



## The Oaks News - July 2023

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*Welcome to The Oaks News July 2023 edition. Our half termly newsletter is to celebrate and share what's going on in school, and ensure that our parent community are fully informed about school life, upcoming events and activities. We love to hear about all the amazing things our community are involved in, if you have any stories to share please get in touch.*

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## In the news this month



In this months edition:

- **Headteachers Update**
- **Safeguarding**
- **Duke of Edinburgh**
- **Careers in the Community**
- **Student Leadership**
- **Transition**
- **Behaviour and Attendance**
- **Literacy**
- **House System**
- **Subject awards Evening**
- **Creative Arts Evening**
- **Crewe Alex Football**
- **Subject Focus**

## Headteachers Update



Dear Parents and carers

As we approach the end of another busy year it is a time to reflect on the many achievements we have made as a school, but also to look forward and plan for growth and continued improvement. We bid farewell to our Year 11s and we wish them every success with their results in August and the assurance of our continued support in ensuring they successfully embark on their next steps in the education or training.

We are thrilled to see so many new starters with us in Year 7. The number of students joining us in September reflects our growing popularity in the locality and a recognition of our continued emphasis on high standards and achievement. We have doubled our intake and are now oversubscribed.

As part of our growth we are welcoming lots of new staff in September, some of whom have already started, and most additional roles due to increasing numbers of students. We have welcomed three new senior leaders to our staff body in recent months. Mrs Emma Leftwick is our Assistant Headteacher responsible for Inclusion and Safeguarding; Mrs Helen Holland, our Assistant Head for SEND; and Mrs Alex Brooks, our Assistant Headteacher for Attendance and Behaviour. We have also expanded the school literacy team as literacy is one of our core areas of focus as a school.

Our building and site improvement project is continuing apace, with new additional classrooms being created, required due to growth, and continued refurbishment.

Do enjoy a restful summer with your family and friends, and as ever, thanks for your ongoing support

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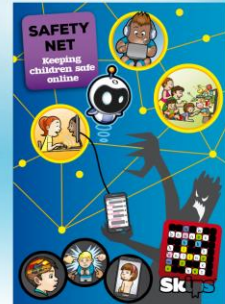
**Mr P Kingdom**

Summer holidays – Parents guide to help keep children safe online

# School's out for summer!

## It's always best to be prepared

During the summer holidays, without the distraction of school, internet usage for many young people can increase all the way up to September. This guide is designed to help parents with a realistic approach to help keep their children safe when using the internet, social media and playing online games. Please click on each image below for more information.



**A Parent's Guide to Social Media**



**A Parent's Guide to Sharing Pictures**



**A Parent's Guide to Gaming**



**A Parent's Guide to Live Streaming**



**A Parent's Guide to Online Grooming**



**A Parent's Guide to Online Influencers**



**A Parent's Guide to Fake News**



**A Parent's Guide to Privacy Settings**

**Online safety is when young people know who they can tell if they feel upset by something that has happened online.**

**Parents** please contact your school if you would like to attend a parents internet safety workshop or have any concerns.

**Schools** please [contact us](#) if you would like a SKIPS Safety Net session delivered to your parent groups or staff.

**Skips Educational**

Web: [www.skipssafetynet.org](http://www.skipssafetynet.org)  
 Email: [info@skips.com](mailto:info@skips.com)  
 Tel: +44 121 227 1941

142 Newton Road  
 Great Barr  
 Birmingham B43 6BT

Working with Home Office 'PREVENT', The Police and Crime Commissioner and Children's Safeguarding Partnerships to help keep children safe online.

Developed in partnership with



Keeping children safe online

[www.skipssafetynet.org](http://www.skipssafetynet.org)

What is PEGI?

The PEGI system is designed to inform the public of what's suitable and what's not for different ages. It can be a helpful tool in helping you to decide what games are appropriate for your child.

PEGI's professional analysts look at hundreds of video games every year and determine what is suitable for different age groups using a set of criteria.

This criteria has been established by experts in the field of child protection, psychology, the law and media. It helps analysts to decide what game content is appropriate in each of the five rating groups.

### **How are games rated under PEGI?**

All games released in the UK will have one of the following PEGI age ratings on the packaging: 3, 7, 12, 16 or 18. The rating means that the game shouldn't be played by a young person under that age.

Why? Because there may be content within the game which could potentially be harmful, frightening or worrying to children. As well as an age rating, PEGI also uses icons showing content descriptors, letting you know if a game contains: violence, drugs, bad language, discrimination, fear, gambling, sex, or in-app purchases.

### **Is PEGI legally enforceable?**

Yes - in the UK, the PEGI 12, 16 and 18 ratings are legally enforceable. This means that retailers cannot sell or hire these games to those below these ages. However, this only applies to the retailer, it doesn't stop an adult or someone older from buying the games for a child.

**Remember** - PEGI ratings are based on safety and *not* game difficulty. Lots of children want to be challenged by games and believe an older rated game will be harder.

### **Need more advice?**

For extra age rating information about a game, use the [Additional Consumer Information \(ACI\)](#). Use the 'search' function to find a game and you'll get a breakdown of the content, including:

- How much graphic content appears in the game;
- How often/where it appears and how strong it is.

This is a great tool for confirming you are making the right choice in the games your child may be playing.

You may come across a game which doesn't carry a PEGI rating but may feature a rating from non-European countries. These ratings carry no weight in the UK or Europe and should not be taken at face value as their criteria may not be in line with UK guidance.

**Emma Leftwick**

**Assistant Headteacher Inclusion**

**Designated Safeguarding Lead**

## Duke of Edinburgh



The D of E Practice expedition took place on the weekend of 24th-25th June in the Peckforton Hills. The pupils gathered at the meeting point before setting off to their campsite. On day one pupils took it in turns to navigate different legs of the journey and became proficient at using a map and compass in the field. One pupil commented that “maps take on a whole new meaning when you are relying on them to find your way to the campsite”. During the day pupils experienced a herd of cows, horses and ponies as well as some fairly challenging styles. Kyle also temporarily adopted a dog that had escaped. Towards the second part of the day we climbed up to the trig point at Rawhead which is 227M above sea level, before making our way back down to the Cheshire Plain and to the campsite.

