

SSAT Award

Ormiston Rivers Academy has been recognised nationally for its excellent results in 2017 based on data from the Department of Education and Ofsted, analysed by SSAT (the Schools, Students and Teachers network). The Academy was found to be among the best performing secondary schools in the country, receiving an award for being in the top 10% of schools nationally for progress and attainment.

The SSAT Educational Outcomes database compares all state-funded schools in England, with the highest performing for a range of key measures presented with SSAT Educational Outcomes Awards, sponsored by Lexonik.

Sue Williamson, Chief Executive of SSAT said: "I am delighted that Ormiston Rivers Academy has won an Educational Outcomes Award. This recognises an important aspect of the schools' work, but, as we know, there is much more to recognise in a good school like Ormiston Rivers Academy. SSAT is pleased to recognise the quality of leadership and the hard work of all staff to ensure the success of every child. A big thank you and well done to pupils, parents, staff and governors."



OAT Award

Congratulations to Miss Marable, Year 8 Achievement Director, Teacher of Religious Studies and Sociology for winning the Ormiston Academies Trust Chairman's Award for Social Action.



The Awards Ceremony, celebrating exceptional achievements of students and staff from across the OAT family, took place on 15 March at the Grand Connaught Rooms, London.

"She is a true ambassador for social action and her natural bubbly and lively personality enthuses and engages children to really think about the social issues we are faced with in today's society. She uses her many varied skills to reach out to the next generation, ensuring that they will carry forward their values and social conscience into the future."

(OAT Awards Programme 2018).

Please see page 6 for news of this year's First Give School Final.

Message from Ms J Costello, Principal

We are very proud to be celebrating two major awards this half term.

The Academy is among the top 10% of schools nationally for progress and has won an Educational Outcomes Award from SSAT.

Within the OAT family, one of our teachers, Miss Marable, has been recognised for her exceptional work with students in the field of social action.

This is indeed a great time to acknowledge achievement. Throughout this newsletter, you will also read about individual and collaborative accomplishments by students and staff.

After Easter, many students will be sitting national examinations and we wish them every success with their endeavours. Please encourage your child to continue studying for the best results, which will help them realise their aspirations for the future.

Enjoy the Easter break; we look forward to a busy and fulfilling summer term.

In this newsletter:

- Performing Arts
- Charity fundraising
- Geography fieldtrips
- Year 5 reading day
- House Points update

Interact



The Interact Club consisting of Rivers Sixth Form and Year 10 students held their first quiz night in February.

The students worked with the Rotary club to put on the event in the canteen on a Friday night. The team worked together to ensure everything was set up for the night including raffle prizes, PA system and furniture.

Sixth Former, Lauren Campbell, said, "The amount raised was £416 and our chosen charities are End Polio Now, Saint Francis Hospice and Essex Air Ambulance."

National Apprenticeship Show

30 Rivers Sixth Form students attended the National Apprenticeship Show at the Central Arena MK in Milton Keynes on 12th March.

The purpose of the event was to give our students an idea of some of the many apprenticeship opportunities open to them once they leave the Sixth Form. There was a wide selection of apprenticeship providers on hand to guide students around the process of applying, including: Santander, DHL, DFS, The British Racing School, Nationwide Accident Repairs Services, NHS, Mercedes-Benz, Lloyds Banking Group, BT PLC, Balfour Beatty, Cosworth, Deloitte, Travis Perkins and Amazon to name but a few. They covered many sectors of the economy, such as Engineering, Service Industries, Childcare, Retail and Logistics, Building & Construction and IT.

The event was of great benefit to the students who attended and has galvanised a strong enthusiasm in a number of career paths.

Rotary Young Chef

Year 10 student, Drew Symons, represented the Academy at the South East Regional Final of the Rotary Young Chef competition on Saturday 10th March. He competed against seven other young chefs from Essex, Suffolk, Herefordshire and London.



Drew cooked a 3-course meal for 2 in two hours; the judges commended Drew on the range of skills shown and his ability to adapt to cooking in a large commercial kitchen.

Drew's Menu:

- Starter: Salmon Terrine served with a mixed salad.
- Main course: Parmesan Pheasant served with creamed potatoes, pan-fried sprouts and red onion gravy.
- Dessert: Mini Black Forest gateaux with home-made, fruits of the forest jam.

