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The Oaks Academy Newsletter

December 2025

Headteachers Update



Dear Parents / Carers,

As we approach the end of another successful term, I want to take this opportunity to reflect on the many achievements and celebrations that have taken place across our school community. This festive season has been filled with joy and togetherness, highlighted by our wonderful “Together at Christmas” concert, which showcased the incredible talent and spirit of our pupils. We also enjoyed a delightful pupil Christmas lunch, bringing everyone together to share in the warmth and cheer of the season. In addition, our end-of-year reward visits and assemblies have been a fantastic way to celebrate the hard work, achievement, excellent attendance, and positive behaviour demonstrated by so many of our pupils. These moments remind us of the dedication and resilience that make our school such a special place. This edition of the newsletter is packed with articles from staff celebrating the wide range of clubs and events that enrich school life. From creative arts to sports and academic societies, these opportunities help our pupils thrive and develop their passions. I am also proud to highlight our strong careers education provision, which continues to be recognised

as one of the best in the region. Preparing our pupils for their future is at the heart of what we do, and this recognition reflects the commitment of our staff and the ambition of our pupils.

As we look forward to the new year, I want to thank every member of our school community—pupils, parents, carers, and staff—for your support and contributions throughout 2025. Wishing you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year filled with peace, joy, and success.

Warm regards,

Peter Kingdom

Headteacher

Choir

Choir have worked incredibly hard this term developing their vocal skills, leading to excellent performances in two school events. Miss Wright said 'I am incredibly proud of how hard pupils in Choir have worked every week in our rehearsals so far this year. They have learnt a range of vocal repertoire and prepared their performances focusing on accuracy, expression, communication and projection. I am very excited for our next project which we will begin working on in January - more information will be announced soon.'

New members are always welcomed so if you would like to join Choir see Miss Wright for more information.

E. Wright

Curriculum Team Leader - Performance and Vocational Faculty



Dance

This term, our new lunchtime dance club has been an exciting opportunity for all pupils. The club offers a fun and welcoming space to explore movement, build confidence, and collaborate with others.

Pupils have been introduced to two dynamic styles: contemporary dance, known for its expressive, fluid movements, and street dance, which brings sharp, rhythmic energy. Throughout the sessions, the group has experimented with blending both styles, learning how contrasting techniques can work together to create something fresh and original.

Alongside these styles, pupils have also been trying out acro elements, adding lifts, balances, and controlled tricks to elevate the routine. Working as a team, the club has been developing a combined piece that showcases everyone's strengths while encouraging creativity and teamwork.

The lunchtime dance club is not just a break from lessons—it's a chance to move, express, and be part of a supportive dance community. New members are always welcome, no experience needed!

C. Crump
PE Teacher

PE Clubs

This term has been exciting for PE extracurricular activities, with a range of clubs giving pupils new opportunities to get active, learn new skills, and represent the school.

One of the most popular additions has been the lunchtime dodgeball clubs for both Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4. These fast-paced sessions have given pupils a fun, energetic break in the middle of the day, helping them build teamwork, strategy, and confidence while enjoying some friendly competition.

Our netball club has also made a strong return. For the first time in several years, our Year 7 and Year 8 teams have proudly represented the school in fixtures against other schools. Their commitment and enthusiasm have brought fresh energy to the sport, and their progress throughout the term has been impressive.

This last half term saw our new gymnastics club start running after school. The club offer pupils the chance to develop strength, flexibility, and coordination, whether they're complete beginners or already experienced in gymnastics.

With so many clubs thriving it has been a fantastic term for pupil involvement. We look forward to even more participation and achievements in the months to come!

C. Crump
PE Teacher



PE Fixtures

Football

Our Year 9 and Year 10 football teams have played against Ruskin Community High School and St Thomas More Catholic High School. Year 9 had a fantastic 5-0 victory against Ruskin Community High School showing amazing effort and determination. Year 10 showed incredible courage and determination securing a dramatic 2-2 draw with Ruskin Community High School. Year 9 had a 4-2 victory against St Thomas More Catholic High School. Great teamwork from all.

