

# The Oldham LORIC



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

In this bumper edition, you can read about the many highlights of the 2018/19 academic year at Oasis Academy Oldham.

As we prepare for the long-awaited summer break, it is time for us to reflect on our successes this year. From our national Place2Be Award and our very own garden display at RHS Flower Show Tatton Park, to our Oasis 9 Habits Postcard Competition and our many sporting accolades there is so much for us

all to be proud of.

We are also pleased that we have ended the year with a visit from Ofsted, who have praised the work we have been doing and the improvements we have made across our school community.

Here's to a restful break and a successful 2019/20 academic year.

Leadership, Organisation, Resilience, Initiative and Communication

## Oasis Academy Oldham on a "very positive trajectory"

Ofsted has visited Oasis Academy Oldham (OAO) and praised staff and students for the improvement journey the school is on.

The inspection is the first time Ofsted has returned to the Academy since it was found to have serious weaknesses late last year. This time, however, the Inspection Team has left the school

*"We made the commitment that we would leave no stone unturned in ensuring that our students had access to a high standard of education."*

reporting that "there is no doubt that leaders, together with the trust, have already taken a range of actions to bring about improvement."

Amongst the very positive comments in the report, the Inspectors noted that the Academy is:

- "...putting high-quality teaching and learning across key stage 3 and 4 at the centre of all the actions in the school improvement plan."
- Adopting a new curriculum that "aims to bring a higher profile to the trust character-building curriculum and the development of leadership, organisation, resilience, initiative and communication skills".

- "Improving the focus on pupils' behaviour". The move to a year group structure will also "allow pastoral leaders to gain an overview of pupils' progress through their learning." In addition, teachers say that pupils' behaviour is "already improving through the use of the new achievement assemblies."

- Benefitting from the "ongoing support from the improvement section of the trust (Oasis Community Learning). The impact of the

support is stringently monitored in the half-termly meetings of the trust improvement group.

Dominique Gobbi, Principal, said: "This is a very important milestone. When the Inspectors presented their report to us after their last visit, we made the commitment that we would leave no stone unturned in ensuring that our students had access to a high standard of education.

"While there is still work to do, and we do not shy away from that, we are delighted that the inspection team recognised that we have a relentless focus on school improvement and our actions are starting to have an impact.

"The lines that I take most satisfaction from within the report are the ones noting that our staff and students told inspectors that they feel we are on a very positive trajectory. This collective focus is at the heart of our progress.

"I am pleased that the Inspectors also noted the role of the new Family Forum. I would urge you to come along to our next meeting in the Autumn and find out more about why we want to work closely with our family community."

The report also notes that Oasis Community Learning, the Trust Oasis Academy Oldham is part of, are providing support and holding leaders to account. As a result, Ofsted conclude that "leadership has placed the school in a strong position to bring about improvement."

John Murphy, CEO of Oasis Community Learning, said: "I would like to congratulate Oasis Academy Oldham's community on the way they have approached the challenges that have been set.

"Staff, under Miss Gobbi's leadership, are having a real impact, and the students are clearly benefitting from the progress that has been made so far. This is, however, just the start. We will continue to ensure that the school goes from strength-to-strength in the future."

## Welcoming our new arrivals

Over the last few weeks we have been delighted to welcome our new Year 7 students who will be joining the OAO community in September.

Our new students joined us for a range of transition events so that they could get to know us all, and we could get to know them.

During the sessions, we explored our Oasis Nine Habits through some fun activities and talked about the important role these values play for every student and member of staff here. It was wonderful to see everyone getting involved and having fun.

What a fantastic group of young people, we look forward to seeing them all again soon!

## The science of cake making

This term, our science club have celebrated the 150th anniversary of the periodic table by making a periodic table using cupcakes.

Each cake was decorated with the symbol for the element and its outer-shell electrons (chocolate chips).

Metallic elements were represented by chocolate cupcakes and the non-metals were vanilla.

