

NEWSLETTER

Message from Ms Hand



Dear Parents, Carers and Members of our School Community,

As we wrap up another remarkable academic year at Sandymoor Ormiston Academy, I am incredibly proud of what our students, staff, and community have achieved. This has been a year of growth, progress, and celebration.

Our popularity continues to rise, with 275 applications for just 120 Year 7 places this year. Due to growing demand, we're increasing our PAN to 150 from September 2026 and currently hold waiting lists across all year groups—clear signs of the confidence families have in our school.

It has been wonderful to meet our new intake of Year 7 students, whose energy and enthusiasm have been a real highlight of the year. Our recent Year 7 Parents' Evening was a great success, and we are incredibly grateful to those who completed our parent survey – with 100% of respondents saying they would recommend Sandymoor to another parent. That level of endorsement means so much to us.

Following our renewed focus on behaviour, we were delighted to receive glowing feedback from Ormiston Trust during their visit, particularly about our students' conduct and attitude. It's also been a fantastic year for enrichment. We've run 48 trips, including unforgettable visits to Iceland, Spain, and Italy, continuing to provide our students with incredible opportunities and lifelong memories. Our students have shone this year with a range of impressive achievements, including the Eco-Schools Award (with distinction), Gold School Games Mark, All Aboard Youth Rowing Championship, and winning Ormiston's Got Talent. These successes highlight the incredible talent and dedication across our school.

Thank you for your continued support. We wish you a restful, safe, and enjoyable summer break.

Warm regards,
Ms Hand

Term Highlights

This term has been full of fantastic achievements, memorable experiences, and celebrations across all year groups.

We began with our brilliant Musical Soirée, where students wowed us with their musical talents – an inspiring showcase of creativity and dedication. Year 11 completed their GCSE exams, celebrated their last day, and enjoyed a glamorous Prom at Statham Lodge where they marked the end of an era with elegance and fun.

Outdoor education thrived this term with our bronze and silver Duke of Edinburgh expeditions showing outstanding teamwork, resilience, and determination. Meanwhile, our OAT Sports Cup competitors demonstrated school spirit and athletic prowess. Our year 8 students took part in the All Aboard Youth Rowing Regatta – a fantastic experience where our students displayed dedication and teamwork. Finally,, a celebration of health, competition, and community for our annual sports day.

Year 10 gained valuable insights into the world of work through their work experience, while Year 9 enjoyed an inspiring visit to LIPA exploring dance and drama. Year 8 ventured to the Yorkshire Sculpture Park, combining art, the outdoors, and curiosity in a memorable day out.

We also welcomed our new Year 7s for their transition days, and we're looking forward to seeing them again as they begin their secondary school journey with us.

We're incredibly proud to have been awarded Eco Schools – Distinction for the fourth consecutive year, and to have achieved the Career Mark Gold Award in recognition of the high quality of our careers education provision.



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A Fantastic Season of Sport



It's been a busy and brilliant term for sport at Sandymoor. Our Lionesses proudly represented Halton at the Merseyside Games, finishing 3rd overall, and will soon compete in the Cheshire School Girls U14 competition. At this year's OAT Cup in Stoke, students shone across Athletics, Dodgeball, and Bench Ball—bringing home 6 Bronze, 11 Silver, and 14 Gold medals! Year 9 and 10 teams both placed second in their categories.

Our Softball Cricket team showed great skill and sportsmanship at Widnes Cricket Club, finishing second overall.

Meanwhile, Year 8 rowers made us proud at Warrington Regatta. The Open team placed 4th in Runcorn and 28th in the Northwest, while the Girls team placed 15th regionally and won Gold for Runcorn—retaining their top spot from the indoor competition.

We are very proud of the progress our rowing team have made and the girls team retaining their Gold placing both at the indoor rowing competition and the on annual regatta.

We have had a fabulous year of sport with the new academic year looking even busier. We can't wait to continue to celebrate the successes as we move into the new school year.



Proud to Be Recognised: Careers and Healthy Schools Honours

Sandymoor is proud to have received two prestigious awards this year, recognising our commitment to both student wellbeing and future success. We were awarded the Career Mark – Gold Award for excellence in careers education, following a thorough assessment that included meetings with groups of our fantastic students, who spoke confidently about the wide range of careers and further education opportunities offered from Year 7 to Year 11.



