



Orchard Park is recognised for 'exceptional education'



We are delighted to announce that Orchard Park High School maintains its overall judgement of good following an ungraded (section 8) inspection, with compelling evidence suggesting that the inspection grade might be outstanding if a graded (section 5) inspection were to take place.

The inspection revealed an outstanding level of education provided by the school, affirming its reputation as a beacon of learning within the community.

Inspectors made the following key points in their report:

- **Students benefit from an exceptional educational experience characterised by high expectations and a nurturing environment.** Leaders maintain a strong focus on character development, fostering polite, articulate, and motivated learners. The school's character programme equips students with vital life skills, ensuring they excel academically and personally.
- **The school has a robust sense of community and fosters a safe and orderly environment conducive to learning.** Staff members are deeply familiar with each student, providing extensive pastoral support.
- **A diverse range of extracurricular opportunities is on offer** including character clubs, sports, music groups, and

educational outings. These experiences enrich students' learning and contribute to their personal growth.

- **The ambitious curriculum ensures effective knowledge and skill development for all students.** Teachers demonstrate strong subject knowledge and employ varied teaching methods to engage learners effectively. The school's emphasis on literacy is evident through bespoke support for struggling readers and a culture that promotes a love of reading.
- **Leadership is committed to high standards and continuous improvement.** Leaders have robust systems in place to ensure consistently strong practice amongst staff and are conscious of the pressures of workload. The governing body plays a vital role in supporting the school's priorities and ensuring effective governance.
- **Robust safeguarding measures ensure the safety and well-being of all students,** contributing to a positive school culture.

As Orchard Park High School continues its journey of excellence, leaders remain dedicated to enhancing the educational experience for all students. The forthcoming graded inspection presents an opportunity to showcase the school's outstanding achievements and aspirations for the future.

Ms Moran, Headteacher, said: "I am extremely proud of our community. The staff and students show excellence and drive every single day and they live out our value of integrity by doing what is right, not what is easy. The warmth, kindness and respect amongst us make it a very special place. We are grateful to our parents and GLT for their ongoing support and look forward to the next stage of our ambitious journey."

Click [here](#) to view the latest Ofsted report on our website.



A message from the Headteacher

We have had a busy and successful term. In January we received our Character Quality mark, a result of two years of work, championed by Ms Ongley and enacted by every member of staff and every student. Two weeks later, we were inspected by Ofsted and, as you can see, received excellent feedback. Our sporting heroes have gone on to secure many achievements this half term and key stage 3 completed the Big Speech Competition. Equality Club raised awareness of a number of issues, mainly the empowerment of women in our society. Year 11 have completed their final round of mock exams and now embark on a period of intense revision ahead of the real exams which commence in May.

My thanks to all the staff who year after year give their very best to our students, especially during exam season. I wish our community a peaceful and restful Easter break (hopefully with dry, sunny weather).

Ms C Moran, Headteacher



Year 7 excel in Brilliant Club

Congratulations to all the Year 7 students on the Scholars Programme (Brilliant Club) for graduating at the beginning of March.

The theme for the programme this year was 'Music with a message: Understanding America through song'.

The students had seven tutorial lessons with their PHd tutor and wrote an essay with a minimum of 1500 words for their final assignment.

All the students passed their final assignment and attended a graduation ceremony at the Courtauld Institute of Art. Our congratulations go to all the students who spoke confidently about their experiences and the skills they have acquired by detailing what they did and what they can do now, as a result of being on the programme.

Mr Afriyie, Excellence Provision Co-ordinator



An update on Year 7

Year 7s second term with us has been another busy and exciting one. Everyone came back full of beans after the Christmas break, ready to work hard and as always, show real drive in all they do.

We've had some real sporting successes with both girls and boys teams, and some of our Year 7 girls even played up for the Year 8 girls football team, helping them become Croydon Tournament winners, and ending in a dramatic penalty shoot out which showed fantastic collaboration.

We have celebrated Chinese New Year by making lanterns, International Women's Day by writing inspirational quotes and displaying these around the school, and last week students have learnt how to greet people and spell their names using British Sign Language and celebrating sign language week.

We had a fantastic workshop with the Royal Shakespeare Company, where Year 7 students performed some parts of *Romeo and Juliet*, before taking a trip to The Globe Theatre to watch the real thing. They were an absolute pleasure to take on this trip, showing integrity and etiquette when out in our community. We even had a member of the public write into

the school to say how well behaved they were when travelling on the train. I am extremely proud of these young people.

