



OBA NEWSLETTER

WINTER TERM 2021

Dear Parents and Carers



Our long-awaited Christmas break is finally here! I would like to thank you first and foremost for the wonderful support you

have given in what has been another challenging term.

In the last couple of weeks, I have had to take the decision to move progress evenings back online for Years 11, 12 and 13 in order to keep everyone safe before Christmas. The school show has had to be scaled back and Saturday academy cancelled for our primary schools. I hope that taking these precautions now means that we are able to return to normal service after Christmas. The school will be closed

throughout the Christmas period but our emails will be monitored at regular intervals should you have any issues that you need to raise. The email address is admin@ob-ac.co.uk

I wish you all a very happy and relaxing break with your families and loves ones.

Mrs Evans Principal

Winter Warmer and Christmas Toy Appeal

Staff and students across the academy have been donating items over the last month for our annual community Christmas initiatives. Thank you to everyone who has contributed – by giving a little, together we really did achieve a lot!

We raised a fantastic £331 for the OBA Christmas Toy Appeal and £209.50 for the Hamper initiative as well as bags and bags of donations handed into school!

The packaged food hampers and toys/gifts will now be distributed to families, both in our school and local community, over the Christmas period.



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Transition at OBA

We have been delighted this term to welcome primary pupils back into the academy to take part in OBA music lessons.

Each Friday morning, pupils from Year 3 at Murdishaw West Primary School and Year 5 from St Berteline's CofE Primary School have been working with Mr Buckley in the music department.



Parent View

We are always looking to gather parent voice and one of the ways we do this is using the Ofsted 'Parent View' survey. If you have a couple of minutes spare we would be grateful if you could please click on this link to complete a short questionnaire - [Welcome to Ofsted Parent View | Ofsted Parent View](#)

Your time and views are very much appreciated.

Pupil Premium Report

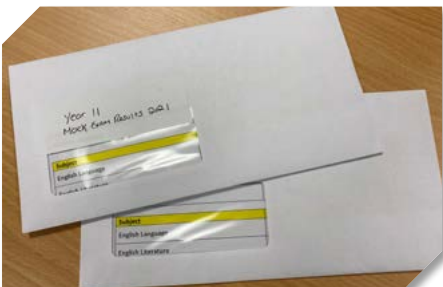
The Pupil Premium Spend Strategy 2021 has been published on our website ([Click here to view](#)) we welcome any feedback; this can be sent to Mrs Fitzgerald c.fitzgerald@ob-ac.co.uk

The Theatre Comes to OBA

This term, Year 11 were lucky enough to have Quantum Theatre Company come into school to perform a staging of A Christmas Carol. With a three-man cast and lots of great staging, lighting and costume changes, the Quantum Theatre Company enthralled and engaged Year 11. The performance was a great chance to see Charles Dickens' famous novel brought to life and was an amazing revision opportunity for the students. Lots of the students said how true to the novel it was, and how much they enjoyed the show. Miss Styles, Head of English, said **"It was a great experience for our students to have the theatre come to them, meaning that they didn't miss out on any opportunities that had to be cancelled last year. I was really impressed with the performance and how entertaining the company were."**



Year 11 Mock Results



Following a week of mock exams in November, Year 11 students took part in a mock results day which mimicked the official results process. All Students took part in an assembly with Mr Evans

and Miss Fitzgerald, Assistant Principal responsible for progress at the academy, which addressed feelings and emotions after the results along with next steps.

One of our current sixth form students attended the assembly to speak to students about her experience of exams in Year 11. Teagan explained how she felt, what she did and how this affected her GCSE result. Teagan spoke honestly about the effort she needed to put in following her own mock exam results and

how the grade she finally achieved helped her to secure a place on her dream course doing midwifery.

After the assembly students went back to lesson to fill in a reflection sheet which will be discussed with academic mentors in the new year.

All Year 11 students have an allocated academic mentor to help guide them through the potential stresses and strains of the final year. For more details on this, please contact Mrs Hasty - n.hasty@ob-ac.co.uk.