Maria Stewart, Teacher, said: "Our science club offers a fun and practical way for our students to learn about key scientific subjects. Periodic Table cakes helped to bring what can be a complicated list of symbols to life."



# Ofsted

## Showcasing our artistic talents



Our Art Department has been busily preparing for OAO's end of year art exhibition, featuring beautiful pieces from across every year group.

For example, Year 7 students have worked hard to complete their final pieces which feature the use of oil, pastel, watercolour

and acrylic paints. While students across Year 8 have also been cutting up their sketchbooks to create their fantastic 'Under the Sea' final pieces using charcoal, graphite, paint and stick and ink.

Alice Taylor, Teacher, said: "Our students have created some bright and vibrant pieces,

using their imaginations combined with the technical skills they have learnt this year to bring their artwork to life.

"There are so many wonderful pieces for us to showcase during the exhibition."

## Solving problems with the use of technology

For her GCSE in Design and Technology, Year 11 pupil, Jordan, looked at educational problems and how she could solve them using new technological approaches.

Jordan chose to look at problems faced by learners in Karate, and decided to design a product that would help learners to improve their kicking skills, as well as helping them to learn and improve their Japanese.

The resulting prototype is a remote-controlled kickstand, which is designed to adapt to learners' requirements. Using the remote control, learners can change the difficulty settings of the product and allow it to move so that it can challenge learners as they make progress.

## The Oasis Nine Habits

At Oasis Academy Oldham, we believe in the importance of continually developing our character to become the best version of ourselves. We, therefore, actively promote and practice the Oasis Nine Habits.

By practicing these habits, it enables us to develop an understanding and tolerance of each other through knowledge, mutual respect, believing the best and forgiveness. Individual rights are respected and choice will be exercised within a culture of self-discipline.

In June our habit to focus on was:

### CONSIDERATE

Knowing your own intrinsic value and worth and, by seeing others in the same way to be inclusive of them.

In July our habit to focus on was:

### HONEST

Honesty is about being truthful. Being honest includes acknowledging when we have got things wrong and taking responsibility for our actions. As

we do this, we become a person of integrity - there is an alignment between what we say we are and how we behave.

### Making a Habit out of the Nine Habits

When you come into the Academy, you will see Oasis' nine habits displayed proudly around the corridors.

These habits are essentially the values that help make us great individuals and a strong community.

## NEW RULES

### Postcard Challenge Prize Winners meet New Rules Boy Band

To mark the incredible amount of effort that some of our tutor groups have put in to the Nine Habits Postcard Challenge, we arranged a surprise treat for this year's overall award winners.

Kept top-secret until the very last minute, we were thrilled to welcome New Rules Boy Band to a VIP Meet and Greet with students from 7JNB, 8JFS, 9NA, 7PH, 8EOR and 7CJF. Each of the students had a chance to meet

