



The Ormiston Observer

May – Issue Five

Ormiston Ilkeston Enterprise Academy

A very warm welcome to all our parents, carers and students. Thank you for taking the time to read our school newspaper. It is designed to keep you informed and up to date with everything happening across our school community.

We hope you find it both useful and enjoyable, and that it gives you a real sense of the exciting learning, activities and events taking place this term.

We are also delighted to say that we have continued to see a positive and purposeful atmosphere across the school.

Team OIEA would like to wish you all a lovely May half term break.

The month's school newsletter includes:

- Principals Message
- *Teaching and Learning Focus*
- *Assessment Updates*

- *Celebrating Success: CARE in Action*
- *Attendance and Punctuality*
- *Uniform and Equipment*
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Principals Message



Dear Families, Colleagues, and Friends of OIEA,

As we move deeper into the summer term, I want to take a moment to reflect on the continued strength of our school community and the standards we are upholding together.

At Ormiston Ilkeston Enterprise Academy, we are unapologetically ambitious for every child. That ambition is not just about outcomes at the end of Year 11, but about the habits, routines and expectations we build every single day. The small things matter: arriving on time, being fully equipped, wearing perfect uniform, following instructions first time, and showing respect to others. These are not optional extras, they are the foundations of success.

This term has seen a continuation in momentum across the school. Classrooms are purposeful, disruption is incredibly low, and students are increasingly focused on making their future a bright and exciting place to be. This does not happen by chance. It is the result of consistent expectations, staff who care deeply, and students who are rising to meet those standards. Thank you to our families for your continued support in reinforcing this at home.

For our Year 11 students, the exam season is now upon us. This is a crucial moment, and I have been impressed with the maturity and determination many are showing. Attendance, punctuality and preparation over the coming weeks will make a significant difference. We will continue to provide structured support in school, including intervention sessions and clear guidance, but success will ultimately come from consistent effort over time. I remain optimistic that this cohort will be the most successful to have ever left OIEA.

Thank you to all students for helping to create and maintain the conditions for year 11's to thrive and go about their business.

Mr Simon Leach

Principal

Teaching and Learning Focus

Teaching and learning

In our lessons at OIEA, we utilise an 'I do, we do, you do' approach.

I do phase

Teachers provide clear, direct explanations of new knowledge and break learning into small, clearly explained steps so students can process new ideas without overload and connect them to what they already know. They model expert thinking through worked examples, think-alouds and exemplars so students understand what high-quality work and successful problem-solving look like. Throughout instruction, teachers check understanding, maintain full participation and use purposeful routines so students stay focused, think hard and strengthen long-term memory.

We do phase

Teachers guide students through new learning by practising together, using scaffolds, prompts and cues so success is secure before independence is expected. They ask many questions during guided practice to check understanding and address misconceptions early. As confidence grows, support is gradually removed so students can apply new knowledge accurately on their own.

You do phase

Students complete independent practice once modelling and guided practice have prepared them to apply new learning on their own, using tasks that require deeper thinking and strengthen long-term understanding. During the Red Zone, students work silently and independently for sustained periods to develop focus, resilience and independence.

Curriculum Corner What we are Studying This Half Term (HT6)

<https://www.oiea.co.uk/curriculum/what-are-students-learning-this-half-term>



Assessment Updates



Year 10 Mock Exams

Key Stage 3 end of year examinations will be taking place during the final half term. These exams give students the chance to demonstrate their learning from the year and allows us to assess their current understanding, and identify areas that need further improvement.

Steps to success include:

- Revising regularly using class notes and online resources
- Completing homework to support learning

Ahead of these assessments we have included a previously featured revision technique that supports students in their independent revision.

Revision Technique Spotlight: Using Flash Cards Effectively

Flash cards are a popular revision tool but their real benefit comes from how they are used, not just from making them.

Flash cards help learning when students test themselves. Your child should read the question, *try to remember the answer*, then check the back. This “active recall” strengthens memory far more than rereading notes.

One of the most effective ways to use flash cards is the Leitner Method.

The Leitner Method

Flash cards are sorted into groups:

- Cards your child finds hard are reviewed often
- Cards they know well are reviewed less often

If a card is answered correctly, it moves to the next group.

If it's incorrect, it goes back to the start.

