



SEPTEMBER 2025 | ISSUE 21



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A MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHER

Zoe Ramshaw

"When you are reluctant to change, think of the beauty of autumn."

- William Wordsworth

Dear Parents, Carers, and School Community,

As we step into a new academic year, I would like to extend a warm welcome back to all our families, and a special greeting to those who are joining Orange Tree School for the first time. September always brings with it a sense of excitement and renewal, and already our school has been buzzing with activity and opportunities for our students.

This term has begun with incredible experiences – from the whole-school trip to Warner Bros. Studios, which sparked imagination and creativity, to the launch of a range of new lunchtime clubs that encourage fun, friendship, and learning beyond the classroom. We are also thrilled to see the completion of our new science lab, which will inspire hands-on discovery, and to welcome Saffron, our new therapy dog, who will be joining Crumble in supporting our students' wellbeing.

Alongside these exciting developments, I want to take a moment to talk about the importance of **attendance and being in school**. We understand that for many of our students, attending regularly can feel like a big challenge, and every step through the school gates is an achievement in itself. Each day in school gives students the chance to connect with friends, build confidence, and experience the wide range of learning and enrichment opportunities on offer. We are here to support every child on their journey, celebrating progress in whatever form it takes, and working together to make school a positive and welcoming place to be.

As autumn unfolds, let us embrace the changes and new beginnings it brings. I am incredibly proud of the enthusiasm and commitment shown by our students and staff already this term, and I look forward to all that we will achieve together.

With my very best wishes,

Zoe Ramshaw

Headteacher

WHOLE SCHOOL TRIP

On the 25th of September our English department organised a whole school trip to Warner Bros. Studios, where students got to explore the iconic Harry Potter film sets, costumes, props, and behind-the-scenes secrets across the whole sequel!



The tour began in the cinema room with a welcome from the cast, followed by the grand reveal of the Great Hall. Students explored famous sets like the Gryffindor Common Room, Dumbledore's Office, Hagrid's Hut, and the Potions Classroom, with lots of photo opportunities along the way, like riding a flying broomstick in front of the green screen!

They ventured into the Forbidden Forest to discover how magical creatures were brought to life, before boarding the Hogwarts Express at Platform 9¾. Halfway through the tour, students stopped at the Backlot Café for a taste of butterbeer and their packed lunch provided by the school.



The journey continued through Professor Sprout's Greenhouse, where students pulled out crying Mandrakes, strolling through Diagon Alley, and circling the immersive Hogwarts Castle model. The day ended with free time in the gift shop, where students picked up magical souvenirs to remember the experience.

NEW LUNCH TIME CLUBS

This year, our LSAs are introducing new and exciting lunchtime clubs, running alongside the daily sports clubs led by our OT. Come along, try something new, and earn positive points just for taking part!



Monday: Sculpting Club

Slow down, get creative, and enjoy the calming process of working with clay. Each week, in room 209 we'll explore a new theme and sculpt with intention, using our hands and imaginations to bring ideas to life.

Basketball



Tuesday: Dance Club

Each week, the year 10 LSAs explore fun and trending routines inspired by student music suggestions. The focus is on expression, movement, and creativity. Find us in the hall extension!

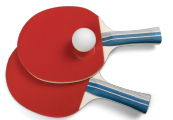
Football



Wednesday: Karaoke Club

Your time to shine! Sing your favourite songs, cheer on your friends, and enjoy a midweek confidence boost in a fun, judgement-free relaxed atmosphere with our year 8 LSAs in 117.

Table Tennis



Thursday: Imagination Hub Club

Unwind and get creative in Imagination Hub where you'll play games, create stories, and express yourself using movement, sound, and even drawings. This drama therapy inspired club is run by year 7 LSAs in the hall extension.

Strategy Games



Friday: Bamboozle (Quiz) Club

Put your brain to the test! Join the year 11 LSAs in room 115 for fun quizzes, tricky riddles, and team challenges to wrap up the week with laughter and learning.

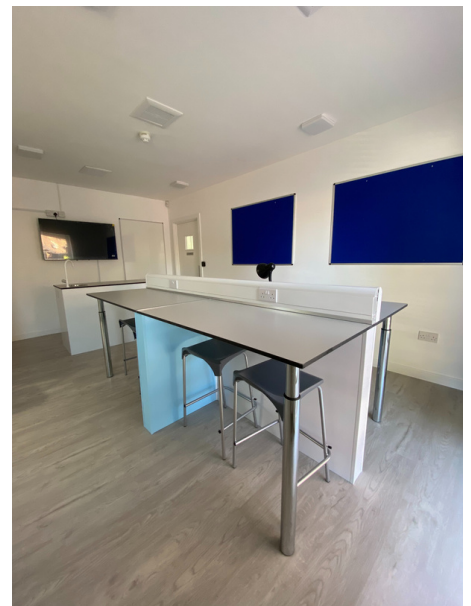
Football



NEW SCIENCE LAB COMING SOON

Exciting developments have taken place in Friary Hall with the completion of our brand-new science lab. Designed to support a range of experiments—particularly in chemistry, biology and physics. The new space is fully equipped to offer students hands-on, practical learning in a modern environment and ready to use in the new term!

This purpose-built lab is already sparking curiosity across the year groups. We're excited to see all the experiments and discoveries our students will come to explore in this inspiring new space!



FOOD TECH HIGHLIGHTS

This month in food tech, students took part in our Baked Bean Challenge, where they got creative decorating beans on toast in canapé form. Congratulations to Year 9, who took home the win!