Food and Nutrition Teacher, Mrs Woodhouse, accompanied Drew to the competition; she said, "Whilst Drew was not the ultimate winner he was a worthy competitor and great representative of the academy and Burnham-on-Crouch Rotary group. The winner of the competition was Sasha Martin from Grays, who now moves on to the National Final in Telford in April."

Drew received a Certificate of participation and cookery book, presented by Councillor Ashley Kissin, Deputy Mayor of Redbridge. The school would like to thank Burnham-on-Crouch Rotary Club for sponsoring Drew in the event.

Drew said, "The environment inside the kitchen during the district and regional rounds was surprisingly friendly as we would often pass remarks of 'That looks nice' and stuff like that, as well as sharing equipment and work surfaces. One of the most difficult parts of the competition was finding pheasant to use in the recipe as, of course, pheasant season ended before the regional competition, so we had to go and trawl through relative's freezers in order to find pheasant to use in my dish. My family and cooking teacher, Mrs Woodhouse, helped a lot in getting me organised by providing dishes, ingredients and advice on how to present the dish. The main reason why I joined the competition was because my sister had taken part last year and I wanted to be like her and at least get as far as she did!"

Creative Writing

In our last newsletter, we looked at the Academy's Creative Writing club, which is run by English Teacher, Miss Price.

We are extremely pleased that Megan Robinson, Year 8, has had a piece of work selected for the Young Writer's book of short stories called 'Stranger Sagas'. Her story, titled 'Failure' is her second piece of writing to be published.

Miss Price said, "Megan is excited to hear that her work will be included in this book and we are all so proud of her achievement."

Reading Day

On Wednesday 14th March, a group of Year 5 pupils from our local feeder primary schools visited Ormiston Rivers Academy for a Reading Day. The children met English Teachers, Miss Price and Miss Ball, who ran a lively and informative learning session.

Pupils represented the Academy's four houses - Amazon, Mekong, Zambezi and Danube - with an opportunity to win points for creative ideas and contributions.

The pupils were incredibly enthusiastic and spent the morning learning how to infer and deduce, before designing their own character to describe. They also analysed a poem, which was a new skill for many of them.

Everyone had a fantastic day and Miss Price commented: "It was wonderful to meet so many of the Year 5 children who may be coming to Ormiston Rivers in a couple of years. I was struck by their eagerness and hard-working attitudes. I hope that they left with lots of new skills and had a lovely and educational visit to the Academy."



BBC Radio Essex

On Thursday 22nd February, a group of Year 9 and 10 students visited BBC Essex studios in Chelmsford.

They met BBC Essex Presenter, Nick Alliker, who spoke about the history of the radio station and of radio in general, which had its beginnings in Chelmsford.

Students enjoyed a tour of one of the studios, and of the main working floor of the radio station, where they had the opportunity to hear live broadcasts and to speak to reporters about the stories they were working on that day.

Taylor Tuckey, Elizabeth Ponder, Katy Parker, Bethany Robertson and Luke Salvidge in Year 10 have been working on a project about the history of radio in Chelmsford, so this was an incredibly helpful visit for them to discover more about how radio has developed over the years.

Journalism club students: Oliver Beales, Tehya Smith, Ben Haley, Isabel Gallagher and Eden Pennycott, found it was an insightful experience for them to see a working radio station; and the stories they discussed gave them some great ideas for future editions of RiverView magazine.

English Teacher, Miss Price, said, "Overall, the morning was very interesting and a great opportunity for students to learn more about radio and the media industry. When we returned to school, our students spent an hour working to a deadline and created their own radio news reports, which were well-researched and put together; indicating they had learnt a lot from this trip."



Performing Arts



Year 12 students performed a devised piece based on Shakespeare's *Macbeth* and their own interpretations of routines from the West End performance **STOMP**. This was for their AS Performing Arts exam on Wednesday 7th March.

Miss Davies, Assistant Head of Sixth Form, Head of Year 12, Performing Arts & Drama said, "The students had worked incredibly hard and feedback from the audience was outstanding."