This helps children focus their time on what they *don't yet know*, making revision more efficient and less frustrating.

How Parents Can Help

- Encourage short, regular revision sessions
- Ask your child to say answers out loud before checking
- Remind them that getting cards wrong is part of learning
- Focus on progress, not perfection

Flash cards are most powerful when used regularly and thoughtfully helping children build confidence and long-term understanding.

Rank Order

The next release of our ranking information will be after the May half term.

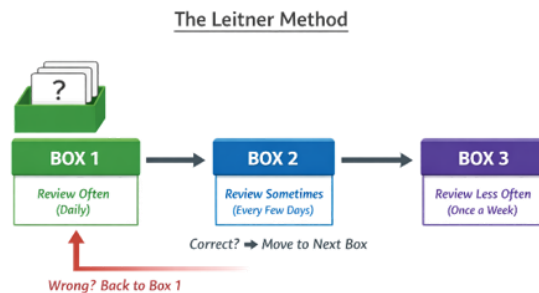
As a reminder, the ranking categories are:

- **Attendance** – Reflects how consistently your child has been present at school.
- **Behaviour** – Indicates your child's conduct and attitude to learning.
- **Maths Homework** – Based on the completion and quality of maths homework tasks.
- **English Homework** – Reflects engagement and effort with English homework assignments.

- **Science Homework** – Measures the consistency and quality of science homework.
- **Extra Effort** – Recognises additional independent learning completed on the SPARX platform.

A helpful quick win to boost overall rankings is ensuring any outstanding Maths, English, or Science homework is completed on the SPARX or Carousel platforms.

Thank you for your continued support.



Celebrating Success: CARE in Action



Year 11 GCSE Art Exam

Year 11 students demonstrated incredible grit, determination, and creativity during this year's GCSE Art exam. They planned and created a range of impressive artworks based on themes including *Woman*, *Twisting and Turning*, *Connections*, *Layers*, and *Reflections*.

The standard of work produced was outstanding, showcasing not only artistic skill but also resilience and dedication throughout the exam process. We are extremely proud of our young artists and their achievements.

Well done to all involved!

Student Success - BMX Achievement

We are delighted to share some fantastic out-of-school achievements from one of our students Sophie Mee, who competed this weekend in the first and second rounds of the 4X event at Chicksands in Bedfordshire 🚲

It is wonderful to see such commitment and success outside of school, demonstrating both dedication and talent in a highly competitive sport.

We look forward to following Sophie's progress as she prepares for the upcoming BMX event in Glasgow in the coming weeks good luck! ✨





Pen Pal Club Success ✉️🌟

We are delighted to celebrate the continued success of our Pen Pal Club this term. This cohort of students has maintained some fantastic friendships with Year 6 pupils from Chaucer Junior School, and we are currently writing to more students than ever before since the club began 🤝. A huge well done and thank you to everyone involved for their commitment and enthusiasm!

In addition, four of our Pen Pal Club members recently took part in the Young Writers Competition, and we are thrilled to share that their stories are going to be published in the latest anthology 📖🌟.

Congratulations to:

- Lacey-Mae Crew
- Zander Raven
- Amelia Page
- Cammie Emmett-Cross

We are incredibly proud of your achievements well done! 🙌

Battle of the Bands Success 🎵🎸

A talented group of Year 8 and Year 9 students, known as *The Monday's* named after their dedicated after-school rehearsal slot recently took to the stage at the Battle of the Bands competition hosted by Belper School.

Competing against seven other schools from Derbyshire and Derby City, and up against much older musicians including Key Stage 4 students and sixth formers, *The Monday's* demonstrated real courage, teamwork, and confidence. Their commitment in the weeks leading up to the event truly paid off. Although they did not take the top spot, they absolutely held their own and delivered a performance to be incredibly proud of ✨.

A huge well done to Evie Weir, Lyla Grace Riley, Alfie Trueman, Kai Quilty, Zack Ball, Lottie Hulley, and Riley Bennett Bull for representing OIEA with such enthusiasm 🙌.

It was a fantastic experience for everyone involved and just the beginning for this promising group of young musicians. The band is now preparing for the OAT Battle of the Bands competition taking place in July - good luck! 🎤🌟

Instrument Lesson Spaces Now Available 🎵

As well as enjoying their weekly classroom music lessons, students at OIEA also have the exciting opportunity to learn a musical instrument with one of our specialist visiting tutors 🙌. With our Year 11 students now leaving, a number of lesson spaces have become available across a wide range of instruments.