Welcome Baby Evelyn

Congratulations to Mr Robinson and his wife, who welcomed their baby daughter Evelyn Marie on the 9th November. A healthy 7lb or 3.025kg if you like metric measurements like Mr Robinson! It's great to hear mum and baby are both doing well.



Year 11 and 13 Awards Event 2021



Staff at the academy were delighted to be able to hold our first awards event in nearly 3 years for Year 11 and 13. The glitzy ceremony took place on Wednesday 24th November and award winners from last years cohorts were invited into school, along with their families to receive their certificates and prizes.

Balloons, black table clothes and chair covers, glittery tea light candles and cake stands laden with treats helped transform the dance and drama theatre into a more glamorous setting for the prestigious celebrations.

On the night, Mrs Evans welcomed students and their parents/carers before handing over to Mr Fenner, Head of Sixth Form and Miss McKeivitt, Head of last years' Year 11 to comper the evening.

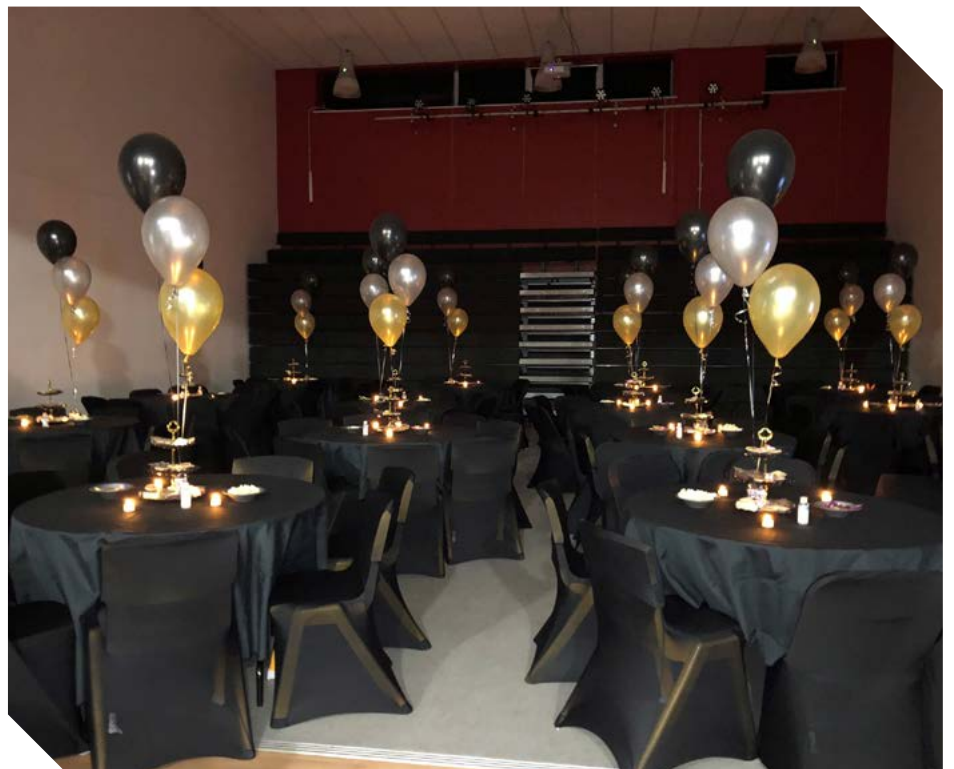
Students had been nominated by staff for awards including; Highest Achiever, Subject Awards, 100% attendance and 100% whole school Career attendance.

Special awards were also given to students who achieved the best progress 8 score, the highest grades across the year group and two new perseverance awards.

We were delighted to introduce two new outstanding science awards in memory of our much loved and missed colleague and teacher, Miss Clarke.

Thank you to Miss Clarke's family who sponsored the trophies and the £100 reward vouchers and attended on the night to see them presented to worthy winners, Joshua and Bethany.

Congratulations to all our award recipients - the OBA family is extremely proud of each and every one of you.