In the Performing Arts RSL Dance exam, students from Years 7 to 10 supported Rachel Cottee, Emily Ham and Bethany South to prepare a 20-minute showcase that was presented to a large audience. These students worked incredibly hard under the leadership of our current Dance Captains, Meshach Shadare and Chloe Daniells. This is the first time the school has offered this exam and we look forward to more students taking part in the future.

On Friday 9th March, Year 10 students took their RSL Drama exam. They performed Dennis Kelly's 'DNA': a play that follows the theme of bullying and the consequences of a practical joke that ends in tragedy. Our students performed this hard-hitting play with confidence and maturity, leaving the audience amazed and wanting more.

Voice in a Million (VIAM)

On 14th March, 40 students from Years 7 to 13 visited Wembley Arena to participate in the annual Voice in a Million concert.

VIAM, founded in 2009, highlights the predicament of children in care throughout the world, and looks at the concerns and difficulties facing potential adopters. The concert raises awareness for Adoption UK by bringing schools across the country together to create one big choir. Over the years, the event has expanded internationally, and the choir has grown to over 80,000 members with 1500 participating schools. The goal is to achieve one million voices together in one location to help make a difference to the lives of children less fortunate.

Students had an opportunity to meet the very popular boy band 'Roadtrip', have their t-shirts signed and pictures taken during the meet and greet. They were beyond excited to meet 'HRVY' and watch him perform. With over 2.5 million followers on Instagram and his single 'Personal' making the UK charts, having such an inspirational teenager performing was brilliant.

Performing Arts Instructor, Miss Thurtle said, "This experience has given many of our students the confidence to perform in front of large numbers. There were around 15,000 spectators at the event, and each student thrived in the busy atmosphere. It has been beneficial for these students to work with year groups across the school to create a choir and make new friends, as well as learn about the care and fostering system in the UK. They all performed outstandingly and had a wonderful day. I enjoyed supporting the students with learning the songs and movements for this show. They were all engaged and fully committed to delivering an incredible performance. One group



made a fantastic banner for the Academy - a special thanks goes to Mr and Mrs May who kindly supplied us with the resources to do this. I am so proud of all of the students and am looking forward to VIAM 2019!"

Year 10 Geography

On 26 February, 77 Year 10 Geography students embarked on their Geography Fieldtrip to Overstrand, North Norfolk to complete the fieldwork element of their GCSE course.

They prepared and carried out multiple data collection techniques that should help develop their geographical skills over the next few years. These primary techniques included gradient, velocity and capacity measurements.

Other activities on offer included archery, aero ball and team based obstacle courses.

Geography Teacher, Miss Hayward, said, "Despite the extreme weather conditions, our students got involved and applied themselves exceptionally well. Throughout the trip, all students maintained high spirits and represented the academy perfectly."



Walton on the Naze

Eight Rivers Sixth Form students travelled to Walton on the Naze to undertake research for their A-level Geography course.

They studied the differences between the managed area of the coast, which has groynes, a crag walk and sea wall; and compared the landform of the beach to that of the unmanaged part of the coastline, which has a wave-cut platform and slumping cliffs.

Students also considered the social, economic and environmental reasons as to why one area of the coast is protected heavily and another area has been left to the forces of nature.

Further inland from the unmanaged area is a Site of Special Scientific Interest, with important geology and fossils, which students found fascinating.

Year 12 student, Miles Clark, commented, "I had thought they didn't have the funds to protect the entire coastline area and therefore focused on the area with the Naze Tower. I didn't realise that the idea was to develop a natural habitat behind it."

Mint Sakuna said, "The trip has been really beneficial to help me start to plan my geography independent investigation, and I hope to return to Walton during the summer to do further sampling and maybe set up a questionnaire of local people."

Ms Judge, Assistant Principal said, "Walton on the Naze is famous for its fossils. One student, Harry Peters, was lucky enough to find a sharks tooth in the recent large slumps along the unmanaged section. Outdoor education is so important, as it gives students a real sense of the subject and brings their research to life!"



EXAMINATIONS 2018

2018 SUMMER Examination Session

14th May to 22nd June 2018

PERSONAL EXAM TIMETABLES

All students will receive their **FINAL** summer 2018 timetable during week commencing 23rd April, which will be printed on pink paper. If you have any queries about exams, please contact Mrs Clark on 01621 787861.

