



JUNE 2025 | ISSUE 19



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## A MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHER

**Zoe Ramshaw**

Dear Parents, Carers and Families,

As we come to the end of another busy and rewarding month at Orange Tree School, I am delighted to share with you just some of the highlights from June. It has been a month full of creativity, achievement, and celebration — all rooted in the values that make our school such a special place to learn and grow.

Our students have continued to thrive both in and out of the classroom. From budding chefs preparing incredible dishes in Food Tech, to the thoughtful artistic work inspired by a visit to the National Portrait Gallery, there is so much to be proud of. We've also seen fantastic teamwork and leadership in Social Learning, with students planning community trips and hosting inclusive school events that showcased compassion, organisation and a strong sense of community.

A particular highlight this month was our Year 11 Leavers Assembly – a moving and joyful afternoon full of memories, music, and celebration. Whether our leavers are moving on to new settings or continuing with us, we are incredibly proud of everything they have achieved and the resilience they have shown throughout their time at OTS.

As always, thank you for your ongoing support. It is through our partnership with you that we are able to continue building a safe, nurturing and ambitious school community. We are now looking ahead to an exciting final few weeks of term – including our whole-school trip to Kew Gardens and our End of Year Celebration.

“Forget all the reasons it won't work and believe the one reason that it will.”

# SUBJECT SPOTLIGHTS

## FOOD TECH

This month in Food Tech, our chefs-in-training prepared a range of delicious meals!

**Year 7** - Fish and veg stack, fish stacks, loaded potato skins, and spinach and squash frittata.

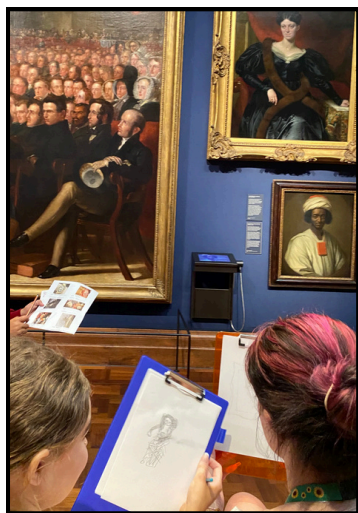
**Year 8** - Upside down pineapple cake, apple and vanilla tart, carrot cake, and choc chip cookies.

**Year 9** - Baked cod and feta, chicken Caesar salad, jumbo couscous salad, and couscous salad.

**Year 10** - Apple pie, victoria sponge cake, no bake cheesecake, and apple hand pies.



## ART - NATIONAL PORTRAIT GALLERY TRIP



On the 18<sup>th</sup> of June, our year 10 Art students visited the National Portrait Gallery as part of their GCSE coursework, which is currently centred around the theme of Identity. The visit provided a rich opportunity to explore a diverse range of portraits, spanning from historical masterpieces to contemporary works.

Students were encouraged to reflect on how identity is expressed through portraiture and to consider the stories behind each artwork. They engaged thoughtfully with the exhibition, each selecting a portrait that resonated with them, then spent time creating observational drawings in the gallery.



It was a thoroughly enjoyable and valuable experience that will help shape their artistic ideas and development back in the classroom.

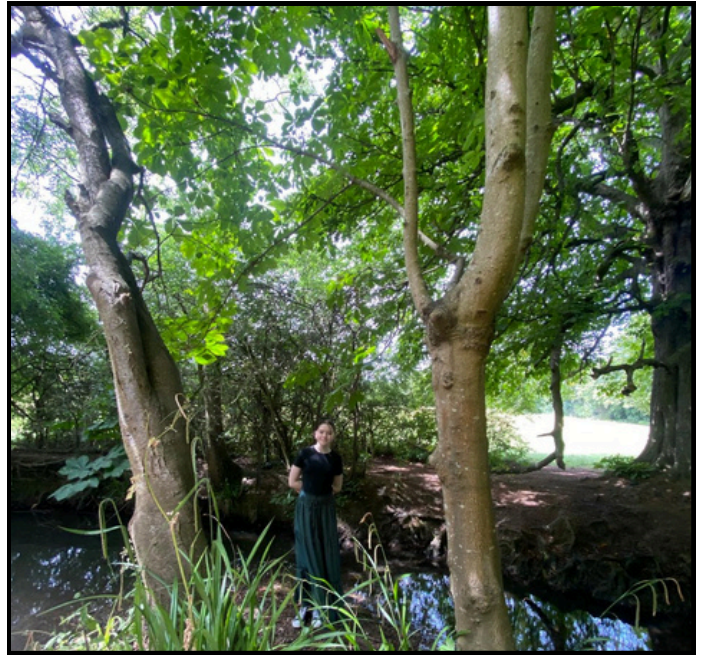
Well done to all involved!