Year 11 and 13 Awards Event 2021



OBA Family Member Awarded the British Empire Medal

Congratulations to Mr Ashraf Hamido Desouki who has recently been awarded a prestigious British Empire Medal. The highly acclaimed award was presented to Mr Hamido Desouki by her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Cheshire, on behalf of The Queen, on Thursday 4th November. The Investiture Ceremony which celebrates outstanding achievements, took place at Tatton Hall in Knutsford and Mr Hamido Desouki was joined at this special event by his wife and two daughters who are currently in Year 7 and Year 13 at the academy.

The medal was awarded in recognition for his services in supporting refugees and asylum seekers in Halton during COVID-19, by providing essentials such as food, toiletries, and clothes. In addition to check-in phone calls to improve their mental health and well-being.

'Well done Mr Hamido Desouki from the whole OBA Family.'



Livvi Makes the Squad!

Congratulations to Livvi in Year 10 who has recently been selected for the Senior Cheshire Schools Football Team.

Miss Mc Auliffe, Head of PE at OBA said, "Livvi is a dedicated footballer and plays for the school team. Being selected for the Cheshire schools' team is down to her natural talent,

skill and consistent hard work. Livvi was selected through trials where she played with the best footballers of Cheshire and to be selected is an honour and well deserved for Livvi."

Livvi will be playing Merseyside Schools football team on Monday 21st December. From all at OBA, We wish her the best of luck.



MP Visits OBA

OBA was honoured to welcome local MP, Mr Mike Amesbury into school on Friday 12th November. Mr Amesbury visited the academy to meet Mrs Evans and have a walk around the building during lesson time. As part of his visit he also donated a large bag of food and toys to our two community projects – The Winter Warmer Hamper initiative and Christmas Toy Appeal. Thank you, Mr Amesbury, your support is very much appreciated.



Careers Education at OBA



Students at OBA have received a wealth of careers education this half term. Year 9 have received a talk from a Microbiologist from Edge Hill University, linking their recent science topic on cells and microscopes with careers in this biological field. Year 7 had a remote session with a doctor who discussed his career journey as a young doctor and how to get into the field of medicine. Year 10 have received a visit from the RAF, who talked about the wide variety of careers available; Year 8 received a visit from Everton FC who talked about careers in health and nutrition.

In addition to this Year's 11, 12 and 13 have received a talk from the Apprenticeship Support and Knowledge service and Year 11 have been visited by Riverside College. Careers education is an important part of our Lessons for Life programme, with all year groups receiving careers learning during the year. So far in Lessons for Life this year our Year 11 have learned about career planning as well as having a CV writing session and Years 11 and 12 have received logins and an introduction to the career's website Unifrog.

Over the next half term, we will be welcoming a variety of guest

speakers including an owner of a head-hunting recruitment business who will be visiting Year 11 and our Sixth Form and we will be receiving a visit from Shaping Futures, who will be hosting three sessions with Year 9 which will include discussing life at university. In addition to this, all of our Year 11 and Year 13 students will receive a one-to-one meeting with our qualified impartial careers advisor to help them to make the right careers decisions. Any other student is welcome to make an appointment with our career's advisor – all they need to do is ask their form tutor to organise it.

OBA Pop Up Shop

OBA opened the doors to its first ever community pop-up shop this term! The academy took over a unit in Runcorn Shopping City on Thursday 18th November and invited parents/carers to drop in whilst shopping, to pick up items of necessity.

The shop was stocked with good quality recycled school uniform, new and donated winter coats, stationary, rucksacks, sanitary products and covid-19 test kits.



All items were available free of charge for members of the OBA family.

Mrs Snagg, Associate Assistant Principal responsible for community links at the academy said, **“We were really pleased to be able to offer our families an even more convenient way to pop and see us and access items such as uniform and coats free of charge. As the cold weather has moved**



in, we have noticed a significant number of students arriving to school with no coat on and we wanted to provide an option for everyone to be able to access one if they wished to do so. The shop was well attended on the day by parents and carers who enjoyed using the option and asked if we would be doing it again.”

Local MP Mike Amesbury also popped in to show his support and donated even more items to the initiative. Thank you, Mr Amesbury.

