



OBA NEWSLETTER

SUMMER TERM 2021

Dear Parents and Carers



As we reach the end of the summer term I would like to take a moment to reflect on what an academic year this has been. Testing

in schools, bubbles, masks, social distancing, temperature checks and one-way systems have been just some of the new 'norms' we have become accustomed to. We have lost classroom learning and social interaction due to 3 lockdowns and students have missed out on work experience, trips, performances and community events and perhaps most significantly, their exams, normally a right of passage- all as a result of the covid -19 pandemic.

It is easy to focus on what we perceive to have lost but the content of this newsletter really highlights everything we have gained both as a school and a local community; resilience, flexibility,

pride and above all, a real sense of being in this together.

I am proud to say that the articles throughout this edition optimise the inclusive culture at OBA and the continual drive to ensure students are at the heart of all we do. There are lots of examples contained within, of how opportunities have been adapted rather than cancelled, to make certain our students are still benefiting from wider learning experiences. As you read on, you will see this reflected in stories such as the amazing art exhibition produced by sixth form students, a first online induction event for our new Year 7 cohort, virtual guest speakers in the Lessons for Life curriculum, a remote drama workshop for local primary schools and leavers events to remember for Year 11 and 13.

Staff and students have dared to shine under difficult circumstances and this has resulted in our academy continuing to be a hub of activity and success despite the challenges faced.

Inevitably at this time of year, we have some goodbyes to say as well as welcomes to make. You will see below, the list of staff moving on to pastures new next term and I would like to thank each of them for their work at OBA and wish them well in their new ventures.

As well as the new members of staff joining the academy in September, I am also pleased to welcome our new Year 7 cohort to the OBA family. We have heard wonderful things about our new students from their respective primary schools and can't wait to have them in the building for the first time in August for an exciting week of summer school.

At this point, I would like to thank all parents and carers for your continued support and engagement in your children's learning. It is only by working together that we are able to achieve so much.

I wish you all a safe, happy and relaxing summer break.

Mrs Evans Principal

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Uniform Expectations for September

All uniform is available from:

Laser Schoolwear, Church Street, Runcorn WA7 1LX. TEL: 01928 890 244

All students must adhere to this uniform expectation. Students who are not in correct uniform may be taken out of circulation to work until uniform is corrected.

YES

- Academy blazer
- Academy tie - House Colour (worn full length)
- Black trousers, pinafore or knee length skirt
- White shirt
- Black socks or tights
- Smart black leather / leather-look footwear
- Academy PE kit
- Natural hair colour/style
- School bag to hold A4 books



NO

- No headphones, ear pods or mobile phones during the school day
- No leggings or 'skinny' style trousers.
- No make-up, nail varnish or false/gel nails.
- No 'hoodies' or sweatshirts (Unless wearing OBA branded tops for dance, drama or PE)
- No facial piercings. No rings, bracelets or necklaces. Only one pair of plain stud earrings permitted.
- No trainers, boots or excessive heeled shoes. Coloured stitching, bows or embellishments are not permitted.
- No coloured bows in hair. Plain dark band or dark bobbles only.
- No extreme hair cut/styles or colours permitted.

OBA presents 'Rock of Ages'



It is that time of year again for our annual school production, and this year it is 'Rock of Ages'.

Auditions have already taken place and the Performing Arts team are in the process of deciding the cast list which will be announced in due course.

Miss Ryan, Dance Teacher, said **"We are so excited to start rehearsals for our school production. The Performing Arts department have been blown away with every student who had**

the courage to come to auditions, it is a very talented cast".

The show will be Monday 13th December 2021 - Primary school matinee, Tuesday 14th December 2021 7pm start, Wednesday 15th December 2021 7pm start, and Thursday 16th of December 2021 7pm start. It is going to be a rocking show!

Information regarding purchasing tickets will be released in the new academic year, this will be published on OBA's website and social media accounts. Keep an eye out, we can't wait to see you there.

And remember, don't stop believing!



Dot Art Schools Competition

For the last few years OBA Year 9 students have taken part in the 'Dot Art Schools Competition'. This year was no exception and all of our students produced a piece of art work in their lessons, the art department selected the most successful 20 entries.

Mrs Cleverly, Art Teacher said, **"We were extremely impressed with the quality of work**

produced, especially as much of it was completed remotely".

External judges from Dot Art then selected our top 3 entries and members of the public were able to vote for their favourite.

Alex Earley, Chloe Cunningham and **Ruby Smith** had their work selected by the panel of experts, all 3 had created personal and exciting artistic outcomes.

Ultimately Ruby was selected by the public as the winner for OBA and had her work exhibited in the iconic Port of Liverpool building in June.

A massive well done to all of our Year 9 students for participating but particularly to our two runners up and overall winner!



#iwill UPDATE

This term in #iwill the club has been busy planting! Year 7 were tasked with planting some potatoes in the raised beds and we were absolutely amazed at how quickly they have grown. As well as this a mixture of both Year 7 and Year 8 were responsible for planting our colourful herb wall which includes the likes of chives, parsley, mint and rosemary all of which smell amazing!

Our older year groups, Year 9 and Year 11, also planted blackberries and raspberries in the raised beds, using cane to guide their growth nice and tall.