We currently have availability for:

- Drum Kit
- Electric Guitar
- Acoustic Guitar
- Bass Guitar
- Ukulele

- Piano
- Keyboard
- Clarinet
- Saxophone
- Singing

There is a cost associated with instrumental tuition; however, subsidies are available for students who are eligible for Free School Meals.

For more information, please contact our Subject Leader for Music at kselfby@oiea.co.uk.



Celebrating Success in the Maths Challenge!

This year, every single student in Year 7 and Year 8 stepped up to test their problem-solving wits in our annual Maths Challenge events.

Students in Set 1 tackled the prestigious UK Mathematics Trust (UKMT) Junior Challenge, while all other students competed in our locally crafted OIEA Maths Challenge. The Maths Challenge is all about pushing beyond normal classroom arithmetic - it tests logical reasoning, lateral thinking, and the ability to unravel complex, unfamiliar problems with mathematical precision.

A Record-Breaking Haul!

In the UKMT national competition, our students achieved a spectacular, record-breaking haul of **36 certificates** at Bronze level or above. This is an incredible feat, especially considering that 12 of our Year 7s were competing against an older age bracket!

To put their success into perspective, UKMT certificates are strictly limited nationwide:

Gold certificates are awarded only to the top 8% of scorers.

Silver certificates go to the top 25%.

Bronze certificates go to the top 50%.

A special congratulations goes out to **Adam Kubasiewicz** in Year 8, who achieved a Gold certificate and the coveted **Best in School** title!

Here is the full roll of honour for the UKMT Junior Challenge:

Year 8 UKMT Winners

Gold & Best in School: Adam Kubasiewicz

Silver: Bowie Evans, Ashley Hackett, Dylan Healey, George Knighton, Emily McCready, Charlie Mellors

Bronze: Keira Anderson, Alex Bentley, Ivy Bradford-Shaw, Scarlett Bradley, Lewis Brooks, Emily Day, Scarlett Dexter, Archie Finch, Myla Fletcher, Dante Hill, Alice Jackson, Harley Jubb, Paige McCormack, Eva Morley, Theo Murphy, Oliver Wojcik, Kenny Worrall

Year 7 UKMT Winners

Silver: Viet Ngo, Daniel Humber, Mason Jones

Bronze: Harvey Gee, Finley Harrison, Isabelle Hunter, Kieron O'Brien, Archie Porter, Emily Reynolds, Lucien Smith, Lila Sutton, James Thomas

OIEA Maths Challenge: Certificates of Excellence

We also celebrated the fantastic achievements of our top performers in the **OIEA Maths Challenge**. The competition was fierce, and a Certificate of Excellence was awarded to every student who placed in the top 5 of their respective maths classes.

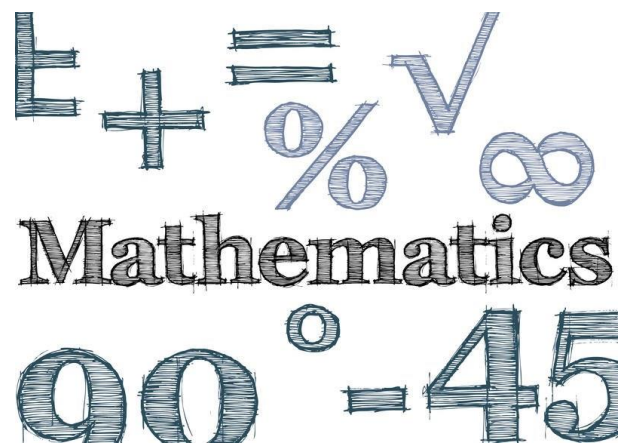
Congratulations to the following logical thinkers:

Year 7 - Taylor Allsop, Esme Bell, Jensen Bojko, Bailey Bostock, Olivia Bracegirdle, Elsa Burbage, Archer Curtis, Sophia Eden, Flyn Fletcher Hallam, Chanelle Hallam, Anders Henshaw, Ivy Hodgkinson, James Holland, Dylan Knowles, Ruben-Alexander Lee, Layla Lemercier, Zeyad Louine, Freddie McGeown, Theo Morris, Clive Moyo, Felix Park, Rosie Parker, Loch Parry, Rock Parry-White, Logan Revill, Jennifer Stocks, Sophia Stocks, Poppy-Willow Stone, Maisie-Jess Syson, Jakub Wojciechowski, Jordan Wood, Harley Young

Year 8 - Martha Bailey, Charlie-George Beardsley, George Bilbie-Brooks, Sienna Bramley, Jasmine Bustard, Cole Chambers, Scarlett Clarke, Brooklyn Goodman, Macey Grant, Tyler Greenhill, Lewis Hemming, Danyon Heslop, Nyomi Howdon, Lottie Hulley, Oliver Jachura, Jace Jeffery, Sang Pham, Julius Rigby, Ollie Saxton, Rio Sharpe, Alfie Trueman, Holly Unwin, Yasmine Ward, Jade Williams, Amy Wilson

We look forward to building on this incredible success in the future. By continuing to develop these vital logical, analytical, and problem-solving skills in our everyday lessons, we aim to uncover even more mathematical talent and hopefully do even better next year.

Well done to everyone who took part!



London Marathon 2026

Taking part in the London Marathon 2026 was an unforgettable experience and a huge personal challenge for me. It wasn't just about running 26.2 miles it was about dedication, perseverance, and believing in myself even when training got difficult.

The months leading up to the marathon included early mornings, long training runs, and pushing through tiredness and bad weather. On race day, I felt nervous but excited, and crossing the finish line made all the hard work worthwhile.

I felt proud, emotional, and inspired by the incredible atmosphere and support from the crowd 🙌.



Attendance and Punctuality

May Attendance


Dear Parents and Carers,

We are delighted to share some fantastic attendance news from this term and to thank you for your continued support in helping your child attend school regularly.

Celebrating Attendance Success

This term, 68 students took part in a challenge to improve their attendance above 90%.

We are incredibly proud to share that 51 students successfully achieved this goal and are continuing to improve every day.

 This is a huge step forward, as attendance above 90% plays a vital role in students' academic progress and overall wellbeing.


 Well done to all students involved we are very proud of you!

100% Attendance Achievements

A big congratulations to all students who achieved 100% attendance last term. This is a brilliant accomplishment and shows real dedication.

Year group totals:


- Year 7: 105
- Year 8: 80
- Year 9: 87
- Year 10: 64
- Year 11: 87

 Your commitment makes a real difference -- keep it up!

Whole-School Attendance

Thanks to the hard work of our students and the support from families, our overall attendance has greatly improved since Christmas.

We are on track to beat last year's attendance figures by the end of the academic year — an excellent achievement for our school community.

 Thank you for helping us make every day count.

Reminder: Term-Time Holidays


We understand that family time is important, however taking holidays during term time can have a significant impact on your child's learning.

 Please note:

- Holidays during term time are not authorised
- Unauthorised absences may result in a penalty fine

Current fine:

- £120 per parent, per child (if paid within 28 days)

 We kindly ask families to plan holidays during school breaks wherever possible.

Thank you for your understanding and support.

Coming Up: Reward Trips

Next term, students can earn places on exciting reward trips by showing:


- ✓ Good attendance
- ✓ Positive behaviour
- ✓ Strong attitude to learning


Trips include:

 Alton Towers

 Drayton Manor

 Walesby Forest

 Bowling & Cinema

 Planet Bounce & Indoor Golf

👉 Great attendance gives students the best chance to be included!

🌟 A Final Message

Every day at school matters. Being in school supports not only learning, but also friendships, confidence, and future success.

Let's keep working together to ensure all students finish the year strongly!

Thank you again for your continued support

Uniform and Equipment



🌟 Supporting Students to Be Fully Prepared for Learning 🌟

Uniform, PE Kit and Equipment: A Helpful Reminder for Parents

As we move through the term, we would like to thank you for your continued support in helping students arrive at school prepared and ready to learn. A few simple reminders around uniform and equipment can make a big difference to students' focus and success each day.

Blazers

Students should continue to bring their blazers to school every day. Blazers remain an important part of our school uniform and help promote a smart, professional learning environment. If there are any changes to this expectation, we will always communicate these clearly via Arbor, so please keep an eye on messages there.