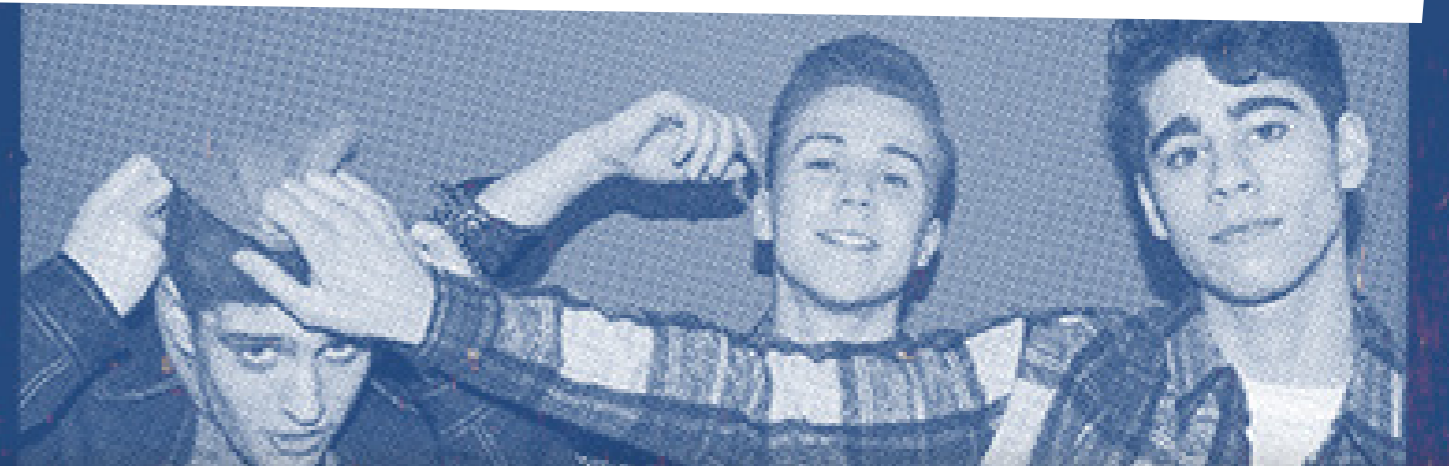
members of the band, asking them questions about their lives as musicians before watching an exclusive performance of their latest songs.

Andrea Mitchell, Assistant Principal, said: "We wanted to arrange something extra-special for our prize winners.

"It was incredible to see the surprised look on the students' faces and how happy they all

were to meet New Rules."

Our Nine Habits Postcard Challenge has been a fantastic way for our students and families to discuss what each habit means to them. We would like to say a huge thank you to all of the families that have taken the time to complete a postcard this year, it is a great way to celebrate and recognise your child's efforts in demonstrating the Oasis Habits.



## Oasis Oldham's Family Forum

We believe that it is incredibly important for schools and families to work closely together for the benefit of our students. That is why we have been reviewing how we communicate with parents and carers and looking at ways that we can work in greater partnership.

Our Family Forum is now firmly established on the calendar and lots of great ideas

and opportunities to collaborate are being developed through this.

In this month's meeting, we discussed a range of topics, including building upgrades that are taking place this summer, new staff appointments for September as well as a host of home learning tools that are available to support students beyond the classroom.

### Communication is Key

In direct response to some great feedback from a recent family forum group, we are now offering a weekly drop in for parents and carers.

**Drop in sessions will begin again in September:**

- Every Wednesday 9am – 1pm
- Every Thursday 2pm – 4pm

At the drop in session a member of our pastoral team will be on hand to talk to you about your child. If you request a follow up from another relevant member of staff this will happen within 24hrs of your drop in.

It goes without saying that you can of course continue to telephone, email or call in at any time to request a meeting with a member of your child's team.

If you would like to attend our Family Forum please join us for our next meetings during the Autumn Term.  
**Everyone welcome!**

## Perfect Performances

What a year it has been for the Drama Department at OAO.

October saw ten of our Year 11 students perform Macbeth at Z-Arts theatre, with a contemporary and innovative interpretation that blew the audience away.

Then came the Christmas performance of The Spirit of Oasis, which showcased music, dance and drama, finishing with a singalong and lots of Christmas cheer.

Year 11 students took a trip to the Royal Exchange to watch The Producers as part of their GCSE course. Practitioners from Oldham Coliseum have

also visited throughout the year to conduct drama workshops, which culminated in a group of Year 9 students performing a play at the Coliseum, which was witnessed by the playwright himself.

We were delighted to end the year with our musical performance of 'Back to the 80s'. With a cast of over 50 students involved, it was a spectacular, nostalgic trip back to the best decade for music (and the worst for fashion!)

Claire Kingsley, Drama Teacher, said: "This school year has been a fantastic one for Drama. I am so proud of all our talented students and all that they have achieved."



## RHS Flower Show Tatton Park

Students from OAO have been working hard this month as we make the final preparations for our very own garden at RHS Flower Show Tatton Park.

