

The Ongar Optimum

The Ongar Academy

20 October 2017

Issue 11



From the Headteacher

Dear Reader,

It has been a great start to the year as we have moved into our new buildings and started to embed ourselves and the new students into our wonderful facilities. Our recent open evening was a massive success. We estimate that over 900 people visited the school that evening and the students acting as guides for the evening did the school credit.

Even in our third year, we are still celebrating 'firsts' and I wanted to extend my thanks to Mrs Suttle for taking Year 9 on the recent theatre trip to "A Woman in Black" in the West End. The evening was a great success and again, our students received praise for their conduct during the evening. We will hopefully have more opportunities to do trips like this in the future.

Coming soon, our attention turns to the grand opening on the 16 November where the school will receive a visit from visiting VIPs and

Michael Foale CBE, an astronaut, who will officially open the academy.

I wanted to share that the school has finally managed to secure its partnership with Moulsham High School in Chelmsford and together, we have now formed the new 'Bridge Multi-Academy Trust'. This new partnership will see the teachers working together across our two great schools which will secure better learning and teaching for all the students in our care. I have always felt that schools were stronger together, collaborating and growing capacity together. This new relationship will give us the capability to know that we will have a secure foundation upon which to build in future years. Hopefully, our partnership will extend beyond our doors as we seek partnerships in all areas going forward. Both the Chief Executive of the Trust, Mark Farmer and myself are committed to a 4-19 model and we would like to grow

the Trust to match that philosophy.

Finally, I wanted to pass on my sincere thanks to parents who have helped and assisted in the PTA so far this term. We are looking forward to the Round Table fireworks on the 4 November, held at The Ongar Academy for the first time, where our PTA will be present.

The commitment shown has been very welcome as we grow and it's pleasing to see real progress being made in their fund raising.

If you would like to help or assist with the PTA in any way, please contact ongarpta@gmail.com

I look forward to writing to you again at Christmas.

David Grant
Headteacher



E-Safety Day

E-Safety Day – Friday 29th September

On Friday 29th September we welcomed John Woodley to The Ongar Academy to deliver the Walk Online Roadshow to our students. John is one of the “2 Johns” known within the Essex area for providing children and their parents with comprehensive, up to date information on how to stay safe online. John, who works extensively with the Essex Safeguarding Children Board, is an EST e-safety trainer for the police force and a CEOP ambassador, qualified to deliver the ‘Think U Know’ training courses.

John’s wealth of experience with the online world that our students inhabit is second to none and his manner with the students, outstanding. John praised the behaviour of our students during the presentation and said that the maturity demonstrated, particularly during some of the difficult year 9 sexting conversations, was exemplary.



John will return to the school on Wednesday 18th October to deliver a presentation to parents about the dangers online and what can be done to keep children safe. Places are still available. The evening starts at 5:30pm until 7:00pm. We look forward to seeing you there.

Mrs E Ledwidge
Assistant Headteacher



STEM Club 2017

It has been a busy start to STEM club this year with lots of new enthusiastic faces from all year groups. We have started with some Science experiments that students wouldn't complete in the class room until GCSE! Keen to use the shiny new equipment, the STEM enthusiasts took on the GCSE practical's and mastered this challenge.

We have used a burette for titration, combusted some magnesium and observed the Alkali metals whizzing around the pneumatic trough. Watch out for what's to come in the last STEM me before half term. After half term we will be starting a project to lead us to Christmas and we will be giving some engineering a go!

Miss H Montgomery

Assitant Faculty Leader: Science





The Ongar Academy: Music Department

Carols by Candlelight in London



I am delighted to inform our School Community that The Ongar Academy's Choir have been invited to take part in a candlelit Carol Service held in St Mary and St Michael's Church in London on Thursday, 7th December. Therefore, I would be delighted if your son/ daughter would join the School Choir in a fantastic evening of music-making in one of London's historic churches.