PE Kit Expectations

PE kit should only be worn on days when your child has timetabled PE lessons or practical enrichment activities. On all other days, students are expected to wear full school uniform.

When wearing PE kit, please note:

- Shorts should **not be tight-fitting**
- Shorts should be **at least mid-thigh length**

These guidelines help ensure comfort, practicality, and appropriateness for all students.

Ties

Ties should be worn at all times as part of the school uniform and should not be kept in pockets. Wearing uniform correctly supports our shared high expectations and school pride.

Equipment Packs – Essential for Every Day

We have noticed a recent decline in the number of students bringing their equipment packs to school. Having the correct equipment is vital for learning, and students are expected to bring their equipment every day. Each equipment pack should include:

- Black pen
- Red pen
- Whiteboard pen
- Whiteboard
- Whiteboard rubber
- Ruler
- Eraser

Students who do not have their own equipment will be given items to borrow during the day. These must be returned at the end of the day. If borrowed equipment is not returned, the cost will be charged to the parent Pay account.

Students can also purchase equipment directly from school, either using cash or by requesting the cost to be added to their ParentPay account.

Your support in checking uniform and equipment each morning is greatly appreciated. These small routines help students feel confident, organised, and ready to achieve their best.

Thank you, as always, for working in partnership with us. 🌟 **Let's return to school looking smart, feeling prepared, and ready for a brilliant term ahead!**

Please continue to ensure students wear full, correct uniform and arrive fully equipped each day. "Dressed for Success and Ready to Learn" isn't just a slogan it's a daily commitment that sets the tone for respect, readiness, and success across our academy. 📌 **Full Uniform and Equipment Guide (2025–26):** [Download here](#)

Uniform Reminder 🧑

A gentle reminder to parents and carers that it is really helpful for all items of school uniform to be clearly labelled with your child's name.

Whilst we always do our best to help locate and return lost items, unfortunately this is very difficult without names in clothing, and it is not always possible for staff to keep track of individual items throughout the school day.

Adding a name helps ensure that any misplaced uniform can be returned quickly and easily.

Thank you for your support in helping us with this.

Parent Information and Guidance





● Keeping Our Community Safe – Important Message for Students



We want everyone at OIEA to feel safe, supported and confident to speak up if they're worried about something happening in the community.

The police are currently asking all schools across Derbyshire to share important information about serious violence and knife crime, and how young people can report concerns safely. Even though the campaign is based in Derby City, the message is relevant to us here in Erewash too.

What Is Fearless.org?

Fearless.org is a website where young people can report information about crime 100% anonymously, meaning:

-  You don't need to give your name
-  You don't have to talk to the police

-  You can send information safely online
-  You can get advice if you're worried about something

Fearless is run by Crimestoppers and is designed especially to support young people.

Why This Matters

Even small bits of information can help keep people safe.

Crimestoppers say:

“If you know something about knife crime, where knives are kept, or if someone is planning to hurt someone, you can tell us anonymously. What you share could help protect your community.”

This is why police are asking schools like ours to make sure students know how to report things safely and anonymously.

If You Hear or See Something...

If you ever become aware of:

- Someone carrying a knife
- Someone trying to sell knives to young people
- People talking about violence
- Anything that makes you feel unsafe

You can:

- Talk to any trusted adult in school
- Report anonymously on **Fearless.org**
- Call **999** if it's an emergency
- Call **101** for non-emergencies

You will never be in trouble for telling someone about something that worries you.

We Are Here to Support You

If you ever feel unsure, scared, or just want to talk through something, you can go to:

- Your Head of Year
- Any teacher
- Our safeguarding team
- Pastoral staff

You are never alone - we are here to help.



We have included some key information and helpful guidance for parents and carers below. Please have a read and stay up to date with what's happening at OIEA.

[Keeping your Child Safe Online](#)

Should you require extra support please see below services who may be able to help:

Mental Health and Emotional Wellbeing:

[Derby and Derbyshire Emotional Health and Wellbeing](#) signposting to a wealth of support agencies.

Online Safety:

[NSPCC guide to online safety](#) giving parents and carers a full and comprehensive guide to keeping young people safe online, from setting up parental controls to reporting online safety concerns.

