

ORBIT

Oxbridge Russell Bridging Intervention Team

July 2023



Miss Cassam

Orbit

Orbit has been getting ready to roll over into the new academic year and already we have started working with our Year 8 students on the next phase of their Orbit journey; Oxplore (see below).

Year 9 will finish their Oxplore questions over the coming weeks before moving onto a focus on written communication. Last year, a number of our Year 9s spent time working on an extended project and others produced pieces of personal interest to enter in the BBC Young Journalist competition.

Year 10 have moved into Year 11 and completed the Oxford Discovery programme live lecture series. Hopefully, the new Year 10 will enjoy following the course on catch up; thus providing added insight into some of the wider links to their GCSE subjects.



Mr Dewar

Year 7 Passport Project (1)

For the past year, a small group of Year 7 learners have shown their commitment to broadening their horizons and have participated in Thorpe's 'Passport Project.' The aim is to encourage students to take part in new activities and interests. The range is quite impressive:

"I got to participate in the Junior Maths Challenge and was really proud to have been able to get gold and advancement to the second round (The Junior Maths Kangaroo)." Bhavya

"I like ORBIT because it persuades me to do things that I wouldn't normally do. I got the chance to go and listen to a vet careers talk, which is something I wouldn't have thought of doing before. I have fun completing the challenges because they give me new ideas and it's interesting to hear what others have been doing and why they enjoyed that activity." Harriet

Oxplore!

Oxplore is a digital resource from the University of Oxford and it aims to encourage critical thinking amongst 11-18 year olds.. Oxplore is a fantastic resource to get you thinking about 'tricky' questions ranging from 'Can money buy you happiness?' 'Is a robot a person?' and lots more.

For Key Stage 3, there is also a virtual book club which runs on the first Thursday of every month during term time.

The site is free to register with and well worth a visit.

<https://oxplore.org/>

Read something!

Antoine de Saint-Exupéry's enduring classic *The Little Prince* introduces children to a variety of philosophical concepts including authority, loneliness, and ownership.

An aviator whose plane is forced down in the Sahara Desert encounters a little boy – a prince – from a small planet. The boy recounts his space travel adventures and search for the secret of what is important in life.

There are a number of questions for discussion and here is a brief selection of them:

- 1 - What do you think proves that the Little Prince existed?
- 2 - If the king in the story has no subjects, then does the king really have authority?
- 3 - The businessman says that he owns the stars because he was the first to think of it.

Do you agree?

