# The Oxted Chronicles

Est 2025

OXTED CHRONICLES: FOURTEENTH EDITION OCTOBER 2026

**Welcome to the Thirteenth Edition!**

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**Key Dates:**

17 October – 1 Nov October half term
28 October Edenbridge Christmas Fair
19 December – 3 January 2027 Christmas Holidays
12 April 2027 - The Oxted Chronicles two-year anniversary

## We're Back!

After a long hiatus for both the summer holidays and exams, The Oxted Chronicles is back and better than ever! This means that applications for a new generation of year reps are now open. You can apply by emailing me (Caitlin Y12) or Freya (Y12) your name, tutor group, phone number, why you think you would be a good newspaper rep? and an 80-100 word article on any topic you are passionate about, (yes, its that simple).

However, not only will we be adding new year reps to our midst this year, but also newspaper contributors, we want you, yes, you to contribute to the newspaper in any way you can. Whether you have done some interesting research and want to have a summary of it published in the newspaper or want to celebrate you or your peers' achievements in or out of school, we are the place for you to do it. Just simply reach out to Freya and I and we will be more than happy to publish anything in the next edition of the Chronicles.

Make sure you get your applications in by the end of October half term!

**Written by Y12 Co-Editor Caitlin**

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**WORD OF THE EDITION**
**Farrah's vocab booster**
REVERENCE
Deep feeling of respect and admiration

## News around the World since our last edition:

Mass strikes from french students over state of schools

- Nobel peace prize given to former UN High Commissioner Navi Pillay
- The Phoenix Species Project launched which is working with 100 partners in order to try and bring the worlds most endangered species back from extinction
- A project has launched to connect Londons green spaces with the aim of extending the green belt

**Written by Y12 Co-Editor, Caitlin**

## Mr Lewis
## Teacher of Mathematics

When he was younger, Mr Lewis wanted to be a bus driver or train driver, however later decided that a career that confined him to sitting for hours was not the path for him. Though, he didn't go straight into teaching after university Mr Lewis instead worked in a bank for a year but soon discovered it wasn't for him.

He had previously been a TA in university, which was when he first thought about the idea of being a teacher, so after leaving work at the bank, he began his teaching career.

At school, his favourite subject actually wasn't Maths, instead he loved English thanks to his 'brilliant' English teachers.

Mr Lewis shared that he is a Crystal Palace fan, and so is most of his family. He, his wife, father-in-law, and some of his friends are season ticket holders! Along with being a football fanatic, he also spends a lot of time driving his daughter round to her various clubs, and when he has time, enjoys a park run.

**Fun Fact**: Mr Lewis nearly died twice within 4 days, when he was 23. First, he was caught in a storm while in a jungle in Malaysia and woke up to a tree landing on top of him and having fallen into a little hollow. Then, once home, developed sepsis and nearly died again!

**Written by Y12 Co-Editor, Freya**

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## Sexism in Schools

There are two main things that commonly disguise sexism in schools. Firstly, stereotypes. Everyone has heard them: boys are destined for STEM and girls for creativity. Often overlooked, these stereotypes can nudge students towards a path they possibly never wanted. Is it a stereotype or just insults hardwired into our brains? “Like a girl.” Why is that an insult? “Man up.” Is weakness failure now? Every comment is like a brick on students’ shoulders, oppressing their truth. It makes you wonder whether schools accidentally have a second curriculum hidden beneath the first.

**Written By Y8 Rep Elizabeth**

## Students Protests in France

Across France protests have broken out due to the condition of classrooms and lack of teachers across the country, one student told the BBC that “there aren’t even enough chairs. We have to go and find some at the start of every lesson”. Another said that they get “50 minutes to eat lunch” despite there being “2000” students who need to use the canteen. The protests were attended by hundreds of thousands of secondary aged students and have occurred across the country.

The students are protesting the dilapidated classrooms, staff shortages, huge classes of 35 students (the UK average is 23), 10 hour school days and a highly unpopular university admissions system. The government are now saying that they will pledge an extra 3000 teachers in the coming days, and Prime Minister Lecornu says that by the end of October a new plan will be unveiled that will respond to the crisis. However, many students feel that this is simply not good enough, they feel let down by their education system, and betrayed by their government, claiming that serious reforms need to be put in place to rectify the situation.