Students are responsible for bringing all the equipment they need to every exam they take, the school is not obliged to provide equipment and will not have pens, pencils, calculators etc. to loan.

Summer 2018 exam results may be collected between 9.00–11.30am as follows:

GCE - Thursday 16th August 2018

GCSE – Thursday 23rd August 2018

First Give

The First Give school final took place at the Academy on Monday 5th March.

7 nominated teams from Year 8 delivered a presentation on a local charity in our community, and detailed why the charity was important to the Dengie and how they raised money or awareness for the cause.

The charities involved were Royal National Lifeboat Institution, First Responders, The J's Hospice and Citizen's Advice Bureau.

The audience included charity representatives, family, friends and teachers. This year's judges were Principal Ms Costello, Rotarian Harry Payne, Interact President Lauren Campbell and Councillor Ron Pratt.

The winning team received a cheque for £1,000 to donate to the charity they had worked with; this was First Responders.

Year 8 Achievement Director, Miss Marable, said, "Our students showed courage and enthusiasm for their charity. I have really seen a great improvement in self-confidence and self-esteem for our students."



PRIDE

Students attending the PRIDE extra-curricular club presented assemblies to students in Years 7-10 from Tuesday 6th to Friday 9th March.

They said: "We have held several assemblies with the year groups as a basic introduction to the Pride Youth Network. We had a small group of loyal members introducing who they were in the school community, and what the group was about. This allowed for a basic understanding of the group and what we stand for.

The group then looked at the school bullying policies to let the students know how staff approach the subject of bullying and harassment, and what could happen to the victim and the bully. They also let the student population know that as a group, we have an upcoming meeting with the student council, to discuss what the school could do to help victims of harassment.

The small group of members also welcomed any students concerned about any forms of bullying with open arms, telling them where we are located within school, what times would be appropriate, and also how to distinguish our group members by the heart badge they wear.



Rugby

George Griffiths, a former student of Ormiston Rivers Academy, has emailed news of his sporting career and an opportunity to train and develop his rugby skills in South Africa.

"Hi, my name is George Griffiths... and I need your help! I'm 18 years old and an aspiring Rugby player. I have been given the chance to spend 3 months in the summer of 2018 in South Africa; studying and training with one of the best Provincial teams in World Rugby. To receive an invitation from the Sharks academy is very rare and a privilege... a once in a lifetime opportunity... but I need your help for me to achieve my dream. Starting rugby at a comparatively late age, I've struggled to get close to academy status. However, through determination, hard work and the support and encouragement from many key individuals, from school to club level, I have progressed from a local rugby club to playing in a national league for one of the oldest rugby clubs in England.

I owe where I am now, and will always be grateful to my school (Ormiston Rivers Academy), where I was introduced to Rugby during PE and extra-curricular club; then encouraged to join my local Rugby Club, Burnham on Crouch RFC where I learnt my craft and the meaning of team work, dedication and comradery... and my passion for the sport grew. I was invited to play for Southend, where I currently thrive. There are lots of people I could name, but you know who you are, and that I will forever be grateful for backing a local boy and inspiring him to see his potential and go for his dream.

I now find myself in the position of furthering my rugby career and exceeding all expectations. This invitation, however, comes at a cost. I need to raise £5000 by end of May 2018. This amount includes flights, accommodation, kit and everything to do with rugby. Asking for money is difficult for me, but if you feel that you'd like to invest in me, I can promise that I won't let you down and every penny will be turned into hard sweat and development with the ultimate goal of making you all proud of me. And you never know, one day, I might just run out for England or a Premiership club and this will be all because of you!

I would like to take you all on the journey with me and I intend to write a daily/ weekly blog to share all my experiences with you.

Taking this opportunity will be a challenge that I simply cannot wait to embrace. Any support will be greatly appreciated.

Thank you for reading. George
Click on this link and see where I'm going:

<https://youtu.be/obGUCkz1bJk>

Cross Country



Fran Turner, Year 8, achieved an excellent result in the recent Essex School's Cross Country Championship held at Stubbers Adventure Centre in Upminster.

Fran ran a good race amongst a strong field which included schools from all over Essex. Her goal was to achieve a top 16 finish to qualify her to represent the Essex team in the Inter Counties event. Fran finished in a well deserved 13th position.

