

# The Oldham LORIC



Welcome to the fifth edition of the Oldham LORIC, our newsletter that celebrates all our students and staff have achieved.

It has been a busy start to the academic year: we welcomed our new Year 7 students, opened up our brand-new facilities and got back into the swing of the school routine.

The start of term has been all about strong starts both to school and all lessons. We have been focusing on the importance of being Proud, Prepared, Punctual, Polite and Positive members of our school community. Our first week back in September provided a range of teaching and learning experiences to

support the vision of us all demonstrating Our Personal Best, Every day, Every lesson.

In this edition of the LORIC, we are also proud to highlight the work of our community, from our wonderful volunteers to the range of events and activities on offer at our Hub, there are many opportunities to get involved.

We were also delighted to see so many people at our latest family forum; read on to see a selection of the valuable feedback they provided.

Leadership, Organisation, Resilience, Initiative and Communication

## Welcome from the Principal

We have already had a very busy start to term, with lots of exciting events and trips and the fantastic 'Establishment Week' where staff had the chance to outline some key messages and practices to all our students. As an academy, we are determined to continually improve this year. Our Summer results were an improvement on 2018, but there is still much to do. To that end, I wanted to share with you the four key priorities that will drive all our work over the coming year.



oasis

Academy:  
Oldham

### 1. Improving the engagement of our parent community

We know the importance of working with our parents and carers to do the very best for all our young people. We want to work with you in a united way, to ensure the highest standards are shown in uniform, attendance, punctuality and home work.

We greatly appreciate your support with these matters as we do all we can to get the very best out of the children's time in school. We will also endeavour to communicate more regularly and more positively with you – taking the time to celebrate our student's efforts and achievements. Research from the EEF (Working with Parents to Support Children's Learning, December 2018) and the DfE (Understanding KS4 attainment and progress: evidence from LSYPE2, October 2018), both emphasise the importance of an effective home school partnership to ensure the best possible outcomes for young people. All aspects of school improvement activity this academic year will be considered from the perspective of the parents/ carers.

### 2. Improving the literacy of all our young people

'Once you learn to read you will forever be free'. This quote, by the writer Frederick Douglass is framed in my office. I used it as the basis of my Welcome Assembly to all of our Year 7 students this year because I believe it so fervently. We have invested heavily in books and a new library this year to do all we can to foster a love of reading in our students. You will see lots of suggestions of suitable reading books in the back of the new student planners.

We have a moral imperative to ensure that literacy across the curriculum is well taught. Moreover, our pupils' literacy directly correlates to their communication skills and their emotional literacy. It is essential this year that we equip our students with the necessary communication skills to better prepare them for the rest of their adult lives. In order to improve our outcomes, we must also engender a love of reading in all our young people.

### 3. Building a collaborative and positive school culture for all our staff and students

All staff and students should come to school and feel valued, happy and safe. This is only done through a climate of mutual respect. Our staff have been trained in restorative justice and know the value of praising in public, remonstrating in private. We ask for our students and our parent carer community to support us in creating a harmonious school setting. Our Oasis 9 Habits should characterise the lived experience of all our staff and students and this will only happen with a collective will to adhere to our 5 Ps in all daily interactions: PREPARED, POLITE, POSITIVE, PUNCTUAL & PROUD.

### 4. Ensuring all aspects of leadership & teaching are well-planned and well-executed

The academy leadership has a duty to ensure the appropriate systems and structures are in place to enable teachers to do their job. All lessons must contribute to a coherent, challenging and enjoyable curriculum that enables our young people to become fully rounded, well prepared global citizens. This will be done through the 5 in 5 and 5 out of 5 starts and ends to lessons (please ask your child about this!). We also believe our new student planners will help students record their learning so they can recall and revisit previous topics throughout the year. This retrieval practice will help develop their memory and play a huge part in future exam success.

Thank you in advance for your continued support and partnership with the staff. Here's to a fantastic year ahead!

## New facilities for our students to enjoy

As part of a host of improvements that were made during the summer holidays, Oasis Academy Oldham unveiled a brand-new library for students to enjoy.

With dedicated work stations alongside quiet areas to read, revise and relax, the library will be a haven for students to visit throughout the day.

Other improvements across the school included new dining and catering facilities and some fantastic new classrooms!

## Pathways to professional football

FC United of Manchester recently visited Oasis Academy Oldham to talk to students about pathways to becoming professional footballers.

Far from focusing solely on sporting talent, the team advised students that the best way to get ahead is to work hard and gain a broad range of knowledge and qualifications to support you throughout your life.