Over the last few weeks our Year 7 students have been busy painting the backdrop, learning new skills and working together to create a masterpiece. Together they have replanted some of the flowers which they grew from seeds and gathered props to make the beautiful garden complete.

We are showing the final garden to members of the public at RHS Tatton Park from the 17th-21st July, fingers crossed for some lovely weather to showcase our beach themed garden!



## OAO Diversity Pride

For the second year in a row, Oasis Academy Oldham has celebrated Schools Diversity Week by holding its very own 'Diversity Pride' event.

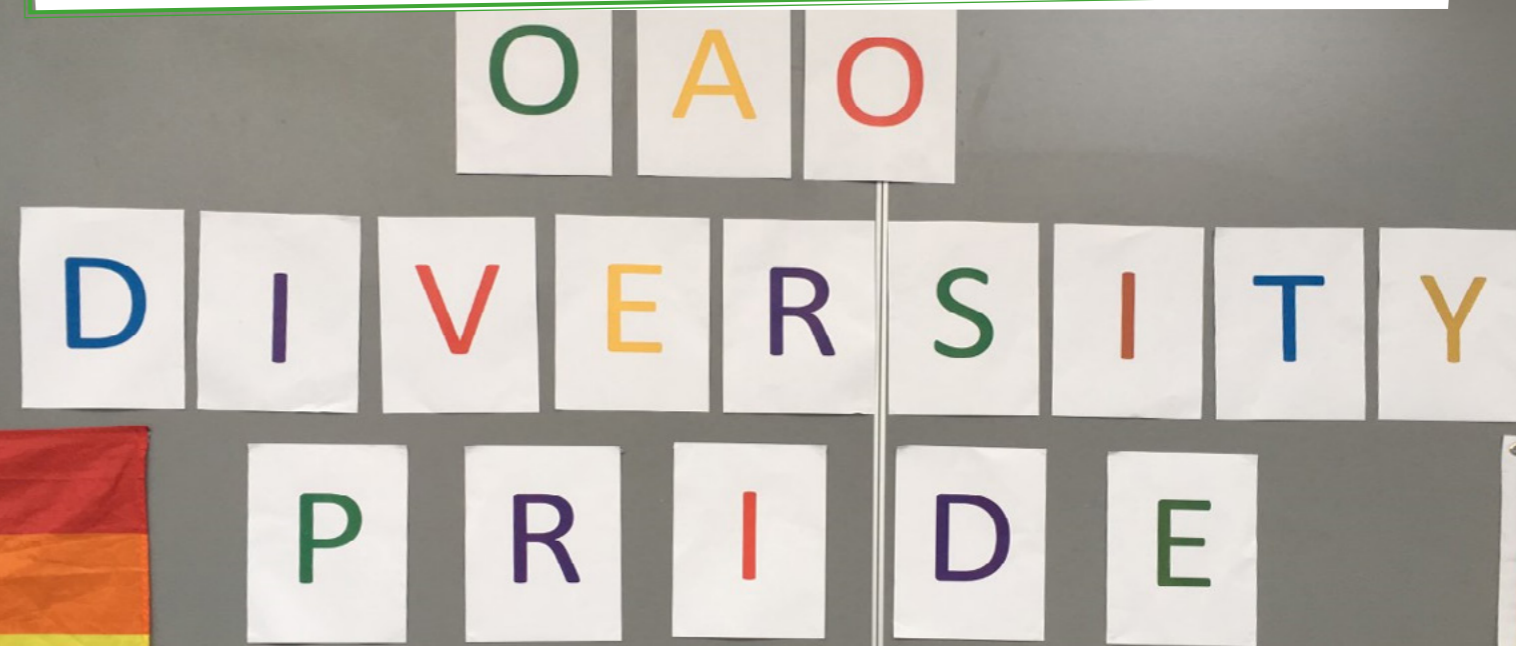
Members of the extra-curricular diversity and equality club, 'Space2B', organised lunchtime events including music, dancing, fairground style games, colouring competitions and prizes.

