

### Message from Ms J Costello, Principal

Welcome to our latest newsletter; I hope you enjoy reading about our students' amazing achievements during this half term. It is wonderful to see how many students have taken part in the wide variety of activities on offer, such as inter-school competitions, educational visits and holidays, sports challenges and community events. Examination season is here once again and we are very proud of the hard work, commitment and dedication shown by our staff and students in preparing for this busy time, and hope they are all rewarded with excellent results.

Thank you for your continued support as we look forward to the second half of the summer term.

*1000 Hanging Baskets for Burnham Town Council ! See page 3*

### Students attend University Graduation event at King's College



Ormiston Rivers Academy students from Years 9 and 10 attended a graduation event at King's College, London on Saturday 16th May following their participation in The Brilliant Club programme. Eleven students were set an assignment, following tutorials from PhD tutors, which was then marked in the style of a university grading. Seven students received a 1st with the remaining being awarded a 2:1.

The Scholars Programme exposes students to a challenging academic environment that supports continued success within a context of high expectations and promotes a culture that champions excellence and hard work. Students studied rigorous academic subjects, which were 'super curricular', and completed weekly homework assignments, leading to a final assignment of 2000 words.

Miss Kelly Carruthers, from the Academy's Gifted & Talented programme, said: "The Brilliant Club has been a fantastic opportunity for our gifted and talented students in Years 9 and 10. The programme has enabled them to work and achieve at a standard well above GCSE level; I am so proud of our students. The programme has also given them a chance to think about their options for university at such a young age."



Councillor John Elliott, Mayor of Colchester presents Thomas with his Speak Out Certificate.



Thomas Damps, a Year 10 student, represented the Academy in the East Essex Regional Final of the Jack Petchey "Speak Out" challenge which was held at Philip Morant School and College in Colchester on 8th May. It was a highly competitive event with talented speakers from eighteen schools from across the region. Academy staff, fellow students and Thomas' parents gave up their evening to support Thomas as he made his speech titled "Wow! That's so stereotypical."

"Thomas represented the Academy impeccably", said Ms Joan Costello, Principal, "he was amazing and the overall standard of the competition was incredible", she added. Mr Adady, Director of Student Leadership and Community Relations at the Academy, attended the event; "Thomas gave a rousing and brilliant speech on the topic of stereotypical attitudes. He addressed the issue of

autism and the challenges people with the condition face on a daily basis. He was amazing and we are all extremely proud of him".

At Ormiston Rivers Academy, we have an extensive programme of activities and events throughout the academic year to encourage our young people to develop and improve their sense of confidence and speaking skills.

## Nice, South of France



The eternal question every language teacher is asked is “*why do we learn French?*” Head of Languages, Mrs Hazel Abbott, answered this question by offering ORA students a school trip to Nice in the South of France. She said: “This was an experience which has opened the eyes of our students to the possibilities of the World; while at the same time seeing how French is used for real purposes and is a skill to be mastered beyond the classroom. It’s not just about learning for the qualification, but rather a skill for life.”

Imagine going to school and learning during the holidays! Well, that’s what 15 students across Years 10 and 11 did and at the same time experienced a taste of French culture first hand. They stayed with host families and attended language classes during the day. From the moment they left the airport, the only language the students could communicate in was French. Small victories such as ordering a meal, buying an ice cream or talking to host families really boosted their confidence and created a real enthusiasm for language learning.

Afternoons were spent exploring the local area and visiting places of interest. Students and staff took a walk along the beach (Promenade des Anglais), visited the flower market (Marché aux Fleurs) and the Matisse Museum. They explored the central town and 'Old Nice', marvelling at the beautiful architecture and rich history; then visited Eze Village with its breath-taking scenery and even had a tour of a perfume factory.

*“The highlights were French lessons and free time to explore the local area and the beach. Constantly thinking about talking in French helped with my confidence for listening and reading exams. It was an amazing experience.”*  
Sophie Green, Year 11.

*“The highlights of the trip were a tour around the old town, the water features in the square, exploring the promenade and the beach! It helped our understanding of French as we heard the language constantly. The trip was so much fun!”* Grace Cleary, Year 11.

*“I enjoyed going to the school, trying and testing French vocabulary. The trip to the perfumery was a highlight as the view was amazing. My favourite part of the trip was visiting different places in Nice and staying with the French family. It made me more confident with speaking French.”*  
Amy Hilling, Year 11.



*“Going around Nice on the first day was fun and let us explore. The cuisine provided by the host families was very French, and bread with every meal! The school was very interesting and it was good to have free time every day to explore Nice. The trip helped my understanding of languages positively; the school was very accommodating and they were key to developing my language ability with fun strategies.”* Thomas Damps, Year 10.