The Inter Counties event scheduled for March was later cancelled due to the snow fall, but Fran stayed positive and is looking forward to the upcoming athletics season.

Girls win 4-2 at Football



The Year 7 girls football team took on Moulsham High School for an exciting game at home despite the cold, muddy and wet conditions on Monday 12th March.

PE Teacher/Technician, Miss Unwin commented, "Students were enthusiastic and played extremely well. They were slipping around and covered in mud but came from behind to win the game 4-2. Well done girls!"

Physical
PE
Education

House Points update

Date and running total of tokens	19 January 2018	2 February 2018	23 February 2018	23 March 2018
1st	Danube 822	Danube 1191	Danube 1776	Danube 2099
2nd	Zambezi 661	Zambezi 1048	Zambezi 1522	Zambezi 1696
3rd	Mekong 606	Amazon 886	Amazon 1324	Mekong 1489
4th	Amazon 596	Mekong 865	Mekong 1306	Amazon 1478

Girls Rugby

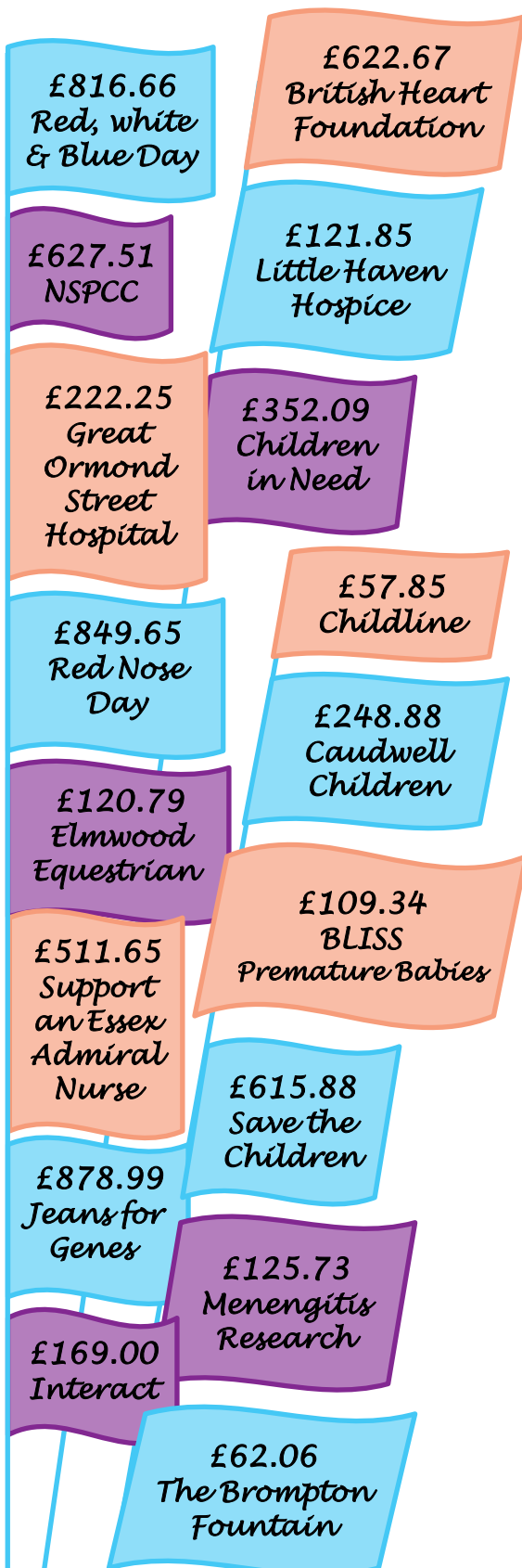
by Head of PE, Mr Clay

I would like to start by saying what an incredible turn out we've been getting at girls rugby on a Tuesday after school, particularly from Years 8, 9 and 10.

Our ambitions next year are to enter tournaments and play friendlies against other schools. If you're keen, please make sure you attend training when it starts again in September.

Lets keep the momentum building and look forward to some competitive action next year. Well done to everyone that attended.





£6,512.78
 raised for charity
 in 2017!



**Ormiston
 RIVERS
 Academy**

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