

Principal's

UPDATE

Sunday 13th November 2022

Dear parent

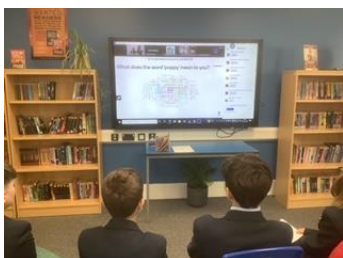
Welcome to the third Principal's update at the end of a very busy few weeks for students at Oasis Academy Sholing. As I complete this introduction, after watching the Remembrance Service at the Cenotaph in London, it is perhaps relevant to start with how our students and staff remembered the Armed Forces, and their families, from Britain and the Commonwealth. As well as the vital role played by the emergency services and those who have lost their lives as a result of conflict.

Remembrance



On Friday 11th November all students and staff participated in the 2 minutes silence at 11:00am. A personal thank you to Luke Groen who again led the event with his masterful playing of the Last Post. It was fantastic to see Sholing Infants students and staff listening as well in their playground. Students who were in cadets were allowed to wear their uniform including those pictured above Ben Davidson, Riley Gailor, Kadir Yurt and Reuben Little. As per previous years Oasis Academy Sholing students were exemplary in their behaviour and attitude throughout the event.

Selected students were also invited, earlier in the week, on Wednesday 9th November, to participate in an online workshop with schools across the world. They discovered the story behind the symbol of the poppy in remembrance on the 150th anniversary of the Canadian doctor and poet who wrote **In Flanders Fields**, John McCrae.



Anti-bullying week

Well done to our student anti-bullying ambassadors from across the year groups who are organising a number of events in support of anti-bullying week starting tomorrow. I know that Mrs Edwards, who is leading the team, is proud of the work that the ambassadors have started to implement and especially the first event to be held this Monday 14th, Monday-Odd Socks Day.

What is Odd Socks Day?

Odd Socks Day is designed to be fun! It's an opportunity to encourage people to express themselves and celebrate their individuality and what makes us all unique! There is no pressure to wear the latest fashion or to buy expensive costumes. All students and staff have to do to take part is wear odd socks to school to show individuality and raise awareness of bullying.

The anti-bullying ambassadors will also be presenting to tutor groups starting tomorrow and the assemblies will be focussed on Anti-bullying week. The ambassadors have made some excellent recommendations, which I have accepted and will be implemented from tomorrow, including:

- Tutor bases open for a quiet space for their tutor only at breaktime.
- Year group rooms for lunchtimes.
- An activity room with various board games.
- Table tennis at break and lunchtime in the Humanities area.
- Girls football section on the Astro at lunchtime.
- Procedures re-visited on how to report an incident of bullying.
- Transparency on what happens to perpetrators and victims.
- More visibility for students to report to anti-bullying ambassadors at break and lunch.

Rotary Club Cookery Competition



Preparations are again underway for our next batch of Rotary Cookery Competition entrants whom I am expecting to match the outstanding success last year when our Head Girl Beatrix made it to the Regional Final, beating students from both Hamble and Bitterne Park schools. The students have already practiced on starters pictured above:

Phoebe Patrick: Chicken and vegetable spring rolls with an Asian style dipping sauce.

Millie Bennett: Tomato bruschetta on freshly baked crusty bread.

Julia Fairclough: Greek salad with a side of freshly made flat bread.

Good luck!

Parent Tutor Afternoon Tuesday 8th November



Thank you to all parents who were able to make our meet the tutor afternoon last Tuesday. It was well attended with over 600 students being represented. The feedback has been extremely positive especially the variety of choice and the opportunity to discuss and listen a range of topics from SEN, mental health to Year 9 options and supporting your student during exams.

Year 7 parent forum

Thank you to those Year 7 parents who attended the first year 7 parent forum on Thursday. We discussed a number of topics and parents were given a brief introduction with a presentation on teaching using modern technology in the classroom from Mrs Read, Associate Assistant Principal. The group were also shown the lockers which will be offered to Year 7 students initially and a discussion around the queue system at lunch. We also discussed effective communication between parents and school including use of the MCAS system and using other apps.

INSET

A reminder parents that the academy will be closed on Monday 21st November for an agreed INSET, staff again will be contributing food and sanitary items for our Hub in support of those families struggling in the current climate. I believe this date coincides with the opening football game in the World Cup for England where they play Iran, for those interested.

And finally...

Well done to our very own Julie Whitelock, who as the lead for catering in Sholing, Mayfield and Lordshill won a national award presented by Sue Perkins (you may recognise her from TV). Hosted at the ACC in Liverpool Julie was against 600 other nominees from a range of businesses including health, education and services. We are really proud that Julie won as she has dedicated her catering team to provide food at Sholing for a number of years including throughout lockdown.

