



The  
**Ongar**  
Academy

Parental Bulletin – 7<sup>th</sup> December 2018

Week Commencing Monday 10<sup>th</sup> December 2018 will be A Week.

### **WORD OF THE WEEK**

Next week, the word of the week will be: Intermediary - A person who acts as a link between people in order to try and bring about an agreement; a mediator.

Synonyms: mediator, go-between, negotiator, a person who intervenes, a person who intercedes, intercessor, arbitrator, arbiter, conciliator, peacemaker; middleman, broker, agent, liaison, linkman.

We encourage you to discuss this word with your son/daughter.

### **THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK**

*words* HAVE NO *wings*  
BUT THEY CAN FLY  
*A thousand* MILES

### **STUDENTS OF THE WEEK**

Year 7 – Rocco Biagioni  
Year 8 – Cadi-Rae Furman  
Year 9 – Caitlin Horne  
Year 10 – Amelia Stanley

### **OUR CHRISTMAS TREE**



We would like to extend our deepest thank-you to Bonnetts Garden Village in Brentwood for generously donating us a Christmas Tree, and D.Haley Electrical Supplies for supplying our Christmas Tree lights! They have truly gotten us into the Christmas spirit! We hope that we can make this a wonderful Christmas tradition.

You can find them both on Facebook: @BonnettsGardenVillage  
@DHaleyElectricalServicesLtd

And on their websites:  
[www.bonnettsgardenvillage.co.uk](http://www.bonnettsgardenvillage.co.uk)  
[www.dhaleyelectrical.co.uk](http://www.dhaleyelectrical.co.uk)

## **CHRISTMAS EVENTS**

TOA is getting into the Christmas spirit this year with a generous amount of events and fundraisers. If you can assist our PTA with any of these events, please get in touch with them. Please see further information below: -

## **LAST DAY OF TERM**

The last day of term is Wednesday December 19<sup>th</sup>, and school will close at 12:10pm.

## **CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT**

We are thrilled that our school choir have been invited to take part in a candlelit carol service, held in St Mary and St Michael's Church in London, on Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> December 2018. This is a free event, if parents and carers would like to spectate.

## **JOURNALISM CLUB – TUESDAY 11<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2018**

Due to our Carols by Candlelight event in London, on Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> of December, Journalism Club will be cancelled. Students are welcome to stay on at homelearning club until 4:30pm.

## **CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION**

We are proud to present our first Christmas Performance and Creative Arts Showcase at The Ongar Academy on Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> December at 7:00pm. Parents and carers are welcomed, and encouraged to attend and support this event. Our lovely PTA will have refreshments available for you. Please find attached the original letter sent, if your son/daughter is interested in taking part or you would like to attend, please return your reply slips to the school office as soon as possible.

## **ONGAR CAROL FESTIVAL**

We would like to thank our parents/carers for their support at the Ongar Carol Festival. The evening was a huge success and we look forward to working together with our community again next year.

## **CHRISTMAS JUMPER DAY/CHRISTMAS DINNER**

We will be taking part in Christmas Jumper Day on Friday 14<sup>th</sup> December 2018. Students and staff are asked to donate £2, and wear their brightest, funniest, craziest Christmas jumpers. To add to the festivities, our staff and students will be able to enjoy a Christmas lunch from our canteen – payment of £3 (£1 if your son/daughter is eligible for free school meals) must be paid via Wisepay by Friday 7<sup>th</sup> December 2018, to ensure our kitchen enough time to place their orders. We will make sure that all students can enjoy this special occasion together with staff, and we would like to reassure parents and carers that there will be a vegetarian option, and any other dietary needs will be catered for.

## **AUTUMN TRACKING LETTERS**

Autumn Tracking letters will be sent home electronically and via students on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> December.

