



APRIL 2025 | ISSUE 17



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A MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHER

Zoe Ramshaw

"The secret of
getting ahead is
getting started."

- Mark Twain

SUBJECT SPOTLIGHTS

ENGLISH

We are preparing to host our very own Scholastic Book Fair at OTS next month. Join us from 20th-23rd May to buy discounted books of all genres. Every purchase earns us free books for our school library!

**SCHOLASTIC
Book Fair**
MAY 20-23RD 2025

**PAYMENT AT OUR
BOOK FAIR**

Scholastic is one of the largest providers of free books to schools via our Reward scheme which helps to ensure that as many children as possible have access to books that support reading for pleasure.

Every time you buy from the Book Fair, you help to make a difference by supporting literacy in your child's setting. Last year, with your help, we gave over £5.3M worth of free books to schools nationwide, which stocked school libraries and classrooms.

**HELP EARN FREE BOOKS
FOR YOUR SCHOOL**

You can pay online at the Fair via card reader machines if your school has one or by using the online payment link at www.bookfairs.scholastic.co.uk/pay and simply selecting your school from the drop down menu.

Pre-paid gift vouchers are available in £5, £10, £15, £20 and £25.

Go to www.bookfairs.scholastic.co.uk/gift-vouchers to buy vouchers for your child before the Fair.



*Free books are subject to terms and conditions. Please contact your Book Fair Organiser or Scholastic Book Fairs for details.

FOOD TECH

This month, our young chefs have cooked some delicious meals! Year 7 made mac & cheese and spicy bean burgers; Year 8 custard tarts and lemon drizzle; Year 9 sweet corn fritters, salsa and tortillas.

Year 10 and 11 prepared sushi and steak with chips and béarnaise sauce.



THERAPY TRIPS

SNOWBILITY

This term on Fridays, our Year 9 students will be enjoying their skiing lessons with Snowbility at the Hemel Snow Centre. During their first lesson a brief induction of the snow slope, collected their skiing gear and headed straight to the slope. They all really enjoyed themselves and can't wait to return for more snowy action!