Children from Years 7 to 9 joined in the events and competed to win sweets, badges and wristbands with the words 'OAO against Hate' printed on them.

The purpose of the event was to recognise and celebrate the diversity that makes up the OAO community and our commitment to equality for all, no matter what race, religion, sexuality, ability or gender they are.

Ms Hale, Curriculum leader of RE and PSHE and the leader of the Space2B Diversity Club said: "Our Diversity Pride event was a great way to celebrate our differences and how we all make up the fabric of this academy.

"It's wonderful to see the teaching staff, catering team and children dancing and laughing together, enjoying being part of the OAO family."



## Jamie's Farm Ambassador

Following our story last month about our partnership with Jamie's Farm, we are thrilled to report that Samantha, a Year 10 student from OAO has been chosen to become a Jamie's Farm Ambassador.

Samantha was chosen from thousands of young people from across England and Wales, because staff at Jamie's Farm believed that she truly stood out as a mature, confident young person who was

passionate and enthusiastic about her trip to the farm.

Becoming an ambassador will give Samantha the opportunity to visit all four Jamie's Farms throughout the year, starting with a residential in August and subsequent weekend visits to other farms.

Andrea Mitchell, Assistant Principal, said: "Well done Samantha – everyone at Oasis Academy Oldham is so proud of you!"

## Race for Life

We are thrilled to report that Oasis Academy Oldham has raised **£1,043.60** for Race for Life this year.

Over 90 students and members of staff took part in the event which raises vital funding for Cancer Research UK. Cheered on by friends, family and members it was fantastic to see the

OAO community joining together for such an important cause.

Well done to all that took part, this is an incredible achievement and we congratulate you all.



## Place2Be at the heart of OAO



This has been a busy year for Place2Be at Oasis Academy Oldham.

Earlier this year, we were delighted to win the Place2Be Wellbeing Award for Progress, which shows how much work has been put in by a variety of school divisions, including The Bridge and Oasis Hub, to promoting emotional wellbeing in our students.

Pupils and staff also celebrated Children's Mental Health Week in February 2019 by organising activities for young mental health awareness based on this year's theme 'Healthy: Inside and Out'. In addition, last month we were

pleased to welcome CBBC and BBC Radio 1 Presenter Katie Thistleton to OAO to talk to students about her career and the importance of looking after yourself as well as others.

Katie said: "I struggled since I was little. I used to find it difficult to breath and catch my breath. My Mum initially blamed it on everything from asthma to the colouring in Smarties, but it was only when I was older I discovered I was having panic attacks. It is just something I have in me."

Katie has since gone on to write a book, Dear Katie, which provides advice to young people about

"some of life's tough stuff", and she also presents a weekly show on BBC Radio 1 called Life Hacks.

Katie added: "It feels like the worst job in the world you can have if you have anxiety is a radio or television presenter. With all the lights and cameras on you, and all the people looking at you – you can't have a down day."