The protests have also uncovered another issue surrounding police brutality, with 7000 people having been detained, and at least 200 pupils and teachers injured as a result. One boy had his hand blown off by a stun grenade used by police in the protest. Since then, police have been banned from using stun grenades at school protests, but this brings to light a bigger question about the place of police in protests, and the violent nature of many protests.

**Written By Co-Editor Caitlin**

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## The Testing Transition and Separate Spotlights

School… a troublesome, yet terrific experience where all students from the age of 11 to 18 experience the abundance of amazing opportunities – alongside with the arduous obstacles that occur in each year. But ask yourselves this, is the transition from school years really that tormenting? **This Article will cover the thoughts of how to stay in the right spotlight and how to cope with the testing transition that we all undergo at some stage in our academic life.**

As all students experience the terrifying and exhilarating process of transitioning from primary to secondary school, continuing revision from Year 10 to Year 11, moving to Sixth Forms and to later Universities and Careers, we all ask ourselves, **"who will I be?"** and **"what impressions of myself will I give to new people?"**. These questions always race through our minds, and the answers come out to play when we immerse ourselves into a new academic chapter… **but do we always fulfil who we want to be and what reputations we give to strangers?**

Over the years of school, I have found that it is incredibly easy to be influenced by others and change your personality to try and fit in and be 'normal'. But if being 'normal' means the risk of losing yourself to a bunch of wannabes then where will that leave you in the future? A world where you feel you cannot be yourself and cannot release your passions and interests **because you have become too familiar with pretending to be someone, you're not… all just to fit in.**

The term "spotlight" can mean so may different things; lighting on a stage, attention and focus, the intensity of light being put directly on a spot, but I like to view the term of the word to connote a sense of having the attention drawn to you due to a specific thing you have achieved or completed. In schools for particular students, their spotlight can be acting as the class clown or being incredibly bright in the Arts and Sciences etc. But spotlight can mirror who you are and what you will be. So, will you go out today and stand in the spotlight for being foolish in class and being sanctioned for immature reasons? … **or will you stand in the spotlight for achieving a challenging transition by being yourself and being kind?**

**Written by Y12 Representative, Evan**

# The Oxted Chronicles

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## War On Vinyl: Oasis v Blur

I think that everyone who doesn't live under rock remembers or knows about the famous Britpop **rivalry between the Southern band Blur and Northerners Oasis.** But how did it all begin?

Britpop was a movement that started in the early nineties as a reaction against American heavy metal and grunge music from bands like Nirvana. It took inspiration from 60s bands like The Beatles and brought back bright, catchy, and happy melodies. The lyrics focused on British culture and everyday life, bringing us into an era referred to as 'cool Britania.' Many would argue that this is when we peaked as a country.

Blur; formed in 1988; released **their hit single 'Parklife'** in 1994 cementing an unstable status as the leaders of Britpop - for now.

Manchester band Oasis; led by tempestuous brothers Liam and Noel Gallagher; released their sensational debut album 'Definitely Maybe' in August 1994, a mere few months after Blur's release. They then follow up with their **first UK number 1 single 'Some Might Say'** heightening tensions between the bands.

The Battle of Britpop reaches its climax on the 14th of August 1995 when Blur moves their release date forward so that their single; 'Country House' will release on the same day as Oasis' single; 'Roll with It." The charts reveal that **Blur sold 58,000 more copies than Oasis**. However, Oasis then went on to release (What's the Story) Morning Glory' which **turned Oasis into a global phenomenon** leading to the widely accepted deduction that Blur wins the singles battle, but Oasis won the commercial war.

As the millennium comes and goes, the craze for the Britpop movement sizzles out culminating in Blur's split in 2003. In 2009 Oasis also split after a backstage fight in Paris, following years of bickering.

Blur has headlined multiple festivals and tours since their bitter split, including releasing two new chart-topping albums in 2015 and 2023, respectively.