In addition, we received the Halton Healthy Schools Award 2025 at a celebration event held at the DCBL Stadium, where local schools shared their approaches to promoting healthy lifestyles. Our students, Martha and Ruby, were model representatives on the day, and Sandymoor proudly came first in the healthy eating quiz. A huge well done to all involved!



Isabella P Year 10 – Young Fashion Designer Finalist

Well done to Isabella P in year 10 who came 2nd in her category in this year's Young Fashion Designer UK competition.

As part of the final stage, Izzie took part in an 'Upcycle Challenge' where she was given 90 minutes to create a garment using recycled materials such as old shirts and ties.

Incredible work Izzie, we are very proud!



Heidi E Year 9– Winner of Ormiston's Got Talent

A huge congratulations to our winner of OGT 2025!

Heidi wowed the audience and judges with two stunning dance solos, showcasing not only her incredible skill and technique but also her pride and resilience throughout the competition. We are so proud of you!

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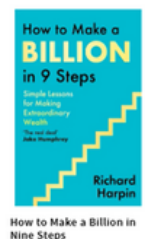
Summer Reading

Summer is the perfect time to relax and enjoy a good book! Reading for pleasure during the holidays not only keeps your mind sharp, but also lets you explore exciting new worlds, meet interesting characters, and discover new ideas—all at your own pace. Whether it's a thrilling mystery, a funny adventure, or a touching story, there's a book out there for everyone. So find a cozy spot, pick up a book you enjoy, and let your imagination take you anywhere this summer!

Sparx Reader is also available over the Summer as optional reading homework for Years 7-10. Points will be awarded upon return in September.

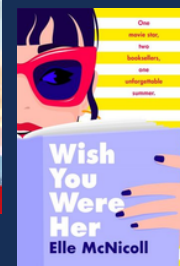
Y9 going into Y10 have also been set a compulsory reading homework on Sparx in preparation for their English Literature GCSE.

Parents/carers try these
as suggested by Waterstones:



Summer Reading Suggestions

- Y7: Bird Boy by Catherine Bruton
- Y8: Serial Chills: The Witch in the Woods by Jennifer Killick
- Y9: Wish You Were Here by Elle McNicoll
- Y10: This Book Won't Burn by Samira Ahmed
- Y11: The Midnight Library by Matt Haig



Alumni – Darcy R's Rising Journey in Weightlifting and Sports Science

Former Sandymoor student Darcy is making incredible strides in both sport and academics. Now studying Level 3 Sports Science and Human Biology at Priestley College, she ended her first year on a high, earning full colours and a nomination for Sportsperson of the Year.

Alongside her studies, Darcy is completing the Diploma in Sporting Excellence (DISE) in weightlifting at Loughborough College as part of British Weightlifting's Talent Pathway. She's a member of the Northern Regional Squad and has trained with the GB National Youth Squad at Nottingham University. Darcy is aiming to study Sports Rehabilitation and Recovery at Nottingham – an exciting next step in her inspiring journey.



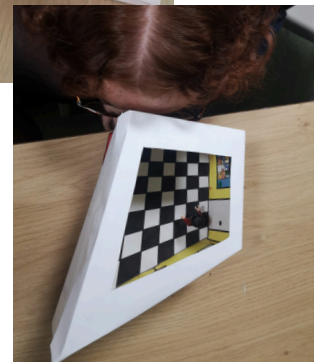
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Y10 Psychology

Y10 have completed their first year of studying the fascinating subject of psychology. They have looked at the following areas:

- Memory
- Perception
- Development
- Research methods

Over recent weeks, they have been putting all this into practise by designing, carrying out and writing up their own psychological experiment. Experiments have ranged from investigating the primacy and recency effect in memory, the effects of expectation on perception and even seeing if Piaget's theory on stages of development is valid. It has been a real pleasure watching their curious minds working like psychologists.



Test Your Perception – Answers

Neither line longer. The horizontal lines are equal length. The converging lines distort your perception. This is called the Ponzo illusion and works due to misinterpreted depth cues.