Once we arrived at camp pupils set up tents, topped up their water and cooked meals on their camp stoves. The weather was great and there was a sense of achievement in camp as the sun went down and they headed into their tents for a well-earned rest. The next morning pupils prepared breakfast, packed up their tents and equipment before planning their routes to the pick up point. This time groups were working as teams to ensure that they followed their route Alfie S took a bearing where no path was evident and helped his team to negotiate a tricky part of the route.



Overall the weather held for most of the weekend allowing the first team to reach the end point before it broke. However the second team were not so lucky, being caught in a torrential downpour whilst thunder rattled the skies. Still it was great training as they quickly donned their waterproofs and completed their route as the rain bounced off the track around them. Rhys B and Kyle C showed excellent leadership throughout the weekend and have been awarded additional Golden Moments for this on top of the Golden Moments awarded to all other pupils who took part in this challenging but rewarding weekend.

The assessment expedition will take place on the 23rd-24th of September near Macclesfield Forest and will involve pupils navigating from check point to checkpoint whilst being assessed on their navigation, camp craft and team work. The group will also be launching several charity events in the new school year as part of their volunteering section of the award. We are also looking forward to launching our first Silver D of E canoeing expedition next year with many of our current Bronze cohort already expressing an interest.

**Jon Austin**



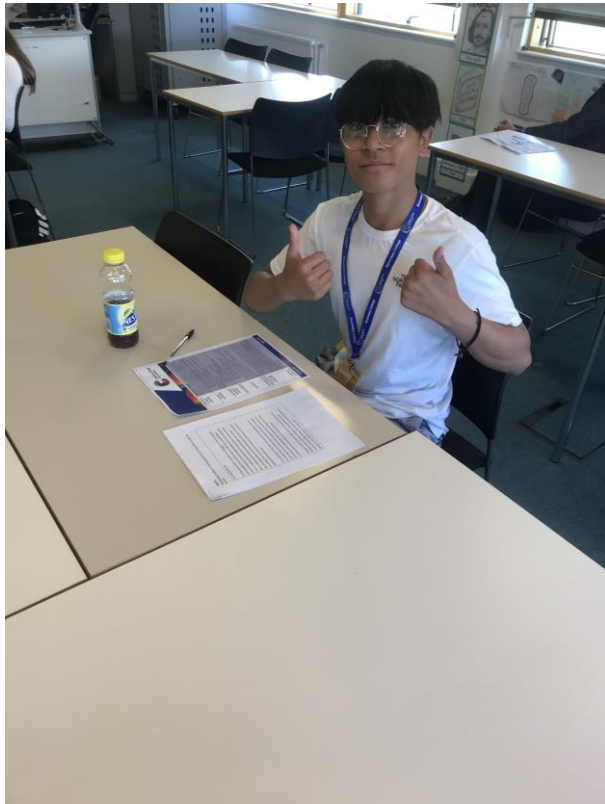


## Careers in the Community



This term year 10 students have started to consider more seriously their options post 16. A select group of students were invited to attend the Reaseheath taster day and the whole of the year 10 cohort spent the day as a Cheshire College South and West. In both experiences the students were able to select taster sessions linked to their future aspirations. There was the opportunity to explore A-Levels, Social sciences, child care, bricklaying, personal training public services, hairdressing and barbering and much much more. The students had a great day with the experience helping to shape and direct their future ideas and aspirations







On Wednesday 21st June a select group of year 10 students completed their Pledge Explore programme. The Explore Programme was designed to inspire, guide and support students around the next steps in their career journey, through a series of exciting site visits to local employers and education providers. At the end of the programme our aim was to ensure students have a broader understanding of the opportunities available to them in the area and to have helped them identify

and develop some of the key skills employers are looking for, as well as set some tangible goals for their next steps. Our visit on the 21st was to the Nantwich Clinic a state-of-the-art Health Hub opened in February 2022 in Nantwich.. The clinic is designed to provide a healthcare experience bringing together a blend of medical, aesthetic and health services. The students had a tour of the clinic and a presentation for a range of staff around roles and responsibilities in health, wellness and aesthetics.

**Emily Abberley**

**Assistant Headteacher Community & Personal Development**







## **STEM/HS2**

During this academic year Y8 students took part in a STEM careers day involving HS2 EPIC Engineers. Throughout the day, students got to experience what a day in the life of an Engineer involved, focusing on the fantastic work of our railway teams within Crewe. With a focus on the HS2

development, learners then designed their ideal transport station of the future, focusing on sustainable design, eco friendly activities and how all user can access the vast transport networks across Cheshire. As a team building exercise, learners then manufactured a range of bridges, tunnels and transport solutions to test through a range of quality control links. All students were able to link their learning from Science, Maths, DT and ICT to enjoy this fantastic event.

**Sarah-Jane Weaver**

**CTL Art & Technology**

## Student Leadership



Following our recent application process we are delighted to announce the appointments of our new head students, senior students and student leaders. The selection process for the Head Student position was highly competitive, with numerous talented and deserving candidates vying for the role. Congratulations to Rhys G and Serena S for their outstanding letters of application and interviews.

Warm congratulations must also be offered to our newly appointed senior team who have also demonstrated their remarkable leadership skills, a strong work ethic, and a genuine commitment to their peers and the school. Well done to Sami L, Dominica P, Lily I, Scott C, Jakub S and Jay S. We look forward to working with you all.

We take students leadership very seriously as this prestigious position of responsibility can have great influence within our school. They will serve as a role model for their peers and will play an integral role in fostering a positive learning environment for all students. Their duties will include representing the student body in various events and activities, collaborating with the school administration, organising community service initiatives, and being a liaison between students, teachers, and parents.