Our Year 12 students also recently got involved in helping to create eco-packs to deliver to our local primary schools.

In between planting the #iwill group has been taking care of the garden, keeping it tidy and clearing any weeds from Miss Clarke's memorial bench. Staff who visited the garden last week to commemorate Miss Clarke's birthday all commented on how well looked after the space had been by the students.

Miss Doyle who leads on the #iwill project said, **"The garden has had some help from the wonderful site team at OBA, who have been busy constructing the school greenhouse which will be ready for first use next academic year, as well as this Mr Kenwright very generously made and gifted us a beautiful bird feeding table and planter boxes"**.

As an academy, we have had lots to celebrate this term as #iwill member **Chloe (Year 9)** was nominated for the #iwill Pupil Social Action Award at the OAT annual awards 2021, for all of her work in social action both within school and her wider community. As well as this Miss Doyle was shortlisted for the #iwill Staff Social Action Award for all her work in establishing and running the project.

Well done to all involved!



Lessons for Life

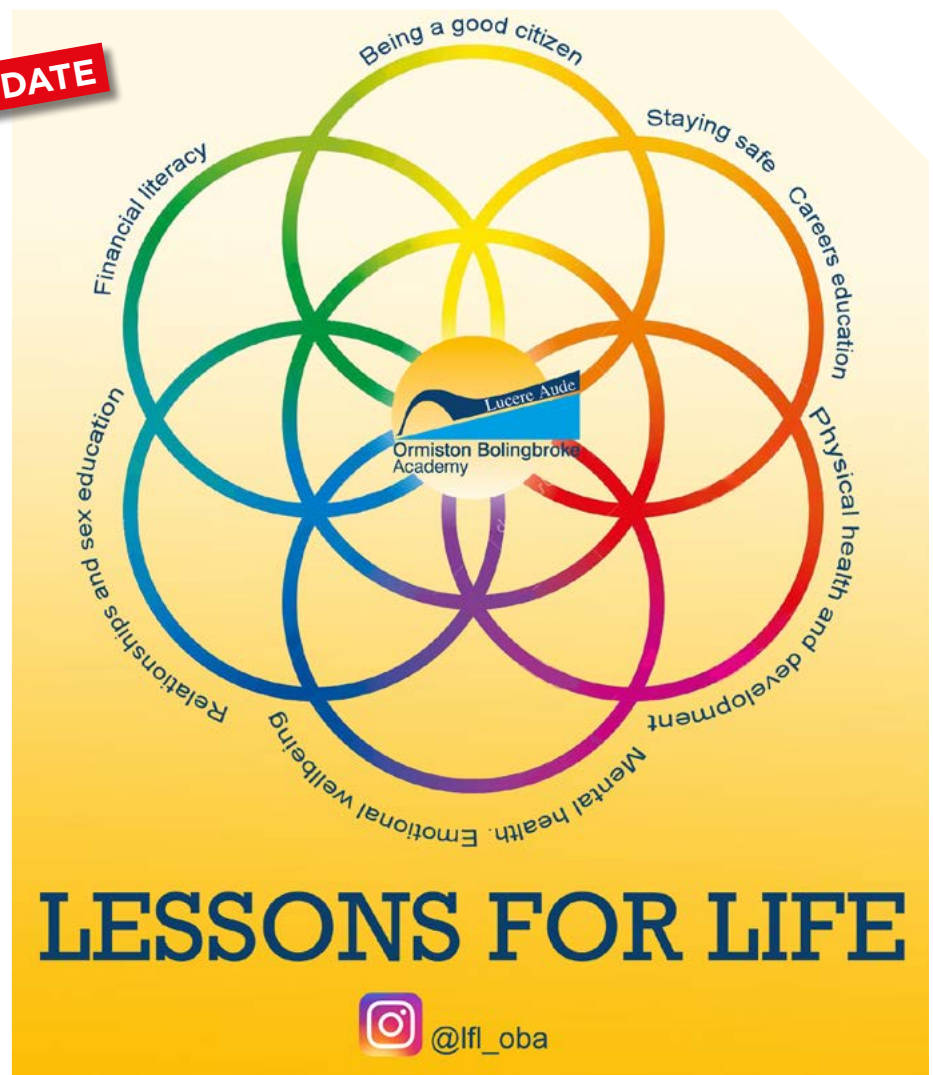
UPDATE

The personal development of our OBA students into young adults is one of the things that we pride ourselves on at Ormiston Bolingbroke Academy. We deliver Personal, Social and Health Education via our Lessons for Life programme which takes place every week.

This half term has seen a range of different projects take place that address the seven key strands of Lessons for Life. Students in Year 7 have been working on an exciting project around social action which has involved students examining inspirational individuals who have taken social action to change the world and looking at their stories. Students produced some beautiful posters celebrating the life and work of people such as Rosa Parks, Nelson Mandela, X Gonzales and David Attenborough. This was followed by students developing a social action plan to combat a chosen issue in our local area. Some of the issues that students decided to tackle included loneliness, mental health, litter, crime - including hate crime and pollution. All of this brilliant work was put together in collaboration with our #iWill project coordinator Miss Doyle who worked with Mr Hussey to develop ideas, plans and resources for students.

