

WELCOME

STUDENT TAKEOVER

Happy Easter!

My name is Olivia and I am honoured to have been elected this year's Student Parliament Prime Minister. My main goals for the remainder of this academic year are to work with staff and students to do the following;

- Get feedback on projects and events happening in school and hear people's thoughts and opinions on the events
 - Work with senior leaders to share my ideas on career opportunities such as interesting guests and potential work experience
 - Increase student extracurricular opportunities such as workshops and trips abroad such as how, recently, some students had the exciting opportunity to go on the history trip to Belgium and a life trip to the National Justice Museum in Nottingham.
 - I would like to work towards finding a solution to concerns about uniform during the extreme heat we sometimes see in the summer.
 - And finally I want to look at how we can further improve the praise and rewards system in school for all students by linking it even more closely to the newly brought in House system!

We wish you an egg-cellent Easter half-term and cannot wait to see you when we return!

OLIVIA JOHNSON
STUDENT PARLIAMENT PRIME MINISTER

MEET THE STUDENT PARLIAMENT

LILY D.

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER

I assist Olivia in her work for our school and help as much as possible with leading the Parliament and a lot of other activities around school.

OLAOLUWA A.

EVENTS MANAGEMENT

I help to plan events, think of new events to enrich student's lives and implement them.

DEXTER B.

MARKETING MANAGER

I put the pieces of the puzzle together.

MEET THE STUDENT PARLIAMENT

ALYSSA K.

ECO & ENVIRONMENT LEAD

I promote eco-friendliness across the academy. Part of this is recycling old pens and doing anything necessary to help the environment and the school be more eco-friendly.

EMILY H.

STUDENT SUPPORT

I make sure everything we do is in the best interest of the students and I help communicate these ideas with the anti-bullying ambassadors.

EVE-ELIZABETH H.

RECRUITMENT

I do things to improve your child's educational experience by recruiting people to join us. Our job is not one person only - It's a team effort!

MEET THE STUDENT PARLIAMENT

JOSHUA C. DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS

My job is to bring together the ideas of Student Parliament and support other departments where necessary.

OLGA S. CHARITY & FUNDRAISING

I come up with charity and fundraising ideas to make sure students are able to access all fundraising and other events.

THIS COULD BE YOU!

Do you want to **make
a change?**

Thursday, 2:30 in V3



REVISION

TIPS & TRICKS

START EARLY!

Effective revision is not something that can be rushed. The earlier you start and the more organised you are, the greater your chance of success. You'll be less likely to encounter stress or have to do last-minute cramming and pulling all-nighters in the library.

It's a good idea to have a routine with your revision where you aim to start and finish at roughly the same time each day. Try and revise in the morning as this is when your brain is fresher. Not starting until the afternoon means you're likely to wake up later and try to revise while tired.

DECIDE WHAT TO REVISE!

Look over your syllabus and decide how you're going to approach your revision. Find out the format for your exam as this will determine how much of the syllabus you need to revise.

For essay-based exams, you don't need to cover the entire syllabus and it will be more effective to learn some of the content in greater detail. Short, answer-based exams will require a broader, yet less detailed, understanding of the syllabus.

FIND METHODS THAT WORK FOR YOU

There are various revision techniques including flashcards, past papers, mind maps, group work and recording yourself talking and playing it back. There's an element of trial and error to finding what works for you, and bear in mind what works well for one exam may not be the best method for another. All the more reason to start early, as you need to take time to find out how you revise best.

MAKE A PLAN/TIMETABLE

Construct a detailed revision timetable, including any relevant papers or notes you need to look over. Block out time for socialising, exercising and any other breaks or plans you might have. Stick to this as best you can and avoid the temptation to jump straight into your revision without one.



REVISION

TIPS & TRICKS

EAT HEALTHILY

Eating a healthy, balanced diet will leave you feeling more energetic and focused. While revising, it can be easy to end up surviving off excessive amounts of coffee and junk food. This may be less time consuming but junk food leads to dips and spikes in blood sugar and too much caffeine can make you anxious – both of these will affect your concentration and energy levels. It's best to drink plenty of water and eat balanced foods to get the best from your revision time.