# SOCIAL LEARNING UPDATES

We've been busy out and about in the community in Social Learning this month!

Our Year 7s and 8s planned and enjoyed a trip to the park, where they enjoyed the sunny weather, had ice cream and played in the playground.

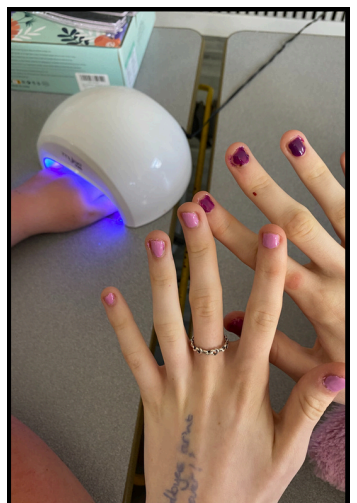
Our Year 10s went to the Oak Café where they practiced ordering food and drinks independently and managing their own money.



Our Year 9s and 10s have also planned and hosted some fantastic school events: a Henna Workshop and a Beauty Lab, which were very well received by both students and staff!

They showed excellent team-work and organisation, assigning each other tasks such as creating a poster, budgeting, setting up, doing the henna, nails, water tattoos and bracelets, and tidying up after the event.

Students have decided to split the profit equally between Noah's Arc Charity (a charity for children and young people with life limiting conditions) and another trip to the Café.



# YEAR 11 LEAVERS ASSEMBLY



On June 20<sup>th</sup>, we held a leavers assembly for our lovely Year 11s as a celebration of their very hard work this year. Whether they have completed their GCSEs and are moving on to their new adventure or they are continuing their journey with us, we want to congratulate and celebrate them all!

Before students came in, we set up the hall extension with decorations and pictures of their time at OTS. After an emotional goodbye speech from Zoe, students ate pizza and desserts, did karaoke, had henna done, and had a chance to reunite with their friends and say goodbye to staff.

It was a lovely afternoon and we loved welcoming our Year 11s back to school. We hope you all have a fantastic summer!



## YEAR 11C REWARD TRIP

On June 17<sup>th</sup>, Year 11C students went to Belmont Farm as their reward trip for being the form with the most positive points this term. Good job, girls!

They loved getting to pet and feed the animals, and having a little picnic in the park.

It was a fun, peaceful and sunny day and we look forward to seeing who wins the form competition this half term!



# 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

**2<sup>nd</sup> July 2025**

*Parent Communication Day  
(school closed to students)*

**3<sup>rd</sup> July 2025**

*Year 5 open morning*

**8<sup>th</sup> July 2025**

*Whole school trip to Kew Gardens*

**10<sup>th</sup> - 11<sup>th</sup> July 2025**

*KS4 Duke of Edinburgh expedition*

**18<sup>th</sup> July 2025**

*End of Year Celebration  
(school ends at 1pm)*

## ORANGE TREE VALUES

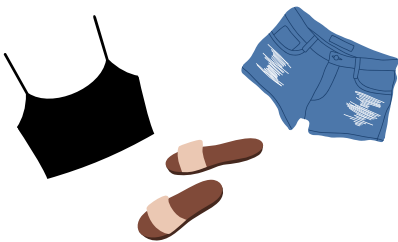
Optimistic  
Ready to Learn  
Achievement  
Nice and kind  
Good listening  
Effort

Team work  
Respectful  
Engagement  
Empathy and Acceptance



## PROHIBITED CLOTHING

- Open-toe shoes
- Low-cut, spaghetti strap, or cropped tops
- Excessively ripped denim
- Shorts or skirts higher than mid-thigh



## UNIFORM REMINDER

With the weather warming up, we understand students might want to wear clothes that will allow them to stay cool. However, some clothes might make it harder to move safely or sit comfortably.

To make sure OTS stays a fair and respectful place, we ask everyone to follow a few simple rules about the clothes they wear at school. If these rules are broken, we have spare T-shirts and leggings for students to wear.

