

Educate for life



Dear Parents/Carers,

In 2020, James Murray, CEO of Ormiston Trust was successful in another National Lottery bid for a further #iwill project to build on what has been achieved so far, and to embed youth social action deeper within our schools. As a school, we have been allocated #WeWill Explore which enables students to experience geocaching and orienteering as well as developing specific skills and knowledge. Youth social action refers to activities at CEC that young people participate in to make a positive difference to others or the environment.

In recognition of over 50 years of service to making our communities a better place, we now would like to launch The Murray Award within OAT. This award will recognise any child or staff member who have shown commitment to meaningful social action in their community. We hope (very much like the Duke of Edinburgh in Year 9 and beyond) that every child or staff member in OAT can undertake The Murray Award whilst they are at CEC, not only contributing to society and learning the value of active citizenship – and what is possible when a determined few individuals put their mind to making a difference. To gain a silver award, pupils or staff members need to undertake 25 hours of social action. We will be delivering this through the #WeWill Explore project. All the #WeWill projects are designed so that every child or staff member could also gain their Silver Murray Award.

This term as part of #WeWill Explore Year 8 will be designing and taking part in orienteering and creating geocache routes within academy grounds and around the local community. Year 8 will be working alongside local primary school children in year 4 where they will work together and also visit each other's schools to complete orienteering courses designed by students themselves. Students will develop their understanding of orienteering and geocaching within the PE and Geography Curriculum.

#WeWill Explore has explicit links to personal development within the Ofsted Framework by developing pupils' confidence, resilience and having a positive impact on mental health. The types of positive action young people can participate in at school include campaigning, volunteering, fundraising, advocating and supporting their friends.

Compared to 50 years ago, young people are spending less and less time outdoors. By the time they reach the age of seven, they will have spent the equivalent of 456 days looking at a screen – an average of four hours a day. Compared to this only 182 days will have been spent in the outdoors, which equates to around an hour and half a day. #WeWill is a valuable opportunity to get our young people outdoors and exploring nature within our local community whilst making it fun. This opportunity will also increase the amount of time spent outdoors by our young people, improving daily exercise and mental wellbeing.

Each form class will have a representative to feedback any ideas and are also encouraged to attend our #WeWill committee club being run after school from 2:45pm on a Wednesday. Please encourage your child to get involved, they will over the next term be inviting you to be a part of this project also.

Yours sincerely,

Charlene Thomas

Charlene Thomas
Head of year 8 and #WeWill Lead