



INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Trips at OTS
Upcoming Changes
Social Learning
Important dates
Useful resources
Activities at OTS

A MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHER

Zoe Ramshaw

"The most certain
way to succeed is
always to try just one
more time."

—Thomas Edison

It has been a long term, yet it has been jam packed with learning, trips and activities. It has been amazing to see how students have grown and progressed this year and are able to join in and participate in activities they have find hard or have found hard in the past.

This would not be possible without the dedication of every member of staff who works at Orange Tree and I want to say a huge THANK YOU to everyone. Their care, support and dedication makes me grateful to work at Orange Tree school. I want to also say THANK YOU to the parents and families of our students who work with us every day to find the best ways or working with the students.

We were both sad and happy to say goodbye to some of our year 11 students this year. We were sad because we will miss them but really happy that they are all going onto further education and we wish them all the best.

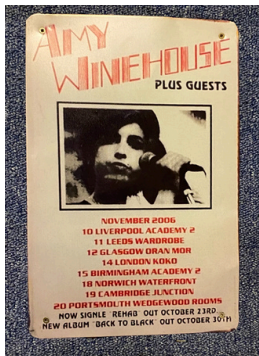
I hope you enjoy reading the last newsletter of the academic year and looking at the amazing achievements and opportunities we have had in July, we look forward to welcoming new students on Thursday 5th September and all current students on Friday 6th September at 10.30am. Have a restful summer!

TRIPS AT OTS

HISTORY: HAMPTON COURT TRIP

The Year 9 and 10 History classes had a wonderful time at the Hampton Court Palace on July 11th. Students took part in a workshop focusing on the Tudors Religious Roller coaster which links into the Elizabethan England unit for GCSE History.

They learnt about the impact of the changing national religion on the Tudor court and how changes in the country's religion are reflected in architecture. They explored physical evidence that examined the different kinds of religious beliefs among the early Tudor kings and queens. The students were engaged in the tour, answering and asking questions about the Tudors, the architecture and artefact they saw during the tour. We all enjoyed the day with the sun shining and ice creams to end a successful trip!



MUSIC: MILL HILL MUSIC COMPLEX TRIP

On July 11th, our GCSE music students went on a trip to Mill Hill Music Complex to record a performance of 'Lean on Me' by Bill Withers. Our host for the day was the lively sound engineer Fil, who started out by giving us a guided tour around the complex. We saw a variety of rooms used for band practice, dance rehearsals and music video recordings and felt the touch of music history when we visited Amy Winehouse's favourite rehearsal room!



Next, we went to the recording studio where the students performed brilliantly and made a successful recording of the song supported by Ana, our wonderfully singing LSA. Both staff and students very much enjoyed the trip and finished the day by eating their packed lunches in the nearby park.

PICNIC AT THE PARK

On July 18th the whole school had a wonderful outing to the park for a picnic, games such as badminton and to enjoy the sunshine! The students made the most of their afternoon at the park by using the playground equipment, colouring on the grass and snacking on strawberries! Thank you to the students for behaving so beautifully and engaging kindly with one another and staff!

TRIPS AND VISITS AT OTS

SCIENCE: NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM TRIP

On July 16th, the entire school embarked on an educational visit to the Natural History Museum. We had a tour of the museum's Spirit Collection, a fascinating zoology exhibit housing 22 million animal specimens preserved in spirits, including some collected by Charles Darwin! Students also explored the dinosaur and mammal exhibits during the tour. The visit proved to be an exciting way for our students to learn about nature and scientific research.

It was a fun day out of school together, and it was heartening to see how well our students behaved and how responsibly they conducted themselves in a busy museum. This success is a testament to their achievement and progress on their journey to becoming independent adults, able to enjoy their lives, value their education, and seize the opportunities coming their way. We are very proud of our students, and are looking forward to more exciting trips next year!



CROCODILE ENCOUNTERS VISIT AT OTS

On July 8th, Richard from Crocodile Encounters paid us a visit accompanied by a few of his reptile friends. He showed us a bearded dragon, two pythons, a tortoise, a blue tongue skink, and a crocodile!

Students and staff had the chance to pet and hold them, some even putting the pythons around their necks - how brave!