Nonetheless, students can still show their personality with colours, patterns, or their favourite clothes! They are always encouraged to ask questions if they are unsure what is school-appropriate or if something doesn't feel right.

## APPRECIATION LEAF WINNER

The appreciation leaf winners this month are George and Sam!

George's leaf said: "You make me smile, you are amazing and kind" and Sam's said: "Keep doing well, keep smiling".

Thank you and we hope you both enjoy your gift!

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# 10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators

## STAYING SAFE IN HOT WEATHER

As temperatures rise, it's essential to take proactive steps to ensure children and young people stay safe and healthy. Hot weather can pose serious risks such as dehydration, heatstroke and sunburn. This guide provides practical tips for parents and teachers to protect children during sunnier spells, helping them enjoy the summer safely.

### 1 STAY HYDRATED

Ensure children drink plenty of water throughout the day, even if they don't feel thirsty. Encourage them to carry water bottles and take regular sips. It's better to drink small amounts to counteract the effects of sweating. Even if children replenish lost fluids with equal amounts of water, they may still be dehydrated due to salt lost from the body. Avoid sugary drinks and caffeine, which can contribute to dehydration.

### 2 APPLY SUNSCREEN

Use a broad-spectrum sunscreen with at least SPF 30 on all exposed skin and reapply every two hours or after swimming. Don't forget often-missed spots like the ears, back of the neck and tops of feet. Sunscreen needs around 20 to 30 minutes to be absorbed by the skin, so make sure you leave plenty of time to apply it.

### 3 WEAR PROTECTIVE CLOTHING

Dress children in light-coloured, loose-fitting clothing made from breathable fabrics like cotton. Ideally clothing should cover as much skin as possible. Shoulders should always be covered as they can easily burn. Wide-brimmed hats and sunglasses with UV protection are also essential to shield them from the sun. Be sure to check your school's dress policy, as uniform rules may be relaxed during amber or red Heat Health Alerts (HHAs).

### 4 SEEK SHADE

Covering up and seeking shade are the most important sun protection measures. Encourage children to play in shaded areas, especially during peak sun intensity between the hours of 11 a.m. and 3 p.m. Use umbrellas or canopies if natural shade is unavailable.

### 5 AVOID STRENUOUS ACTIVITIES

Children shouldn't take part in vigorous physical activities in very hot weather. Limit these during the warmest parts of the day. Schedule any outdoor games or sports for early morning or late afternoon when it's slightly cooler.

### 6 KEEP COOL Indoors

If it's safe and appropriate, open windows early in the morning to allow stored heat to escape from the building. Use fans or air conditioning to maintain a cool indoor environment. Close curtains or blinds to block direct sunlight. Switch off electrical equipment like computers, monitors and printers when not in use: don't leave them in 'standby mode' as this still generates heat.

### 7 TAKE COOL BATHS OR SHOWERS

Encourage children to take cool baths or showers to lower their body temperature. Alternatively, use damp cloths on their skin to provide relief from the heat. When heading out of the house, consider filling up a spray bottle to cool everyone down on the go.

### 8 MONITOR FOR SIGNS OF ILLNESS

If sensible precautions are taken, children are unlikely to be seriously affected by hot conditions – but teachers, assistants, school nurses and all child carers should watch for symptoms of heat exhaustion, such as heavy sweating, weakness, dizziness, nausea or fainting. If any signs are present, move the child to a cool place, make sure they drink some water, and seek medical advice if needed.

### 9 MAINTAIN A COOL SLEEPING ENVIRONMENT

Ensure children's bedrooms stay cool by using fans or air conditioning. Use lightweight bedding and consider letting them sleep in the coolest part of the house. Older children can have more choice over what they wear to bed. Some children may prefer to sleep without pyjamas, while some may prefer to opt for a light cotton t-shirt and shorts.

### 10 EDUCATE CHILDREN ON SUN SAFETY

Teach children the importance of sun safety and encourage them to take responsibility for their health. Explain the risks of sunburn and heatstroke and the value of following these safety tips.

### Meet Our Expert

James Whelan is an experienced health and safety expert who is a Chartered Member of the Institution of Occupational Safety and Health. He provides services to educational settings (and other industries) to help them maintain a safe working environment.



#WakeUpWednesday®

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Source: See full reference list on guide page at: [staying-safe-in-hot-weather](https://nationalcollege.com/staying-safe-in-hot-weather)

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