**Orwell Park School 2022-23**

**Report for Annual Parish Meeting**

We started this year with the passing of Queen Elizabeth 11, marked by a moving service in St Martin’s Church, and have just celebrated the coronation of King Charles 111 with a whole school picnic in the sports hall.

The day after the Queen’s funeral in September we had an ISI Focused Compliance and Educational Quality and we were delighted that the inspectors found us to be fully compliant (no judgement, just pass or fail) and that we were rated as excellent in all areas of educational quality.

The top grades for achievement and personal development are testament to the hard work of all concerned. The children were a credit to the School and showed the inspectors the qualities that we are fortunate to see every day at school. The final report captures much of the essence of the School and the holistic education which we value so highly.

The new inspection framework, which come into force in September 2023, will have wellbeing as the main focus and we continue to develop our wellbeing structure in school, with a mental health lead, a staff wellbeing group and pupil wellbeing ambassadors.

The School has 260 pupils, with a predicted 270 by half-term. Boarding numbers are strong, with 45 children in at the weekend and a 67% of pupils between Years 3 and 8 boarding at least once a week.

We are running a wide range of trips and activities and this term Year 7 will be travelling to Normandy for a week and Year 8 will embark on their annual leavers’ trip to the Ardèche after their Common Entrance exams in June. Year 7 pupils once again travelled to Mayo College in India in February and we look forward to their return visit this June.

Last year all our Year 8 pupils once again passed Common Entrance and achieved entry to their senior schools and this year 25 scholarships have been achieved so far to a wide variety of local and national senior schools.

Sport has continued to thrive in the last year and perhaps the standout achievement is the performance of the boys’ 1st rugby team, who enjoyed an unbeaten season in the Autumn term and then proceeded to prosper in the 7s game, winning all their matches at the internationally renowned Rosslyn Park 7s and finishing third in the Northampton Saints national 7s tournament in April.

The creative arts continue to flourish and this year’s senior production was *Annie,* with all members of Years 7 and 8 involved. Art and Design are popular subjects and Jim Notcutt and Eita Eraki were shortlisted for the Young Furniture Makers exhibition. Jim won the Schools Design Prize and Eita came third in the Young Furniture Makers Awards at the Worshipful Company of Furniture Makers in London on Tuesday 12th October. They were the youngest students in the exhibition, as most were 16+.

Music goes from strength to strength and highlights have included the Autumn and Spring Concerts, the annual recital at St Mary Abchurch in the City of London and numerous wonderful performances at our weekly Chapel Services in St Martin’s Church, including a wonderful rendition of *Zadok the Priest* during Coronation week. Our Coronation Proms on Saturday 24th June on school field is a picnic proms featuring the Gilbert and Sullivan Operetta *Cox and Box*, performed by Handmade Opera, as well as British classics old and new, including performances by the children (all are welcome and tickets are available via the website).

This year we are supporting the Dogs Trust, Green Light Trust and the World Land Trust. Our 2022-23 charities were well supported at the Christmas Fayre, which raised a total of £1,850 on the day. We continue to invest a significant amount of school funds into means tested bursaries and are developing the Wilkinson Spurgeon Bursary Fund to create more opportunities for children who would otherwise not be able to benefit from an Orwell Park education.

We also continue to develop our relationship with Community Interest Company, PLOT, which has been based on our site since September 2020, using the Buck House and the area of land leading down to the foreshore alongside the boundary wall. PLOT works with vulnerable children to help them reintegrate into mainstream education.

The Rev Canon Ian Wilson oversaw his last Chapel service before retirement on Saturday 29th April at the annual School Commemoration. He will be much missed by everyone at Orwell Park and we wish Ian and Trish well for the future. Robin Beck, Head of Geography, retires at the end of this term after 34 years of dedicated service, both in and outside the classroom.

At the beginning of this academic year I announced my retirement this summer after 12 years as Headmaster of Orwell Park School. Nicole and I will look back on our time here with great fondness and I believe the school is in a very good position to deal with the challenges and opportunities of the future. The new Headmaster is Guy Musson, currently Deputy Head at Ludgrove School, having gained experience in leading Prep Schools such as The Dragon and The Perse, and he will join the School with his wife Milly, who teaches Mathematics and English at Ludgrove, and their two children: Charlotte, 6, and Freddie, 4, who will join the Prep and Pre-Prep in September. We wish them every success as they become part of the local community.

Adrian Brown

Headmaster

08/05/23