All Year 7 students have also taken part in our speech competition this term and I have been amazed at how inspirational and heartwarming some of these speeches were. It was so great to see how proud they were of themselves and each other during the event.

We have had our new Year 7 parents coming to visit the school. It has been a joy to see our current Year 7 students proudly showing our new parents around. I have been proud at how confident and eloquent they all have been, but also touched at how much they want everyone to love the school as much as they do.

So two terms down and one to go... It is unbelievable how quickly it goes, but with each term these children are growing stronger, more confident, more able and more independent, ready for the rest of their journey through the school. They make me incredibly proud with everything they are achieving and I look forward to one last term of excellence with this dream team.

Ms Ruby, Head of Year 7

An update on Year 8

Year 8 have had another busy term, where students have participated in a number of activities.

Year 8 girls visited London for the Opening Door Opportunities Workshop at the KPMG London office on International Women's Day and, by all accounts, were a credit to the school.

In sport, the under 13 girls' football team, featuring Soriya, Keyanna, Kelly, Gabby, Fatou and Taliyah, won a Croydon SSP football tournament. They won every match until the final, where they succeeded in a nail-biting penalty shoot out.

Students have taken part in various activities within school – we recently learned sign language for British Sign Language week – learning a new sign every morning and setting a challenge to use it throughout the day. Many students also participated in the Big Speech competition and I was impressed with the number of students who showed confidence in standing up in front of their tutor group to read out their own speech.

Year 8 have enjoyed a mini competition with Year 9 to see who will come out on top in Sparx maths this week. Year 8's challenge next term is to get above 95%. A particular well done to 8ATT, who regularly get a 100% completion rate every week.

Recently, we held the Year 8 parents' evening, which was a huge success. It was lovely to hear such fantastic feedback from the teachers about the Year 8 students, as well as positive feedback from parents.

Finally to some personal successes. A big well done to Amalie (452), Alfie C (428), Falisha (342), Ruby T (275) and Keyanna (253), who have led the way in terms of Character points this term. They have continued to contribute in a variety of positive ways towards the school community and have shown excellence and drive across all of their subjects.

I wish everyone a lovely Easter break, and I hope the students come back well rested and refreshed ready to start the final term.

Miss Goodwin, Head of Year 8

An update on Year 9

Year 9 have continued to show hard work and dedication across their studies this term, and this has been reflected in their scholarly habits in and out of the classroom.

They continue to succeed with their Sparx maths –regularly finishing top in the whole school in completion rates. A big shout out to 9RASH and 9YOU, who regularly achieve a 100% completion rate. I know Miss Hansford and Miss Montebello take it extremely seriously! The year group's most recent success was a 97% completion rate, which is the highest in the school all year. I would like to commend them on their drive and excellence as we enter a significant period in their school career.

They will be considering their options for GCSE/KS4 in the coming weeks and it is important that they prepare themselves with the positive habits that they have instilled. I ask parents to ensure that they support their child in this process of choosing their options and have conversations with them over the Easter break. Please encourage them to pursue their own interests and passions and to make the right choices for themselves.

We had Year 9 parents' evening earlier on in the term and it was a pleasure to engage with so many parents. The feedback from parents and staff was overwhelmingly

positive regarding Year 9 and it was wonderful to hear about the progress they are making across the curriculum.

A huge well done to Janice (415), Charis (364), Kamari (308), Chloe N (307) and Abdul (303) who have continued to shine both across all subjects and within the community and lead the way for the most Character points this term.

I wish all of Year 9 a wonderful Easter break and come back ready and fresh for the new term as they make key decisions in their future.

Miss Goodwin, Head of Year 9

An update on Year 10

With the consistent presence of Mr Mathys in the morning, and the effervescent Mrs Ruby in the afternoon, Year 10 have been led through another excellent term.

Character shout outs (recognition of student excellence written by teachers) punctuate both the morning and afternoon line ups. Particular praise must go to Georgia, who has had 13 character shout outs already, ranging from recognition of her polite behaviour in the corridor to achieving the highest score in her biology assessment. A

special mention for Ryan also, who has five character shout outs from different teachers for his excellence in PE, detailed answers in business and high level ideas in English. To reverse the traditional character shout out approach, a shout out should be given by the students to Miss Hansford, who has given out 42 character shout outs to Year 10s so far this year!

At this point, Year 10 students will be seeing the nerves, anticipation and, most importantly, the extreme focus of Year 11

students who are five weeks away from their first exam, knowing that in a year's time they will be in the same position.

