



# Autumn Newsletter

## Message from the Principal

Dear Parent / Carer

After working here for over 9 years the time has now come for me to say goodbye.

I have always felt privileged to be part of this community from early 2015 where our original parents put their trust in myself and Mrs Michels to open our Academy. I have been tremendously proud to be the principal here and watch as our Academy grew from just 34 children to over the 1100 that attend today.

I am delighted that once again the Academy is the one of choice for those in our community with both phases being oversubscribed for September 2024. We have received over 200 applications for the 150 secondary places in Year 7 and over 100 for our 60 Reception places, which is fantastic and a testament to all the hard work that staff and students have put in.

Over the last 9 years our Academy has gone from strength to strength, from our first 'Good' Ofsted in 2018, to last summer's Year 11 GCSE results where our students made the most progress in both Oasis and Sheffield from their starting point, to our Early Years provision which has achieved the accolade of being judged as outstanding in our most recent Ofsted inspection, a grade which it truly deserves.

I believe that the Academy is now in a very strong position as it moves forward, at the heart of this is a body of staff who are competent, enthusiastic practitioners, passionate to ensure that all of our students reach their potential and I have been very privileged to have been able to lead them.

I have been proud to work in such a diverse community and it is one that doesn't always gain the respect and recognition that it deserves however, I know that the students who attend Oasis Academy Don Valley will go on to enrich and represent their community in the best possible ways.

I would like to finish with two comments from our Ofsted Inspections one from 2018 the other from 2023 which I believe outlines exactly who we are as an academy:

***"This school has a brilliant approach to every different ethnic background and caters to every child's need".***

***Ofsted 2018***

***"This is an inclusive Academy that is committed to doing the best for its students and their community".***

***Ofsted 2023***

There is a relentless focus on ensuring that students benefit from a high quality education that will serve them well in their next steps.

Mr J Pape, Principal  
Oasis Academy Don Valley



## Attendance & Punctuality

Congratulations to all our students who have taken home a prize for their exceptional attendance. Prizes have been awarded to 5 students from each year group who were randomly selected from the 104 students who have achieved 100% for the Autumn term. Well done if you are a winner! Prizes have also gone home with the 5 most improved attenders from each year group, these students have been chosen as they have shown resilience & determination to increase their attendance during the second half of this term.

**100%**  
**Attendance**

The Fantastic 15 competition came to a conclusion today & 15 of our students have taken home a £15 Amazon Gift voucher. The winners were chosen at random from all the students who attended every day for the last 15 days. There were 516 students across the Academy who were included in the draw so well done if you were a winner!

Remember we celebrate exceptional attendance at the end of every term. We recognise and celebrate those students who have improved and shown resilience & perseverance to improve. We look forward to even more students taking part in the celebrations at the end of the Spring term.

## Y10 Lesson Hospitality and Catering -

The coursework requirements in y11 is to design a Nutritional dish that can be modified . Today we decided to do some mini coursework as a sample so pupils could see what is required of them in y11.

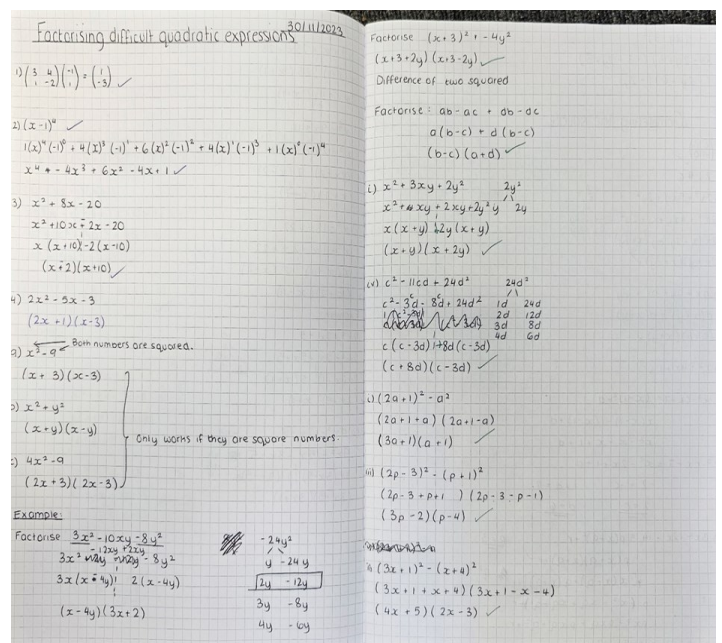
The specification for the lesson was to modify a pizza to make it appealing to the general public for a special event e.g. birthday or Christmas .

Pupils were creative in what they made, they made pizzas in the shape of Christmas trees , cars and balloons. Ms Benefer tasted their pizza and thoroughly enjoyed them . The work they did was quite impressive.