REGULAR EXERCISE

Exercise gets the blood flowing and makes for a nice respite from studying. Popping to the gym, playing team sports with friends or even going for a nice walk means more oxygen will reach the brain and help it function. This should also help you sleep better at night, meaning you'll be able to concentrate better and retain information more effectively.

TAKE BREAKS

Effective revision does not mean constant revision. Taking breaks during revision gives the brain a higher chance of remembering what you've crammed into it. If you start to lose focus, take a break and do something completely different. It's better to do five one-hour stints with breaks than to revise solidly for seven or eight hours

GET A GOOD SLEEP

This is especially important the night before an exam, but applies to the entire revision period. Getting to sleep at a reasonable time means you'll wake up earlier and be able to fit in more revision during the day time. Sometimes revising later is unavoidable, but try to keep late nights to a minimum.

GOOD LUCK YEAR 11s!

HIGHLIGHTS

THIS HALF TERM

WORLD BOOK DAY

In honour of World Book Day around nine hundred and fifty books were individually wrapped in tissue paper and labelled to be delivered to all students from Year 7 to Year 9.

The students received these books for world book day as a little gift from the school.

Not to mention our Staff's Fantastic Costumes!



PRIDE CLUB

Pride club have been working exceptionally hard on promoting inclusivity and informing peers about the LGBTQIA+ community and what it means. Recently Pride Club presented to the school in honour of pride history month to bring out what the history of the community actually is.



If you would like to join, come to S9 on a Wednesday after school.

By Emily H.

HIGHLIGHTS

THIS HALF TERM

ANTI-BULLYING

In Portland we don't tolerate bullying in our school because we want our school to be a happy learning place where students can thrive. However, bullying is a problem that students could face in their lives and we want to help prevent it here.

Students have created lots of posters to spread the message about anti-bullying and a lot of tutor activities tell the students about the different types of bullying there is. Students are also told about the 9 protected characteristics and the British Values. Students know that they can always talk to a member of staff/a trusted adult if they are being bullied. Students can always turn to the safeguarding team if they or someone they know is being bullied. Students know they can also call Mind or Childline.

SPORTING SUPERSTARS

Year 11 girls football team made it through to the semi-finals of the county cup. The girls played with amazing determination despite only having 9 players due to injuries. They won 2-1 against a good Toot Hill school team. We are so proud of their resilience and teamwork.

District Sportshall athletics

Year 8 boys and girls participated in a number of events including speed bounce, vertical jump, standing long jump, triple jump and running events. The boys came 3rd and the girls were a very close second. They all showed fantastic effort and pride in representing their school

By Emily H.

FEEDBACK FROM STUDENT VOICE

Another event we have held this half-term is a House Captain meeting, this is when we invited all of our House Captains throughout all year groups (to include a more collective approach from our students) and we asked about what each individual, and collective as a team, has as their highest priority. This half-term they decided that the focus is on the toilets system and the House system. While in this meeting, students made great suggestions which we will look into addressing in the future half terms.

Find the feedback they produced on the next page!

By Olivia J.



TASKS TO WORK ON

These are the feedback we collected from the Student Parliament and House Captain's Meeting.

Adapt and change the way that the toilet systems work to suit staff and students.

Look at ways that we can adapt the summer uniform when temperatures are high.

Work with leaders to gain more hands-on careers experience.

More extracurricular activities which are more accessible for all.

BADGES

WHAT DO THEY MEAN?



The most common badges that you will see students wearing are the Ace badges which mean that the students have attended a series of assemblies which have taught them important skills that will not only help them in school but throughout life. In addition to this these students are then given a booklet where they must fill it with signatures of teachers and members of staff to prove they have demonstrated these skills.

There are three difficulties; Bronze, Silver and Gold. They get progressively harder. They are harder than you might think. For example, one of the bronze signatures you might try to get is "My work is always PROUD". This may sound easy but takes dedication to get it right all the time!