Did you say A was grey and B was white? If so, you are wrong. Both A and B are in fact grey. Watch the video below for an explanation:

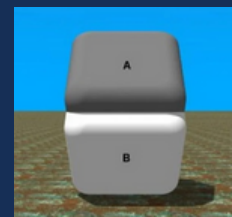
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[&q=grey+white+colour+illusion&mid=2DB30595B680637943152DB30595B68063794315&FORM=VRDGAR](https://www.bing.com/videos/riverview/relatedvideo?&q=grey+white+colour+illusion&mid=2DB30595B680637943152DB30595B68063794315&FORM=VRDGAR)

Which horizontal line is the longest?



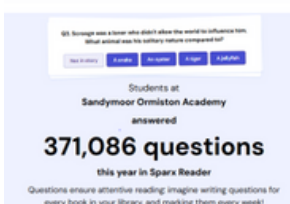
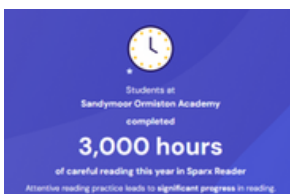
What are the colours of A and B?



Sparx Reader

In March this year, we became a Sparx reader school to support us in “building confident readers through regular reading practice” and to empower a culture of regular independent reading.

Here is a summary of our Sparx Reader achievements:



Our top readers for the year thus far are:

1	Henry Fletcher (Henry the Administrator)	48,019 SRF
2	Leela Willett (Leela the Big enchilada)	19,379 SRF
3	James Bann (James the Genius)	19,226 SRF

If you have any questions on Sparx, please contact Mrs Griffiths or use the parent link to the website: <https://sparxreader.com/parents/>.

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Celebrating Creativity In Art

Year 7 students delved into the world of printmaking, taking inspiration from artist Jill Ricci. Through techniques like block printing, collograph, monoprinting, wax resist, and foil printing, they created vibrant collages that reflected themes of strength and identity, drawing influence from icons Frida Kahlo and Nelson Mandela.

Year 8 students explored sculpture using everyday materials like soap, wire, and tights. Inspired by artists Barbara Hepworth and Yinka Shonibare, they combined traditional techniques with personal expression, creating pieces influenced by Ancient Greek pottery and Kente Cloth patterns. Their work reflects identity, heritage, and creativity through carving, painting, and pattern design.

Our Year 9 students ended the year with bold, expressive mixed-media pieces inspired by artists like Kelvin Okafor, José Romussi, Alan Dee Haynes, and Picasso. Using techniques such as oil pastel, sewing, fine liner, and paint, their work explored portraiture, abstraction, and texture—showcasing both technical skill and personal expression.



Y7 Printmaking showcase



Y8 Sculpture work

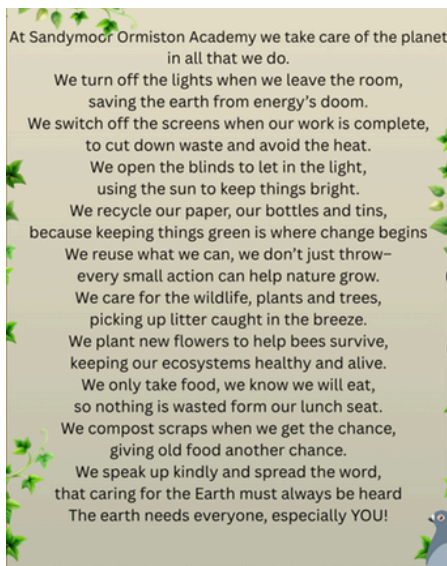


Y9 Final Art Outcomes

Art Cub Star



Year 8 student Leela W has created a stunning oil painting in the style of Vincent Van Gogh as part of Art Club. Drawing inspiration from Van Gogh's bold brushstrokes and expressive use of colour, Leela demonstrated great skill in her work. we're proud to celebrate her artistic achievement.



Congratulations to our Eco Code Competition winner, Jairus V, Will Monks and Noah Fairchild Year 8 whose inspiring and thoughtful entry was selected as the school's official Eco Code! Their creative code encourages everyone to take action for a greener future.

**Winners of Our
Eco Code
Competition**

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Attendance Bulletin

At Sandymoor Ormiston Academy, we set a high standard for attendance, aiming for 96% across all students. We are pleased to report significant progress, with our current attendance standing at 92.6%—a 2% increase from last year. While there is still room for improvement, this upward trend is encouraging.

