

Dear Parents and Carers



It is hard to believe that we have already reached the Easter holidays, but as usual we have packed a huge amount into our calendar. The pop-up shop proved very popular at half term. A big thank you to Sam Crane and Dean Allen who switched roles for two

days to become sales assistants. We are opening the shop once again during the Easter holidays.

It was great to see our 6th form students perform at St Luke's church last week, along with our talented KS3 and KS4 performers. This was a fantastic opportunity to once again showcase the wealth of talent at the academy. Thank you to all the parents, staff and students who went along to support.

During Lessons for Life, our personal development curriculum, students have had the opportunity to hear from The Anthony Walker Foundation, raising awareness of hate crime and discrimination. Year 9 have also been able to talk to their teachers about option choices in a market place style setting. We have more subjects on offer than ever

before, including psychology and sociology at GCSE and Animal Care Level 2. Students have also shown their solidarity for the people of Ukraine by wearing blue and yellow accessories and donating to this worthy cause.

There is a full programme of revision for year 11 and year 13 during the Easter holiday period. I encourage all students to attend. External exams start in May so every day counts now.

At the end of this term we say goodbye to Mr Houslay and Mr McArthur Greenall. I would like to thank them for all the support they have given to our students and we wish them well in their new roles.

There are still some Covid testing kits available in school. There has been an increase in positive cases over the last two weeks in both staff and students, so I ask that students test before their return to school.

Have a lovely break and we will see all students when they return on Tuesday 19th April at 8.30am.

Mrs Evans
Principal

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Key Dates

Tuesday 5th April and Wednesday 6th April 9am to 3pm
OBA Community Pop Up Shop in Runcorn Shopping City in the old Shoe Zone unit opposite Poundland

Thursday 28th April
Year 10 Progress Evening

Monday 30th May - Friday 3rd June
Half term break



Tracey Neville Netball Trip

On 10th February Miss McAuliffe took some of our netballers to meet Tracey Neville MBE who is a former England Netball international and the former England head coach. Pupils from Ormiston Bolingbroke Academy, Neston High School, Werneth, Hilbre High School and The Catholic High School were coached by the ex-England player for 2.5 hours. Tracey took the pupils through some drills and taught some key netball skills. This was followed by some friendly games between the schools in attendance in which OBA played superbly. Miss McAuliffe commented, **'This was a rare treat for our pupils. Tracey Neville is one of the best netball players to come from the UK so to see her working with our pupils on improving their skills was just amazing and all of our pupils thoroughly enjoyed it!'**



SEAN BAILEY WELLNESS
Community Interest Company



Easter Half Term - The Grange Kids Health & Wellbeing Camps



Department
for Education

Physical activity, wellbeing education, mental health, community engagement

Week One - Monday 4th April - Friday 8th April

Week Two - Monday 11th April - Thursday 14th April

Held at The Grange Academy, Latham Avenue, Runcorn, WA7 5DX from 9am until 3pm.

40 free spaces for children in receipt of free school meals

For more information or to book a space please visit:

www.seanbaileywellness.com/wellbeing-camps

Halton Girls 7-a-side Football Tournament

On Monday 14th February Ormiston Bolingbroke Academy took part in the Halton Girls 7 a-side Football Tournament. Miss McAuliffe took 12 students to the tournament: 10 players and 2 leaders. The girls were so excited to be out playing matches as this has been severely restricted over the last two years due to COVID. All of the players were amazing and Miss McAuliffe was very proud of their attitude and resilience throughout the tournament. **'We played 5 games in total in the cold but the students all loved it.'**

Results: OBA beat OCA and Halewood B, drew with St. Peter and Pauls, narrowly lost to Wade Deacon A and Halewood A.

Players of the tournament were **Connie Anderson** and **Aimee Flannery**.



World Book Day

WORLD
BOOK
DAY®

Staff and students alike enjoyed a packed day of activities to celebrate this year's World Book Day on March 3rd. During form time, students participated in OBA's yearly book quiz and tried to guess who the staff reader was peeking from behind their favourite novels. Competitions and live streams from successful children's authors were available in the library at break and lunch times. Across the day, English lessons were focused on careers in reading and writing with students practising writing and reading stories from different genres, exploring copywriting and editing, discovering if they have what it takes to be a world-class illustrator and finally converting their tales into an Oscar worthy film script!