The below students have also stepped up to form part of our wider team and should be congratulated for the willingness to develop themselves as individuals as well as support the school.

Julia P, Caryn C, Ella M, Sophie L C, Sonia S, Keeley W, Eliza S, Luckas S, Nia H, Tanaka D Y, Evie J, Lucas D, Andrea H, Bronwyn H, Caitlin D, Jessica H, Millie C, Emilia K, Leon C, Arianna S, Ella G, Emilee A, Maja D, Ermela P, Mia C, Maja B, Lily B, Owen I



## Transition



On Friday 14th July we were delighted to welcome our new Year 7 cohort, the class of 2028 into The Oaks. The students spent the day in their new form groups, took part in a range of activities where they got to make new friends, explore the site and take part in some lessons. As the biggest intake year group, it created an exciting buzz around the school with so many of our older students keen to get to know and support our new transition students. A hand-picked group of year 7 & 8 students leaders did an amazing job showing them around and supporting staff in lessons. We look forward to welcoming them all in to our school on a full-time basis in September.



## Behaviour and Attendance



Behaviour and Culture - expectations, successes and next steps

My name is Alex Brooks and I started at The Oaks Academy in June, I am the Assistant Headteacher for Behaviour and Attendance. My job is to support the vision of the school and to ensure our high standards are met consistently by the students. The Oaks has worked tirelessly this year on making sure students do the right thing all the time. The three golden rules have been a huge success and help our students to self-regulate and be successful learners. We expect the very best from our students and know they are able to achieve the incredible things when they meet these expectations.

I am also part of a team who ensure our students are in school as attendance is very important. Data shows us that good attendance leads to good progress which leads to more success in later life. A common goal we all share for the young people in our care, we want them to thrive and succeed. The school attendance is good with data showing we are sitting above the national average but we strive for the very best so we are hoping to make this even better next year. Students will be able to win achievement points and house points in key stage three for having excellent attendance.

The school is introducing a new reward system next year and with the new house system for key stage 3 students will be able to enjoy a variety of different rewards if they meet the criteria. Some of the rewards will be off site experiences, team building opportunities and breakfast with the headteacher. A great way to celebrate the excellence that our community is steeped in.

Have a wonderful summer, I look forward to seeing all the students back with us in September looking super smart in their school uniforms.

**Alex Brooks**

**Assistant Headteacher Behaviour and Attendance**

## Literacy



To support the development of academic literacy across the curriculum and the love for reading, selected students have been entered into a range of exciting interventions. The Lexonik program is a 6 week interactive tool that includes competitive practise of word sounds and understanding of phonics. So far, over 60 students have taken part in this throughout the year in groups of 6 and both the feedback and results have been fantastic! To support our students further, our Learning Resource Centre lead Miss Lane has been inviting students to take part in her reading groups, where pupils get involved in analysing books and becoming familiar with word-reading. Getting our students reading is a priority, but we understand that this can sometimes be challenging – please feel free to come along to parental engagement sessions with our Academic Literacy Lead Miss Phillips! Miss Phillips has held two sessions to date, and these will continue twice each term in our next academic year! These sessions focus on reading and literacy skills at home, offering support and in depth knowledge of how to aid your child’s journey of reaching their potential and beyond!



## House System



As the current academic year draws to a close, we would like to take a moment to let you know about an exciting new innovation happening at the Oaks Academy. Starting from the upcoming academic year, we will be introducing a House System.

### **How will it work?**

All Key stage three pupils and their form tutors will be placed into one of six Houses. They will belong to this same House for the duration of their time at the academy. As members, students will be encouraged to do their best for their House. Throughout the year, they will participate in a range of inter-house competitions for which they will earn achievement points. These may include academic challenges, sports tournaments, art competitions and much more. Additionally, points will also be awarded for good behaviour, effort in learning and community spirit. Achievement points will be awarded via Satchel One and will be counted termly to judge which House has collectively won the most points.

The points earned will contribute to the overall standing of the House, with regular updates and announcements to keep the students motivated and engaged. The House competition culminates with an end of year celebration assembly during which trophies and certificates are awarded to individuals who have shown outstanding levels of achievement throughout the academic year. The House with the highest overall points, will be crowned champions and awarded the prestigious House Cup: a real highlight!

### **House Names:**

As a school located in Crewe, we would like to celebrate the town's unrivalled heritage as a pioneer of railway engineering. Indeed, Crewe has long been synonymous with locomotive innovation, producing some of the most iconic and ground-breaking trains of the time. With this in mind, our

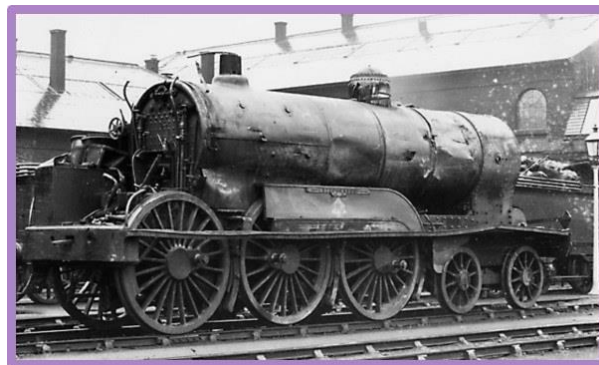
proposed House names are derived from the names of trains that were manufactured here in Crewe: Webb, Hardwicke, Stephenson, Claughton, Newton and Gresley. We aim to instil a sense of pride in our hometown's achievements amongst students, along with some historical and cultural awareness.