In year 8 students have been working on a project about their physical body changes as they emerge into their teenage years.

Years 9 and 10 students have recently been focussing on their



future careers and have been examining what jobs they are aiming to secure in the future as well as the wide range of information, advice and guidance available to all OBA students. This project was enriched by a range of online talks to Year 9 and 10 students during Lessons for Life from our partners at Shaping Futures who delivered sessions on life at university, labour market information and alternative pathways that students can take at

the end of Year 11, including sixth form, college, apprenticeships and T Levels.

Parents and carers can find out a bit more about our Lessons for Life provision by visiting the curriculum pages in the 'parents' section of our website.

You can keep in touch with all things related to Lessons for Life by following the @lfl_oba on Instagram.

U16 Cheshire Girls Squad

Livvi Turkington, Year 9, and **Grace Orme, Year 10,** have been successful in getting into Cheshire Schools U16 Girls Football Squad.

Miss McAuliffe, Head of PE said, **"Both girls are a huge credit**

to the academy and we are delighted that their hard work, talent and commitment has been recognized."

The OBA family looks forward to following your journey - Congratulations to you both!



Goodbye and Good Luck Year 13

On 25th June we hosted a 'bottomless brunch' leavers event for our Year 13 students to mark their achievements and celebrate their hard work and resilience throughout their time in Sixth Form. After a challenging time since last March, it was important that we recognised how much our Year 13 students have been able to achieve despite the unique challenges they have faced. In the face of such adversity, we wanted to end the final school term with a focus on celebrating the many achievements of our Year 13 students.

The day was started with a relaxed brunch, followed by lots of fun activities. Students were able to grab a slush and popcorn, and have their pictures taken in the photobooth with props and costume, as well as taking some last OBA leavers snaps under the leavers 2021 balloon arch.

There was also the chance for our sixth form staff to speak to the year group as a whole and congratulate them on their hard work as well as final words of encouragement for their future. Many of our students are heading off to university, leaving us to join companies for apprenticeships or have found employment to progress onto and this is a testament to their hard work and dedication throughout their sixth form education.

We look forward to staying in contact with our Year 13 students as they embark on their post 18 destinations and sharing their many successes with us.

Mrs Foulder, Assistant Head of Sixth Form Year 13 said, **"Good luck and remember the OBA motto 'Dare to Shine' every single day. We look forward to seeing you one last time on Thursday 10th August for A-Level results day"**.



Goodbye and Good luck Year 13 (continued)



Year 11 Dress to Impress as they celebrate their time at OBA

Year 11 students finished their 5-year OBA journey in style with a 3-week programme of activity that culminated in a stylish 'Dress to Impress' leavers event.



Miss McKeivitt, Head of Year 11 said, "Our students have shown a huge amount of resilience and perseverance in what has been

a challenging year for all. We were determined their time at the academy would end on a high and staff worked really hard to create and offer an exciting timetable of activity which would enable students to have fun whilst having the opportunity to try new things".

Following May half term, students were invited back to attend a bespoke programme of activity



that allowed them to take part in some of the experiences they had missed out on during the last year due to Covid. Students returning to the academy sixth form in September had the opportunity to take part in a variety of sixth form taster lessons to gain an insight into the courses they have opted to study at A Level. Furthermore,



all students had the chance to choose from a plethora of other activity sessions including, make-up, sports, retro-games, bubble-football, cooking, ICT, gym, dance, forensic science, astronomy, hairdressing, beauty and money management, in addition to hiking and fishing trips!

Miss McKeivitt added, "Over 100 students attended each day and it was fantastic to see students having a great time with each other and taking part in sessions they may not have had the chance to do before. Students have missed out on so many trips and I really enjoyed being able to accompany the group hike up Moel Famau in sunny Wales. It was a day to remember!"

The 3-week programme ended on a high with a 'Dress to Impress' leavers event. Students attended school in their best attire and started the day with a special breakfast in the canteen. Whilst enjoying free bacon/sausage sandwiches and chocolate croissants, students had the chance to chat to staff, reminisce with each other and sign shirts and leavers books. This was followed by celebratory assemblies in tutor groups, competitive quizzes, Tik Tok videos, messages from staff

old and new, popcorn, candyfloss and even a disco photo booth.

Despite a difficult year, time at the academy for our Year 11 students ended on a high with lots of emotional staff and students showing what being part of the OBA family has meant to them.

Take care Year 11 and keep in touch! We wish you every success for the future and look forward to welcoming many of you back in September as OBA Sixth Form college students!



Year 11 Dress to Impress as they celebrate their time at OBA (continued)



Pride Day at OBA

Bright colours illuminated the academy as OBA celebrated national Pride Day on Monday 28th June.

Awareness assemblies took place across the academy with Mr Houslay. Staff donned coloured ribbons, clothes and accessories and a themed lunch and rainbow treats were available in the school canteen.

OBA recognised the event as a key way of celebrating love, diversity and acceptance across all communities.