Year 7 prepared pizza toast, and Year 8-savoury rice. Year 9 focused on flavour and presentation with roasted vegetable filo parcels, while Year 10 practised their breakfast-making skills with "eggs three ways". Year 11 started off the month on a comforting note with creamy chicken/mushroom soup.



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: Lucy Price

DDSL: Hayley Hunter

DDSL: Jake Beeson

4th September 2025

*New students start of term
(10:30 start)*

5th September 2025

*Returning students start of term
(10:30 start)*

25th September 2025

Harry Potter Studios Tour

3rd October

Years 5 & 6 Open Morning

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ORANGE TREE VALUES

Optimistic
Ready to Learn
Achievement
Nice and kind
Good listening
Effort



Team work
Respectful
Engagement
Empathy and Acceptance



APPRECIATION TREE LEAF WINNER

The appreciation tree leaf winner this month is Simone!

Simone's leaf said: "To Simone, Thanks for being so sweet :)"

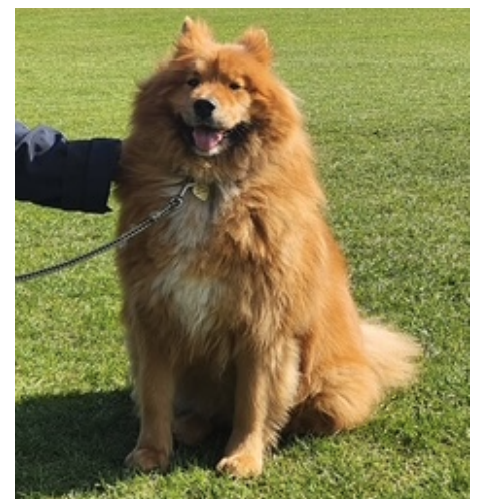
Thank you and we hope you enjoy your prize!

MEET OUR NEW THERAPY DOG- SAFFRON

This is Saffron – he'll be visiting our students every Thursday afternoon!

And from the 16th of October Crumble is returning to OTS, joining us in the mornings alongside Saffron!

Students can book a 15-minute session with either of our therapy dogs by signing up at the rainforest room door or through their tutor.





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What you need to know about... PEER-TO-PEER (P2P) SHARING



What is it?

'Peer-to-Peer' (P2P) Sharing

Peer-to-peer (P2P) sharing is the process of transferring digital content, such as electronic books, music, or video clips from one computer to another. In a P2P network, each 'peer' is an end-user's computer connected to the other 'peer' via the internet. Typically, this is done with the help of P2P software programmes, such as Napster or BitTorrent, where files are indexed on a central server, making them available for other users to find and download.



Know the Risks

Malware

The nature of P2P networks makes it possible for one file to be shared to millions of computers, which makes these files the perfect tool for hackers to spread malicious software. This could be in the form of spyware, viruses, or trojan horses which can sit quietly on your PC collecting information and modifying your security settings.

Illegal downloads

Not only can malware be unintentionally downloaded onto your PC, it's also possible to mistakenly download copyrighted material. Doing so, and subsequently sharing this material with others, is against the law and could result in a significant financial penalty.

Oversharing

P2P software itself can be risky, and many applications do not comply with privacy settings. Some applications automatically share folders that contain media so instead of sharing a few photos, you may end up sharing your entire photo library.

Inappropriate content

P2P software could give users, including children, access to pornographic material. Some files containing pornography may be deliberately mislabelled to attract more downloads. Furthermore, the software may have built-in chat functionality, which could expose children to grooming, bullying or online abuse.

Safety Tips

Install security software

If your child is using P2P file-sharing software, it's important that you also have reputable security software installed which is up to date. This will alert you if any malware or viruses have been installed onto your machine and will often help you remove them once detected.

Avoid chat functionality

As mentioned, one of the many dangers of P2P file-sharing is that it can often expose your child to strangers. Keep an eye on the software they're using and ensure it doesn't have built-in chat capabilities. If it does, it's worth downloading a more reputable alternative, such as BitTorrent.

Explain the risks

Be sure to explain the risks of P2P file-sharing to your child, as this could help prevent any security or potential legal issues. Ensure that they are aware that seemingly innocent-looking content could potentially contain digital nasties, and that installing copyrighted material is against the law.

Educate yourself

If your child is using P2P file-sharing, perhaps to download music or TV shows, it's important you're aware of the risks. Many file-sharing services offer parent's guides that explain the risks of their software, how it can be used safely and legally, and the level of parental controls they provide.

Further Support

Use safer options

Although P2P file-sharing is still popular with millions of users across the globe, there is now much safer software available at your child's disposal, particularly if they don't feel safe using P2P file-sharing. If your child is using P2P software to download music or films, perhaps it's worth signing them up to a streaming service such as Apple Music, Spotify, Netflix, or Amazon.

Report and offer support

If your child feels at risk due to exposure to strangers or bullying, or due to exposure to harmful material, offer comfort and support. Encourage your child to avoid using P2P file-sharing websites and software. Keep proof of any messages they have received if you need to contact the police or local authorities.

Our Expert Carly Page



Carly Page is an experienced and highly respected freelance technology journalist, editor and consultant. Previously the editor of tech tabloid The INQUIRER, Carly now works as the news editor for Computer Shopper and IT Pro and writes for a number of publications including Forbes, TechRadar, Tes, The Metro, uSwitch and WIRED.