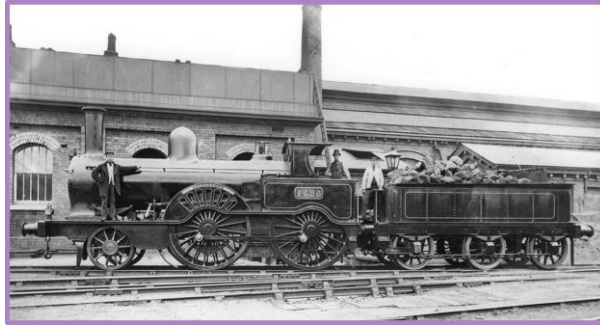
Moreover, the association with trains also provides us with a powerful metaphor for the educational journey that our students undertake. Like a train on its tracks, education moves students forward, carrying them to new destinations, opening doors to opportunities and expanding their horizons. By associating the Houses with trains, we hope to inspire our students to embrace the learning process and strive for excellence.

As an academy, we are confident that the introduction of the House System will have a positive impact on our students, creating a supportive and inclusive environment where students can flourish academically, socially and personally. It will encourage them to push their boundaries, celebrate achievements and develop a strong sense of belonging to their Houses as well as the school as a whole. Overall, it will provide ample opportunity for our students to showcase their talents and pursue their passions beyond the classroom.

We look forward to an exciting and enriching year ahead as we embark on this new chapter together.

**Megan Heley**







## Subject Awards Evening



The Oaks Academy Celebration of Achievement Evening was held to honour students' successes in 2022-23. Held in the school's Main Hall, it was a truly special night; recognising the wide-ranging skills and talents of The Oaks Academy students, as well as their more personal journeys.

The ceremony began with an opening speech from the school's Deputy Headteacher for Progress and Culture. Mr Newham highlighted the special awards achieved by students across the curriculum, those who have gone above and beyond and to those who have made excellent progress. During the evening there were an array of certificates issued for subjects, alongside awards for Outstanding Students of the Year, Sports and Performing Arts awards and a special Community award.

There were three musical items performed by Nadia Z, Rhys G and Hilary C. There was an electric atmosphere throughout the evening; it was a delight to be surrounded by proud parents/carers, family, friends and teaching staff who joined in celebrating the students' successes. Yet again, our students have demonstrated that they can indeed aim high, believe in themselves and achieve academic excellence.

The following students received an award.

### **Year 7**

Marsel T - DT

Lily B - HISTORY

Elizabeth A - RE

Hilary C - MUSIC

Nicolle Z - IT

CJ A - GEOGRAPHY

Phoebe S - SCIENCE & DRAMA

Georgia P - SPANISH

Maja B - ENGLISH, ART & MATHS.

Jack I B - PE

Nevaeh J - PE award

Romeo J - PE award

Ella G - FOOD TECH

### **Year 8**

Bradley N DT. SPANISH.

Millie C SCIENCE.

Viktoria W RE

Adam S HISTORY. MUSIC. IT.

Tara M GEOGRAPHY

Vanessa S DRAMA

Kylan P ENGLISH

Emily G ART

Josh S PE

Tilisha R Outstanding student award

William T FOOD TECH.

Andrea H MATHS

### **Year 9**

Eliza S DT

Lucas D. SCIENCE. GEOGRAPHY

Kyle C HISTORY

Nadia Z MUSIC.

Luckas S DRAMA.

Atlas B RE. IT. MATHS

Gulia P ENGLISH

Evie J SPANISH

Lilianna C. PE

Rhys B ART.

Ky B pe award

Tyler O Outstanding student award

Frayarose C- J FOOD TECHNOOGY

**Year 10**

Maja K IMEDIA.

Jake R DT.

Scott C RE.

Serena S HISTORY.

Julia P SCIENCE. PHOTOGRAPHY.

Keeley W MFL.

Jakub S GEOGRAPHY.

William W ENGLISH.

Thomas B BUSINESS

Jessica K PE.

Lily I ART.

Patrick C pe award

Rhys G Outstanding student award, Community award

Dominika P FOOD TECH

Leo F MATHS

**Year 11**

Libby C Performance award,

Michael H HISTORY

Mel J RE.

Destinie B PHOTOGRAPHY.

Mary H S MFL

Poppy P GEOGRAPHY. SCIENCE

Reece G MATHS

Victoria N ENGLISH LANGUAGE. BUSINESS

Emily S ENGLISH LIT

Kadie B PE

Caitlin B HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE.

Angel T ART

Daniel IDRAMA.

Chloe OC Outstanding Student Award

Evie D FOOD TECH

**Jason Newham**

**Deputy Headteacher Progress and Culture**









## Creative Arts Evening



On Thursday 13th July we held a Creative Arts Celebration. This included an Art and Photography Exhibition, followed by some Music and Drama performances. The evening was designed to showcase the excellent work that happens in the Creative Arts.

The quality of Art and Photography work was excellent and demonstrated the hard work and commitment of the Art and Photography students in producing their portfolios and final pieces.

33 students participated in the Music and Drama performances, which were enjoyed by a large and appreciative audience. There were performances from the Student Choir and Staff Choir, in addition to a range of solo, duet, small ensemble items and a murder mystery Key Stage 3 Drama Club performance. All students worked really hard to prepare for this and their performances showed their hard work, perseverance, resilience and dedication.

It was a fantastic event that the students really enjoyed and benefited from.

**Miss E Wright**

**CTL of the Performance and Vocational Faculty**







Crewe Alex Football training



We have had training sessions with Crewe Alex players - David Amoo and Tom Booth came down to a session and gave advice to students. The highlight of the year was taking part in the Premier League Kicks Tournament at West Brom Academy. Key Stage 4 students were invited to take part in a tournament against teams from West Brom, Shrewsbury Town and Aston Villa to name a few. It was a fantastic day out and our students played well against these teams. It was a fantastic opportunity for the boys to represent The Oaks Academy and Crewe Alex at such a prestigious event.

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## Science Focus



It has been a very busy year in science this year.

In term of staffing in the department we were very lucky to be joined by Mrs Cartlidge at Christmas. She has become a well-respected member of the team presently first-class lessons and building really positive relationships with our students.

The science department would like to thank Mrs Cartlidge for all of her hard work this year and wish her well in her new placement.

We have recently appointed a new science technician Mr Dicker, he joins us following the retirement of our technician earlier in the year.