It is good news then that teachers say Year 10 lessons are consistently excellent, with lots of important learning and hard work taking place from period 0 to period 5. Year 10 students will sit their first full suite of mock exams towards the end of the summer term. Keep it up Year 10 and your hard work will pay off.

Mr Shah, Assistant Headteacher

An update on Year 11

Our Year 11 students have been exceptional this year, showing great dedication to achieving the best possible grades in both rounds of the Pre Public Examinations (PPEs). Their attitude to their PPEs the first time round was impressive, but they improved significantly for the most recent exams, setting such high standards for themselves going into their GCSEs. We are really proud of them.

It is extremely important now that they build on this positivity, with outstanding focus and effort in every lesson and exceptionally hard work outside of lessons. This can be shown by attending champion's hours, working lunches and the many additional lunchtime and after school classes that their teachers are putting on. It is also important that they are committing to more independent study. On school days, they should be aiming for a

minimum of three hours independent study, with more during weekends and holidays. We want them to take confidence from both rounds of PPEs and focus now on the actionable steps that their teachers have given them to be confident in their final term here before sitting GCSEs.

The school will be open for Year 11 students during the first week of the Easter break: Tuesday 2nd to Thursday 4th April from 10.00am to 2.30pm. The SSC will be open to all Year 11 students during this time, as a silent, supervised study space for independent revision. Subject teachers will also be running additio

nal revision lessons for students across the three days. You will receive further information about this, and whether your child has been invited to a specific session,

along with a summary of the work that they need to complete over the Easter break.

As we approach the end of this term and enter the last term for the Year 11 students here at Orchard Park, we look forward to celebrating this with them at their prom. This will be held at Farleigh Golf Course on Thursday 4th July and we'd love to see every one one of them there. Students should speak to me if they are yet to purchase a ticket.

It has been so great to hear so many positive shout outs for individuals at our line ups, and the chocolate rewards and year group morale has been enjoyed by both students and staff! Attendance and punctuality is so important now for Year 11 students, so please continue to encourage this – we thank you for your support.

Ms Walsh, Head of Year 11



Learning BSL with Equality club

Equality Club has organised many exciting and engaging events this term. Firstly, they planned and created a PSHE lesson on 'racism and recognising it' which was then taught to Year 8 students. In addition, a few members took part in every assembly for a week performing the *Barbie* monologue in celebration for International Women's Day, along with many other fun activities.

During British Sign Language Week, last week, Equality club chose to teach students short and common phrases in British Sign Language (BSL), along with the way to finger spell their name within their form time and line-up.

It is safe to say that much is to come, including the Eid Bakesale, which takes place on the first Monday back from the Easter break.

Sophie, Year 9 student



House news

Our main competition this term has been our 'Big Speech'. All students in Years 7 to 9 took part in public speaking training and everyone performed a 30-60 second speech on a topic of their choice. Alongside this, Year 10 students took part in the Jack Petchey 'Speak Out' challenge.

Congratulations to our semi finalists who all won in their tutor group and a huge shout out to our overall winner, Micah. The results table can be viewed below.

Ms Ongley, Assistant Headteacher

	Attenborough	Hawking	Parks	Rashford	Yousafzai	Year group winner
Y7	Eva-Mae	Lakshman	Lily	Asya	Micah	Micah
Y8	Trinity	Alfie	Amalie	Matthias	Keyanna	Keyanna
Y9	Molly	Zephaniah	Dasko	Charis	Niamh	Niamh



Year 7 enjoy a visit to Shakespeare's Globe

Our entire Year 7 cohort were treated to a performance of a very modern reproduction of Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet* at Shakespeare's Globe Theatre on London's south Bank.

The play, whilst conducted using the original play script, also employed the use of BMX bikes and found sounds for accompaniment, which made it very interesting to watch.

The children were incredibly well behaved, and the Globe staff told us how impressed they were with our students' behaviour. We also received a phone call from a member of the public praising the conduct of the students whilst travelling to the event. Well done to Year 7!

Ms Ongley, Assistant Headteacher

Students explore history from Medieval England through to the Blitz!

Orchard Park students have been producing some excellent and thoughtful work in their history lessons this term.

Year 7 have been exploring key features of life in Medieval England, and have now moved on to study the impact of the Tudors in English life.

Year 8 have been learning about the crucial developments of the Industrial Revolution and are now studying the fascinating events around the campaigning of the Suffragists and Suffragettes for female votes.