Oasis however, no one ever thought would reunite due to the feisty tempers of both Gallagher brothers. In 2024 news headlines across the world reported on an Instagram post from the band's official account hinting at a reunion tour. Over 10 million fans queued from 158 counties for a chance to secure tickets. The tour lasted 5 months with 41 sold-out shows and almost 3 million people in attendance. The band has recently announced 42 dates for another tour in 2027.

**Written by Y12 Representative, Scarlett**

# The Oxted Chronicles

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**OXTED CHRONICLES: FOURTEENTH EDITION - Sixth Form** **OCTOBER 2026**

## Key Dates

Assessments begin after October half term

**Updates from Sixth Form:**

- New Sixth Form Instagram page run by JLT (oxted.sixthform)
- The Oxted Chronicles has finally infiltrated Y12
- Y12 & Y13 have the option to become mentors for students in the lower school for both pastoral and academic support
- EPQ meetings for Y12 have begun and the majority of conversations consist of directions to the 'cottage'
- Everyone is slowly running out of new outfit ideas
- JLT (Junior Leadership Team) send out applications for JJLT (Junior Junior Leadership Team) for Y12
- Sixth Form Debate Club, run by Miss Henry is in IT1 every Thursday lunch

**Diving in – the right way**

After a terrific, yet challenging four weeks beginning Oxted's Sixth Form, it is clear and evident to me that after having conversations with peers and other students, who share the same perspective as me towards the workload and difficulties faced in Sixth Form, that there is an abundance of effort that is required for you to achieve in Sixth Form and you must always show great determination and graft in order to fulfil your best potential during your studies. Today this Article acknowledges both the struggles – that not all students will be able to see – and the skills that one needs to dive into the Sixth Form life… the right way.

After dealing with my own deadlines and submissions that need to be completed sharply (in various subjects), it has come to my attention that the workload between GCSEs and A-Levels is some what underestimated. It is without a doubt that the content, ability, use of vocabulary, and perseverance is a truly dramatic transition between the two school years. However, who are we to complain and give up straight away, if we want to succeed in the future? How can we, as students, be able to survive the working world and cooperate with other members of later society if we give up and become defeatist at the very first hurdle? As I was once told by a member of our School's JLT; "Work hard, don't give up and don't fall behind, as you will regret it later on". What wise words.

On a more statistical and academic basis, it is vital that – despite the intense expectations and workload in A-Levels – we don't fall behind on any type of work (be it coursework, BTEC, revision) throughout this first term.

If we give in and become fainthearted now, we will never get back on track, and that is something that we all, as a collective, need to be on… ON TRACK!

**Written By Co-Editor Freya**

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## How to not fall behind on your work

Following from previous conversations with my fellow peers and friends, it has become obvious to me that there are already forms of stress and nervousness regarding workload, deadlines, content heavy subjects and revision load. A way that I have found helps me cope with this is completing the work the day it has been set.

For example, your teacher sets you two 9 markers to be finished and submitted in four days' time, you don't underestimate the time it will take to complete and revise this piece of homework and think you can do it in 30 minutes, complete those 9 markers in the free period you have after that lesson, or at home (the same day). You must complete 2 sections of your Media Coursework by the end of this week, you start as soon as you get home, if you have time, start planning in that lesson. As consequences, there will be an extension and a detention, you will not have to worry about falling into that position or extension, because you have dived into Sixth Form the right way... prepared, organised, punctual and determined.

If there is one thing that this Article can end on, it is that once you become use to the strict routine and expectations of A-Levels, the constant deadlines and effort needed to fulfil full potential, you will have mastered this challenging, yet exhilarating time, with a more than prepared mindset... a mindset that will enable you to dive into the working world both determined and strong.

**Written by Y12 Representative, Evan**

## Highlights of Sixth Form Life:

Wearing my own clothes and jewellery everyday
Having dyed hair
Free periods to study or catch up with friends
The freedom to leave school during the day
Meeting all of the new Y12 students
Only studying my favourite subjects / not having to do English anymore