The academy’s popular uniform swap shop has been running really successfully this term and we are now running low on all items of academy uniform. If your child has outgrown any of the following items, please consider donating them to school;

- **Blazer**
- **Jumper / Cardigan**
- **Pinafores**
- **Skirts**
- **Trousers**
- **White school shirts**
- **PE Kit**

Donations can be made simply by dropping off items at the academy reception.

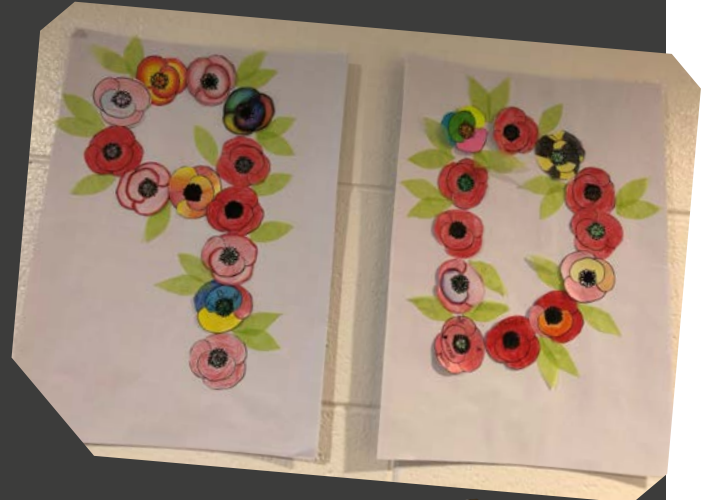
Alternatively, if you are looking to replace items of your child’s uniform for the new school term, please contact Mrs Crane (s.crane@ob-ac.co.uk) to enquire about available sizes.

*We still have a selection of new and good quality winter coats available for selection/ collection too.



Remembrance at OBA

At 11am on the 11th of November, OBA fell silent to remember those who have lost their lives in the war. 11am would usually be a busy time of learning in many classrooms, while others empty of students heading out to their breaktime. However, this was replaced on 11th November by a reflective silence, as each one of our students quietly paid their respects. Around the academy, poppies were displayed on the doors of all Year 7, 8 and 9 form rooms, decorated by our students, many of whom wrote personal messages of thanks on the poppies before adding them to the display.



Saturday 'WOW' Day

It was a real pleasure to welcome 47 budding computer scientists to our Computer Science WOW day on Saturday 13th November. Students had the opportunity to develop computational thinking skills across a variety of activities. They had to use commands to direct a lunar module to safety, avoiding any of the hazards along the way. There was an opportunity to develop programming skills to create their own games using a block-based programming environment and finally, students had to use only 4 straws, 2 pieces of card and sellotape to create a structure to protect an egg that was dropped from a height of over 20ft.

Computer Science teacher, Mr O'Leary said "We had an 'eggcellent' time and hope that everyone enjoyed their time with us! It was great to be able to share with some of our local primary students some of the software and learning opportunities that we have available in the Computer Science department here at OBA. Everyone was given a learning pack to take away with them so they could continue their computer science journey at home. We look forward to seeing you all at the next WOW day."



Navy Submariner Shares Experiences with OBA Students



On Tuesday 7th December, Chief Petty Officer John Ramos visited Ormiston Bolingbroke Academy to give talks to students about life as a submariner, what it was like to work with nuclear weaponry, how he became an engineer and what to expect when working in the military. CPO John Ramos first started his military career in the tank division in the army, before moving on to the Navy and working his way up to Chief Petty Officer in the submariners. CPO Ramos did four talks throughout the day, working with Year 12, Year 10 and Year 9.

With Year 12, CPO Ramos did two sessions - a talk about his experience of life in the submariners, as well as then completing a session on

aspirations and how to achieve your goals.

Mrs Styles, Head of English at OBA said, "The students had lots of good questions and engaged really well with our visitor." With Year 10 and Year 9, CPO Ramos talked to the students about what to expect when starting a career within the military, what it meant to be a submariner and how he set his goals and achieved them.

CPO Ramos was blown away by our students, stating that 'the questions they asked were to a high standard, including some very technical questions which was impressive to see'. He also said that he thought he had spotted 'a few future engineers under [our] care'.