Mr Jolly, Head of Year 9, said: "We are grateful to FC United for taking the time to join us for the session today.

"Footballers are often seen as role models for young people, and this session helped our students to see the career opportunities available in a different light."

## Attendance Matters

Are you struggling to get your child to attend school?

Do you need help to improve your child's attendance? Let us know!

We all know how regular absences from school can negatively affect your child:

- Lower attainment levels - poorer quality of school work and qualifications gained
- School routine - disrupting your child's learning and that of the other students
- Future behaviours - the chances of children and young people being involved in anti-social behaviour and the effect on general wellbeing and long-term life opportunities
- Every 5 days of school absence within 12 weeks could result in a fixed penalty notice

Improving regular attendance at school is therefore a key priority.

We will be hosting regular attendance drop ins with refreshments provided. Please do come and speak to us to find out how we can support you in improving your child's attendance.

We do recognise our students who attend school every day or who have made a real effort to improve their attendance.

### Rewards include:

- Weekly treats for 100% attendance
- Best attending form group will choose a song to be played whole school at the end of every Friday
- Best attending form group for the week will receive the attendance trophy in the weekly year group assemblies
- Best attending student and most improved student will be rewarded in the weekly year group assemblies
- Texts home to recognise the highest attending year group and highest attending form group for each year
- Half termly draw for a bike for all students with 100% attendance
- All students with 100% termly attendance will receive a 100% lapel badge starting with bronze, then silver and finally gold
- Fish and chip lunch for the best attending forms each half term
- Attendance will be taken into consideration for the end of academic year rewards trip

**You have to be in it to win it!**

## Heads of Year are here to support your child

As you may know, we have recently changed the way in which we provide pastoral support for our students. Now our students will be supported by a dedicated Head of Year. Each year group has a non-teaching Pastoral Leader who works in collaboration with their teaching Heads of Year. The purpose of the improved model is to ensure the best pastoral care is offered whilst supporting all learners to achieve their personal best, every day, every lesson.

### Here we introduce you to some of our new Heads of Year:



**Ms F Hussain, Year 11**  
E: farha.hussain@oasisoldham.org



**Mr S Edwards, Year 10**  
E: S.Edwards@oasisoldham.org



**Mr N Jolly, Year 9**  
E: N.Jolly@oasisoldham.org



**Miss A Seijo Marks, Year 8**  
E: Alejandra.SeijoMarks@oasisoldham.org



**Miss C Davis, Year 7**  
E: c.davis@oasisoldham.org

## New ECO offer launched

Our Extended Cultural Offer is a broad range of after school activities to engage and excite students to try something new.

Activities aim to encourage the students to think about different career options while developing team working, problem solving and independent learning skills.