## Garden Project News



On Monday 11<sup>th</sup> May, reception class pupils aged 4 and 5 from St Mary's C of E Primary School, visited the Academy to learn about our Garden Project. The trip formed part of their own summer term project, 'Flowers, Grubs and Shrubs' and strengthened community ties between the children, their families and teachers, and the Academy. Mrs Carol Milton, volunteer Garden Project co-ordinator, showed the children around our organic garden, greenhouse and meadow. Everyone enjoyed inspecting the wormery, learning about the importance of organic gardening and then admiring the plug plants grown by Academy students for the children to grow in their garden at St Mary's. Another treat on the day was seeing the baby lambs that were born recently at the Academy.

### Flowers, Grubs & Shrubs!

Mrs Suzanne Brewer, EYFS Teacher/ Healthy Schools Co-ordinator at St Mary's emailed to say how much they had enjoyed the experience. She said: "Just to say a big Thank You for our lovely trip to your Garden Project this morning. The children in Amber Class really enjoyed the visit. They were so interested in what Carol had to tell us about gardening and wildlife and asked lots of questions! Carol was fantastic and had planned the session at just the right level for our 4 and 5 year old children. The children thought it was *"Really, really good...awesome!"* *"We weren't even scared of the nettles or the bees!!"* *"Can we have sheep and chickens at our school?"* The visit also gave us the opportunity to see how much our children know about the natural world. We were very proud of them! We would like to say a special Thank You to Carol for giving up her time to show us the wonderful Garden Project and to the students for donating some of their plug plants for our garden at St Mary's. We will be planting them in our own raised beds this week and hope to cook some of our produce!"



Humanities

7p3 started their Garden Project recently. The Geography department are aiming to compliment students' learning of sustainability in the classroom with some practical activities. This has included growing some of their own produce (it is planned they will use it to make a soup at a later date), tree planting, recycling and generating energy from a compost heap.

One student commented: "I am really enjoying the garden project and it's way easier to understand things when you see them for real!" Geography teacher, Mr Donnelly, added: "We would like to thank Mrs Milton for her time and effort with regards to this project. It couldn't have happened without her expertise."

Wings students completed their annual challenge to

### 1000 Hanging Baskets

produce hanging baskets for Burnham Town Council; these will be hung along Station Road and the High Street for the summer season. It is the eleventh year the school has undertaken this community project to improve the local environment for residents, businesses and visitors. Over 1000 hanging baskets have been made since the Garden Project started in 2005.

The team of thirty students learnt how to manage a time schedule and improved their horticultural skills during the three and a half days it took to plant 75 hanging baskets with red and white geraniums and trailing petunias. Jack, Year 7, was congratulated for making the 1000<sup>th</sup> basket which has been identified with a label for all to see.

Our thanks go to Maldon District Council for their help with the project and Burnham Town Council for giving our students the opportunity to show what they can achieve. Mrs Carol Milton said: "I am so proud of the young people at the Academy, they are a pleasure to work with and always do our town proud. I am donating a trophy to celebrate the students' work in making the 1000<sup>th</sup> hanging basket. This school is like one big family and I enjoy my time here as a volunteer immensely."



## Bay of Naples

Humanities

Southern Italy is an excellent destination for a Geography study tour; there is so much to see. By staying in Sorrento, Ormiston Rivers Academy students and staff were able to visit a variety of sites in just four days, 7th to 10th April. Each location offered a wealth of options for the geographer with dramatic landscapes and a strong volcanic presence. Highlights of the trip included a visit to Mount Vesuvius and the buried towns of Pompeii and Herculaneum; also Solfatara crater and Capua Gladiator Museum. Students enjoyed activities such as bowling, shopping, quiz night and movie night. The group, led by Head of Humanities, Miss Louise Judge, consisted of forty students from Years 8 to 13.

On arrival at Naples the group took a coach trip to Solfatara, a dormant volcano with bubbling mud puddles. Day two started with a hike to the crater of Mount Vesuvius which was demanding but well worth the reward at the top - its height is 1,281m. Vesuvius is well-known for the catastrophic eruption in 79AD which covered the towns of Pompeii and Herculaneum.

The Museo Archeologico Virtuale offered an opportunity to dip into the past through a virtual tour to learn about life in these towns before 79 AD. Students also enjoyed a visit to Tennulo Mozzarella Cheese Farm - a real treat where they could sample lemon marmalade, mozzarella cheese and prosciutto ham.