This free and unticketed event will take place in St Mary and St Michael's Church (Commercial Road, London, E1 0AA) at 7pm. The coach will leave School at 3.30pm and will arrive at the Church at 4.30pm in good time for rehearsals and a break. After the event, we hope to arrive at The Ongar Academy at approximately 9.30pm and we expect School uniform to be worn.

There is no cost for the price of transport, but I would advise your son/ daughter to bring a packed lunch as food and drink will not be supplied. There are a limited number of places on the coach, so get in quick! This is a wonderful privilege to sing in this Large-Gothic-Revival Church, affectionately known as the 'Cathedral of the East-End' and parents/ carers are warmly invited to join us.

Mr A Camillo

Subject Leader: Music/ Year 8 Leader

Singing at St Martin's, Ongar

Following on from our success at last year's Carol Festival in Ongar, I am proud to announce that our school choir have once again been invited to take part in this year's celebratory event. The Carol Festival will showcase singing from nearby Primary and Secondary Schools and will be held in St Martin's Church (near the High Road) in Ongar. The Festival will be held in the Church from 5pm-6.30pm, and families are welcomed to stay afterwards for some further celebrations in the High Street.

Mr A Camillo

Subject Leader: Music/Year 8 Leader

Guitar Club

Guitar club is a completely new club that is led by Daniel Noble and Calum Lowe in Year 8. It is all about exploring guitar techniques, harmony and various musical repertoire as a group. Our aim is to learn basic chords, basic tab and to strengthen our skills in playing Music. For instance, we plan to work on songs by Ed Sheeran, such as 'Castle on the hill'. Anyone is able to join the club which will be held in F12 every Thursday lunchtime.



From left to right: Freddie Gibson; Bradley Parish; Daniel Noble; Calum Lowe; Myles Read

Daniel Noble, 8A

Student Co-Leader for Guitar Club

The Ongar Academy Choir

I have been attending Choir since year 7, but since Mr Camillo has been here to teach us, we are challenged even further in extending our vocal techniques and repertoire. We are currently working on Christmas songs such as 'Hark The Herald Angels Sing' and 'O Little Town of Bethlehem' because nearer to Christmas, we are attending a Carol Service at St Martin's Church and a Carol Service in London...Not to mention our own Christmas Concert! We have been working on two-part harmonies to our Christmas songs which have been sounding great! We can't wait to see what future choir will bring us and where future trips may take us. Feel free to come along and join!

Megan Epstein-Knights, 9C

Student Leader for Choir

Music Technology Club

During this club, we remix and create our own track by using a software called Cubase and Sibelius. We can put together already created tracks from the software or put single sound effects together to make a beat. Our Music Technology Club was extremely popular at Open Evening and is led by co-leaders, Freddie Gibson and Bradley Parish. The Music Technology classroom can hold up to 15 DJs and we would love if you would come and explore our club on a Wednesday lunchtime.

Written by Freddie Gibson (8D) and Bradley Parish (8B)

Instrumental Music Lessons

The Ongar Academy is building a reputation of musical excellence and now offers instrumental and vocal tuition at the School. We are working with Essex Music Education Hub and are able to offer music lessons on all instruments. Students may opt to receive individual **20-minute** or **30-minute** lessons per week. Instrumental music contracts are available from the Music Office and students will be placed on the waiting list.



Left to right: Matilda Gibson (7D); Molly Knight (8B)

Overview of Events

Event	Where	Dates
Carol Festival	<i>St Martin's Church, Ongar</i>	24/11/2017
Carols by Candlelight	<i>St Mary & St Michael's Church, E1 0AA</i>	07/12/2017
Christmas Concert	<i>The Ongar Academy</i>	15/12/2017



The Ongar Academy: Physical Education

District Netball

The year 7, 8 and 9 girls had their first district league match on Thursday 28th September against West Hatch.

All teams played extremely well and worked as a team right up until the final whistle.

The year 7 final score was 7-5 (WIN)

The year 8 final score was 4-22

The year 9 score was 9-20

Teams consisted of;

Year 7- Cadi Rae Furman, Issie Towler, Alana Dade, Gracie Judge, Lucy Hunter, Zoya Olds, Annabelle Smith, Leah Bode, Missy Atkins, Neive Dewey and Paige Marshall.