UPCOMING CHANGES AND SOCIAL LEARNING UPDATES

UPCOMING CHANGES IN SEPTEMBER

We are in the process of finishing the Food Tech room in Friary Hall and it looks lovely! We will have a proper big kitchen with 4 cooking stations, with 4 induction hobs and ovens, sinks, fridges, dishwasher.... The whole lot. Really excited to see our students start their Food Tech lessons in September and hopefully taste some yummy dishes. We are also extending the Dining hall, as you can see, the foundation was put in over the weekend and will be built during the summer break. This space will serve us both for Yoga lessons and more dining space.

Additionally, some classrooms will be changed from downstairs to upstairs to allow teachers a change of environment, and for core subject classrooms to be close to each other. Our LSAs will be working with 2 year groups and rotating daily between them - the aim is to allow all staff to work with all students and to create an environment where all staff know about and develop professional relationships with all pupils. Some form groups have also changed according to year group sizes and students' pastoral and academic needs. All relevant information about these changes has been communicated to students and parents in advance.

SOCIAL LEARNING

We have enjoyed the summer weeks in spite of the rain! Social learning groups were able to plan a walk to Whetstone Brook, enjoy some time out in nature and utilising the play area for some sensory feedback, for those who like swinging and climbing.

Years 8, 9 and 10 worked brilliantly together to pitch and strike a tent in the school grounds. Those with previous experience were able to share their skills and everyone worked well together to get the tent up. With the rain starting to fall we were able to shelter under canvas and play a game or two before packing up the tent.

Tent pitching is a great team challenge and a good skill for future adventures!



More Social Learning tools

Planning a family vacation with Autism - 10 tips for success

<https://wrongplanet.net/planning-family-vacation-autism-10-tips-success/>

Autism Podcasts from The Girl With The Curly Hair

<https://thegirlwiththecurlyhair.co.uk/resources/podcasts/> (not just for girls!)

Video about Growing up with Tourette's

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZUJ997gqh30&list=PL1Suwo02Q3YbkX7XYS24kbqzcPNB4xuzk&index=18%20Video%20about%20Growing%20up%20with%20Tourettes)

[v=ZUJ997gqh30&list=PL1Suwo02Q3YbkX7XYS24kbqzcPNB4xuzk&index=18%20Video%20about%20Growing%20up%20with%20Tourettes](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZUJ997gqh30&list=PL1Suwo02Q3YbkX7XYS24kbqzcPNB4xuzk&index=18%20Video%20about%20Growing%20up%20with%20Tourettes)

IMPORTANT DATES

ORANGE TREE VALUES

Optimistic
Ready to Learn
Achievement
Nice and kind
Good listening
Effort

Team work
Respectful
Engagement
Empathy and Acceptance

September 3rd 2024

Staff Inset - No students

September 4th 2024

Staff Inset - No students

September 5th 2024

Start of Term - New Students Only (10:30)

September 6th 2024

Start of Term - Whole School (10:30)

Orange Tree School's 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 KS4: Melanie Nichols

DDSL KS3: Keziah Arthur

END OF TERM CELEBRATION



Students had a great time on July 23rd, their last day of school. There was a variety of activities available: An assault course, giant jenga, giant connect 4, arts and crafts. Finally, they had delicious ice cream and an assembly where they received certificates and prizes!



CRUMBLE VISITS!

Pets As Therapy (PAT) have kindly offered to have Crumble, a therapy dog, visit the school every Thursday. Students love spending time reading to her, petting her, and playing around!



YEAR 11 LEAVERS LUNCH

On Friday 19th, the Y11s had their leavers lunch at the Oak Café. Each student picked a member of staff to accompany them, and the group had a lovely time eating and chatting! The Y11s also received their leavers hoodies.

ACTIVITIES

As part of our commitment to a whole school therapeutic approach we are providing a fantastic opportunity for students to take part in ten sessions of either **Equine therapy** at Totteridge Stables, **Forest School** with Wild About Our Woods, or **Skiing courses** at Hemel Ski Centre with the Snowbility charity. Information will be sent home to all involved.

We also have a company called “Barbet Sports foundation” coming in to provide fantastic activity opportunities for our students!



Come September, Yoga will be a separate subject from Activities! This way, students will be able to fully benefit from the mindfulness and relaxation Yoga provides.