HOUSE CAPTAINS

Another badge we have is the House Captain badge. People who wear this badge have been elected by their tutor groups that show that they represent their fellow students by attending evenings with the student parliament team. Also these students have shown great skills for example trust because their tutor groups have to trust that they will resolve the issues they might face at school.

SUBJECT CHAMPIONS

This badge shows that they are dedicated to their particular subject and have been chosen by their teachers demonstrating the three core values, Pride, Kindness and Resilience. These badges are amongst the hardest badges to get with only a selected few having the honour to wear them.

By Joshua C.



PORTLAND'S EGGCELLENT ATTENDANCE

Eggs-traordinary Attendance: Hopping to Perfect Attendance with the Easter Bunny!

To encourage students to continue with 100% attendance, we have entered all students that have 100% attendance for the week, in a raffle to win an Easter chocolate egg! These eggs were then delivered to the winning students from our very own Mr Leivars in an Easter bunny costume!

You had to be in it to win it...

By Emily H.



UPDATES

FROM THE MUSICIANS

Catching up with our Crescendo Chronicles

We recently had the music festival and we are so grateful to have had a talented group of students show their skills to the judges, and some incredible results!

We also have the 'Outwood Performer of the Year' coming up in July. The choir has also been to Nottingham Royal Hall to sing and it was an outstanding performance. We also got a Distinction in the music festival as a choir - how tuneful!

Congratulations to all performers; you were fantastic!

You might ask, how do we prepare to be the winners?

Firstly we did sessions practising our acts. The Music Department hosted after-school rehearsals, including choir, with the opportunities for solos, duets, and as a group! It's an incredible experience, way to show your talent and to improve your confidence!

By Olaoluwa A.



WRITING

CREATIVE WRITING CLUB

Once a week the amazing Creative Writing Club meets after-school during enrichment to devise new literary works.

This half-term we did something a little different, and we went on walking tour of the school, noting down words that we found on walls and display boards in classrooms.

We then used these words to create poems about school life.

Flip to the next page to check out the amazing poem by one our Year 7 students - Samantha L.

We are sure you will agree that it is beautifully written with a great message about our core values.

You feel very concerned
All the things you have and haven't learned
Thinking about your education
You have lost all spirit and motivation
On hearing the warning
You begin yawning
Losing all resilience
Followed by all shine and brilliance
The atmosphere was like death
Nervous, so you drew your breath
Do you pursue your professional career
Or watch your education disappear
Do you go to the places, people and staff
Or go out with your friends and have a laugh
Please regularly attend
Or your safe choices and journey may come to an end
While no one is looking you show an act of kindness
Or hearing thank you, you fill up with happiness
Expressing yourself through language and culture
Refusing to burst like a tire with a puncture
Hola, bonjour
Spending time in the classroom learning to endure
écouter, écouter
Don't let locked pathways get in your way
Staff understand it is difficult
Telling you off is not an insult
It is a way of learning from your mistakes
And doing whatever it takes
Be kind and what is mine is yours and yours is mine
Nobody expects you to be as smart as Albert Einstein
But answer this question
And pay attention
Now you have to become a good student
Know when you are at school you are polite and confident
You are resilient, kind and proud
Show everyone who you are and shout it loud!

By Samantha L

CONFERENCE

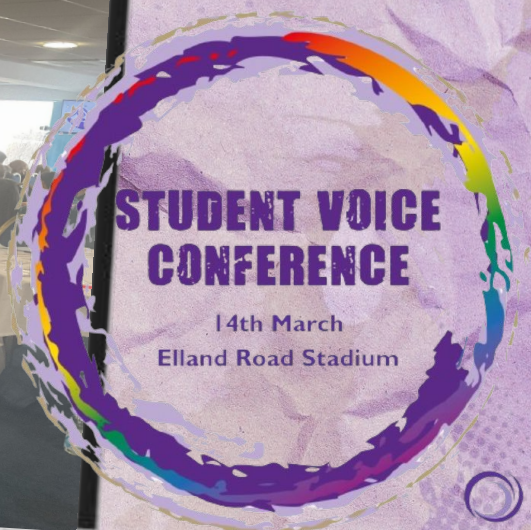
WELLBEING & DIVERSITY

This Wellbeing and Diversity conference was eye opening as to what can be done in the future. We had talks from Julie Slater - Outwood Academies Trust Executive Principal, Andy McVeigh - Burley Banksy, Pat Sowa - StarFish, Thomas Wales - Wakefield Pride, Mark Umpleby - Marching Out Together, and Andi Cope - Spectrum.