EQUINE THERAPY

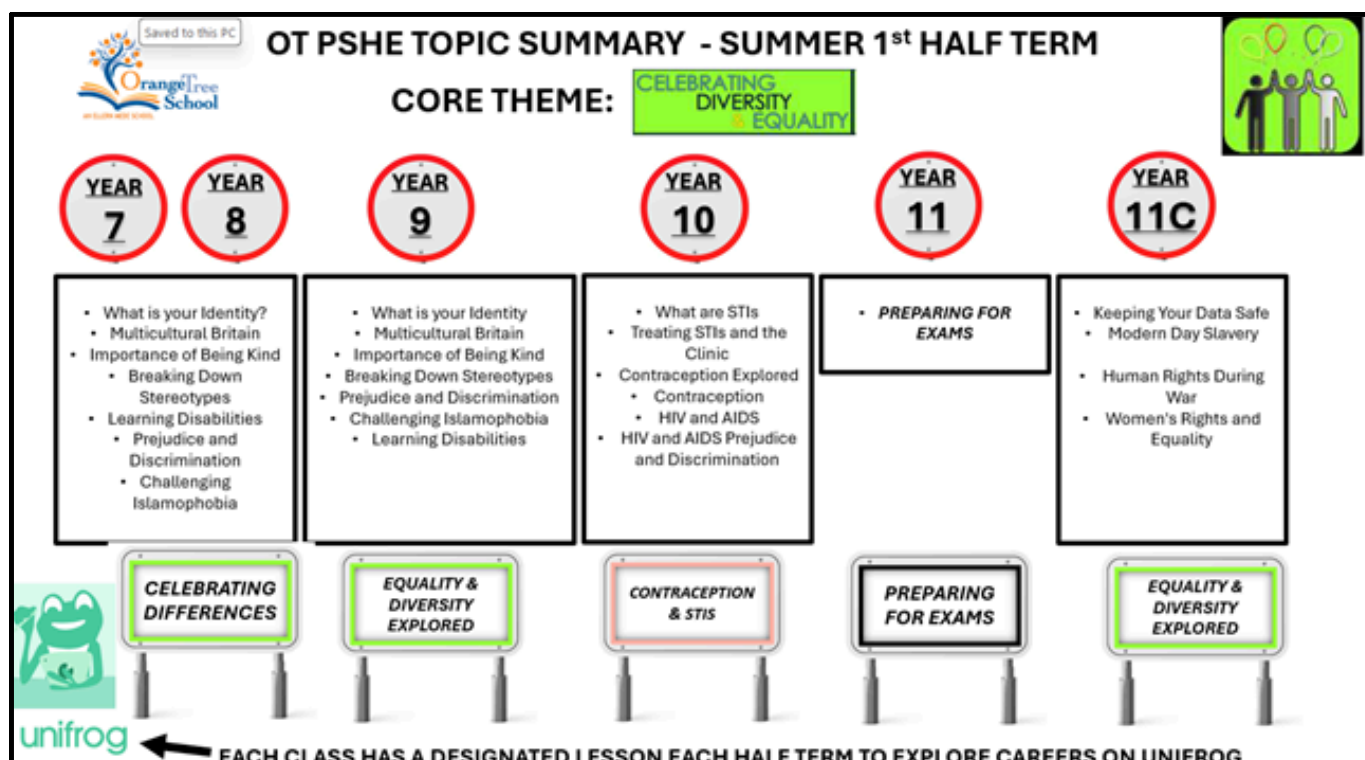


Our Year 7 students will be taking part in Equine Therapy every Wednesday until the end of the school year! They started off their visit with a tour of the premises, getting their helmets fitted, getting a look at all the horses. They had a look at how the staff feeds them, and modelled how to behave around the horses to make them feel safe and calm.

Finally, they got to walk around the field with the horses. Everyone had a great time, even some students who were a bit hesitant at first! It was lovely to see them be so brave and respectful to the animals.

PSHE AND SOCIAL LEARNING UPDATES

PSHE



SOCIAL LEARNING

With the warmer weather we have been enjoying doing some outside activities in Social Learning with the students and have some lovely community trips and events planned.



Year 7s are working on using their communication and problem solving skills during group games, and practicing sensory strategies to boost/reduce energy. They have also been working together to plan a park trip which will be happening on the 14th of May.

Year 8's are practicing working together through group games, creating a personalised morning routine and problem solving challenging situations using frameworks like ABC charts. They are also planning a park trip on the 13th of May.

Year 9s are spending this half term working together to plan an event for other students at OTS. They have come up with an excellent idea, have sourced the resources they need, are working out their budget and profit margins and have assigned roles across their team. They will be hosting their event on the 3rd of June, with profits either going to charity or a game for lunchtimes. Look out for photos of the event in our next newsletter!



Year 10s will spend this half term working towards developing skills for adulthood and will be working together to organise a social café trip. This will include being prepared for the trip, strategies for managing anxiety, sensory needs and belongings outside of school, and travelling safely to and from the café.

IMPORTANT DATES

Orange Tree School Safeguarding Team

If you have any concerns about a child or want to talk to a designated or deputy safeguarding lead, please speak to one of the following:

DSL: Zoe Ramshaw

DDSL KS3: Lucy Price

DDSL KS4: Hayley Hunter

5th May 2025

Bank Holiday (School Closed)

9th May 2025

Y11 Study Leave

13th May 2025

HPV Vaccinations

12th-16th May 2025

Mental Health Awareness Week

21st May 2025

World Culture Diversity Day

24th May 2025

Half Term Begins

ORANGE TREE VALUES

Optimistic

Ready to Learn

Achievement

Nice and kind

Good listening

Effort

Team work

Respectful

Engagement

Empathy and Acceptance



STUDENT FEEDBACK

Towards the end of last term, we ran a student survey and we received some wonderful feedback. We are so pleased to hear that our students feel happy and safe with us; this is our main purpose at OTS. We asked them what they think our school excels at and these are some of their answers!

APPRECIATION LEAF OF THE MONTH

Each Month pick a leaf at random from our Appreciation Tree. This month, the Appreciation Leaf winner is --.

Her leaf said: "--"

Thank you --, we hope you like your appreciation gift!

"Staff are good"

"Helping in lessons"

"Understanding me and others, teaching well, basically everything"

"Good trips"

"Being amazing and helping me have fun with learning and never getting bored with what I am working on as they can shape the lessons around me and what works best for me"

"Helping kids with all types of problems"

"People are nice"

"Sometimes it can be stressful, but it is very fun and a nice environment and most teachers and LSAs are nice and encouraging"

Artificial intelligence safety tips for parents | NSPCC

<https://nspcc.org.uk/about-us/news-opinion/2025/artificial-intelligence-safety-tips-for-parents/>