Year 8- Harriet Pickering, Daisy Smith, Hollie-Mae Corpe, Sofia Read, Olivia Stahl, Maddy Penny, Sophie Francis, Millie Sheen, Amber Dewey and Ellie Howlett.

Year 9- Kayci Chapman, Amelie Koppel, Kassie Bell, Leyla Bubb, Chloe Moffatt, Shannon Loughton, Poppy Walker, Charlotte Wright, Summer Cracknell, Sophie Bundy and Jessica Kearney.

The star players were as follows;

Year 7- Annabelle Smith

Year 8- Sophie Francis

Year 9- Kayci Chapman

Miss L Clark

Faculty Leader: PE and Arts



The year 8 team

Year 8 Netball

Well done to all girls who played in the match. The team consisted of both year 8's and 9's as follows;

Sofia Read
Olivia Stahl
Amber Dewey
Ellie Howlett
Amelie Koppel
Chloe Moffatt
Shannon Laughton
Charlotte Wright
Summer Cracknell
Kirsty Norfolk

Miss L Clark

Faculty Leader: PE and Arts



The year 8 and 9 team

Year 7 Football

The year 7's have started the year with great enthusiasm and commitment to football, and have had the biggest turnouts at training every week across any other boy's enrichment. They have played two matches, which unfortunately were both lost. Some highlights from the games were Jake Deller-Hendy's amazing volley into the top corner against Roding Valley and Ted Bodiam's man of the match performance, controlling the defence and showing great leadership throughout both games. Hopefully, with more training and hard work, we will see some more positive results.

Mr S Talbot
Teacher of PE



The year 7 team

Year 9 Rugby Tournament

The Year 9 Rugby Team played in a tournament at Davenant, but unfortunately they failed to win a game. However, we had three year 8's step up to play with the year 9's, with every single one playing fantastically well. The boys worked extremely hard and showed great resilience throughout the tournament. A special mention goes to Max Weeks who was voted Man of the Match, despite being a year younger than his peers.

Mr S Talbot
Teacher of PE

Year 8 Football

Year 8 started the league season on Wednesday 20 September 2017 with a strong performance at Roding Valley High School. Unfortunately, the game ended in a 3-1 defeat. The game could have gone either way with Roding defenders clearing the ball of their line three times during the match. All the boys played well with particularly strong performances coming from Kyle King on the wing, Oliver Pledge in defence and Rhys Crafer who scored the school's first goal of the year. However, man of the match was Bobby Morrish who was consistently quick off his line to relieve pressure on the team and pulled off a string of good saves to keep the game within Ongar's reach until the last couple of minutes. After this performance the team should be feeling optimistic towards the season ahead.

Year 9 Football

The year 9 football team have already played in 3 fixtures this year, including an Essex Cup game against a very strong team from Upminster where the boys would have learnt a lot. The WESSA league games have been hard battled game and although results are yet to go our way, the attitude and work the players have put in has been exceptional. Special praise goes to Matthew Humeniuk who has lead the team well and helped less experienced players around him. If this work continues throughout the year, the team will only get stronger and will start to produce some really positive results.

Mr A Gillard
Teacher of PE



7 reasons why you should learn a language

People often ask me about the reasons behind needing to study a foreign language therefore I thought I'd use this opportunity to give you 7 reasons (there are many more than 7!) to study a language.