Support in the Community:

[Arena Community Foodbank](#)

[Info on exam stress - for 11-18 year olds | Mind](#)

[Parental controls - UK Safer Internet Centre](#)



1 - OIEA Safeguarding Team

Should you have safeguarding concerns about a child during any school's half term breaks please contact [Derby and Derbyshire Safeguarding Children Partnership](#) for support.

Talking to Your Child About Inappropriate Images Online

At a recent safeguarding event in Sheffield, the Internet Watch Foundation (IWF) presented their “Think Before You Share” campaign. This initiative aims to help young people understand what is safe to share online, how to protect their privacy, and how to respond if they come across inappropriate or harmful images.

Key advice for parents:

- Remind children not to share images or videos that could put them at risk.
- Reassure them that if they ever receive or see something inappropriate online, they should not forward it, but instead talk to you or a trusted adult.
- Let them know they will not be in trouble for speaking up — we are here to support them.

You can find more parent resources on the IWF website. <https://www.iwf.org.uk/about-us/our-campaigns/think-before-you-share>

School Medicines: Guidance for Parents

Following some recent questions, we want to remind families that our procedures for administering medicines follow the OIEA medicines policy.

This means:

- All medication brought into school must be handed in via the school office.
- Medicines must be in their original packaging, labelled with your child’s name and dosage instructions.
- A completed parental consent form must be provided before we can administer any medication during the school day. <https://www.oiea.co.uk/admin/wp-content/uploads/sites/21/2024/10/Supporting-Children-with-Medical-Needs.pdf>



OIEA Summer Festival 🌞🎉

We are excited to invite our school community to the OIEA Summer Festival, taking place on Tuesday 21st July, from 4:30pm to 6:30pm at Ormiston Ilkeston Enterprise Academy.

This promises to be a fantastic event for families and the wider community, with something for everyone to enjoy. Attractions will include:

- Live music
- Food stalls
- Dance performances
- Inflatables
- Interactive golf
- Stalls and activities
- Face painting

Entry is just **£1**, and everyone is welcome!

We hope to see as many of you there as possible for what is set to be a fun and memorable evening.



🌟 Arbor Update 🌟

Below is a QR code that will take you directly to the Parent App information page, where you will find:

- Guidance on logging in
- Details about what the app can be used for

If you have any further questions, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

Arbor – Parent Portal
Getting started and logging in



Personal Development and Enrichment

Year 9's Visit to Bletchley Park

Our Year 9 students enjoyed another extremely positive and successful trip to Bletchley Park. Their behaviour was exemplary throughout the day, calm, polite, and respectful at all times. They were a real credit to the school, particularly in the way they interacted with other visitors, holding doors open and greeting others courteously 🙌.

During the visit, students explored the historic site and developed their understanding of the vital role codebreakers played during the war. They learned about how Enigma machines were used to encrypt messages and how these codes were eventually deciphered 🔍.

A particular highlight of the day was the opportunity for students to see and even use one of the last remaining working Enigma machines in the world, a truly unique and memorable experience 🌍.

Well done to all of our Year 9 students for representing the school so positively and engaging so well with this important part of history ✨.







Year 10 Visit to Derby College

A group of our Year 10 Pupil Premium boys visited Derby College campuses, including The Roundhouse and Broomfield Hall, where they enjoyed a fantastic and informative day.

Students explored the wide range of courses available to them after Year 11 and gained a valuable insight into college life. They were particularly interested in the construction site and trade courses, including plumbing, electrical work, and motor vehicle 🚗.

Throughout the visit, the students asked thoughtful questions about entry requirements and the grades needed to enrol on different courses, demonstrating a real engagement with their future pathways.

The day concluded at Broomfield Hall, which looked beautiful in the sunshine ☀️. Here, students explored public services, animal care, and horticulture courses.

Overall, it was a great experience for our students, and they represented the school impeccably with their excellent behaviour and enthusiasm 🍌.

Year 9 Kraków, Poland Trip

A group of our Year 9 students enjoyed a memorable four-day trip to Kraków, Poland, travelling from Thursday 30th to Sunday 3rd.

During their visit, students took part in a powerful and moving tour of Auschwitz-Birkenau, gaining a deeper understanding of an important part of history. They also explored the fascinating Wieliczka Salt Mines, as well as Kraków Old Town and the historic Jewish quarter of Kazimierz.