We will be joined in the new academic year by three new members of staff . All three are very keen to join our school and get started with their teaching.

We have given our students a number of opportunities this year to think about future careers in science. We have had guest speakers from industry to share their experiences working as scientists in a variety of setting such as drug research and medicine. Our year 11 have also been given the opportunity on a Tuesday evening to take part in A level taster course at the local college.

Earlier in the year we took 30 of our year 11 students to Wales for a residential study weekend it really was a great experience for teachers and students.

We worked on studying the key features of the science of GCSE science curriculum and enhancing study skills. In our free time we visited the local beach, laughed, danced and took part in a fun quiz.

Further to this we have also been running a Saturday morning revision club for our year 11 students all year which was very well attended.

Next year we look forward to introducing Triple Science at GCSE to our curriculum for the first time, this is an exciting opportunity for our students particularly those who aspire to future science-based careers



## English Focus



Oh wow! What a year 2022-23 has been!

Across English, our focus this year has been to raise expectations with reading and writing which we have successfully done from year 7 to 11 through the use of reading and writing tasks designed throughout our curriculum to allow all students to practice key skills necessary for success throughout their exams and the wider world. Students have also had opportunities to practice Spoken Language skills- Year 7 have completed the English Speaking Board programme, delivering a presentation about a topic of their choice to their class, and year 9 have completed the Spoken Language component of the English Language GCSE by writing and delivering a speech entitled 'Don't get me started on...!'

Next year, English really want to focus on making English the Golden Standard across the academy; leading on Literacy across the school, engaging in new and exciting topics to be taught in English lessons and really giving our students a love for the subject. For us at Team English, this is hugely important when ensuring your children are ready for their GCSEs and their lives after school. We're looking at embedding even more lessons in the Library, lots more opportunities for spoken language lessons and every necessary to support your children to be inspired in English, to believe in themselves in order to achieve academically and in society!

Sadly, with this we are saying goodbye to two members of Team English: Mr Malone and Miss Latham are both heading off to pastures new and we wish them both the very best.

But alongside goodbyes, we will be saying hello to three new members of the team in September, ready for another exciting year into 23-24- and we can't wait to get started!

## Humanities Focus



### Curriculum

Curriculum development has been a priority across humanities this year. We have re-written our Schemes of work so they are ambitious, broad, connected and well sequenced. We have also tried to make the lessons and enjoyable for pupils as possible so that they engage better. Our Curriculum builds on the Knowledge and skills developed at Primary school. We follow the Key Stage 3 national curriculum for Geography and History and the local Syllabus for RE. We follow AQA syllabus for Humanities at Key Stage 4 and select topics that are relevant to our pupils and setting.

To bring our subjects together we have delivered a Crewe Regeneration Project for pupils to apply their skills and knowledge in the local community. We had a fantastic tour of Crewe Town Centre by Councillor Ben Wye who wrote to our Head teacher saying,

Dear Peter,

I just wanted to congratulate you, the staff and the pupils for such a thought provoking session in Crewe on Tuesday after school.

I was truly impressed by the dedication of the staff who took time out to bring the dozen pupils who were really engaged and asked extremely useful questions, that normally aren't considered. We were lucky enough to have an impromptu simulated debate in the Municipal Buildings Council chamber about the wisdom of having more drive through restaurants, which is being debated in 'real life' currently. How I wish they could have attended Sotuhern Planning!

Ethan And Evie, in particular made me reflect on some of the plans for the town regeneration. This is as it should be, as it is your pupils who have the biggest stake in the town.

Many thanks, I hope to work with you more in future.

Yours sincerely,

Ben Wye



The Next connected local project will be the Battle of Nantwich! Researching why this area was so strategically important in the English Civil War. We will explore the impact of Religion and History and the geography of Nantwich that made it such a draw to people in the past.



We build on this enrichment with Cultural Capital Cross Curricular Homework's which gives pupils the opportunity to research independently about topics and combine all Humanities skills each Half term. E.g. ....

RE have had a visit to St Barnabas Church for year 10 RE CGSE pupils to explore Christian worship and practices. We will be looking to next book a trip to a Buddhist Temple. We are also proposing a trip to Liverpool to compare the Roman Catholic and Anglican Cathedrals, and explore the Christmas festival of Christmas and investigate the influence of Christianity at the Liverpool Christmas market. Geography took pupil to Liverpool One and Formby Beech to Complete their Fieldwork Skills and we have a combined Humanities Visit to Ypres, Belgium planned for next February, we are very much looking forward to and teachers are squabbling to get on the trip!!!

History has excelled with its History and Politics Club to compliment the humanities department and give keen students the opportunity to expand their historical knowledge. Politics Club also ties political discussion and ideological differences in British and European society into an ambitious curriculum. Together, these clubs enrich student understanding and give foundations for students wanting to go into civic or political spheres of work.

Also, the Equality club has taken over from Pride Club to support more students in a changing Crewe demographic. It became apparent from PHSCE lessons that some cultures within Crewe do not follow the school expectations when it comes to equality and diversity. Equality club is an opportunity to work with students with protected characteristics and provides a safe space for students of all backgrounds and circumstances.

We would like to welcome Three New Staff, Alex Brookes Assistant Headteacher and History Specialist, in September Emma Lavens new Geography and RE teacher, Liam Kirkpatrick new Geography and RE teacher, New Curriculum team leaders are Liane Roberts and Jon Austin.

**Kevin Street**

**Curriculum Team Leader Humanities**

## Modern Foreign Languages Focus



It's been a successful year for all MFL students who have not only developed their knowledge of the Spanish language, but also of a range of traditions and customs in Spanish speaking countries.

Year 7 have begun their Spanish journey by learning to describe themselves, their hobbies, their school, their family and friends and their town.

Year 8 have developed their knowledge from year 7 and have learnt to discuss their holidays, their free time and technology, their eating habits and their outings with friends.