## **STUDENT ABSENCES**

We would like to remind parents and carers that absences for your son/daughter due to your personal appointments will be unauthorised. We discourage you from taking students out of school unless it is absolutely necessary. We do understand this is a difficult season, but we do encourage you to bring your son/daughter in with necessary medications. We are here to support you and your child/ren. Please see attached the NHS guidelines for school absences. These are the guidelines we use for authorising absences – this will be strictly followed and absences that are not recommended by the NHS will be unauthorised. Persistent absence may result in parents/carers being called in for an attendance meeting, and can ultimately lead to a penalty fine. If you would like to discuss any attendance issues, please communicate these with Mrs Penberthy. As previously stated, we are here to support our parents/carers. We appreciate your ongoing support with this.

## **COMPUTING CLUB – TUESDAY 11<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2018**

Computing club is cancelled on Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> December. Students can stay on site until 4:30pm.

## **WINTER ATTIRE**

Please encourage your son/daughter to wear a winter coat! So many of our students do not have the appropriate outerwear, and during flu season, we want our students to stay warm and safe.

## **CHANGE TO THE SCHOOL DAY**

We would like to remind parents, carers and students, that as of January 2019, our school day will be changing. Further information was sent out in a letter, which is available on our website under Parents Zone – Letters Sent Home. We encourage and welcome feedback from you.

## **COMMUNICATION**

Please find below contact details for the Heads of Faculties:

English	Mrs Suttle	staffpsu@theongaracademy.org
Maths and Computing	Mr Simpson	staffjsi@theongaracademy.org
Science	Mrs Manning	staffema@theongaracademy.org
Humanities	Mr Hadley	staffsha@theongaracademy.org
Creative Arts/PE	Mrs Clark	stafflcl@theongaracademy.org
Technology and Art	Mr Savill	staffgsa@theongaracademy.org
Modern Foreign Languages	Mr Diaz-Ward	staffsdi@theongaracademy.org

If you need to contact the Headteacher please use the following email address:  
[head@theongaracademy.org](mailto:head@theongaracademy.org)

For any queries regarding your Wisepay account, please use the following email address:  
[wisepay@theongaracademy.org](mailto:wisepay@theongaracademy.org)

Our staff will endeavour to respond within **24 hours**.

## **SOCIAL MEDIA**

We would like to thank our parents and carers for their positive feedback via social media. We appreciate your ongoing support!

Please make sure to keep an eye on our Facebook and Twitter accounts for regular updates, both using the handle @theongaracademy

## **PTA UPDATE**

If you would like to support us at any events coming up this year, please let us know at [ongarpta@gmail.com](mailto:ongarpta@gmail.com). Follow us on Facebook via **THE ONGAR ACADEMY PTA**. You can also contact us on twitter @ongarpta.

## **CHRISTMAS EVENTS AT TOA – VOLUNTEERING WITH THE PTA**

A quarter of the money we've raised to date is because you buy our refreshments and support our raffles! The school's Christmas production is coming (13 Dec), once again we'll be selling refreshments and hosting a raffle, but we need you!

1. Do you have a raffle prize you can donate?
2. Can you spare an hour to support our refreshment stall?
3. Will you buy a drink/raffle ticket on the night and support us to support your child(ren) at our lovely school?

We value your support and the school always benefits. DM or email us on [ongarpta@gmail.com](mailto:ongarpta@gmail.com) if you'd like to help.

## **DATES TO REMEMBER**

Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> December – Carols by Candlelight - London

**Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> December – Christmas Celebration**

Friday 14<sup>th</sup> December – Christmas Jumper Day and Christmas Lunch

Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> December – Last day of term – School closes at 12:10pm

## **FIXTURES**

To keep up to date with our latest results, please keep an eye on our PE departments Twitter page, via the handle @OngarPE, and encourage your son/daughter to regularly check the PE board and their MILK accounts for more information regarding fixtures.

- Year 8 and 9 Basketball vs. Debden @ Home. Tip Off at 3.45pm

*If you do have any issues related to school which you would like to discuss, please do not hesitate to contact the school office.*