Year 8 History Trip



Over two days at the start of December, Year 8 students had the opportunity to visit the Liverpool Maritime and Slavery Museum. The purpose of this trip was to coincide with their local study on Liverpool's role in the Slave Trade and the effect the Industrial Revolution had on the area. The students really engaged with the different exhibits and artefacts and the museum staff were incredibly accommodating and welcoming for our students. The students spent the day covering all four floors of the museums and left with a great deal of respect for the history of Liverpool and in particular, the impact of slavery, both in Liverpool and globally.

Mr McGlory, the Curriculum leader

for Humanities, said **"The students were amazed by all the interactive exhibits and were blown away by many of the artefacts that they witnessed. The museum was brilliant and allowed the students to truly dive into the history on show. The students were a credit to the school and couldn't wait to come back to school to share with their history teachers what they had learnt. The Year 7s will have something amazing to look forward to next year"**.

The local history study is a core element of the History National Curriculum, so with the Maritime and Slavery Museum on our doorstep it was the perfect choice to fit with our historical unit on slavery and industry.



OBA and MWCP Celebrate Interfaith week 2021



Ormiston Bolingbroke Academy (OBA) has joined forces once again with Murdishaw West Community Primary School (MWCP) to help promote and celebrate Interfaith Week 2021.



The annual national initiative, which took place this year during the week commencing 15th November, aims to highlight the tremendous contribution that faith communities make to society and to foster good inter-faith relations at all levels.

Each class at MWCP was assigned a Bible story to focus on and to support their work, students in year groups 3-6 visited OBA for a RE lesson with subject specialist staff at the academy. Year 6 studied the 5 pillars of Islam, where they compared 5 core practices in their own lives to the 5 pillars within Islam. Year 5 found

out about the life of a Buddha and how he became the Buddha, while Year 4 learned about Judaism; particularly looking at key religious figures and the events that happened to them by performing freeze frames of their key moments. Year 3 focused on Hindu Gods, looking at the symbols and appearance of some of the major Gods of Hinduism.

Additionally, all students at MWCP were set a challenge by OBA to create a piece of religious art and the results were impressive! Students in each year group worked together to create a masterpiece based on a different story in the Bible.

- EYFS** Noah's Ark
Y1 Jonah and the whale
Y2 David and Goliath
Y3 Daniel and the lion's den
Y4 The Good Samaritan
Y5 Samson and Delilah
Y6 Moses and the 10 commandments