Beyond the Baseline

We are delighted to report that the 'Beyond the Baseline' initiative has been back at OBA again this year and working with 12 of our Year 8 students. The programme, which is managed by the Youth Sport Trust on behalf of The Tennis Foundation, works to nurture aspirations and motivate young people to help them fulfil their personal potential.

Ex-professional player, Anna Fitzpatrick, is the inspirational mentor for our school and throughout her visits to OBA has shared with students, her experiences of playing tennis and the obstacles she has overcome along the way both on and off the court.

Over a three-week period, Anna has led three sessions based on improving four key Employability & Life skills – Personal, Social, Creative and Thinking Skills; vital attributes that everyone needs to be able to achieve their goals. After working with Anna, our students planned, organised and delivered a tennis project for other members of the year group.

Teacher of PE, Mr King said, "The students really enjoyed the challenging tasks set in the classroom and while playing tennis. The students really stepped up and delivered some very good sessions to the Year 5's. Some of the games I will be stealing and using in my lessons, they were that good".

OBA Sixth Form Art Students Dare to Shine in Global Exhibition



academy sixth form students a similar experience of exhibiting and collaborating with an international art magazine, encouraging our students to create work specifically for the virtual gallery and giving them a real-life cultural experience.

Mrs Cleverley, Art Teacher at OBA said, **“This has been a great motivational tool, as the student’s work was curated and critiqued by a professional art editor and exhibition curator. The gallery can be accessed 24/7. As a department we are immensely proud of the students involved and the effort they put in to make this a reality. A special thankyou to Denis Taylor (Editor/Curator and Owner of Painters Tubes Magazine) for his support and professional critique of our students work, exhibition and creation of the catalogue”.**

On the first day the show went live, the exhibition had 3000 views in the UK alone!

Mrs Cleverley added, **“We have been delighted with the response that we have had from the students that have taken part. Please see their feedback below”.**

Continued on the next page >



The OBA Art Department celebrate students successes each year with a visually impressive exhibition at the academy. As covid restrictions have prevented this from taking place over the last couple of years the team came up with a way to ensure students still had the exciting opportunity to showcase their achievements. Alongside his teaching position Shaun Smyth, Teacher of Art at the academy, is also a practicing artist and was due to have several shows across the North West. Shaun is working collaboratively with Painters Tubes magazine (Denis Taylor, editor and owner) and professional photographer Lee Harrison and were able to showcase their collaborative project through innovative virtual gallery exhibition technologies and raise the profile of their ongoing creative partnership to a global audience. This collaboration inspired Shaun to approach Denis about developing an exhibition to showcase A Level art and photography work at OBA.

The Art department felt that they wanted to offer

OBA Sixth Form Art Students Dare to Shine in Global Exhibition (continued)

Student responses:

Both the virtual gallery and the catalogue are presented in a very professional manner that eliminates any bias that can come from different backgrounds or ages and allows for equal representation of everyone's artwork. I am excited to receive the physical copy of the catalogue and be able to use it in the future for any university or job interviews. In addition, having the experience virtually is a great opportunity for my work to be seen by a larger and more varied audience. I am glad that my artwork has been perceived in the way that I hoped it would have been, I wanted the audience to see the inspiration of older black and white photographs and how they conveyed nostalgia. Now that I know my work is being perceived the way I want it to and having it viewed by thousands, it has and will greatly improve my confidence in my work moving forward.