*"The highlight of the trip was Herculaneum because it was so well preserved. My favourite part was Mount Vesuvius because the view was outstanding and it wasn't what I expected. I now know about the restless earth - it was a fun way to catch up on GCSE work. I was thrilled that I was able to come on this trip and it has been great fun." Declan Brown, Year 9.*

*"The highlight of this trip for me, was visiting Pompeii and Herculaneum. I was amazed by how well preserved all the houses, shops and other buildings were. My favourite part of the trip was trekking up the volcano and seeing the amazing views from the top. Another favourite was trying different foods and seeing Italian culture. It gave me a better understanding of geography by finding out the 2 ways that the eruption preserved the cities: the ash and the lava flow made completely different ruins. I loved the fact we could spend such an amazing experience with friends and make new ones as well." Mollie Sambell, Year 9.*



Here at Ormiston Rivers, we always promote a sense of pride in our students of the Academy and community. Events are organised during the academic year to celebrate achievements and to strengthen links with our local and wider communities. Year 7 students take part in a creative writing competition in which they highlight the things that make them proud.

Mr A Adady, Director of Student Leadership and Community Relations, said: "We are always impressed by the high quality of essays submitted by our Year 7s. It is increasingly difficult to select the winning entries as they are all wonderful in their own way. All participating students will be recognised and rewarded for their efforts."

## Proud of My Academy

"I am proud because I have become a better person and achieved so much since I have been here. My presentation and my reading has been so much better. Wings has supported me and so has my family."

"In Ormiston Rivers Academy I have learned a lot of new things. My favourite subjects are art, maths, gardening, drama and English. I have met new friends. Ormiston Rivers has changed my life."

"At Ormiston I have moved from a level 4B to 5A in most of my subjects, which I am proud of. My ambitions are to be successful, to work with animals, to keep 100% attendance and get no detentions. I have enjoyed the beginning of Ormiston and am looking forward to spending my next 6 years here."

Congratulations to this year's top six writers:  
George Webber  
Aneta Groves  
Jamie Rashbrook  
Lauren Wingrove  
Hannah McDonald  
Logan Towers.

"My community is great. A community is what keeps us together and that is what mine does. We are all respectful to each other. I am also proud that we run clubs well like football and sailing. What also makes me proud is that there is a great country park in Burnham, a marina and a sports centre."

"I am proud to be a student of ORA because I can achieve the grades that I need and work hard. I am also learning in a healthy, clean, safe environment. In my community my friends and I formed a choir... we had rehearsals every week and then sang to the older residents of the Dengie in the Swan Care Home."

"I am proud of how much I have improved with my writing, my attitude and the amount of clubs I go to. In school I am especially proud of my teachers because they have put in a lot of time and effort."



Friday 8 <sup>th</sup> May	Flapjacks
Friday 15 <sup>th</sup> May	Brownies
Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> May	Pastry Tarts
Friday 5 <sup>th</sup> June	Fairy Cakes
Friday 12 <sup>th</sup> June	Scones
Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> June	Chocolate Chunk Cookies
Friday 26 <sup>th</sup> June	Éclairs
Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup> July	Swiss Roll
Friday 10 <sup>th</sup> July	Cheese Straws
Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> July	Mini Meringues

Miss Williamson's Year 7 junior bakers are making sweet and savoury baked goods available for students and staff to purchase at break-time on Fridays outside Student Reception.

Eight students attend the Bake Off club which runs on Thursdays after school.

Miss Williamson said: "Students were invited to take part because they have shown great attitude and effort in their lessons and produce food good enough to sell. It is an initiative for students in KS3 to hopefully consider GCSE Food as an option as they progress through the school. We will also be looking at the CBBC Junior Bake Off competition."

## Junior Bake Off



# Football Academy



The Sixth Form Football Academy have been part of the Essex County Schools & Colleges U19 League for their second season. The team have had fixtures pretty much every Wednesday since September and hard work on the pitch and at training have paid off. Fantastic leadership from Michael Champion and strong, season-long performances from Daniel Aspinal, Oliver Brown, Charlie Mead & more have lead to the team finishing 4th in the league.

*Well done gents; a great season!*

Mr M Vince,  
PE Teacher &  
Year 9  
Achievement  
Director.

**FOOTBALL ACADEMY RESULTS TABLE (vr12/13)**  
Essex County Schools & Colleges U19 League

Season: 2014-15 Division: Division 3 North Hill Counter: 13482

2014-15 Division 3 North

Pos	Team	Played	Home					Away					Overall					SD	PTS
			W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A		
1	Braintree	13	8	0	1	20	2	6	0	2	19	12	10	9	3	39	14	28	30
2	Widford 2	14	4	2	1	13	5	5	1	10	8	9	3	2	31	11	25	32	
3	Chamford 2	13	4	0	2	12	10	3	1	3	16	14	7	1	8	28	24	22	
4	Chimney Hills	13	3	1	3	11	10	2	1	3	9	9	0	2	6	17	27	-10	17
5	SEC (Southend)	14	2	1	4	13	19	2	2	3	10	11	4	3	9	23	30	-7	15
6	Widford 1	11	3	0	4	16	17	2	0	1	13	9	4	2	6	29	25	4	14
7	COXHESTER INDEPENDENTS 2	12	2	2	2	8	10	2	0	4	17	11	4	2	6	25	21	4	14
8	COXHESTER SFC 3	14	1	1	5	8	28	1	0	6	7	27	2	1	11	12	52	-40	7