Year 9 have built on their prior knowledge of discussing their hobbies, discussed their future plans and careers, how they keep healthy and how they care for the environment.

Year 10 have made great progress starting their GCSE course, describing their holidays, their school, their family and use of technology, their hobbies and role models and their home town. They have also just completed their first round of PPE assessments and have done exceptionally well!

Students across all year groups also studied a range of Spanish traditions and culture, such as el día de los Muertos (the day of the dead), La Navidad (Christmas), Semana Santa (Holy week), and Christopher Columbus' discovery of America.

Huge congratulations to all students for working so hard this year, ¡Qué tengáis un buen verano!

## Art & Technology Focus



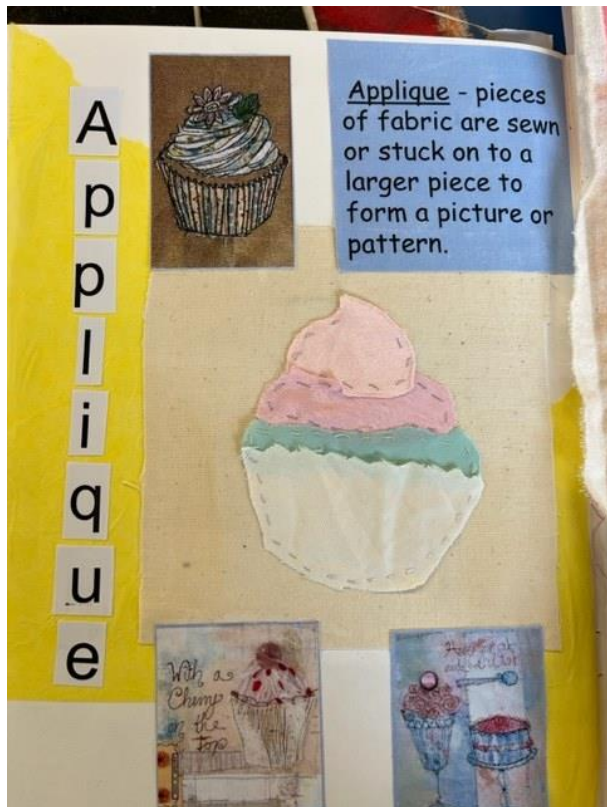
### Art

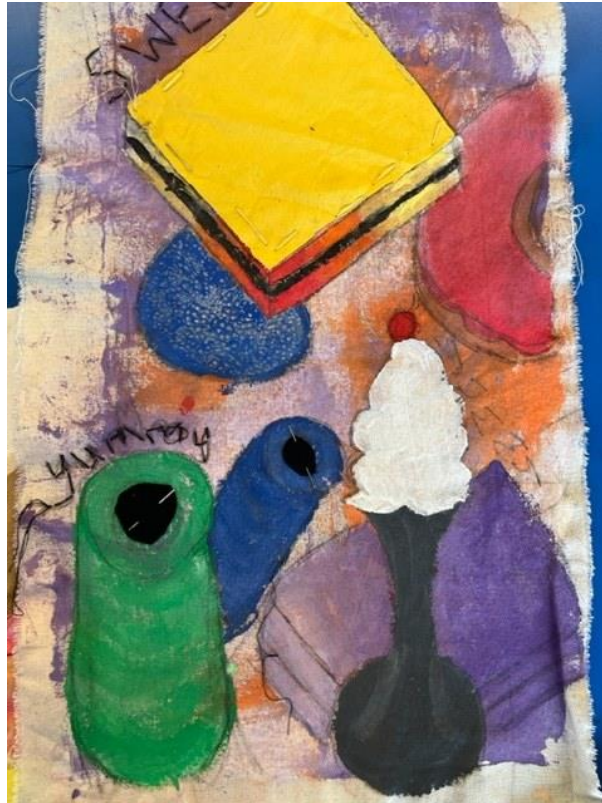
Throughout the year pupils at The Oaks Academy have been working on a variety of work covering different Art skills.

Year 7 have made a great start to their Art education at the Oaks, we started by working on their Basic Art skills, including colour theory, drawings and mark making skills using the theme of Bugs and Insects. We also looked at the artist.....who uses collage to create art work, pupils then worked in her style to create some interesting final pieces. Over the last term year 7 have been studying portraiture, and learning about the artists Pablo Picasso and Loui Jover, they have created final pieces that have been inspired by both artists,

Year 8 have learnt lots of new skills this year through two projects, their first project was inspired by Architecture, pupils enjoyed learning how to draw building and the technique of 1&2 point perspective, they have also learnt about the architect Antoni Gaudi and created buildings suing his ideas. During the last term we have been inspired by the theme Sweet Treats, pupils have developed their drawing skills and have shown some fantastic presentation skills in their sketchbooks. Year 8 pupils then developed their textiles skills including hand and machine stitching, applique and felting. Pupils have been working on some great final pieces inspired by their drawings and combining their painting and textiles skills.

Year 9 has spent the year working on theme of Africa, they started by created hand made sketchbooks which included drawings and research and a big emphasis on their presentation skills. As part of developing their different rt skills year 9 created clay masks and use of printing skills. Pupils then designed their own final piece idea bringing together the various different painting, drawing and textiles skills they ah worked on throughout the year.





### **Design Technology**

Across Design Technology this year, we have seen rapid growth in our practical offering, with all our workshops (Wood work, Metal work and CAD/CAM centre) now up and running with all year groups across The OAKS. Students have had the opportunities to work with a range of materials and design software to generate a range of practical items this year. It has been an exciting year of development within the subject, and students across all year groups have had the ability to thrive in this practical environment. With this in mind, we are now offering both Design Technology and Engineering Design across KS4, and have further developments in the pipeline with Art to offer opportunities for Textiles design.





## **Food Technology**

Year 7 King Charles Cupcake Competition.

This year, the Coronation of King Charles III gave our Year 7 pupils the opportunity to not only learn about the Royal Family and how succession works but also how to; plan, design and produce a product suitable for such an event.