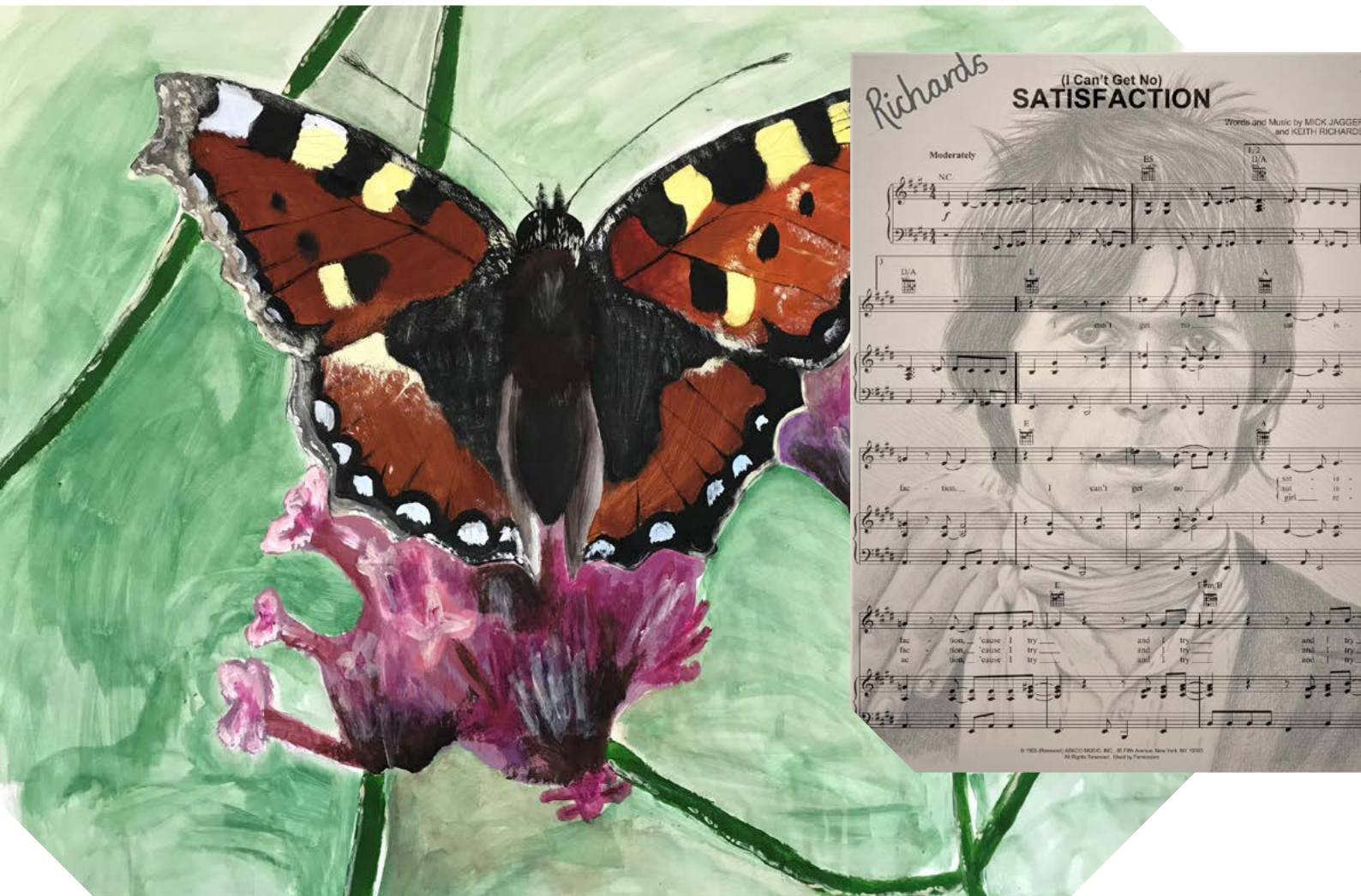
Gabriella Sartorius

I think the catalogue is presented very well and to see my own pieces amongst other work that showcase the talent and creativity of my fellow students is truly inspiring. This project has allowed us to share our individuality with the world in a professional manner, which I really appreciate and enjoy. This provides a great opportunity to share my work with other people.

Kiera Valdez

Staff across the academy have been hugely impressed with the effort, talent and professionalism of the students involved and the pieces curated for exhibition. Congratulations to all involved and we look forward to seeing how your careers as artists progress.

To experience the full gallery, please click - <https://painterstubes.gallery/ormiston-bolingbroke-academy-6th-form-art-exhibition-2021/>



Saturday Academy



Students had the chance to work with History teachers Mr Crawley and Mr McArthur to recreate famous battlefields, learn about motivating speeches and discover the intelligent tactics used to defeat Nazi Germany.



Mr Crawley

Mr McArthur

Miss Ray

Students then worked with Miss Ray to prepare and bake scones.

Miss Ray said, "Scones were a versatile bake made in many kitchens during WW2. Sugar was rationed so other flavouring would be added like dried fruits and grated carrots in place of the sugar to sweeten the scones. It was lovely to meet our new Year 7 students, I was super impressed with their teamwork and independence reading a recipe and creating and shaping dough. I can't wait until summer school when we can develop more skills with lots more cooking and baking".

Staff leading the sessions at the academy commented on the enthusiasm and engagement of all the students who attended. We now look forward to welcoming these students into our Year 7 cohort in September!

This term 3 more primary schools have had the opportunity to visit OBA in their Year 6 bubble on a Saturday morning.

Palacefields Primary School, Brookvale Primary School and St Martin's Primary School were invited on three separate Saturdays to step back in time to WW2.



OAT Virtual Sports Cup

Team OBA achieved runner up position in this year's OAT Virtual Sports Cup!

Over the course of the competition 3,500 staff and students and 170 staff from across the OAT network took part. Combined total challenges performed was 26,385 meaning 105,540 individual challenges were achieved.

Miss McAuliffe, Head of PE said, "Achieving the runner up spot is a huge accomplishment for the academy and we are super proud of each and every member of the OBA family who got involved and dared to shine!" Next year, the top spot is ours!



Transition at OBA

Despite covid restrictions preventing students from being in the academy for induction days this term, transition plans have been flying ahead as normal.

Mrs Snagg, Associate Assistant Principal, has visited and met with teachers from 24 primary schools to find out all there is to know about our new Year 7 cohort!

Our new starters have been busy filling in a 'This is Me' document so that we have personalised information from each child to share with form tutors and welcome packs have been delivered to students in their primary schools. The packs contain information booklets for both students and parents/carers in addition to a variety of OBA branded goodies, including a water bottle, pen, pencil, ruler and rubber.

The academy's first ever online induction events took place on Tuesday 13th and Wednesday 14th July with Year 7 tutors having the opportunity to meet and chat 'face to face'

with the newest members of the OBA Family.

Mrs Snagg, Associate Assistant Principal, responsible for transition said, "We have really missed being able to have our new year group in the academy this year but it was great to see lots of excited faces on the screens on Tuesday and Wednesday and hear the lovely conversations taking place between our new students and their form tutor".