As well as the educational aspects of the trip, students also had the opportunity to visit Energylandia, Europe's largest theme park 🎢, where they enjoyed a well-earned day of excitement and fun.

This trip provided a valuable cultural and historical experience for our students, and they represented the school extremely well throughout 🌍.





OIEA Enrichment – Soapbox Derby Success

As part of the OIEA Enrichment Programme, students recently took part in the Ashby de la Zouch Soapbox Derby, where they designed, built, and raced their own soapboxes 🏁🚗.

The event provided a fantastic opportunity for students to apply creativity, teamwork, and problem-solving skills in a real-world setting. Throughout the process, students demonstrated excellent determination and courage, embracing the challenge from the initial design stage through to race day itself 💡.

The day was a great success and, most importantly, students thoroughly enjoyed the experience while representing OIEA with pride 🎉. We are extremely proud of the creativity, enthusiasm, and resilience shown by everyone involved ✨.

Thank you to all of the staff and families who supported students and helped make the day such a memorable experience 🙌.





Careers and Aspirations



Celebrating Student Engagement and Future Pathways

We are delighted to share some fantastic recent successes across our Eco and Careers provision at OIEA.

🌱 **Grow Your Own Sunflower Competition. A Huge Success!** Our Eco Group has been working incredibly hard planting, nurturing, and caring for 1,000 sunflower seedlings even singing to them along the way! 🌻

We are thrilled to report that around 600 sunflower seedlings have gone home with students, showing outstanding enthusiasm and participation from our school community.

Students are now invited to take part in the competition to grow the tallest sunflower.

Competition Rules

- Plant your sunflower in good-quality soil

- Nurture and care for your plant (singing encouraged! 🎵)
- Measure your sunflower when it reaches its peak height
- Measurements must be taken before October half term

Submit a photo of the student next to their sunflower, with a clear measuring tape visible

🏆 Prizes

💷 £10 per year group will be awarded to the student who grows the tallest sunflower.

Thank you for supporting students to take part in this eco-challenge and see it through to completion.



2 - Sunflowers growing nicely, thanks to Finley Harrison in Year 7 - keep up the good work! 🌻

🚀 Careers Update – Unifrog Engagement Boost


Unifrog plays an important role in supporting students to make informed decisions about their future. It provides clear, up-to-date guidance on careers, post-16 and post-18 options, apprenticeships, university pathways, and employability skills, helping students build confidence, reflect on their strengths, and make ambitious yet realistic choice's.

We are delighted to report a **40% increase in student engagement on Unifrog**, which is a fantastic achievement and reflects students taking proactive steps to explore future pathways, qualifications, and careers. Parental encouragement to use the platform regularly

continues to have a significant positive impact on students' motivation and long-term outcomes.

Virtual Work Experience for year 10 students

OIEA's Virtual Work Experience Week

 Monday 29th June – Friday 3rd July 2026

This high-quality programme will be delivered in school using Unifrog and provides students with the opportunity to gain meaningful work-related experience with well-known national employers.

Employers featured during the week include:

- Sodexo – Catering & Hospitality
- NHS – Healthcare
- Asda – Retail & Fashion
- HubSpot – Entrepreneurship & Business
- Metropolitan Police – Public Services

What does a typical day look like?

- 9:00am: Live webinar hosted by the employer (30–45 minutes)
- During the day: Students complete virtual work experience tasks independently using Unifrog
- 2:00pm: Live employer debrief webinar to reflect on learning

All students are off timetable for the full week, allowing them time to fully engage with the activities.

Why should students take part?

- Experience real employers and industries
- Develop key employability skills
- Strengthen CVs and future applications
- Gain insight into careers they may not have previously considered

If you have any questions about Virtual Work Experience Week or how your child can take part, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Thank you for your continued support in preparing our students for their future pathways.