Attending clubs has been proven to improve confidence, knowledge, social

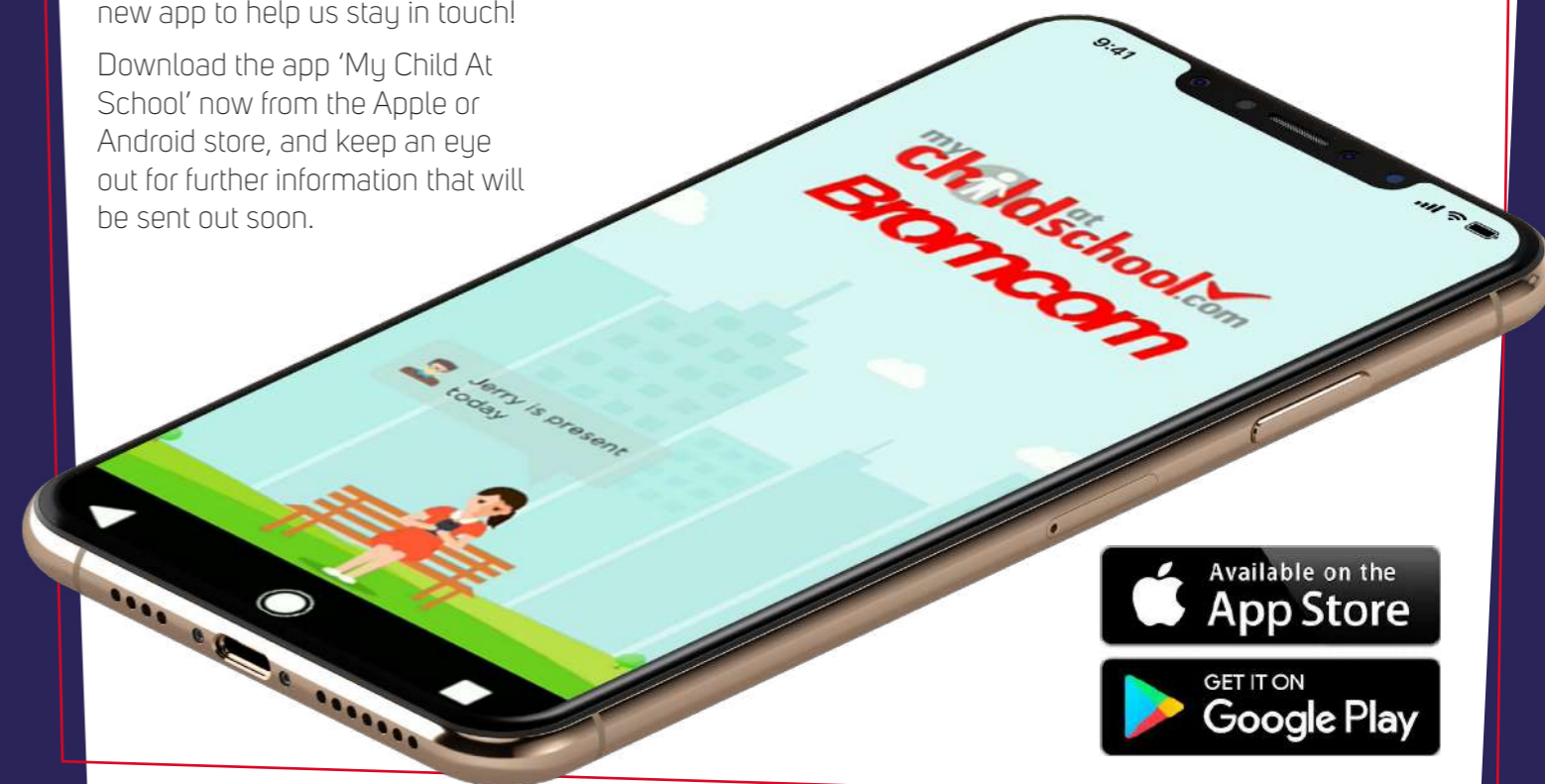
learning and develop lasting experiences to prepare students for the workplace. Last year the academy hosted 8,622 sessions with 72 different activities to choose from including sports, arts, music, photography, floristry, animal care, table tennis, fitness suite, science, lego robotics, coding, skateboarding and Dj'ing to name a few.

Visit our website to find out more about this term's activities.

## My Child At School

We are pleased to confirm that we are in the process of launching a new app to help us stay in touch!

Download the app 'My Child At School' now from the Apple or Android store, and keep an eye out for further information that will be sent out soon.





### Volunteering is rewarding

Becka, aged 25, talks about her role as a volunteer at Oasis Hub Oldham.

Becka joined the Oasis Hub Volunteers in 2018 after being introduced through Upturn via the Talent Match Project.

When I joined the Hub I knew no one and initially I was very shy, but I was made to feel welcome and since then all the volunteers and Hub staff have helped and supported me in different ways. We have become a good team.

The first activity I helped with was the Saturday Morning School where I helped prepare and serve the breakfasts for the students, I was also asked to help with the Hub Farm, so I was busy straight away.

I have participated in everything whenever I can. Some examples are:

Volunteer training in face painting, Commando Joes and Safer Food Better Business. I have also taken part in cooking activities including leading my own sessions to share my knowledge of cake decoration.

During the holidays I deliver family activities at Hubabaloo, I serve refreshments and promote volunteering activities at Academy Parents Evenings, volunteer on visits to Oasis Media City and Veg in the Park Allotment.

I have enjoyed everything!

The Hub team have supported me by attending my Groundwork Graduation, and we promote good health and wellbeing by having our own social activities and meeting up to go swimming, which I wouldn't have done on my own.

As a result of volunteering, I have been involved and gained work related experience with

Hub partners such as Mahdlo, IfOldham, CharacterKingdom and Bounceback.

Before becoming a volunteer with Oasis Hub Oldham I didn't really feel part of the community even though I have lived here all my life. I had not been on benefits long but felt stuck and knew I wanted more.

Now, I am still on benefits but I don't feel stuck anymore and know I am closer to full time employment. I feel more confident and I have had interviews and trial shifts and feel positive.

Through volunteering I can recognise my own skills and how much more I can achieve. I now feel part of the community and I am giving back and supporting others.

I feel valued and my mum and family are pleased that I am part of something positive.