Summer School 2021 is all set to go ahead during the week commencing Monday 9th August. After taking part in morning Maths and English lessons students will have the opportunity to opt into a whole range of exciting activities in the afternoon including; cooking, DJ sessions, DT workshops, forensic science investigations, multi-sports, bubble football and inflatable assault courses!

This week is exclusively for students starting in Year 7 at the academy in September 2021. Booklets and booking forms can be collected from the academy reception.

The Dream Project

A group of our talented Year 7 drama students have been participating in a brand-new drama project. They have been developing their understanding of 'A Midsummer Night's Dream' from a practical perspective and have created a workshop performance to share with Year 3 students in local primary schools.

Students have been working extremely hard every week to develop the short workshop performance during rehearsals as well as learning lines, organising props and costume for the primary schools and experimenting with lighting equipment.

Mrs Foulder, Head of Drama said, **"The commitment has been**

fantastic from the students, and they have excelled themselves throughout this project. I am particularly impressed with the way they have dealt with changes to the project due to the pandemic and how despite additional challenges they have created a strong piece of work that will be a fantastic resource for their primary peers as well as experience they will take with them throughout their school life here at OBA".

The project concluded with the students working with a professional media company for a full morning recording their work so it could be shared remotely with local primary schools.

Mrs Foulder added, **"This was a decision we made quite late into the project and the way students handled the change was fantastic. They have shown such maturity and resilience for a group of Year 7 students and their professionalism when working with the media company was fantastic. I cannot congratulate the Year 7 students enough for their fantastic efforts throughout this project and I look forward to seeing them thrive in other drama projects in the future. These students are living out the school motto 'dare to shine' by getting involved in such opportunities. It has been great seeing students thrive after such a challenging year. WELL DONE!"**

Here are some comments from our students when they initially got involved in the project:

I am most looking forward to what the final performance will look like and see how the primary school students react.

Katie Milne

I am really looking forward to working with other students in different key stages from primary school.

Alex Herbert

I am most looking forward to working with the Year 3s and giving them the kit that comes as part of the project and sharing my knowledge of the play.

Niamh Fallon

I am most looking to getting involved in using the lighting equipment because it will help to show the emotion of the performance.

Ellie Worrall



This half term has been a busy one for careers education at OBA! All of our Year 9, 10 and 11 students have received virtual sessions from Shaping Futures on topics ranging from life at university and labour market information to interview skills (Year 11 only) and alternative pathways.

Young Enterprise also visited OBA to deliver their "Learn to Earn" session to our Year 9 students. This session involves students budgeting for a household and then searching for a job that interests them and which will pay for the lifestyle that they hope for.

Our Year 12 students took part in a "Meet the Professionals"

session where two employers with a wealth of experience across a range of industries gave advice and took questions. As our Year 10 students were working from home they were also invited to attend this event as part of their Lessons for Life session. The topics covered included employability skills, how to develop skills that can be transferred from one industry to another, how to secure an interview and how to stand out in the job application process.

Year 7 have also taken part in a virtual employability workshop which included an afternoon of activities, including a question and answer session with an employer, advice on careers writing and the importance of thinking about how they can enhance their employability, starting right now in Year 7!

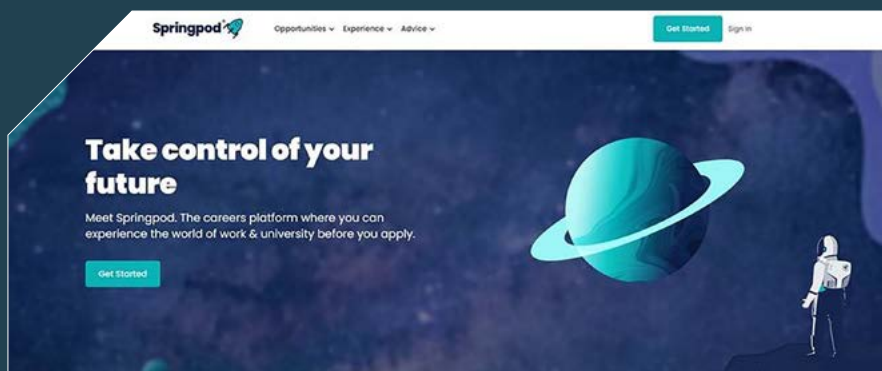
Year 9 and 10 have also completed a careers project in their Lessons for Life curriculum which has included understanding different

careers, outlining future plans, understanding employability skills, the importance of careers advice, understanding the process of applying for a job and exploring local labour market information.

In addition to the above, all of our Year 11 and Year 13 students have received a one-to-one careers interview during the year with our qualified impartial careers advisor and Year 10 and Year 12 have now begun to receive their careers interview. Students in any year group are welcome to request a careers meeting and this can be done by either asking Mr Oakes or their form tutor to organise it or by emailing Matt Paulson, Careers Advisor, directly at m.paulson@ob-ac.co.uk.

In addition, students and parents can access the latest careers advice, resources and opportunities by visiting our dedicated careers website at www.oba-careers.co.uk and following us on Instagram at @oba_careers.