Netball

Our Year 7 and Year 8 netball teams have played several fixtures. Our Year 8 Netball Team played against Malbank School recently. Their teamwork, energy and encouragement for one another was fantastic. Every game is a chance to grow and the team showed amazing spirit from start to finish. We are very proud of how far they have come so far.

S. Akram

PE Teacher

J. Clegg

Science and PE Teacher

C. Crump

PE Teacher



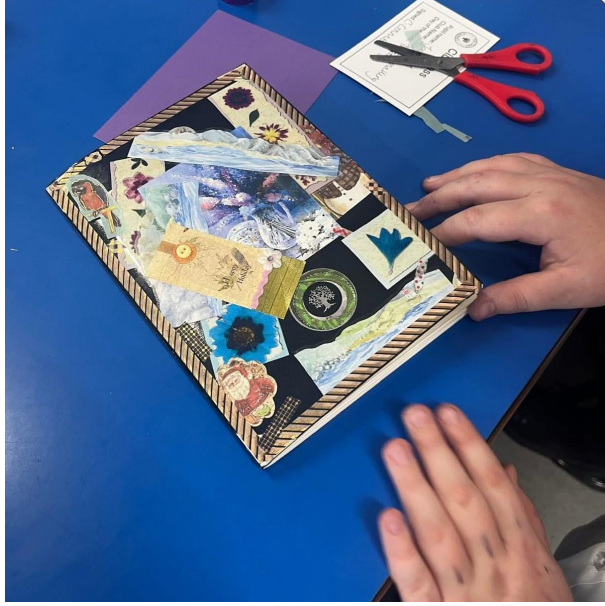


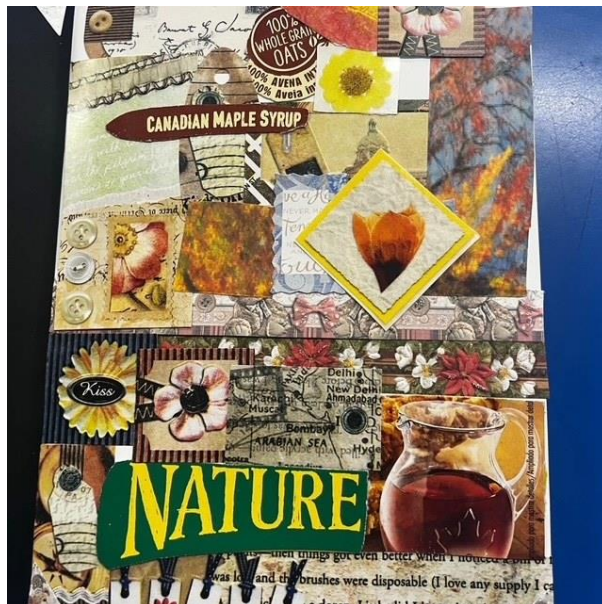
Junk Journaling

Join the Junk Journaling club. Pupils have been turning scraps into stories, tickets into treasures and paper into pure magic. Look at the amazing creative work they have produced.

C. Grimes

Art Teacher



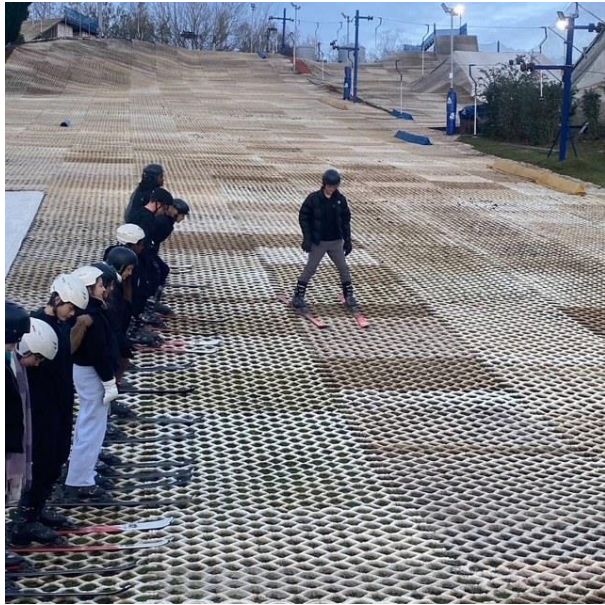


Dry Slope Ski Lessons

Our pupils have had some dry slope ski lessons and made fantastic progress. From mastering the basics to gaining real confidence, everyone is pushing themselves and showing great determination. All this hard work is getting us ready for our unforgettable adventure to the Italian Alps in February 2026. Keep up the amazing effort everyone - the mountains are calling.