During this event the student parliament team got to hear a range of stories and complete a set of activities to see how wellbeing and diversity can change someone's life. Soon in the future the student parliament team will be presenting these new ideas to teachers to get the whole school on board.

All of these people made some wonderful points and with this new information the student parliament team hope to make changes to the wellbeing and diversity programmes to be more of what the current students want.

By Emily H



STIRRING UP SUCCESS - ARTISAN FOOD

This is an event in which sixteen students get taken every Thursday for four weeks to cook two dishes each week. On week one the students were given a box of ingredients that can be expensive but are needed in the recipes as a kind gesture. Throughout the weeks these dishes will be made. Week 1: Focaccia with a saucy dip, frozen yoghurt. Week 2: Chilli and rice, concha. Week 3: Fish pie with crisp potatoes, chocolate mousse. Week 4: Sneaky burgers with homemade buns, seasonal loaf cake. With each week there is a theme showing the students healthy food choices that are better for themselves and the planet. In addition, more learning to do with food and catering is done.

Looks delicious, well done!

By Alyssa K.



OUR COLOURS

DANCE FESTIVAL

It was amazing to see all of the Y10 Dance BTEC Performers in the OGAT Trust-wide 'Our Colours' Performance. There was such incredible talent displayed by all performers. Our AMAZING Portland dancers truly shone with their talent, enthusiasm and energy. It was also commented that our showcase was 'Stunningly Good' and one of the best in the Trust!

Congratulations to all involved, you performed stunningly and obviously we're the best in the Trust (*shh... don't tell anyone we said that!*)

Our Vice Principal, Miss Gascoyne, said 'I would like to thank the dedication and professionalism from all my Year 10 dancers. You are a pleasure to teach and collaborate with and I am so lucky to teach you!'



JUSTICE VISIT

NOTTINGHAM

At the Justice Trip we got to interact with some actors who played the roles of staff from the judicial systems of different time periods.

My favourite actor was the prison warden from the Tudor times who really embodied the character of the blunt and intimidating warden. He also let us go down the old cells and explained to us about the terrible conditions of the prisons for inmates, for example how the prisoners had to pay for a blanket in the freezing cells during the winter, and that the blankets tended to cause more problems than they fixed as they were not only threadbare but also infested with fleas and lice! It sounded really horrific and quite terrifying, and I was shocked when he told us about the conditions and I think it was so amazing how the actor managed to interact with us as a group and ask questions and tell us so many interesting facts, whilst also managing to stay in character as the warden.

By Kirsten H

SCIENCE FAIR

WE WON - YEAR 8!

The 2024 science fair was an incredible experience. It was an in-school project about aeroplanes and their history, functions, science and more.

Our team was made up of the individuals Dylan G, Tyler G, Ben H and Michael B. We were "Team Air".

Firstly, we competed against other students in our school with progressed us to representing Outwood Academy Portland against the Southeast region.

On the day, all the schools we competed against came to our main hall to show off the hard work they had done. For example: posters, demonstrations and models. After a long day of presenting to science teachers and fellow teachers, the results were shown and we had won. Next we will see if there is a national competition to take part in!



*By Michael B,
Tyler G
&
Dylan G*



THANK YOU FOR READING

HAVE A FANTASTIC HALF TERM!

WE LOVE YOUR FEEDBACK!

We've loved your feedback so far and are taking it onboard for this newsletter, we love to hear it so please let us know what you'd like to see!