Sixth Form Psychology Success



Two Year 12 Psychology students dared to shine as they took part in a Virtual Work Experience Programme, in their own time.

In conjunction with careers platform 'Springpod', **Molly McMaster and Katie Morgan** learned about the importance of key theories, subjects and practices within psychology in addition to completing interactive quizzes, activities and live webinars with industry professionals.

Mrs Machin, Head of Psychology at the academy said, "This brilliant opportunity gave our students a real insight into what it is like to be a psychologist. The experience was wide-ranging, including knowledge of forensic, clinical, counselling and health psychology".

The programme commenced on the 1st June 2021 and by the end of June Molly and Katie had progressed through the modules and completed all components

of the Virtual Work Experience.

Well done Molly and Katie, the OBA family are very proud of your efforts.



Super Cute Spencer - Our OBA Dog



It has been Spencer's first half term settling in at OBA, and he has loved every minute. During the first couple of weeks he was getting used to the sights and sounds of the school and has slowly been introduced to students in a careful manner. His tail has been wagging faster than ever, and he is excited to come into school each day. Spencer has started doing some break and lunch duties with Miss Styles whilst there have been smaller groups on the yard, and he has loved saying hello to any students who have wanted to meet him. Spencer has settled in really well to his 'office'... or rather, enjoyed taking ownership of Miss Styles' office!

In the last two weeks, Spencer has started his reading dog training, going into a couple of smaller classes and listening with interest to the students reading 'Boy' by Roald Dahl and 'Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone' by J.K Rowling. Of course, he enjoyed Harry Potter the most, just like his owner!

Spencer has already made a big difference to the students at OBA, with one student, **Callum**, saying, "It has made me enjoy my English lessons

more and makes it even more fun to read. I try and read better because it is for Spencer".

Evan said "It made me confident with reading and I enjoy English when Spencer reads with us".

Lily has been really pleased to meet Spencer and said "I think Spencer should be in more lessons and it made me feel calmer because I can't usually sit still in lessons, but if Spencer is sitting with me it makes me not move as much". This is just the start of Spencer's reading journey, but he is excited to continue it in September.

Spencer has also spent some time with Miss Greenwood in the iZone, getting to meet staff and students there in readiness for September. Miss Greenwood has loved having Spencer with her and Spencer has really enjoyed practising his 'sit', 'stay' and 'here' with everyone in the iZone. Miss Greenwood and Miss Hughes have both marvelled at the positive and calming influence Spencer has had in the iZone.

Spencer is still training, but has settled in really well and can't wait to show off everything he learns over the summer.



British Sign Language Enrichment



This term has brought the introduction of our new British Sign Language (BSL) enrichment. Miss Greenwood (Inclusion Zone Coordinator) has been running weekly BSL enrichment sessions, covering the basics of BSL such as: fingerspelling the alphabet, numbers, weather, conversational talk, questions, months, and days of the week.

Miss Greenwood said “It has been lovely to see so many of our OBA

students attend such an inclusive enrichment. BSL isn't just for someone who is hearing impaired, it's a language for all to use. The learners have really enjoyed themselves and it's been lots of fun. It has been nice to have some of our hearing-impaired students lead the sessions also. We hope to carry on BSL next academic year and we hope to see some new faces joining us”.

Phoebe Barton (Year 8 student)

said “I have enjoyed BSL so much... It is fantastic that Miss Greenwood and the school are spreading deaf awareness. It would be good if sign language could be taught in all classes and across the school, so that there is a basic understanding and a way to communicate even just the alphabet. It shows how we as a family at OBA are becoming more deaf aware”.

Azen-Ella Dalgic (Year 8 student) said “BSL enrichment is incredible. It is an opportunity to be able to communicate with a deaf person. As a deaf person myself I feel welcome and understood and appreciate when people try and communicate with me”.



Welcome and Goodbyes

The following members of staff will be joining the academy from September and we are delighted to welcome them to our OBA Family:

Amy Ellis	Graduate Teaching Assistant - Science
Laurence Reid	Teacher of English
Sarah Cooke	Primary Trained Teacher
Vicky Davies	Teacher of D&T and Year 8 Form Tutor
Matt Buckley	Teacher of Music - Temporary Maternity Cover
Natalie Clinton	Teacher of Geography and Year 7 Form Tutor
Stevie Kilner	Pastoral Manager
Lindsay Hanrahan	EHCP TA
Paige Dolan	Cover Supervisor
Jayne Jones	Senior Science Technician
Joshua Jones	Teacher of MFL Spanish

We would also like to say thank you and good luck to the following members of staff who leave the academy this term for pastures new:

Alisha Box	Cleaner
Catherine Carey	Teacher of Geography
Ann Collier	PA to Mrs Evans (retirement)
Lucy Doyle	Teacher of Geography
Jason Frost	Teacher of Maths
Emma Hawken	Teacher of Science
Clare Littlemore	Teacher of English
Monika Moloszc	Teacher of English
Emma O'Brien	Cleaner
Jennifer Roberts	Teacher of English
Jeanette McLean	Science Technician
Helen Thornton	Teacher of Maths
Mark Wynne	Teacher of Spanish

Mrs Collier celebrates retirement after 43 Years!