There was a strict criterion to complete that enabled the pupils to demonstrate resilience and strict time management. The criteria included not only the design task and the making and decorating of the cake, it also included the completion of two link homework tasks and a final evaluation; with all work linked to the competition being finished to the pupils highest standard. Year 7 pupils were enthused from the very beginning.

Some amazing outcomes have been produced as a result, with the overall winner will be announced during the final week of term. They will be collecting a Certificate and trophy (to keep) as well as a complete cake decorating kit (also to keep).

Year 8 Victoria Sponge Competition.

The annual Victoria Sponge competition took place for the Year 8 pupils. This project giving them the opportunity to not only learn about the planning, design and production. It also enabled them to experience and develop their skills in resilience, time management and problem solving.

There was a strict criteria to complete that empowered the pupils to demonstrate their individual skills. The criteria included not only the design task and the making and decorating of the cake, it also included the completion of two link homework tasks and a final evaluation; with all work linked to the competition being finished to the pupil's highest standard.

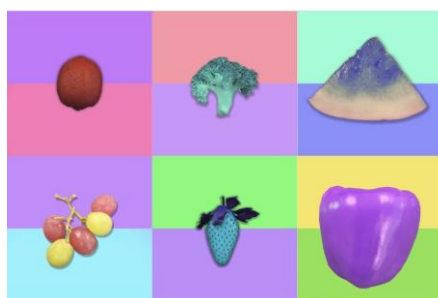
Some amazing outcomes have been produced as a result, with the overall winner will be announced during the final week of term. They will be collecting a Certificate and trophy (to keep) as well as a complete cake decorating kit (also to keep).





## Photography

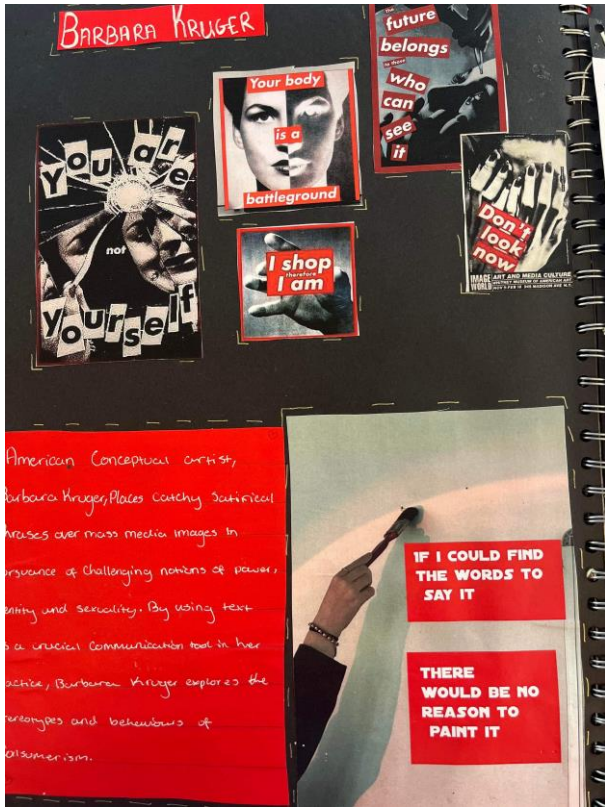
Years 10 and 11 students have been developing their photography skills this year learning about the technical aspects of photography such as focusing, ISO, shutter speed and aperture. They have also been exploring composition techniques and creative ways of using the formal elements. Through their project work they have researched the work of a range of photographers, recorded their ideas photographically and annotated these and experimented with their outcomes using a range of media and techniques learning how to manipulate their photographs both physically and digitally using Photoshop



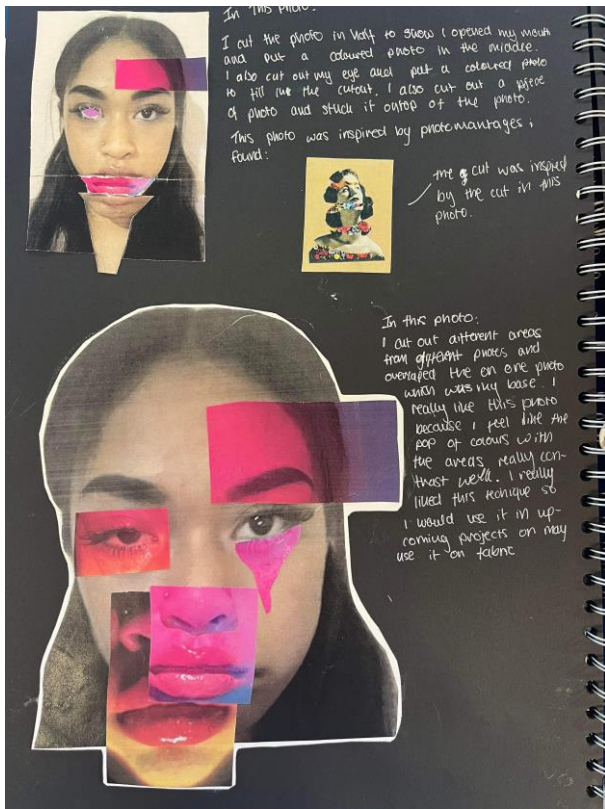
Sonia Rentsch Photo Edits

These edits are inspired by Sonia Rentsch's surreal work that use a dual-coloured background split horizontally in the middle with oddly coloured fruit





American Conceptual artist, Barbara Kruger, places catchy, satirical phrases over mass media images in an attempt to challenge notions of power, identity, and sexuality. By using text as a critical communication tool in her practice, Barbara Kruger explores the stereotypes and behaviours of consumerism.



In this photo, I cut the photo in half to show I opened my mouth and put a coloured photo in the middle. I also cut out my eye and put a coloured photo to fill the cutout. I also cut out a piece of photo and stuck it on top of the photo. This photo was inspired by photomontages I found.

the cut was inspired by the cut in this photo.