In Year 9, students have been developing their source analysis skills by considering the extent to which the 'Blitz Spirit' genuinely existed in wartime Britain. Source analysis is a key skill for GCSE History, so this will help students in making their option choices in the summer term.

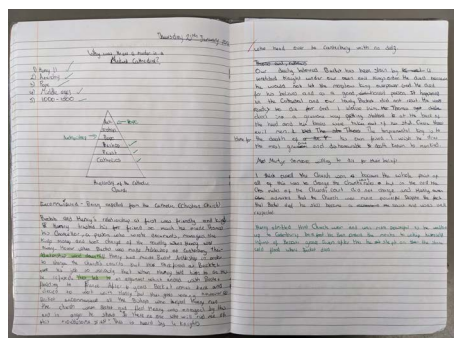
Year 10 have just completed their first GCSE

unit, Crime and Punishment in Britain, a huge unit covering 1000 years. As you can imagine, this is very challenging, and we have been impressed with the maturity and dedication of the large majority of our Year 10s.

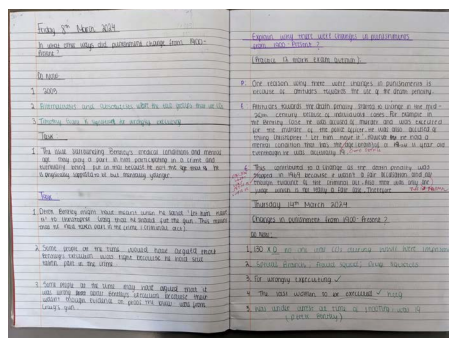
Finally, Year 11 have now received their Spring PPE results. A number of students have made significant improvements in history, even more impressive considering it was the first time they completed the full set of exams, and over only two weeks. Their hard work and revision is paying off.

Special mention goes to Carly, Daniel, Kasia, Fatima, Amelia, Alex, Joel, Nathan, Ben, Landen, Rebecca, Myles, Hollie, Rohan, Morgan, J'adore, Zak, Lashante, Danilo, Denise, Filip, Regan, Andrei, Andra, Daishon, Dwight, Olivia, Isabella, Sami, Rehan, Olivia, Charlie, Jonathan and Bianca.

Mr Samsouondar, Head of History



Nived in Year 7 is demonstrating excellent understanding here of the structure of the Medieval church.

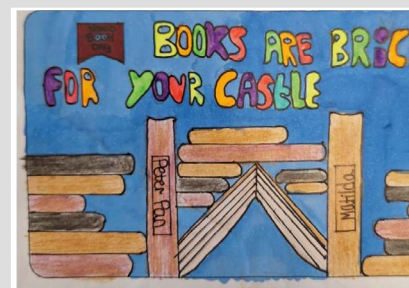


Amira in Year 10 is developing her use of the PEE technique for paragraphs in exam questions.

Year 10 meet the professionals

Our Year 10 students were recently treated to an enlightening and inspirational 'Meet the Professionals' careers event.

Five professionals from a range of industries gave up their time to participate in a Q&A session hosted by Mr Mathys. They discussed their career journeys, what their current roles entail, the career highlights and the challenges they have overcome along the way. The panellists were: Taryn Fayers – Head of HR for the Central Functions for Delinian; Shahneila Saeed – Head of Education at UKIE and Director of their Digital School House; Sam Farah – Co-founder of Equitive UK, who has also worked for the BBC as Head of Journalism for the Middle East and North Africa; Alusine Kamara – Director of Blacks in Boardrooms Ltd and Catherine Okonkwo - founder of COMI Health. It was a great opportunity for our students to discover more about the world of work.



Celebrating World Book Day 2024

We marked World Book Day on 7th March with a full week of activities at Orchard Park High School.

We had seventeen entries for the national design-a-book token competition, with Molly scooping the Orchard Park first prize of a £10 book token for her outstanding submission, pictured above. Sofia and Sidona were close runners up. We wait with baited breath to see if any of our entrants claimed the £500 national first prize.

The World Book Day quiz was won by Jodie, Sidona, and Tina's team, who dazzled Ms Simons with their knowledge of authors, varied genres, and literature adapted for the screen.

Our Book Bingo event continued into the following week, with our students canvassing their teachers, friends, and family members for book recommendations. We would like to thank all students and members of staff who participated in the events.

Mr Douglas, English Teacher

MEMO mental health project

Orchard Park is working with Kings College London on its research into mental health and the teenage brain. Students in Years 8, 9 and 10 received assemblies led by Dr Kirsty Griffiths, who came to talk to our students about the MEMO project which looks at teenagers, their mental health and changes over time.