Period	Timings	Tasks
Period 1	9am - 10am	Live webinar (9am - 9:45am) Students begin tasks (9:45am - 10am)
Period 2	10am - 11am	Students work on tasks
Break	11am - 11:20am	
Period 3	11:20am - 12:20pm	Students work on tasks
Lunch	12:20pm - 1pm	
Period 4	1pm - 2pm	Students work on tasks
Period 5	2pm - 3pm	Live webinar (2pm - 2:45pm) Discussion to end the day (2:45pm - 3pm)

Staff Spotlight





We are excited to feature Mrs Hatherley in this month's Staff Spotlight! Mrs Hatherley joined OIEA in 2023 and has been an integral part of our team ever since. To help you get to know her better, here are some of his answers to our spotlight questions.

Q - What is your role at OIEA?

Senior Head of House and Head of Courage House

Q - What inspired you to work in education?

I was inspired to work in education by my mum who worked as a primary school teacher, witnessing her passion for her job and her unwavering support for her students gave me the desire to make a meaningful difference in young people's lives.

Q - What do you enjoy most about working at OIEA?

The part of my job I enjoy most is building relationship with the students, supporting them through their school journey and watching them grow into in wonderful young adults.

Q - How do you help and support students to be their best?

I support our students by helping to remove barriers to learning and ensuring they feel safe, supported, and ready to engage. I build strong relationships with students so they know they have someone who will listen and advocate for them.

Q - What was your favourite subject at school and why?

My favourite subject at school was Geography, I really enjoyed the topics and it inspired me to travel and explore more of the world. I continued this passion by studying Geography at University in Wales.

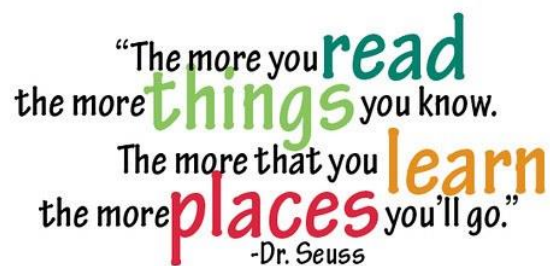
Q - Who was your favourite teacher and why?

My favourite teacher was my Maths teacher, I really struggled with Maths at school but he gave me the confidence and belief in myself and pushed me to achieve the grade I needed.

Q - What is your dream job? (other than working at OIEA?)

My dream job would be to travel the world!

Reading & Literacy



What are the benefits of reading for just 15 minutes a day?

Improved vocabulary - Regular reading exposes students to new words in context, helping them understand and use richer language.

Better concentration - Short, daily reading strengthens focus and attention span, which supports learning across all subjects.

Stronger comprehension skills - Even 15 minutes builds the ability to infer, summarise, and understand complex ideas.

Reduced stress - Reading is calming; studies show it can lower stress levels more effectively than many other activities.

Improved academic performance - Students who read daily tend to achieve higher grades because reading supports writing, memory, and critical thinking.

Greater empathy - Fiction in particular helps students understand different perspectives and emotions.

Long-term habit building - A short, consistent routine is easier to maintain and leads to lifelong reading habits.

Key Dates & Reminders



All term dates have now been published on the school website. Please take a moment to review them.

The school will be closed on the following dates

- Friday 26th June (Staff Inset day)
- Friday 4th December 2026 (Staff Inset day)
- Monday 22nd February 2027 (Staff Inset day)
- Monday 3rd May 2027 (Bank Holiday)
- Friday 2nd July 2027 (Staff Inset day)

Dates for the Diary

- School Summer Festival - Tuesday 21st July 2026
- Year 6 Open Evening - Thursday 1st October 2026 - Please share this date with anyone who may like to visit and find out more about our school.
- Year 11 Parents Evening - Thursday 3rd December 2026
- Celebration and Achievement Evening - Thursday 14th January 2027

Provisional dates for Parents Evening (3.30pm-6.30pm)

- Year 8 Parents Evening - Thursday 11th February 2027
- Year 9 Parents Evening - Wednesday 24th March 2027
- Year 10 Parents Evening - Thursday 13th May 2027
- Year 7 Parents Evening - Thursday 27th May 2027

Contact Us

Your voice matters to us! Whether it's feedback, suggestions, or news from around school, here's how you can get in touch with our team.

Ormiston Ilkeston Enterprise Academy

King George Avenue

Ilkeston, DE7 5HS

0115 9303724

info@oiea.co.uk

Visit us on the web at <https://www.oiea.co.uk/>

A Heartfelt Thank You We would like to extend our sincere thanks to each and every one of you!