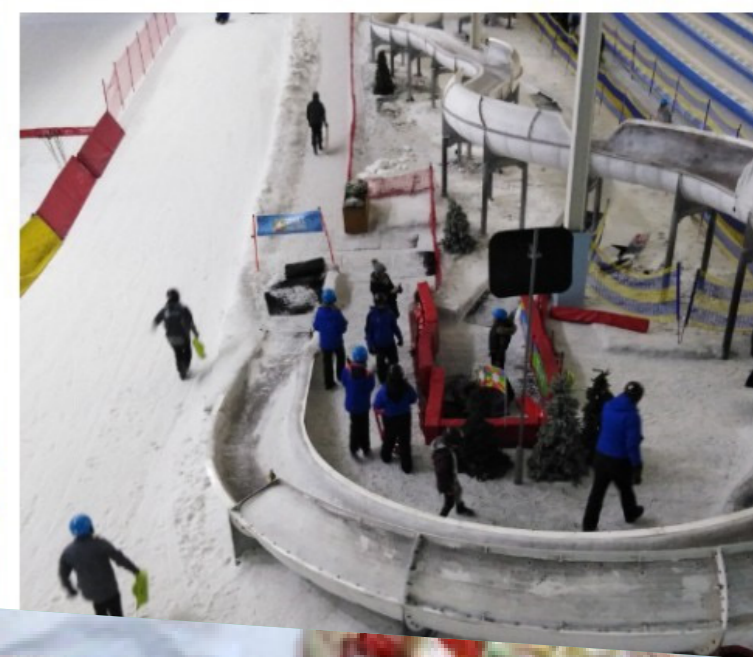
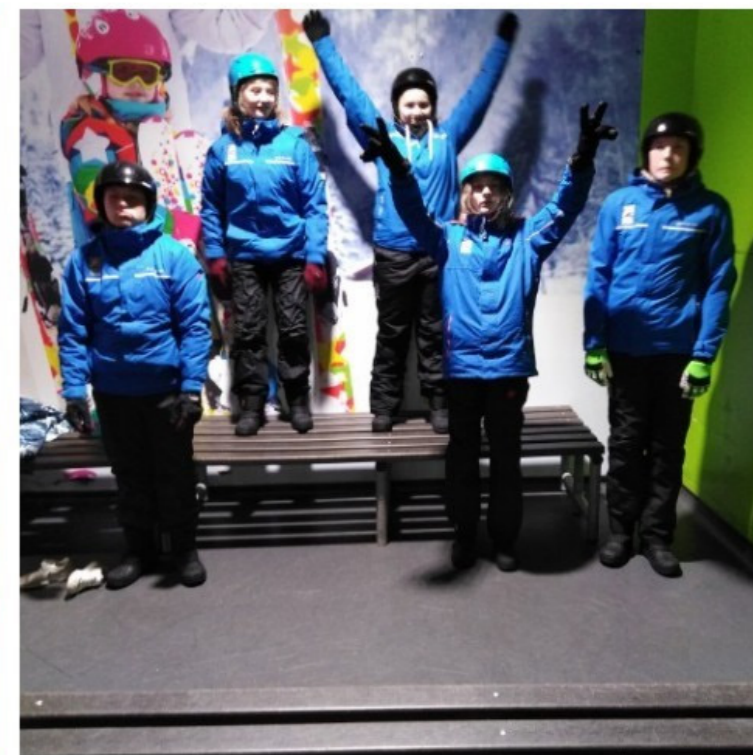
Gemma Hales, who leads some of Oasis Academy's Oldham wellbeing projects, said: "Katie's talk was inspiring. She made our students feel that having issues with mental health should not be an anchor on your hopes and aspirations. Just look at what she has gone and done."

## The Chill Factor

A group of students who have been taking part in OAO's ASDAN programme, have been recognised for their fundraising efforts through a special rewards trip.

Year 9 students Dane, Madison, Kayden, Adam and Aimeelee have been working hard all year to raise funds for important charities. As a result of their efforts they were treated to a trip to the Chill Factor in Manchester – the UK's longest indoor ski slope, featuring real snow.

Kim Whittaker, Teacher, said: "Our students had a great time making full use of all the exciting facilities at the Chill Factor. At -4 degrees the temperature on the slopes was a bit of a shock to the system despite it being a sunny 24 degrees outside, but it was a fabulous experience for everyone involved."