E. Abberley

Assistant Headteacher - Community and Personal Development





Inside the Computing Club's Mini-Robotics World

The Computing Club is an exciting and forward-thinking extracurricular opportunity for pupils. Combining creativity, collaboration, and cutting-edge technology, the club gives young learners the chance to explore the fascinating world of mini robotics while developing essential life skills and inspiring the next generation of innovators.

Each week, pupils engage in hands-on activities that involve programming and controlling mini robots. Whether they are coding a robot to follow a specific path or designing a complex obstacle course, pupils strengthen their problem-solving and logical thinking skills in an enjoyable and practical way.

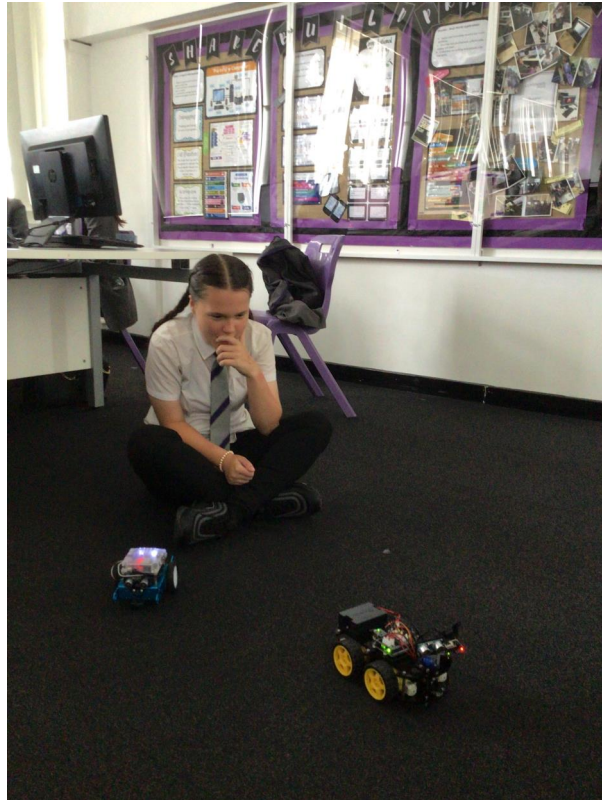
These activities encourage pupils to listen carefully to instructions, speak confidently when sharing ideas, and use creativity when designing new robotic challenges.

Teamwork lies at the heart of the club. Pupils collaborate on projects, support each other when facing coding challenges, and celebrate shared successes—strengthening their teamwork, leadership, and staying positive skills. Group tasks, such as planning a mini-robot competition, allow individuals to take on different roles, from lead programmer to designer, helping them grow into effective, confident leaders.

Closely linked to the Skills Builder Framework—which emphasises key attributes such as Listening, Speaking, Problem Solving, Creativity, Staying Positive, Aiming High, Leadership, and Teamwork—the club ensures that pupils grow not only as budding technologists but also as confident, well-rounded individuals.

By nurturing curiosity and providing a space where innovation thrives, the Computing Club inspires pupils to explore their passions, overcome challenges, and prepare for a future where digital fluency and creative thinking will be more important than ever.

M. Gherghiceanu
Maths and Computing Teacher







Science, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM)

The team have been working hard to prepare the school allotment for planting in the new year. The pupils are planning to increase the range of fruit and vegetables being grown to include strawberries, peppers, carrots and, after this year's success, more potatoes. We are also sourcing materials to build a bespoke herb garden which the pupils have designed so we can grow parsley, basil and others herbs.