## Level 2 Further Maths Qualification Y10 -

Level 2 further maths is an extra qualification offered to students. It is an extension of the regular GCSE mathematics course that the students take. The intention is to help bridge the gap between GCSE and A-level mathematics. The course features topics that aren't usually covered until A-level. At the end of year 11, students will take two further maths exams (one non-calculator and one calculator) and will receive an extra grade for further maths. This course was offered at the beginning of October and has had a good turnout of eighteen students in year 10. We've so far covered topics such as matrices and binomial expansion and students have been putting in a lot of effort to learn the high level of content.



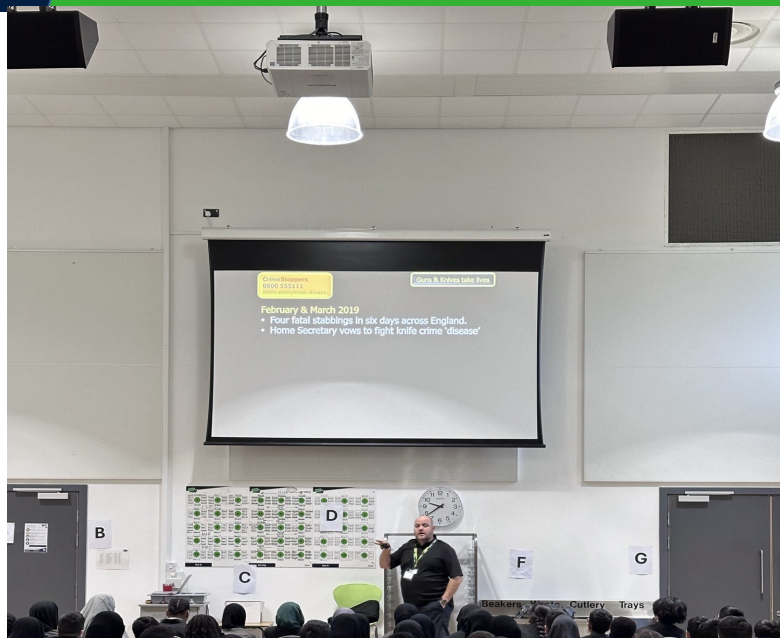




## Secondary

### South Yorkshire Police Visit -

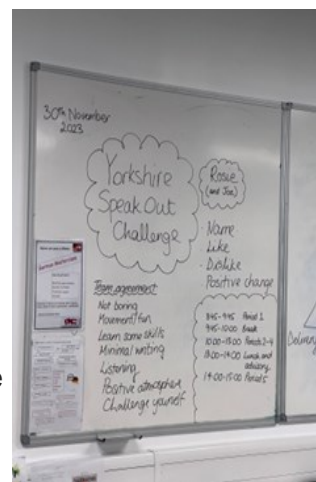
South Yorkshire Police delivered an important assembly December 12th. They learnt about how 'Guns and Knives Take Lives' - the present epidemic that puts us all at risk. It was a really provocative session that really educated students to understand the risks, impact and effect of this very serious crime.



### Speak Out Challenge -

I am so grateful to the Academy for presenting me with opportunities where I can really put myself out there and go above and beyond to show enthusiasm to myself and my studies.

I took part in 'the young voices speak out' day. Young Voices is an organisation which encourages children who feel passionately about English and express emotions through the English language with a chance to further advance skills through public speaking. During the day, I and 25 other students were invited to enjoy the day with professional public speakers who motivated and taught us a lot about public speaking. This day was memorable to me as it really helped me to develop my public speaking skills and also, I got a chance to challenge myself by public speaking in front of my peers, which seemed embarrassing at the start, however, I was able to conquer the embarrassment using a few tips from Joe and Rosie our trainers. In addition, out of the 25 students from year 10, I was one of the 5 students who got shortlisted for the School Final, to then be the one person who represents the school in the Yorkshire final. This is an amazing opportunity, and I am excited for the next stage. Whether I am the person who gets chosen out of the 5 shortlisted students or not, doesn't matter because I will have at least tried my best but also the success of my fellow peers is like my own success. Finalists alongside me are Hanad, Amna, Qanit and Aayanul. Overall, the day taught me a lot about not only public speaking, but also how to become a better person and appreciate those around me. It was a fantastic day which encouraged students to try something new with lots of fun opportunities and would hope to do it again in the future.— M.Javed Y10.





## Secondary

### European Languages Event—

Thanks to all the families and students who attended the European Languages Event this half term. We had lots of fun completing traditional crafts from German speaking countries. Key Stage 2 students loved decorating gingerbread hearts in a traditional German style. Key Stage 3 students enjoyed the Swiss lantern making workshop with Mrs Thompson. Miss Kofler taught us how to shape Austrian bread using play doh and we also had lots of fun making gingerbread houses and decorating them with lots of sweets. Afterwards we sat together to enjoy some traditional cakes – the Austrian ‘Sachertorte’- a yummy chocolate cake was very popular. Many thanks to all the families who joined us at the event and we hope to more of you will join us at our next celebration of German culture later this year.