In this photo, I cut out different areas from different photos and overlaid them on one photo which was my base. I really like this photo because I feel like the pop of colours with the areas really contrast well. I really liked this technique so I would use it in upcoming projects or may use it on future.

## Performing Arts & Vocational Focus



As a faculty we pride ourselves in offering a rich, creative and inclusive curriculum. Our subjects enrich, inspire and challenge students through balancing a combination of academic, practical and creative engagement ensuring that students develop both the subject-specific knowledge and skills fundamental to success in our subjects. We have had a really positive year with our students demonstrating their effort, determination and resilience. Our lessons aim to fully immerse students in our subjects.

Here are some examples from our subjects of what students have been working on:

### **Music**

Students have been developing their performance, composition, listening and appraising skills throughout the year. They have explored music from a wide range of traditions, genres and styles ensuring coverage of classical, popular and world music. Lessons consist of practical exploration of the style, developing skills related to composition or performance, as well as learning about what makes each style of music sound like it does exploring musical elements and theoretical concepts. Over recent months students have started to develop their music technology skills, which is a very exciting development with our new facilities and relevant to the music industry as this is how composers and music producers work. They have been using BandLab software with midi keyboards and audio interfaces to learn about chord construction and chord performance and composition skills, perform and record rock 'n' roll accompaniment patterns and compose pop songs using loops as well as recording live audio tracks.



## **Drama**

Students have been developing their knowledge of practical skills in Drama. This term Year 7 have been exploring Theatre in Education using storytelling and direct address to explore various educational topics including bullying, stranger danger and peer pressure. In Year 8 students have been looking at Silent Movies and the early era of film from mime to slapstick comedy has meant students have created some outstanding pieces of Drama. Year 9 have been devising their own stories to act. They had had to work with a Bernardo's advert that depicts a picture of a homeless man called Carl White. They have managed to create an entire backstory for this mysterious character. Year 11 gave fantastic scripted performances in February to an audience before the examiner visited to assess their performances. They also went to the Lyceum Theatre in March to watch a live performance of Blood Brothers.



## **Business**

In Business lessons this year the students have worked incredibly hard and made really good progress. The Year 11 students have worked especially hard preparing for their GCSE exams and futures beyond school. It is fantastic that so many of our students will be continuing their Business studies at A level, T Level or BTEC at college.

We have a record number of Year 10 students studying Business this year who have all brought their own ideas and contribution to lessons. They have spent some time discussing their plans as future entrepreneurs and business leaders. Some Year 10 participated in the Young Enterprise 10X Challenge in March consisting of a fun workshop session with local business leaders followed by them being given £10 to develop a pop-up business. There was some success, but also some lessons learnt! We will be launching a similar competition in the Autumn term with our new Year 10 students.

## **IT and Creative iMedia**

Year 10 Creative iMedia students have been developing their skills using different Adobe products to create unique images to a specific brief, as well as becoming more confidence with using graphic tablets. Since the arrival of the graphic tablets students have been creating animations to use in their own characters/images and then creating multi-layer animations.



### **Health and Social Care**

This year the Health and Social Care students in Year 10 have looked at the life stages from 5 to 65+ years through childhood, adolescence, adulthood and older adulthood. Everyone's life is different and many different factors affect life stages in varying ways. They also looked at the changes associated with the development from childhood to older adulthood and the factors that can influence this development, and examined expected and unexpected life events and the effect they can have on an individual's life. Finally they researched how individuals can be supported by service providers. In Year 11 the Health and Social Care students took part in a First Aid workshop day with visiting experts learning valuable life skills such as resuscitation.

### **PE and Sport Studies**

### Football league (September – October)

At the start of the academic Years 7, 8, 9 and 10 represented the school in a Level 2 Games competition against local schools. Year 10 had success by beating Ruskin, whilst gaining a point against both SWS and a last-minute equaliser against STM. Year 8 played well during the season and had some very closely fought games in all matches. Year 7 won dramatically against Ruskin while they narrowly lost against STM. Hopefully next year will bring some further matches against local schools and an opportunity to build on the progress from this year.

### Year 8 Girls Football

One of the biggest success stories over the last two years has been the development of girls football. This has seen the introduction of an 11 a side team that has competed against Ruskin in full games and 6 a side tournament. The girls have worked hard and showed a good standard of play against Ruskin in which they were very successful. Hopefully next year will bring more games against the local schools and continue to build on the excellent work from this season.

### Badminton (October- April)

During the Autumn half term students from Key Stage 3 attended Badminton club, allowing them to play games against other students in various year groups. Hopefully this is a club that will continue to grow and allow opportunities for inter school competitions against local high schools.

### South Cheshire Cup (February Half term)

After February half term the South Cheshire Cup was re-introduced. We were given a very challenging draw away at Alsager in the opening round. All teams played well, but unfortunately came up against strong teams in Year 7, 8 and 10. Sadly we exited the competition at this point.

### Crewe ABC Boxing

At the start of the academic year students from Key Stage 3 were selected to take part in a Boxing project that ran for 12 weeks. The aim was to help improve activity levels, but to also work on other skills needed such as confidence. As the project ran through the year it allowed other groups of students to access. A big thank you to Harewood's for funding the project through the year, and I am sure that the students will benefit greatly from participating in it.

### ECB Girls Cricket Project

Prior to Easter half term, we enrolled in an ECB Cricket programme that looked to promote Girls Cricket. Over the 6 weeks the groups were coached on the basic skills required in the game and applied these in different game formats. The aim is to continue this project next academic year and compete against other schools in Level 2 games.



## Dates for the Diary



Monday 4th September - Inset Day

Tuesday 5th September - Inset Day

Wednesday 6th September - School opens to Year 7 intake only at 8.30am

Thursday 7th September - Schools opens for Year 8-11 at 8.30am



## Contact Us



If you have any news or stories to share then please get in touch. We are always looking to expand our Alumni network, celebrate and share success. Please visit our new and updated website to keep up to date and follow us on social media.

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