## MAHDLO Youth Zone

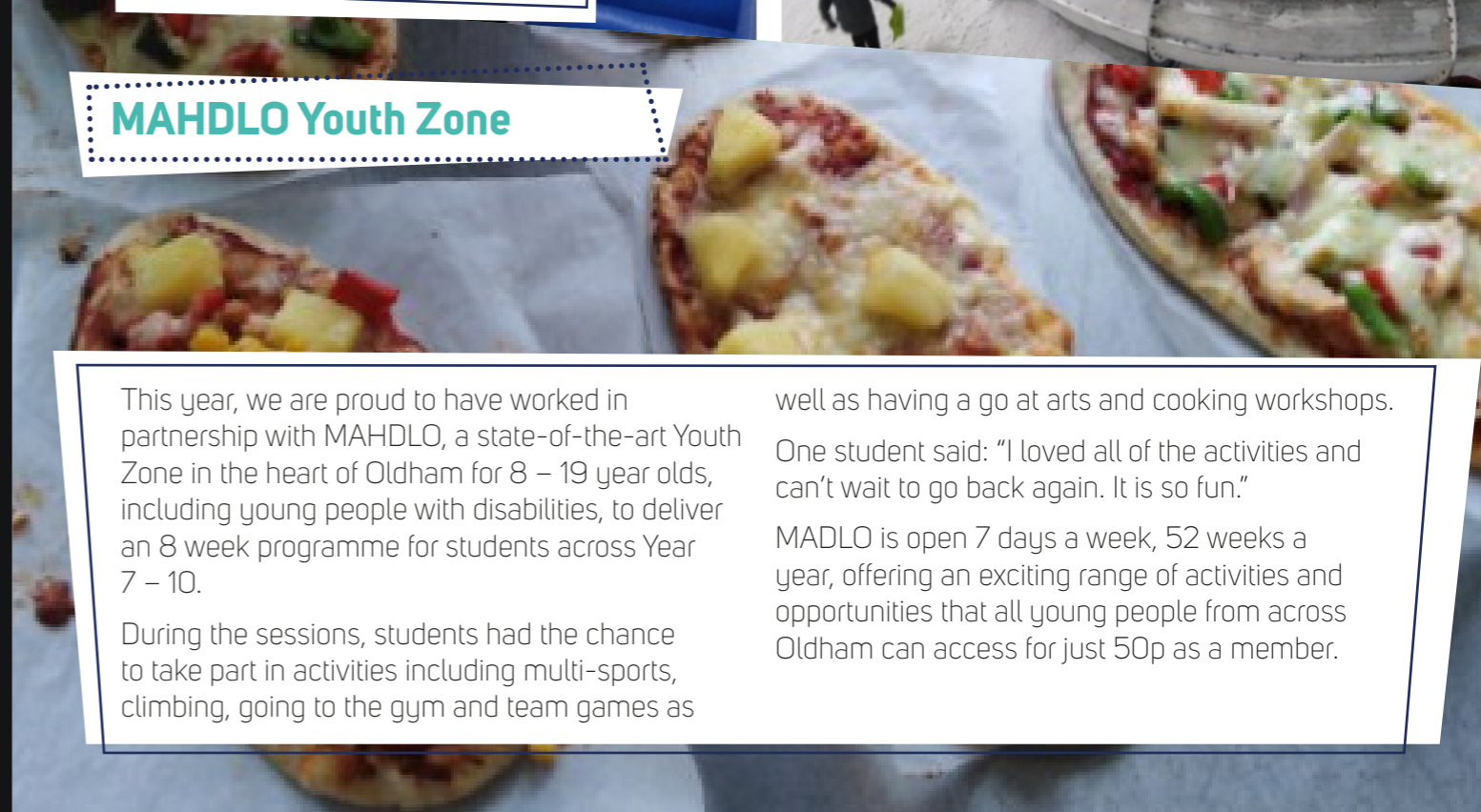
This year, we are proud to have worked in partnership with MAHDLO, a state-of-the-art Youth Zone in the heart of Oldham for 8 – 19 year olds, including young people with disabilities, to deliver an 8 week programme for students across Year 7 – 10.

During the sessions, students had the chance to take part in activities including multi-sports, climbing, going to the gym and team games as

well as having a go at arts and cooking workshops.

One student said: "I loved all of the activities and can't wait to go back again. It is so fun."

MADLO is open 7 days a week, 52 weeks a year, offering an exciting range of activities and opportunities that all young people from across Oldham can access for just 50p as a member.