1. **The cultural value** – Charlemagne (King of France 774-814) famously stated that to have another language is to possess a second soul. A second language allows you to access a new culture and its history and celebrations. You think and feel in that language and your personality is often different in that language than in your native tongue.
2. **Travelling opportunities** – speaking a language such as French or Spanish opens up so much more of the world to you. You often find that your travel experience is so much deeper when you can connect with the locals and find out about their life. They may even take you out on excursions to places few other tourists go and see!
3. **Increased brain power** – speaking more than one language affects the brain's executive control system. This part of the brain looks after high-level thought, multi-tasking and your attention span, thus a bilingual or multilingual person uses this part of their brain more than a monolingual person does. There is also evidence that the onset of dementia can be up to five years later in a bilingual person than a monolingual person.
4. **Employment** – a second language gives you a wider world to go and find a job in, as well as a variety of different occupations to work in. It also increases business opportunities, for the business people out there, as there are more potential partners to work with.
5. **University applications** – the Russell Group universities (the leading 24 UK universities) value languages highly and one of them (UCL) even has a formal requirement in place to have a GCSE language.
6. **Study or live abroad** – if you speak to your language teachers you'll find that we have worked and lived abroad at some point and that the experience was amazing. My two years spent living in Barcelona were amazing and have shaped my life significantly.
7. **Friendships** – one of the main benefits of speaking another language is you can suddenly find friends in places you never thought about. A family trip to France could end up with you making a life-long friend. These friendships and cultural understanding also allow us to become more open people. Ultimately though, these friendships allow us to have a bit more fun in life and this is really what living is about – having fun!

Mr S Díaz-Ward

Assistant Faculty Leader: MFL



The Ongar Academy: Humanities

The Dora Love Prize 2017-18

On Tuesday 26th September, myself and Mr Hadley took 10 students to the Dora Love Prize induction day at the University of Essex. After visiting the University for the competition in 2016 and reaching the final presentation evening, some of us already had an idea of what to expect. However, for others, it was a new, educational but eye opening experience.

During this one-day event, students had the opportunity to attend a series of talks and workshops which included an introduction from Holocaust survivor Frank Bright, learning about the life and work of Dora Love, as well as examining the full range of 'forgotten' Holocaust victims. As well as this, some workshops centred around modern day issues such as migration, prejudice and refugees in Britain, making the experience even more relevant to life in the present day.

The ultimate aim is for students to embark upon a project that will be developed over the coming months, based on the theme 'The Power of Words'. This will encompass not only the students involved, but the wider school and local community through performing in assembly, contacting local primary schools and raising awareness of victims of prejudice that still exist in society today.

The group will continue to meet in the coming weeks to plan and prepare, with the hope of being invited back to the University in January to deliver a confident performance.

Wish them luck!

Miss B Luckie

Subject Leader: Geography

About Dora Love



Dora Love in British uniform, Neustadt/Holstein,
26 January 1946.

Dora Love was born on 21 May 1923 in the small town of Plunge in western Lithuania, the third of four children of Hirsch and Jetta Rabinowitz. Her father owned a successful porcelain and glass business, and in 1924 the family moved to nearby Memel on the Baltic Sea. Four days after her graduation from the German lyceum in Memel, in March 1939, the German Wehrmacht occupied the Memelland, making it part of Hitler's Greater German Empire. Dora, her sister and one of her brothers were hurriedly smuggled out of the Memelland into Lithuania where she was re-united with the rest of her family in the little town of Šiauliai (Schaulen).

In June 1941, the Germans marched into Lithuania as part of their war against the Soviet Union. The SS quickly rounded up all Jews and crammed them into a Jewish ghetto set up in Schaulen. The ghetto inhabitants had to do forced labour, and in late 1943, when the ghetto was cleared, most of the inhabitants were transported, in cattle trains, to Stutthof concentration camp near Danzig. It was here that Dora experienced what she calls 'the depth of inhumanity' – her brother, her sister and her mother did not survive the inhuman and brutal conditions in the camp.

Dora survived, and in late April 1945, with Soviet troops advancing, she was one of the prisoners who were sent in small boats westwards across the Baltic Sea. Many of the prisoners died along the way; Dora was one of the few who reached the shores of Schleswig-Holstein after seven and a half days drifting

across the Baltic Sea without food or water. She was found by British troops. Among them was her future husband, Frank Love, whom she married in January 1946.