If you are ever uncertain about whether your child should attend school, please contact our Attendance Team and we will work with you to support their return as soon as possible:

attendance@sandymooroa.co.uk

What does attendance look like in real terms?

100%	0 days	0 lessons missed
98%	3 days	18 lessons missed
97%	5 days	30 lessons missed
94%	2 weeks	60 lessons missed
92%	3 weeks	90 lessons missed
90%	3.5 weeks	108 lessons missed

Low attendance places you at a disadvantage

Dates For Next Term

Events

Date	Event
September	
3rd	Y7+Y11's return to school
4th	ALL years return to school
11th	Y11 information evening
15th	8.30am - 10.30am - Parents forum re mental health
19th	Y7+Y11 - photographer here
25th - 26th	Y7 trip - Rock + River
30th	4pm - 7pm - Open evening
October	
3rd	9am - 10.30am - Open morning (bookable)
6th	9am - 10.30am - Open morning (bookable)
16th	Last day of term
17th - 31st - Half term	
November	
3rd	ALL students return to school
3rd - 14th	Y10 mocks
5th	Flu vaccinations



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Behaviour and Culture Update

After a fantastic term and a really closely fought competition, the final results are in. Sports day played a significant role in the final destination of the house cup, it was incredibly close, and I'm delighted to announce that this year's House champions are Ethelfleda. Congratulations to each and every student, all of whom have actively contributed to this success. A special mention to winning forms in individual year groups such as 7MLY and 8AGA.

This term has seen very specific focus on the standard of presentation and punctuality to lessons. I'm delighted to share with you all that we have seen a significant improvement in standards of uniform and punctuality and your support has been paramount in our successes in these areas this term. It is heartening to note that both external visitors and parents of prospective future students have commented on multiple occasions on the standards visible and the PRIDE that students clearly have in terms of engaging with us and being part of our community. Increasing feedback is that parents want their child to join us due to the visible high standards we are setting and the positive environment evident.

We are already looking forward to September with excitement. We wish not only to maintain but to further enhance our student experience through continued high expectations, delivered with high regard to support a distraction and disruption free learning environment for all. Part of this will see a further focus on standards and the embedding of our term 3 implemented ATL (attitude to learning) lesson recognition. This will be the principle driver of our recognition and reward systems moving forward. Students will be celebrated and recognised for their demonstration of our core values through this system on a weekly, half termly and termly basis. We look forward to full implementation in September with all students and to enhancing communications with families around this on a weekly basis.

As we reach the conclusion of the summer term and the start of summer holidays. I would like to highlight with us all that we are all part of our local community and have an essential role within it. We continually educate and reinforce with all students that we should look to actively contribute to it at all times in a positive manner, by respecting our local environment, the people within it and supporting it wherever possible. Social action is one of our core values and I invite us all to demonstrate this in the fullest terms moving forward, particularly over the summer months.

Finally, can I thank you all for your continued support this academic year, and your future support moving forward as we endeavour to provide the very best experience for your child each and every day. Thank you for being part of the Sandymoor Ormiston academy family.



Fundraising for School

Friends of Sandymoor are helping school raise funds for a variety of items for our students. If you could like to get involved in our fundraising next term, please contact Lucy by email on: **friendsofsandymooroa@gmail.com**

Pizza Vesuvio:

We currently have Pizza Vesuvio who support our fundraising by donating money to us for every pizza sold. They are based in the school car park of a Friday evening, please come and try their pizza's - they are amazing!

Sweet sales:

We have sweet sales on a termly basis whereby students can buy their favourite sweets to eat or take home.

Friends of Sandymoor – thank you for all your fundraising over the year and thank you to parents for buying raffle tickets and supporting us!

Please check our social media platforms for upcoming events to support our school.

Any safeguarding concerns when school is closed

- Contact the Police : 101/999
- Childline: 0800 1111
- Samaritans: 116 123
- Report to CEOP via the School website.
- Contact the Contact and Referral Team at Social Services: 0151 907 8305 (9am-5pm)
- Social Services emergency duty team: 0345 050 0148 (5-9pm)
- Papyrus (Suicide prevention): 0800 068 4141/ 07786209697