# VOLUNTEERING WITH OASIS

Oasis is looking for volunteers to support a variety of activities in school and in the community:

- **Cooking**
- **Gardening**
- **Organising trips**
- **Arts and crafts**
- **Supporting others**
- **Holiday activities**
- **Sports**
- **Farming and animal care**

Volunteering is a great way to develop skills. No experience necessary!

Please contact Francesca Patra to discuss:  
 07394 704999  
[Francesca.patra@oasisoldham.org](mailto:Francesca.patra@oasisoldham.org)

## Establishment Week is a real success!

At the start of the term, Oasis Academy Oldham held an Establishment Week – a fantastic series of events to help students understand the importance of being ready to learn, organised and to understand the expectations in the classroom.

Throughout the week, every student got the opportunity to attend a range of workshops and seminars to really get them thinking about the importance of the year ahead. Students in Key Stage 4, for example, were provided with careers advice and guidance while younger students looked at important aspects of the pastoral curriculum.

Ms Blackwood, Deputy Principal, said: “The start of the term is the best time to really set the expectations for the year ahead.

As the name suggests, Establishment Week helped us to set the bar high right from day one – ensuring

every student really can make the most of the opportunities on offer.”

As part of our Year 7 Establishment week programme the entire year group headed off by coach on a team building walk and picnic to our local Dovestones reservoir!

The year group headed off in tutor group teams and enjoyed the opportunity to get to know new peers in their form whilst enjoying a superb view. Local dog walkers were exceptionally complimentary of our students smart attire and beautiful manners.

**Go team 7!**



## Introducing our new planners

All parents will see our students carrying their new planners this term.

Mrs Mitchell, Deputy Principal, said: “The newly designed planners are a fantastic addition this year. They are at the centre of how we teach our students to plan, manage their time and reflect on their learning.

“The planner is also designed to improve communication with parents as a central place to send messages to tutors or subject teachers. At the back of each planner are a series of detailed independent study and revision tools so that students always have subject specific revision materials to hand along with links to on line revision tools too.

“Do please build weekly conversations and checks of your child’s planner. Having conversations about the week ahead will improve their organisation and place an importance on their planning and preparation. Your child’s weekly attendance is also recorded in their planner and we ask you to sign weekly to show your support of your child and the academy in insisting on good attendance to school. There are also subject specific pages that include recommended reading lists too!”

If you have any questions then please get in touch!

Oasis  
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# OCTOBER HALF TERM ACTIVITIES



**Tuesday 29th October**

**10:30-1:00pm: Hubabaloo**

Join us at Oasis Academy Oldham for some seasonal arts and crafts, sports and a family meal.



**Wednesday 30th October**

**12:30-3pm: Food and Film**

Come along with friends, family and neighbours to enjoy a meal and a family friendly film together.



**Friday 1st November**

**1-3pm: Mahdlo**

Get involved with arts and crafts, sports and family activities provided by Mahdlo at Oasis Academy Oldham.



**MONDAYS**



Thriving  
Hollinwood

**When:** 9:30-11:00am every Monday

**Where:** Oasis Hub community space at Oasis Academy Oldham

**What:** Meet up with others, get involved with volunteering and find out what’s going on in your area!

**How:** Contact Fran at [francesca.patra@oasisoldham.org](mailto:francesca.patra@oasisoldham.org) for more information

Oasis Community Hub: based at Oasis Academy Oldham, Hollins Road, Oldham OL8 4JZ



Oasis Hub Oldham



@OasisHubOldham

## Oasis Oldham's Family Forum

We were delighted to welcome so many families to the first forum of the new academic year.

At the meeting we discussed a range of topics, here's what parents had to say:

The next Family Forum will take place from  
**Thurs 23rd January**  
**from 5pm – 6pm**

Everyone welcome!

### Our new Head of Year format:

"I prefer this to the old model and feel pastoral staff will be better supported to liaise with parents and to deal with issues faced by young people."

"Moving back to heads of year rather than the house heads is far better as you know exactly who your point of contact is."

"They come across as a really dedicated team!"

"Enthusiastic and want what's best for the pupils."

### Our 4 key priorities for the academic year:

Four Key Academy Priorities

**Planning**

**Literacy**

**Parents**

**Culture**

"The school has identified what is needed to move forward in these four priorities which I find is very positive."

"Really promising outcomes for the school and the children."

"It is really refreshing to have priorities that parents can relate to. I am extremely pleased that there is a focus on parental involvement and engagement."

### Our new library:

"The library is a great investment. It gives all students the opportunity to access literature to aid and develop them in their studies."

"A good space for children to visit at lunchtime and after school."

"An excellent facility which has been well thought through."