After her recovery, Dora stayed in Germany until 1948, working first for the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration (UNRRA) and then the American Joint Distribution Committee (AJDC), a Jewish relief agency, looking after concentration camp survivors who had nowhere to go. She soon became involved in a project to set up a home for Jewish child survivors in Blankenese, a suburb of Hamburg on the river Elbe.

In the 1950s, her husband's work took her to South Africa, where her two children were born. It was during this time, at the height of apartheid, that she began working as a teacher and giving talks on her experiences under the Nazi regime. She later settled in Colchester where she continued in her efforts to educate younger generations about the Holocaust.

Miss B Luckie

Subject Leader: Geography



The Ongar Academy: English

Public Speaking Club

Have you ever felt like you struggle to get your point across? Have you ever wanted the opportunity to argue and debate about important topics? Have you ever wanted to build your confidence to speak in front of others? The Ongar Academy are proud to announce the arrival of Debating and Public speaking club.

Alternating on Thursday lunchtimes, you will have the opportunity to truly practise the skill of debate with Mr Diaz-Ward in room S16. Debating on topics such as Uniform, Homework and Social Media, everyone has a fantastic opportunity to put forward different motions to explore. You will learn how to adapt your own personal views and opinions, in order to work successfully as part of your debating team. But, most importantly, you will be able to express your own opinions on topics that are important to you.

Alternatively, in room S18 with Miss Matchett, you can attend Public speaking club. Public speaking has always been of huge importance in school life, particularly for those of you who wish to have the confidence to take on Student Voice roles. Public speaking is not just about being able to write a good speech, but we explore the use of body language, simplistic but effective language and importantly the art of comic effect. Later on in the year, you will also have the opportunity to take part in competition run within the school. This will eventually lead to outer school competitions competing with other schools.

We hope to see you in S18/216 on Thursday lunchtimes in the future!

Miss B Matchett

Teacher of English/Drama

Mr S Diaz-Ward

Assistant Faculty Leader: MFL



Reading at The Ongar Academy

Midnight gang VS Grandpa's great escape

David Walliams is a very popular author and wrote both of these amazing books.

The first book is about a group of children who are stuck in a hospital. Each night at midnight the children try to make one of the other children's dreams come true. The children come together and call themselves the midnight gang. Although, not everything goes right. If I had the opportunity to have my dream come true, I'd want to be in a musical!

The other book is about a boy whose grandpa is losing his marbles. He's got an illness where he believes he's a pilot in World War Two and 'THERE'S NO CURE!' He has to escape from the gloomiest, darkest, most horrible place there is: Twilight Towers the old peoples home. I wouldn't want to go there and I don't think you would either!

I personally prefer 'Midnight Gang' because it hooked me more, and I managed to read it a lot quicker (they are both around 400 pages). I loved 'Grandpa's Great Escape' but I thought 'Midnight Gang' was a lot funnier and more enjoyable to read.

Written by Scarlett Myers, 7C

Journalism Club

The Boy who Lived



J.K Rowling has finally released the last spellbinding novel of the Harry Potter series. At the moment, it's as if the shelves are being robbed! All of the Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows books are selling out!

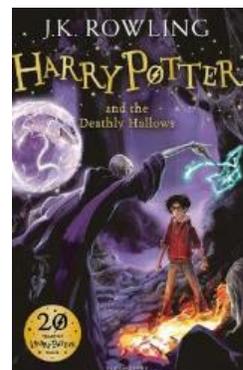
This magical tale is about Harry Potter and his two best friends: Ron Weasley and Hermione Granger. They go on a quest to find all 6 horcruxes to beat Voldemort once and for all. Hogwarts is under pressure with a new headmaster and Voldemort is getting more powerful every second of the day. Harry and his friends are getting nowhere at the start of the book but eventually they start to hunt for horcruxes.

We were lucky enough to get in contact with J.K Rowling, where she told us the following information:

"While each of the previous Potter Books has strong claims on my affections, Deathly Hallows is my favourite, and that is the most wonderful way to finish the series."