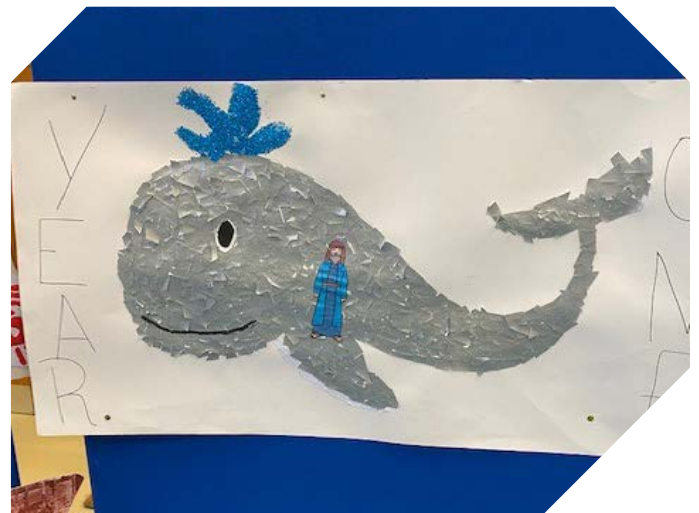
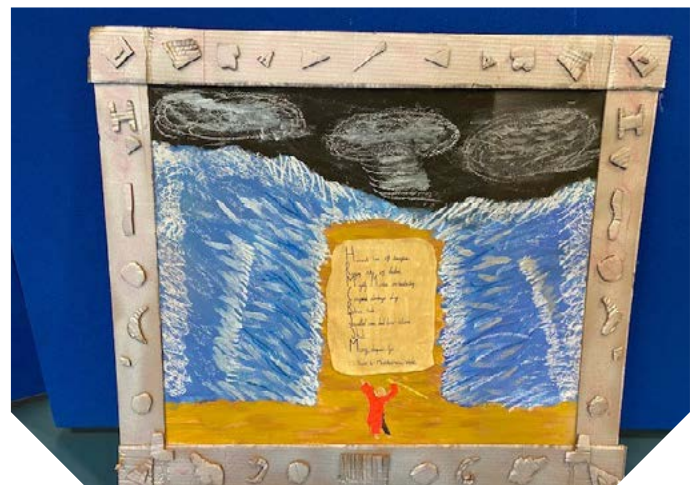
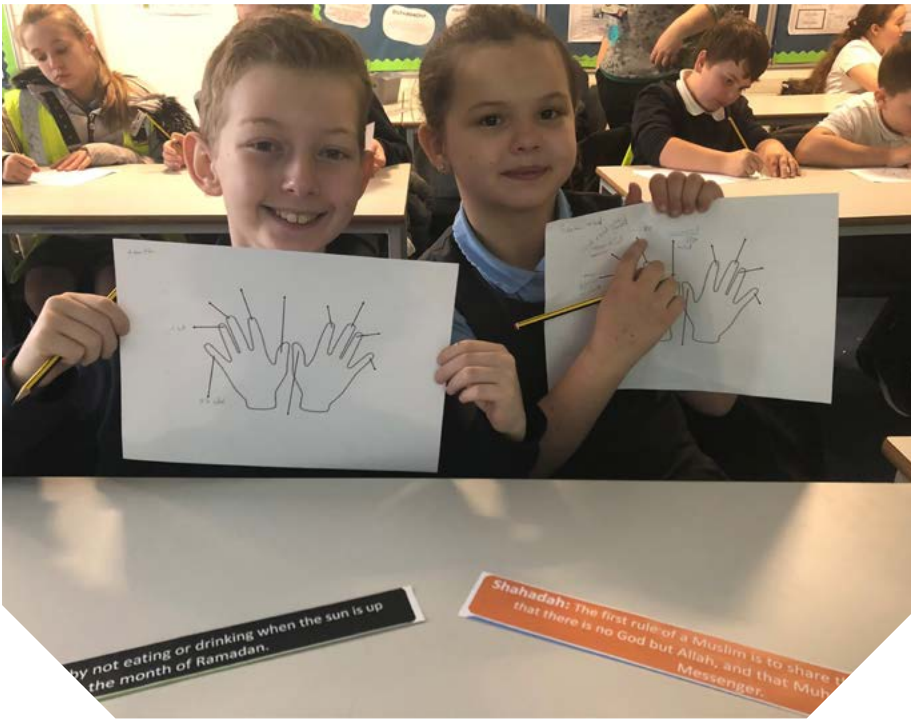
Mrs Snagg, Associate Assistant Principal for Transition, Mr McGlory, Head of Humanities and Miss Jaynes, Teacher of RE had the difficult task of choosing

the winning piece and prizes and certificates were awarded to the winning class on Friday 3rd December. Congratulations Year 3!

Miss Michelle Culshaw, MWCP Year teacher said, "Our partnership with OBA during Interfaith week has enabled children in KS2 to deepen their understanding of communities of different faiths within the UK. The knowledge imparted by subject experts at OBA to our children, has been invaluable in highlighting the common ground between our diversity of religions and will no doubt help to promote, develop and strengthen friendships with other faith communities going forward."

Mr McGlory said, "This year the students of MWCP were really engaged and enthused to take part in our interfaith week activities and it was amazing to see how much the students learnt about these faith communities and their beliefs. The students left with smiles on their faces and knowledge about how religiously diverse their own community is. We already can't wait for next year!"

OBA and MWCP Celebrate Interfaith week 2021



Lessons for Life Update



It has been another busy half term for our Lessons for Life programme this half term with a wide range of projects undertaken by our students as part of their Personal, Social, Health Education.

Year 7 students have been learning about their physical health and development and how their bodies will change in the coming months and years. In Years 8 and 9 students have been learning about staying safe in a project which covers topics such as water safety, road safety, staying safe online as well as other statutory safeguarding concerns, including abuse, harmful sexual behaviour and Female Genital Mutilation.