As part of the school's commitment to the Government's Eco curriculum, we are recycling any cut down plant life, including grass cuttings, to make our own compost. Biodiversity is an important aspect of this curriculum, therefore the pupils will be planting a range of flowers and erecting bird feeders. We will be seeking our Level 2 gardening award from the Royal Horticultural Society next term.

STEM learning ran their annual POP (Protect Our Planet) event in November and some year 7 pupils dropped in to see how professionals and experts from around the world use science to Protect Our Planet.

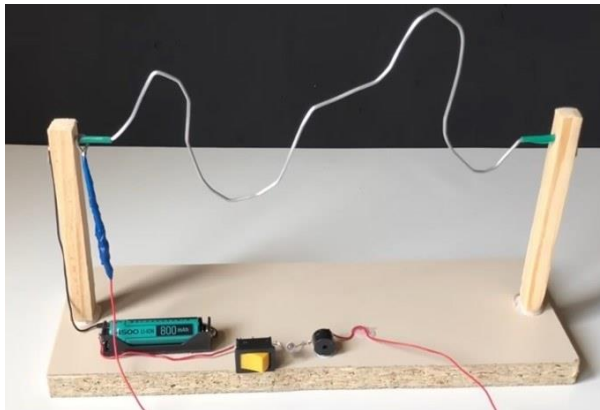
Mr French leads the after school Science club, pupils have the opportunity to dive into practical, hands-on learning that builds real scientific curiosity. Sessions focus on inquiry-based investigation and developing core STEM skills through engaging experiments. Over the last two weeks, pupils have explored real anatomy through a supervised brain dissection and developed their understanding of chemical reactions using colourful flame tests. It's a brilliant space for young scientists to extend their learning and develop their confidence through collaborative exploration. Each week is guided by pupils' own curiosity while staying closely aligned with the school's science curriculum to keep learning purposeful and relevant.

D. Murphy

STEM Coordinator, House System Leader and Science Teacher

J. French

Science Teacher



Spelling Bee

We have had our first Spelling Bee House Competition. Well done to everyone who took part.

D. Murphy

STEM Coordinator, House System Leader and Science Teacher



Remembrance Service

On Tuesday 11th November over 40 pupils took part in our annual Remembrance Service. Our Choir performed war time medley of 'Pack Up Your Troubles and Its A Long Way To Tipperary' and 'Yellow', Rutendo M sung 'Over The Rainbow', Mythily B performed 'A River Flows In You' on the piano, some of our pupils performed a Drama piece about the impact of losing a family member to war and Marta S and Emmanuel P , our Head Students, gave readings. Their performances were of a very high quality. Miss Wright said: 'all the performances were excellent and demonstrated the hard work of our pupils.'

300 pupils from Years 7 and 8 watched the Remembrance Service giving them the opportunity to understand the importance of this national event and pay their respects to the people who have died in wars around the world.

E. Wright

Curriculum Team Leader - Performance and Vocational Faculty

J. Newham

Deputy Headteacher - Progress and Culture





Together At Christmas Performance

What a magical evening we had at our performance of 'Together At Christmas'. It was a fantastic celebration of what matters most at Christmas and the value and importance of the performing arts. It was full of singing, acting and dance with our pupils shining on the stage. Miss Wright said of the performance: 'I am so proud of the pupils who have worked incredibly hard working on their Choir performances, a street dance performance, their acting and a reading. Their performances were amazing and the result of hard work, dedication and teamwork'. A special mention to our principal characters:

- Charlotte played by Rutendo M
- Fairy Christmas played by Phoebe S
- Our readers who were Pola H, Layken W, Bianca P, Joseph M, Imogen P and Romeo J

Thank you as well to our large and appreciative audience who enjoyed a festive fun-filled performance.

Our next exciting performance will be announced in January.

E. Wright

Curriculum Team Leader - Performance and Vocational Faculty







Calendar Dates

Here are some upcoming key dates:

- Monday 5th January - INSET Day
- Thursday 15th January - Year 10 Progress Evening Online