I think the Deathly Hallows book is an amazing, spellbinding tale that has an epic finish to the series. My absolute favourite part of the book is the magical 'Battle of Hogwarts' because you just don't know what is going to happen next until you turn the next page!

Anyone who reads this novel will feel addicted to the book!



Written by Kara Walker, 7C

Journalism Club



Creative Writing

Paradise

Silent, calm and peaceful,
Clouds drift pass slowly,
As the sun shines down on me brightly,
I'm in Paradise...

All I can hear is the Mexican, clear tide,
Coming in and out silently,
When I look around all I can see is hundreds of tropical palm trees,
I'm in Paradise...

It was as if I was in a world where there was no business what so ever,
The sky was as blue as a sapphire,
And the sand was as white as a million pearls,
I'm in Paradise...

The many different corals were a kaleidoscope of colour,
Lying there in the soft, relaxing breeze felt amazing,
Holidays all have to end but this one will stay in my heart forever...

Written by Kara Walker, 7C

Journalism Club

Why?

Scarlett-red blood stains are smeared against the murky-grey walls.

Vermillion handprints have stained the windows.

I see a matt-black silhouette staring directly at me.

I turn.

I run.

I run like my life depends on it.

I want to stop and let out all of my emotions but I know I have to carry on running.

I look behind me and the silhouette was on my feet.

I need to find my way out of here.

I hit a dead end.

A bare wall stands in front of me.

I turn around slowly slightly on edge, to see the obsidian- black figure overlooking me.

Suddenly, a sharp chill crawled up my spine.

Fear and panic flooded my mind.

What do I do now?

Do I fight or flee?

Without thinking, I dart off.

All of a sudden, everything went silent and pitch black.

Why?

Written by Gracie Judge, 7C

Journalism Club



How to Improve your GCSE Results



Want to achieve the best GCSE grades possible? Want to become successful? Well, look no further than this article. Read further for some top tips on how to achieve greatness.

Firstly, try not to miss any of the school year because your attendance has a big impact on your learning. If you are absent for one day a week each year then you have missed around half a year of learning, so of course your GCSE grades are going to drop.

Secondly, you should study every night to push yourself and, just remember, it will all be about what you have learnt. Revise in short, sharp bursts and take regular small breaks to ensure you are being effective.

Thirdly, if you wanted you could make a revision timetable so you would be able to see what you have to do, and once you complete it tick it off and you can feel a sense of achievement.

<https://getrevising.co.uk/planner> → **you can do this here.**

Fourthly, another thing you could do is to help one another because you might learn something from each other, and others could learn something from you! Mind maps are a great tool to because when you're in the middle of your GCSEs you will find it a lot easier to visualise in your mind.

Written by Chloe Bellsham, 8B

Journalism Club



Meet the Teacher!

This half term our news team interviewed Miss Robillart, Faculty Leader for MFL.

News Team: Which language do you prefer French or Spanish?

Miss Robillart: I prefer to speak French.

NT: Which language do you prefer to teach?

MR: I prefer to teach French.

NT: Do you have any pets?

MR: No, but I would love to have a dog.

NT: Who is your hero?

MR: My mum, because I am amazed as to how she is able to have a job, keep everything clean and look after all of our family.

NT: Where in France do you come from?

MR: I am from the North of France.

NT: What do you like about living in England?

MR: I like the language, the landscapes and the culture. But I am not a big fan of the food here in England.

NT: What made you want to move from England?

MR: I moved here to teach and because I wanted to have another experience in a different country.

NT: Do you have a favourite book, if so what is it?

MR: A French book called Les Rivières Pourpres (Red Rivers) it is a thriller by J.C Grangé.

NT: Do you have a hobby, if so what is it?

MR: I do lots of sport such as running. I also like to draw.

NT: What do you miss about France?

MR: I miss the food, my family and friends. Also the shops (supermarket) because they are different to those in England.

NT: What is your favourite English word and what is the translation in French?

MR: Hot air balloon; une montgolfière, but I don't know why this is my favourite word!

The News Team

Journalism Club