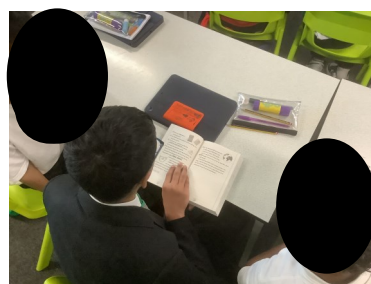
### Chess Club—

Every week students have enjoyed learning and developing their chess skills with Mr Leigh. In particular, they have enjoyed challenging Mr Leigh to games and winning.



### Book Buzz—

20 students in each Year 7 and Year 8 have been participating in BookBuzz with BookTrust, selected based on their high reading ability. Each group meets with the Literacy Lead once a week to read either silently or aloud and also debate whose book is the best! At Christmas our students read to primary school students. It has been lovely to see the students cultivate a love of reading.







## Secondary

### RomFest 2023—

OADV was very proud to host its first RomFest, a celebration of Slovakian Culture. More than 250 people attended the musical, dance and food extravaganza with guest input from Welcoming Future and Darnall Wellbeing. A huge thanks to Jade Wilkes, Hub leaders and Mr Dunka in particular who worked with 10 students to create this event for their community. It was a real success and celebration of diversity with families from all backgrounds attending. During the day, community cooks came to the Academy to help prepare food for the event - the kitchens smelled amazing.

The event was a celebration of Slovakian sound and movement with Basil Sage Dance group and local Slovakian musicians including Frantisek from OADV performing.

We are very excited for RomFest next year, with students already excited for its return.



### Restart a Heart day - 16<sup>th</sup> October 2023

This year OADV took part in the national effort to learn CPR. Students across Y10 and 11, with two honouree Y7 students were taught how to perform CPR. They learnt about how to teach CPR to others, rehearsed how they would explain each stage as they prepared for the day itself. On Re-start a heart day, more than 300 students were taught CPR by our leaders. The whole group were fantastic at developing CPR confidence and awareness. Students in Y6-9 were trained with many asking about enrolling into the teaching group next year!

A huge well done to all that took part!



### OCL Student residential 2023

Each year, students get the opportunity to develop themselves within the Trust. In November, we were able to recommend students to be part of the OCL Student leadership residential. Students in Y10, Qanit and Ruwaid, both successful leaders and ambassadors within OADV said 'yes' to the chance. Staff that attended feedback that all students were exceptional and fully immersed themselves in the process.

Here are their reflections for the their 3-day trip;

**Qanit** - I went to the residential as a student of Oasis Don Valley. The residential was a very successful trip as it helped me understand the basic fundamentals of leadership. It was also a positive and fun experience as the organisers planned a lot of great team activities to keep everyone focused and motivated. This also helped me understand the way people socialise and it also helped me understand diverse cultures more effectively so I am more open minded and social. This can also affect my future as I will be going into the real world and experiencing cultures and meeting people from all over the world.

**Ruwaid** - Personally, I think that the residential was such a great opportunity to go into the real world and be more socially active with people who are strangers and become their friends. I thought of this experience as it will open doors for me and help me communicate with people who I have no experience with and help me understand more cultures as it was a diverse environment. I also thought that it made me realise that you can start off with nothing just as Steve the Founder of Oasis and can do anything you can imagine just like opening businesses, schools and more. Also, it was a fun and interesting experience as we all got together and played games and had social time. I was friends with everybody and was entertained. We had conversations about who we are and how we experience schools. Also, a really good opinion I have is that if I go out into the real world after my GCSE's I can be more socially open and have an open mind about people.



## Secondary

### Speakers4Schools CEIAG talks

Across the academic year so far, students have enjoyed the opportunity to listen to and ask questions to professionals across a number of industry fields and sectors. In October students in y9-11 listened to Danica Novgorodoff talk about her work as a graphic novelist. Students found out about how to persevere with the creative process. They got tips and insight into how to get into publishing.



In September students across Y10 and 9 accessed a session led by Dame Sue Hill, chief Scientific Officer at NHS England as part of a series celebrating 75 years of the NHS.



### Key Stage 4 Art Trip - Yorkshire Sculpture Park

GCSE Art students enjoyed a full day exploring YSP. They learnt how to do sketches from Primary sources and were able to explore many amazing sculptures and exhibitions. Thankfully the weather held out, so there were lots of opportunities to draw works by Henry Moors, Ewin Wurm and Damien Hirst. The sketches from the day were used as part of a foundation project of the day that can be submitted alongside their component 1 coursework. Huge thank you to Mrs Awad and Miss Roast for supporting the day, it was really fabulous to be so creative together.