This summer we bid a fond farewell to Mrs Evans' PA, Mrs Collier. Mrs Collier has worked at our school for 43 years and during that time has been PA to seven different Heads/ Principals! She has seen thousands of students walk through those school gates and now sees their children walk through the same gates, what an achievement!

When Mrs Collier first started working at our school, it wasn't even built! Staff and students were housed in an old school building in Balfour Road. The building had been closed for a number of years so there was a lot of work to be done at the time to make it habitable. Staff remember it to be a depressing, cold building that lacked in modern amenities and had very little central heating. There was no central bell to signal lesson changeover and this was achieved instead by staff going out in to the school yard and walking up and down ringing a hand bell! This was described as a treacherous job when snow

was thick on the ground and staff could be seen slipping and sliding all over the yard!

Easter 1979 saw Brookvale Comprehensive, as the school was then called, the move onto the current academy site and into parts of the present OBA building. The school opened initially with first and second-year students only and, as time progressed, it opened up to all years from 11-16. By this time the school was fully furnished with central heating and all the mod cons and Mrs Collier and the staff who had endured the miserable building on Balfour road were thoroughly enjoying their surroundings and new working environment. However, their comfort was to be short lived when disaster struck four years later and a serious fire wiped out the front half of the school. Staff spent the next two years working in mobile accommodation and this is where Mrs Collier, a woman of considerable talents became accustomed to wearing many hats. Long-standing colleague, Mrs Wightman, describes how our much-loved PA was **'always dashing from the main building to mobiles at the beck and call of most staff and always able to flag things up in a jiffy!'**

12 years later the school suffered a second fire, which saw Mrs Collier

heading back to the mobiles, again wearing her many hats.

After 43 years, Mrs Evans and the staff at OBA were determined to ensure that Mrs Collier's significant service to the school, in its many forms, was rightly honoured. Celebrations started on Monday 19th July with 180 Year 7 students clapping Mrs Collier out of the building to a limousine waiting outside with her husband, daughters and grandchildren. Several more top-secret celebrations are yet to follow in the lead up to Mrs Collier's last day in August.

Mrs Wightman who has worked with Mrs Collier throughout the whole 43 years of her career at this school said, **"I could go on forever regarding her personal qualities but it is suffice to say that Mrs Collier is a role model to us all."**

This is a sentiment echoed by all staff at the academy who will miss Mrs Collier sorely. However, we wish her a happy and fun filled retirement. We hear she has already bought a wet suit ready for a new hobby she's planning! and bid her best wishes and many thanks from everyone at Brookvale Comp, Halton High School and Ormiston Bolingbroke Academy.

Uniform Swap Shop

Call for any unwanted/outgrown uniforms!

The OBA mini bus will be out in the community on Wednesday 28th July to collect any items of uniform and PE kits that are no longer needed.

Collection points-

- 10.00am Queen of Hearts Car Park
- 10.30am Murdishaw Community Centre
- 11.00am Windmill Hill (Outside Windmill Hill School/Church area)
- 12.00pm Castlefields (Phoenix Park)
- 12.30pm Palacefields Community Centre

Parents/Carers can drop off items throughout the summer into the academy reception.

Washed and sanitised uniform can then be collected on the following days:

- Monday 9th August - OBA (9.00am - 3.00pm)
- Tuesday 10th August - OBA (1.00pm - 3.00pm)

Wednesday 11th August

Mini Bus will be out in the community:

- 10.00am Queen of Hearts Car Park
- 10.30am Murdishaw Community Centre
- 11.00am Windmill Hill (Outside Windmill Hill School/Church area)
- 12.00pm Castlefields (Phoenix Park)
- 12.30pm Palacefields Community Centre
- Friday 13th August - OBA (9.00am - 3.00pm)

If you would like to enquire ahead about availability of specific uniform/ PE kit items please contact Mrs Crane at the academy on 01928 711632 or via email - s.crane@ob-ac.co.uk

E-Safety Update

Internet Matters Guidance

Given the many concerns that parents have in relation to their child's use of social media, Internet Matters have put together a very useful resource page on their site with lots of advice and tips. This useful resource is available for free [HERE](#).

Reporting Indecent Images

Childline and the Internet Watch Foundation (IWF) have made available a brand new tool so that children and young people can report a nude image or video of themselves in order that the IWF can take steps to remove it from the Internet. The tool has been under trial for about a year but is now available to all as of 22nd June. Given the recent **Ofsted report** and research from many others, we know there are many reasons for taking/sharing and equally many barriers to reporting images and videos, so it is imperative that young people know that they can take action themselves and that something will be done.

Importantly, a young person can even report an image/video that hasn't been uploaded and shared. The IWF will assign a 'hash' to prevent the image being uploaded by anyone.

This is an incredibly positive step forward. More information from the IWF can be found [HERE](#) and the Childline reporting tool, Report Remove, can be found [HERE](#).

Safer Schools App

All OBA students and parents/carers are able to download the totally free, 'Safer Schools' App which is full of the latest information on how to keep yourselves safe online.

The App is completely free of charge and by downloading this app, you can receive tips and advice on how to keep safe online, as well as information, guidance and support.