Similar to Year 7, Year 10 students have been learning about their

physical health and development and have completed a deep delving project called 'Me and My Body' which covered important messages about body image, healthy

lifestyles and first aid skills. This project also included relationships and sex education where students learned about consensual relationships, reproduction, contraception and sexually transmitted infections. This project



was also enhanced with a live talk from our partners at 'Brook', a young person's sexual health organisation.

Year 11 students spent this half term working on a new Lessons for Life project named the 'Dare to Shine' programme. This programme of activity is timed to link to the academic calendar and

aims to prepare students for their mock exams and future choices. As part of this project Year 11 students had a briefing on mock exam study skills, learned about exam command words, reflected on their mock exam results and also considered their future choices by completing CVs and looking at the post 16 options available to them.



January 2022 will see a range of new exciting project and initiatives coming forward for our students' Personal, Social, Health Education.

A massive well done goes to all students for their hard work and maturity shown on all their projects this term and also to all the staff who deliver Lessons for Life to form groups.

Brendon excels at Panathalo Challenge

On Thursday 18th November, Brendon in Year 7, took part in the Panathalon Schools Deaf Football Tournament with 43 deaf and hearing-impaired students from three Merseyside schools and four borough councils; all came together for the unique event at Greenbank Sports Academy, Sefton Park, and Brendon was excited to report that his team came second overall!

Brendon played in goal throughout the tournament and fended off some really tough challenges!

The leaders at the event commented that some of the children have never met another child who wears hearing aids and this tournament gave them the opportunity to do so.

Team OBA are super proud of Brendon's achievement, he did himself and the academy proud. Well done Brendon!



Year 7 Spread Festive Cheer!



7VHS were excited to visit Runcorn Shopping City on Wednesday 15th December to sing carols and spread some Christmas cheer! Students in Miss Holmes's form have been rehearsing in their weekly music lessons with Mr Tallant and really did OBA proud on the day. Parents and members of the public who came to watch commented on how much they enjoyed the performance. Well done to everyone involved.

CREATE YOUR FUTURE Performing Arts Convention

On Monday 22nd November, Miss McKeivitt took 35 performing arts students to the UCAS 'Create Your Future' convention in Manchester. This was a unique face-to-face experience which enabled our students to find out about hundreds of creative courses, apprenticeships and careers in design, music and the performing arts.

Market style stalls set out throughout the convention Centre allowed students to talk to staff and students from universities and colleges all over the country offering a wide range of courses at Higher Education and Further Education level. Students were treated to an array of freebies from the stalls including bottles, notebooks, stationery and guitar picks. OBA students independently ventured to as many stalls as they could within

the 2-hour time slot available. They also got to be in the audience for some extremely stand out performances from current students of Liverpool's Media Academy.

Miss McKeivitt, said **"It was a delight to see all students asking so many in depth questions regarding a possible career pathway in the performing and creative arts industry. They represented the academy to an extremely high standard I hope some will now have a greater understanding or idea of where they would like to see themselves after their OBA journey. As always it is a privilege to take out our students outside the classroom to experience the real world and links to chosen subject choices."**

TikTok Study - Harmful Challenges and Hoaxes

TikTok continues to be very pro-active in relation to online harms. I'm not defending them, there's still lots to do, but they are doing much more than any of the other platforms out there, many of whom are doing nothing.

Many online challenges are harmless, fun and can even be positive, such as supporting charitable causes. But there are many that are risky and potentially harmful. Recently TikTok commissioned a study looking at harmful/dangerous challenges, stating that 1 in 5 teenagers have taken part in an online challenge, 1 in 50 have taken part in a challenge the teen has deemed to be risky and dangerous, and 1 in 300 have taken part in a really dangerous challenge.

The study is based on responses from teachers, parents and 5,400 teenagers aged 13-19 in various countries, including the UK and one outcome of the study is that warning labels will appear on potential

You can read a short summary of the report in a BBC article: [Click Here](#).

