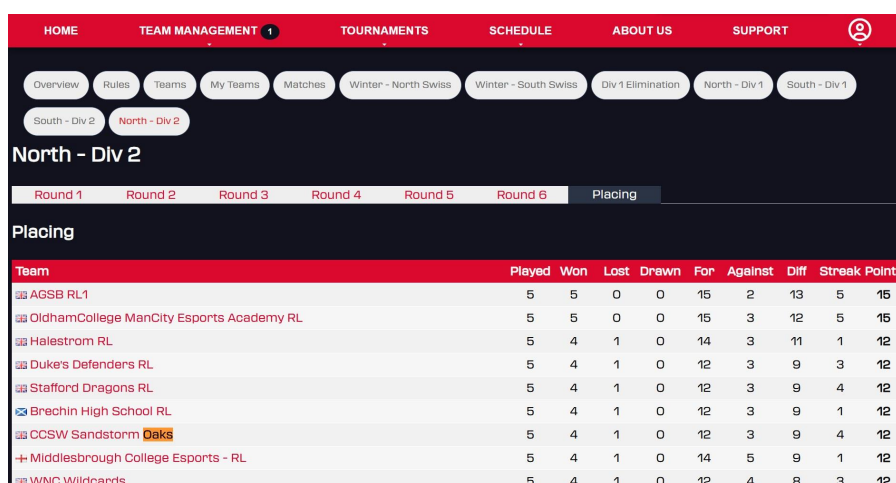
Additionally, we would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to Thomas Langley and Stuart Brown, Schools Partnership Coordinators at Cheshire College South and West for their invaluable support. Their partnership has played a crucial role in helping our pupils explore opportunities beyond the classroom. We truly appreciate their dedication and look forward to continued collaboration.

The team's success is a proud moment for The Oaks Academy and we can't wait to see how far they go in the tournament.

Best of luck in the elimination rounds - let's keep winning.

M. Gherghiceanu

ICT and Maths Teacher



The screenshot shows a sports management website with a red header and a dark blue sidebar. The main content area displays a league table for 'North - Div 2'. The table has columns for Team, Played, Won, Lost, Drawn, For, Against, Diff, Streak, and Points. The teams are listed in descending order of points.

Team	Played	Won	Lost	Drawn	For	Against	Diff	Streak	Points
AGSB RL1	5	5	0	0	15	2	13	5	15
OldhamCollege ManCity Esports Academy RL	5	5	0	0	15	3	12	5	15
Halestrom RL	5	4	1	0	14	3	11	1	12
Duke's Defenders RL	5	4	1	0	12	3	9	3	12
Stafford Dragons RL	5	4	1	0	12	3	9	4	12
Brechin High School RL	5	4	1	0	12	3	9	1	12
CCSW Sandstorm Oaks	5	4	1	0	12	3	9	4	12
Middlesbrough College Esports - RL	5	4	1	0	14	5	9	1	12
WNC Wildcards	5	4	1	0	12	4	8	3	12

Careers

On Wednesday 5th March during National Careers Week our Year 10 pupils participated in a highly successful Mock Interview Day. This event provided pupils with the opportunity to experience a formal interview setting, helping them develop essential skills such as confidence, communication and professionalism.

We were delighted to welcome local employers and business professionals who generously volunteered their time to conduct interviews and provide constructive feedback. Their insights and advice have been invaluable in helping our pupils understand employer expectations and refine their interview techniques.

Many pupils found the experience both challenging and rewarding, gaining a better understanding of how to present themselves effectively and prepare for future career opportunities. The feedback received from interviewers was overwhelmingly positive, with many commenting on the pupils' enthusiasm and preparedness.

We would like to thank all the employers, volunteers and staff members who made this event possible. A special thank you to our pupils for their engagement and professionalism throughout the day. We encourage them to reflect on their feedback and continue to develop their employability skills.

If you have any questions about the event or would like to support future career-related activities please contact the school's Careers Department.

We are incredibly proud of our Year 10 pupils and look forward to seeing them continue to grow and succeed in their future endeavours.

E. Abberley

Assistant Headteacher - Community and Personal Development





Green Future: Our School's New Sustainability Initiative

Our school is taking a bold step towards a greener future with the launch of an exciting new sustainability initiative. This program is designed to encourage pupils, teachers and the wider school community to take action in protecting our environment while aligning with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

As part of this initiative we are implementing eco-friendly practices across school including:

Waste Reduction and Recycling - new recycling stations have been set up and a good waste composing program will be introduced in the cafeteria

Energy Conservation - classrooms will be encouraged to reduce electricity usage with energy-efficient lighting and 'lights-off' reminders

Sustainable Gardening - pupils will have the opportunity to participate in a school garden project, learning about organic farming and biodiversity

Climate Control - pupils who take part in our Eco club, STEM club and Science clubs will form our school climate council

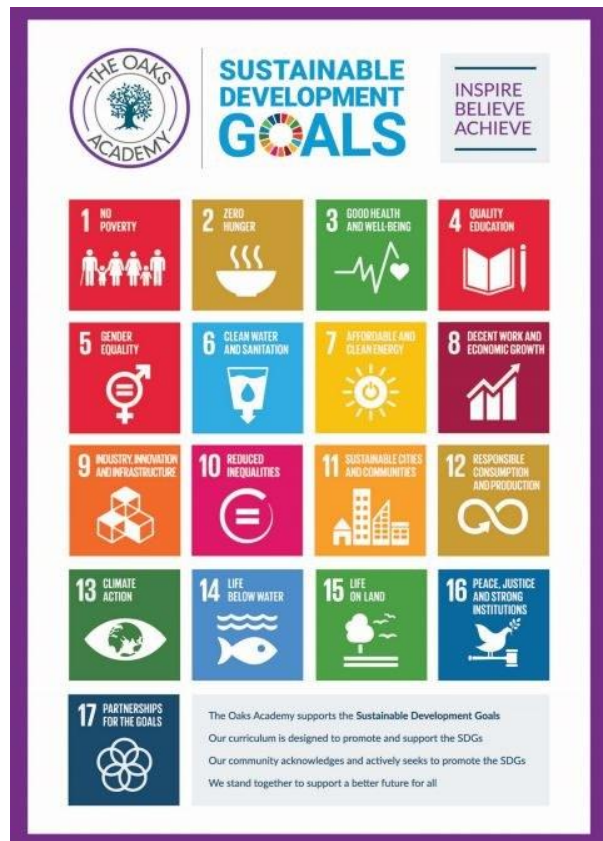
This initiative is part of our commitment to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), a global blueprint for a better and more sustainable future.

Join us in making a difference! Stay tuned for upcoming sustainability workshops, eco club activities and guest speakers who will inspire us to become environmental changemakers.

Together we can create a greener, healthier future for all.

E. Abberley

Assistant Headteacher - Community and Personal Development



Calendar Dates

Here are some upcoming key dates:

- Monday 8th May - Year 7 Progress Evening
- Saturday 17th May - Crewe Out Loud at Cheshire College South and West