If your child would like to be further involved in the project, they can respond to the email you received. They will then be sent an email to join the study. Both you and your child can receive up to £75 in e-vouchers for participating.

Eco club winners

Eco club ran a sustainable art competition this term, with the winners receiving up to 500 house points. There were a range of amazing entries from dresses made out of old sheets and a jelly fish made out of carrier bags. Well done to the winners: Jaydanay (first place) in Year 7 for a range of animals, Michelle (second place) in Year 9 for a tropical rainforest and Daryun (third place) in Year 7 for a transformer.

Ms Feist, Head of Geography



Time for science

The science department planned a series of activities to celebrate British Science Week (8th to 17th March), under the theme of 'Time'.

Highlights of the week included a whole school poster competition and a STEM club challenge. Some students created posters showing how a certain type of technology had changed over time or even the advancement of time-telling technology itself, while some students went futuristic and showed us how they thought the world might look in years to come.

STEM club students have been working tirelessly for the last few weeks on their challenge to create a device that could measure time accurately.

Mr Ramnarain, Head of Science



Girls head to KPMG on International Women's Day

As part of our International Women's Day events on 8th March, Year 8 girls visited the KPMG London office for the 'Opening Doors to Opportunities' programme, which forms part of KPMG's commitment to open their doors to one million young people by 2030.

The programme was designed to give students the insight, skills and confidence to thrive in the world of work. Supported by the staff at KPMG and Talent Foundry, students used some essential skills by taking on some of the challenges people face today while experiencing what it's like to work at KPMG.

The visit provided our students with an essential insight into the world of work

and allowed them to engage with KPMG colleagues from different parts of the business

Being part of the programme helped our students develop core transferable skills, including communication, problem-solving, thinking creatively, positivity, confidence, resilience, leadership, and teamwork. It also enabled our students to explore and learn about emerging and innovative technologies.

Overall, our Year 8 girls thoroughly enjoyed the day, and some have started thinking about working in such an environment.

Mr Alabi, STEM Co-ordinator

Students thrive in financial skills workshop

As part of National Careers Week, our Year 9 and Year 10 students took part in a 'Thrive' financial skills workshop.

The money management workshop was a fun and welcoming experience that taught me how to budget money in preparation for when I'm older or even in situations my age now.

They used real-life circumstances and asked us what we would do in them. We then all completed an online survey to further educate us on the importance of budgeting.

Volunteers from Clearwater at the end of the session allowed me and my peers to freely ask questions about their money experiences but also how they got into the career they are working now. They told us about the alternative opportunities they were given, despite the options they chose for A levels, GCSEs, or even the degree they

completed, because of the range of extra-curricular activities they participated in which is appealing to modern employers. Overall, I think we agreed the workshop was greatly enjoyed by 10Parks.

Georgia, Year 10



PE department highlights

Department success:

- The Year 8 netball team placing a very respectable second position in the Croydon schools league, only losing in the last quarter of one match all season. Of course, the team is looking forward to the Croydon schools netball team, when they will hopefully secure the win next time.
- Hayden F (Year 10) was awarded a four year scholarship to play football for Wolverhampton Wanderers. We cannot wait to see him in the Premier League one day.
- Out of the three students put forward for the District Football trials, we were overjoyed when all three students were successfully chosen. Congratulations go out to Pjeter M, Ollie L and Micah B
- Joe W who scored in the dying minutes of the year 10 football match against Quest. This shot was hit with power in the top corner of the goal to secure the win and was only slightly more impressive than his corner shot. This was hit with flair and accuracy directly on goal in the most recent year 10 game against Bullerswood (and yes it was on purpose).
- Jacob O (year 7) who scored an impressive equalising shot, which deserves recognition for his ability to cut in on his left to beat the keeper and to shoot with power.

Ms L Hansford, Head of PE



Disneyland Paris – here we come!

I am excited to announce that we are rapidly approaching the departure date for the trip to Paris. Students will spend a day visiting famous landmarks, such as the Notre Dame Cathedral, and immersing themselves in the splendour of the French capital. The second day will be spent at Disneyland Paris, where students will be able to experience world-famous rides.

Year 11 students are also approaching their final exams, after a successful PPE period. We wish them the best of luck.