# Ski - La Thuile, Italy



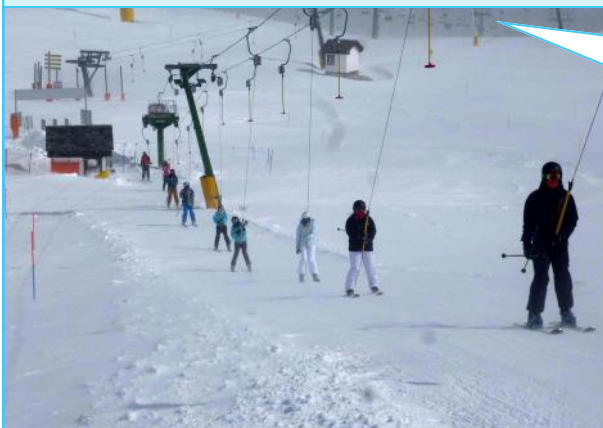
Thirty nine ORA students ventured out for the annual ski trip to La Thuile in Italy during the first week of the Easter holidays. Half of the students were first time skiers, meaning many of them were able to experience the Alpine air and amazing views for the very first time.

Year 11 Achievement Director & PE teacher, Mr M Clay, led the ski trip and commented: "Over the week students progressed impressively whether it was on a snowboard or on skis. They also had a busy schedule of après ski to enjoy activities such as bum boarding, swimming, bingo and shopping trips down the mountain roads to the picturesque town of Cormayeur."

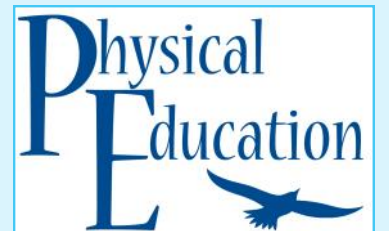
All students were a credit to the Academy and at the end of the week were awarded with a certificate and badge from their instructor as a reminder of their achievements and progress during the week.



*"The highlight for me was learning to ski on the mountains and learning new skills. The trip was great!"*  
Abigail Smith, Year 11. "



*"The highlights of the trip were skiing up on the slopes, bum boarding and meeting the people from Interski and friends. It helped me understand ski fitness and training."*  
Molly Valentine-Jenkins, Year 11



## May 2015

25th - 29th Half term

26th - 29th Revision classes

## Dates for your Diary

## June 2015

3rd Primary Schools CVL Football  
9th Year 7 Parents Evening  
10th Festival of Chemistry, University of East London  
10th Year 9 University trip, Greenwich  
11th AS Performing Arts Performance  
11th - 16th Scholastic Book Fair  
12th Primary Schools Dengie Sports Training  
15th Year 6 Day  
16th Year 6 Day and Transition Evening  
16th Scholastic Book Fair - Evening  
18th Sports Day  
19th Reserve Sports Day  
22nd - 23rd Burnham in Bloom Judging Days  
22nd - 23rd Year 5 Days  
23rd District Sports  
25th Year 8 Graduation  
25th Essex Fire & Rescue, Year 8  
26th Essex Fire & Rescue, Year 7  
26th Sixth Form Summer Ball  
30th Community Morning  
30th Year 11 Prom

## July 2015

2nd Yo-Yo Project Bus  
2nd - 3rd Sixth Form Induction Programme  
3rd Year 8 Celebration Disco  
7th - 9th Gym & Dance Show  
10th Primary Schools Dengie Sports Day  
14th Prize Giving Evening  
17th Pete's Week Non uniform day  
20th - 22nd Inset Days  
23rd School Summer holidays begin

## September 2015

1st Autumn Term 2015/2016



## THE SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR



Students, their families and Academy staff are invited to our Book Fair in June! There are over 200 titles for you to browse, and with fantasy, thrillers, non-fiction, comedy and lots more starting from only £2.99, there's sure to be a book for everyone to enjoy.

Every purchase will help to fund new books for our Learning Resource Centre. So far, the Academy has held three book fairs and raised an amazing £858.89 to help re-stock our library shelves! Thank you to everyone who has purchased books and stationery at these events.

Reading books is both a joy and an incredibly important skill for students of all ages; so please come along and join us at the Book Fair on the following dates and times:

*Break and lunch time for ORA students and staff on*

- Thursday 11th
- Friday 12th
- Monday 15th and
- Tuesday 16th June.

*After school for students, parents and carers during our Year 6 Transition Evening on*

- Tuesday 16th June from 4.30pm to 7.00pm.

*We look forward to seeing you at our Book Fair!*

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