Understanding Discord

Often children would use the Discord app to have conversations, share tactics etc. with their friends whilst playing their online games. But curiously the popularity of Discord has increased massively post lockdown and the majority of people are using the app just for messaging purposes. The age requirement for Discord is 17+, although there are no stringent checks to verify age and Discord is very popular with high school students. [With this in mind we would like to draw your attention to THIS article from Internet Matters](#) which has advice and guidance, including privacy settings, filtering comments, blocking/reporting and much more.

New Instagram Guide for Parents

Instagram have released a brand-new guide for parents containing lots of useful information such as:

- Tips for parents
- Tips for talking to teens
- Managing account privacy
- Balancing screen time
- Filtering offensive comments
- ...and much more

This guide can be found here: [Click here](#)



E-SAFETY UPDATE

Mrs Wightman retires after 43 years!



Mrs Patricia 'Pat' Wightman has worked for Ormiston Bolingbroke Academy and the previous guises of the school – Halton High and Brookvale Comprehensive for an incredible 43 years. Prior to joining the school, Pat worked for two other companies for 6 years, then took a career break for 10 years to raise her family. Pat then applied to Brookvale Comprehensive in December 1978.

Her initial contract was for 12 hours per week, and her starting salary was £512 per year – that's less than £10 per week! But to put that in context, a pint of milk was 12p, a pint of beer was 40p, and the average house price was just £16,000! This really brings it home just how long Pat has worked for the school, it really is an incredible achievement!

Over the last 4 decades, Pat has

supported many grateful head teachers and countless staff, doing an amazing job in reprographics. She never fails to be there for the school – whether it is coming in early on exam days or staying late to complete a job. Over the years she has also thrown herself into other parts of school life – volunteering for duties, helping on results days, and in the past supporting PTA groups.

We will all miss Pat terribly, but she has definitely earned her retirement and we know that she is really looking forward to spending more time with her family.

We thank Pat for everything she has done for the school, and on behalf of everyone, present and past, the OBA Family wish her a long, healthy and happy retirement.

Reward Week at OBA

The penultimate week of term was rewards week at the academy with every year group celebrating success in their year group assemblies.

Each assembly was started by Mrs Evans and then Heads of Year, Pastoral Managers and Form Tutors took over to deliver the certificate and voucher rewards.

Two students per each subject received an academic award along with rewards for 100% attendance and a special tutor and head of year nomination.

All winners were then invited to attend a reward breakfast with their pastoral team the following week.

Mrs Evans said, "It was fantastic to have the opportunity to reward so many wonderful achievements. The vast number of students nominated for awards this term really reflects how many of our students are embracing the academy motto and really daring to shine. Congratulations to all students who received an award or got a mention – your efforts are being noticed and appreciated."



WELCOME AND GOODBYES

The following members of staff will be joining the academy from January 2022 and we are delighted to welcome them to our OBA Family;

Rachel Oram
Attendance Officer

Louise Power
Head of Dance

Mr Corcoran
Teacher of History

Destiny O'Sullivan
Teaching Assistant

Holly Walker
Teaching Assistant

Pedrum Dilmaghani
Teacher of Mathematics

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:

Mr Murphy
Miss Bhebe
Mrs Barker
Miss Lamb
Mrs Wightman

KEY Dates

- **Wednesday 22nd December 2021**
Sixth Form UCAS Deadline
- **Wednesday 5th January**
OBA Community Pop Up Shop in Runcorn Shopping City. (Based in the old MODE store, 9.30am - 3.00pm)
- **Thursday 20th January 2022**
Year 9 Progress Evening and Options Information.
- **Thursday 10th February 2022**
Year 7 Progress Evening.
- **Half Term - 21st - 25th February 2022**

Return to school following the Christmas break:

- **Wednesday 5th January 2022**
for Years 7, 11 and 13
- **Thursday 6th January 2022**
for Years 10 and 12
- **Friday 7th January**
for Years 8 and 9

(On our return in January once again we are required to test students; this means that the start of term arrangements have changed to allow this to happen. If you have previously given consent for your child to take a lateral flow test then this will be taken as consent for January unless you contact the school to withdraw this. If you have not previously given consent but wish your child to be tested then I have attached a form for you to complete and return. Only those with consent will be tested.)