Mr Facey, Head of MFL



Friends of Orchard Park has relaunched

The Friends of Orchard Park High parent-teacher association (PTA) has relaunched for 2024 – look out for the first AGM next term. They are hoping to fundraise creatively and use platforms such as easyfundraising to make the most of the free funding that exists. They are still in the early stages, but keep an eye out for more information next term through the school website ([here](#)) and twitter account.

Their first activity is a photography competition. They are asking students to take pictures under the theme of 'Croydon in Spring'. To enter, students should bring £1 to their form tutor, and they will then be added to a Google classroom group where they can upload their best photo(s).

Deadline for uploads is 30th April, so there is plenty of time for students to get their camera phones out and see what they can find. Photo editing and filters are allowed, but no AI.

This is being run as a 50:50 competition, where the entrance fees all get put into a pot, with 50% going towards prizes (Amazon vouchers) and 50% into PTA funds to spend on the school. The more students who enter, the bigger the prize pot will be!



Croydon in Spring Photo Competition

How to enter

To enter give £1 to your form tutor. You will be added to a group on Google classroom for you to upload your best pictures on the theme of **Croydon in Spring**.

50% of the money raised will go on prizes (Amazon vouchers) with the rest to the PTA for use in the school.

Deadline for uploads: 30th April

Prizes

- First place = 30%
- Second place = 15%
- Third place = 5%



Students display Orchard Park values in sports

This term sees the end of the winter sporting league and cup competitions. For this reason, the PE department would like to thank all the students who have committed to training each week (especially in the winter weather) and then representing the school in various fixtures since September. This takes dedication to the team, integrity when the score line does not reflect the team performance, and drive in terms of the time given up at the end of the school day. The end of the winter season now allows the department to switch the focus to summer activities, including rounders, cricket, athletics and tennis.

Highlight of the season



Back in January, the under 13 girls' football team represented Orchard Park in a seven-a-side tournament organised by Croydon Schools and held at Coombe Wood. Our group first faced The Laurels, where a dominant performance saw us winning 2-0 with goals from Keyanna and Kelly. We then drew a very difficult game with Riddlesdown 1-1, where the girls had to work hard to get the result; some key saves from Imade, a fantastic goal from Soriyah and tenacity from Evie saw us avoid defeat. We finished the group stage with a 1-0 win against Harris Crystal Palace to top the group ahead of Riddlesdown.

We then faced hosts Coombe Wood in the semi- final. The girls took control of the game early on. Great defending from Taliyah and Eja stopped any threat from Coombe Wood and Soriyah scored the key goal to put us through to the final. Coloma were the opponents in the final; another team that had beaten us in the league just before Christmas. Coloma also had a history of success in girls' football. Whether it was the chance to win a medal or the promise of Krispy Kremes, the girls played with a fearless attitude and a determined spirit. Gabby, Lilly and Keyanna never stopped running and Coloma struggled to get the ball from Soriyah.

Despite a couple of chances from either side, the game finished 0-0 and the winners would be decided on penalties – each team taking three each. Soriyah, Evie and Lilly all bravely stepped up and successfully scored their penalties, as did Coloma. It went to sudden death and Gabby also scored. Coloma's penalty taker slipped on the marker and hit hers wide and we thought we had won. However, after a quick discussion, our girls sportingly allowed their player to retake the penalty. Imade became the hero and saved the retake, resulting in us winning overall.

PE awards

The following students have been awarded athlete of the term in their respective year groups by the PE department. This award recognises the commitment of these students to attend training, the effort displayed in matches and the attitude that sets them apart.

Boys

Year 7	Pjeter M
Year 8	Alex S
Year 9	Justice G
Year 10	Isitha A
Year 11	Khalil O

Girls

Year 7	Fahmida K
Year 8	Amara O
Year 9	Deborah A
Year 10	Amira R
Year 11	Khyann J

See page 7 for some of this term's highlights and sporting successes.

Ms L Hansford, Head of PE

TERM DATES

Easter holiday

Friday 29th March to Friday 12th April 2024

Summer term 2024

Tuesday 16th April to Wednesday 24th July 2024

INSET day

Monday 15th April 2024 (school is closed to all students)

May Day bank holiday

Monday 6th May 2024 (school is closed)

Half term holiday

Monday 27th May to Friday 31st May 2023

INSET day

Monday 8th July 2024 (school is closed to all students)

End of summer term

Friday 19th July 2024

KEY DATES

Year 11 (2 of 2) parents' evening

Thursday 18th April 2024

Year 7 parents' evening

Thursday 9th May 2024

Eid Bake Sale (cash only)

19th April

Deadline for PTA competition entries

30th April



Proud to be part of the



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