## Secondary

### Y7 and 8 Advisory Representatives - Learn with the Lords

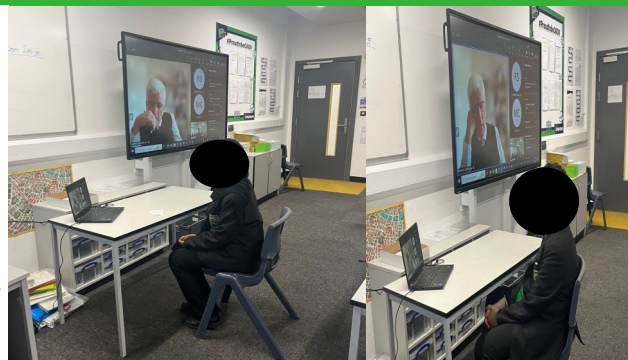
What an amazing experience for our y7 and 8 Advisory Representatives in October.

They enjoyed a session interviewing Lord Browne of Ladyton, a member of the House of Lords and previous minister in the government.

Students planned their questions and explored all kinds of things including;

- Where Ladyton is
- Lord Browne's hardest decision in politics
- His thoughts on the present challenges in the UK and world
- and what kind of student he was at school

This was an amazing opportunity and all students were fantastic role models for the Academy.



### Your Time -

Y9 and Y10 students have been enrolled onto the National 'Your Time' Girls leadership campaign. They are presently working through online modules and will be developing a sporting event to deliver to girls in our Primary school in the summer term. They have already done 3 modules and received their official badges in December!

### PE—

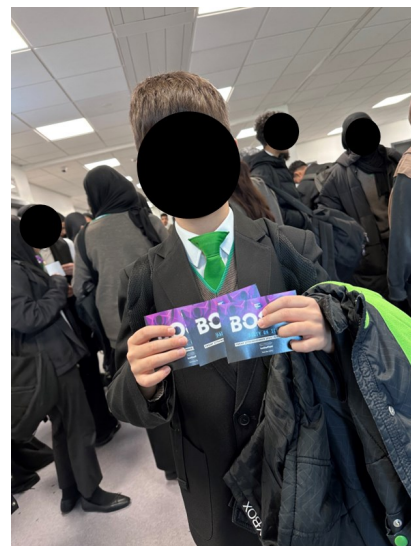
An update from PE about how great this term has been with the engagement of students in both internal academy events and external events. The first was the Sports Leaders programme launched in October for Y9 students, we had lots of students who applied for the Sports Leaders course run by forge and 21 have completed the Sport Leader training. Those students continue to be an excellent representation of Oasis Don Valley PE supporting with the Santa Dash which took place on the Olympic Legacy park on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> December.

It has also been amazing to see how many students engage with sport after school the boy's football has been one of the most attended extra-curricular clubs by all students. Our Y9 boys represented the Academy in their first fixture against Astrea, all the boys were amazing demonstrating some fantastic leaderships skills, independence and resilience throughout.

Girl's football and Netball are new clubs that would love to see more students pushing themselves out of their comfort zones. Miss Diallo also has a very enthusiastic group of badminton students who love to challenge her to a game on a Monday after school, but PE would love to see more students take this challenge on.

More recently we have taken some of our most committed and hard-working Y7 and Y8 students to watch the British Figure Skating Championships at Ice Sheffield on Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> November and Friday the 1<sup>st</sup> December. We noticed a lot of our students had a passion for Ice Skating when we were given vouchers from Ice Sheffield for the Friday night skate they hold, we were super proud of how over 100 of our students went to the Friday night skate.

PE are excited for next term where we want to begin to introduce more fixtures and opportunities for students to compete against other schools.







## Secondary

### IMAX Cinema—

On the 24<sup>th</sup> November 128 year 8 students attended a screening of asteroid hunters. The students started the year studying space during their science lessons so to be able to see such vivid images of the topic they had been learning about was incredible. The screening was provided by the 'Into Film Festival' and introduced asteroid scientists—the best line of defense between Earth and an asteroid's destructive path—and revealed the cutting-edge tools and techniques they use to detect and track asteroids, and the technology that may one day protect our planet. We were lucky enough to watch this on IMAX – many of us couldn't believe how big the screen was! Everyone was amazed at the images of space and walked back to school having enjoyed the experience.



### Science club

September 2023 saw the launch of the new science club for year 7 8 students after school on Mondays. We have seen a steady stream of students attend to practice their practical skills in the subject. We have had a lot of fun doing a number of activities such as making slime, blowing up a balloon using a chemical reaction and making a buzz wire game. The students have shown excellent maturity and passion during this time. I am looking forward to the next half term! Anyone from Year 7 and 8 is welcome. Speak to Miss Balding if you have any questions.