## Going for Gold

We are incredibly proud of our students' performances at the Oldham Schools Track and Field Events earlier this term.

Achieving a total of 27 medals overall in both track and field events, champions included Lourdes for Year 8 Javelin, Rahmat for Year 8 100m, Eve for Year 8 200m and Shot Put, Tom for Year 8 300m, Rahman for Year 9 100m and Martin for Year 8 200m.

Richard Snape, PE Teacher, said: "Our students put in an exceptional performance during the competition, they worked hard and had a positive attitude throughout."



## Rounders Team Reach Semi-Final

OAO's Year 7 Rounders Team have been celebrating after reaching the semi-final in both the Oldham Schools Rounders Cup and Rally. Despite losing to a very strong Saddleworth Team on both occasions, it was incredible to see the level of teamwork and dedication on display during the tournament.

Well done to everyone involved!



## Football Round-Up

It was a busy football season for our teams within the Oldham School Football Leagues, with many successes along the way.

The Year 7 football team took second place in their league, so

have been promoted into the A league next session; the Year 8 football team finished first in their league, also securing promotion; with the Year 9 team also taking first place and the Year 10 team finishing the season unbeaten.

During the cup games, Year 8 and 9 were also declared winners, with Year 10 as runners-up.

Lead goal scorers throughout the season were Liam, Justin and Kane.



## OAO take Bronze in Dodgeball

To continue our sporting success, OAO's Year 8 Dodgeball Team recently represented Oldham at the Greater Manchester competition.

During a day filled with back-to-back tournaments, the team only lost one game to Bury, and as a result secured third place, and a bronze medal, overall.

Richard Snape, PE Teacher, said: "The boys really gave it their all on the day and represented the Oasis badge with amazing sportsmanship."



## Rugby League Winners

After some incredible performances, our Year 9 Rugby Team have been named Rugby League Winners. Beating all 6 teams (including some tough competition) the students stormed to victory, with star of the tournament named as Ged.

The Year 8 team also narrowly missed out on getting to the league final, after facing strong opposition at Crompton House, however they beat Saddleworth and drew with Failsworth.

While, the Year 7 team played really well in their first ever competitive tournament, showing great skill and knowledge to put up good performances in all of their games.



## Success in Handball

Our Year 8 Handball team enjoyed a fantastic run to the Regional Finals of the Handball Championships this year, eventually finishing 3rd in the North West!

After winning the Oldham Championships without conceding a goal, the team finished in a narrow 2nd place in the Greater Manchester Championships.

Qualifying for the North West Championships, the team excelled throughout, losing only one game and finishing in 3rd place overall.

Richard Snape, PE Teacher, said: "This is our best performance in the history of the school in boys handball and is an outstanding achievement. Congratulations boys!"





# Summer Activities

30th July until 23rd August at Oasis Academy Oldham

## TUESDAYS

10:30 - 1:00pm:  
HUBABALOO

- Arts and crafts
- Sports
- Dance
- Face painting
- Hot Meal

## WEDNESDAYS

12:30 - 3:00pm:  
FOOD AND FILM

Hot Meal then  
film on the big  
screen

## THURSDAYS

1:30 - 3:00pm:  
GROWING HUB

Gardening  
activities at the  
growing hub on  
Lowerlime Rd  
(between houses  
129-131)

## FRIDAYS

1:00 - 3:00pm:  
MAHDLO

Summer  
themed  
activities for all  
ages

## TRIP TO BLACKPOOL PLEASURE BEACH

Start saving for an awesome trip to Blackpool!

**Date: Thursday 15th August**

Information: [edward.whitfield@oasisoldham.org](mailto:edward.whitfield@oasisoldham.org)

Oasis community Hub based at Oasis  
Oasis Academy Oldham, Hollins Road,  
Hollinwood, Oldham, OL8 4JZ



Oasis Hub Oldham



OasisHubOldham