Miss Howard, Assistant Head of English was amazed by the quality and enthusiasm exhibited by the students: **'All day I had students coming up to me sharing the stories they had written, which had to be focused on an inspirational figure. I adored reading stories that ranged from a local nurse working in a Covid ward to soldiers fighting in Ukraine - the creative talent of our students really is something to be admired. I can't wait for next year already when we are relaunching our teacher costume competition!'**

New 3G Pitch



On Thursday 17th February the new 3G pitch was officially opened. Halton Borough Council and English FA funded this new facility and is a great resource to have at our school. The pitch provides a superior all-weather surface that allows for local clubs to host training sessions and matches on a regular basis without the fear of cancellation due to the weather. The surface is suitable for football, rugby and a wide range of activities covered in the P.E. curriculum and allows lessons to not be cancelled due to weather concerns. The pitch is FIFA standard which allows the use for fixtures after school when we might otherwise struggled with light and or waterlogged pitches. It provides us with more opportunities to train during the winter months and encourages lifelong physical activity.

We celebrated the opening of the pitch with a Sixth form v Staff football game. There was a great turn out from the players and supporters. Sixth form won 5-2! The staff have already started training for the next match as they are in dire need of it!



Sixth form team



Staff team



EVERTON EASTER SPECIAL FOOTBALL DAY!

Tuesday 12th April at Brookvale on the NEW 3g pitch

10AM - 2PM ages 8yrs – 16yrs

Please bring your own lunch and water bottles
Pre booking is required via the Everton link that can be found on our website. For more information please contact :

Michael.Connolly@evertonfc.com

Please remember that our new 3g pitch requires football boots to be worn



Football Boot (screw in stud)
Football Boot (moulded stud)



Trainer (flat sole)
Football Boot (blade)



brookvale.activehalton.co.uk



Year 9 Options



This term Year 9 have been exploring their options for their personalised Key Stage 4 curriculum. During Lessons for Life students have been accessing information about OBA Sixth Form, university and the local labour market whilst talking with their tutors about potential paths to their desired future with our options booklet.

Staff prepared an options carousel event in the sports hall, allowing students to question subject specialists and our onsite careers support in person allowing them to make informed decisions about their next steps. Students will submit their preferences before

the Easter break and will begin their new courses in September.

Mr Wynne commented, 'it was great to run the options process as part of the Lessons for Life curriculum and students have had lots of guidance and information to help them choose their optional subjects at GCSE. Students have been able to make informed choices about choices that will support them with their interests and career aspirations.'

Other Lessons for Life activities this half term have included:

- Year 7 covering "The Web We Want" a project themed around online safety.

- Year 8 have been receiving some careers education with the project 'Me and My Future'
- Year 10 students have been learning about safe and healthy relationships before moving on to a project on Global Citizenship.
- Year 11 students have been working examining the dangers of tobacco, alcohol and drugs as well as spending time preparing for their important mock exams in their Lessons for Life sessions.

Online Safety - Commecialism

Online Safety is categorised into four main areas of risk: **content, contact, conduct** and **commecialism**.

Commecialism as an online safety risk is the latest addition to these areas and was added to Government safeguarding guidance in September 2021.

Online commecialism as an area of risk is described by the UK Safer Internet Centre as:

‘young people can be unaware of hidden costs and advertising in apps, games and websites...’

Young people’s privacy and enjoyment online can sometimes be affected by advertising and marketing schemes, which can also mean inadvertently spending money online, for example within applications. Encourage your children to keep their personal information private, learn how to block both pop ups and spam emails, turn off in-app purchasing on devices where possible, and use a family email address when filling in online forms”.

We would like to make all OBA parents/carers aware of a very popular online game at present which we believe presents commercialism risks named **‘Coin Master’**.

Coin Master is a game, downloaded as an app where players spin slot machines to win coins, shields and weapons so that they can attack and raid villages and build their own Viking village. The characters travel through time and magical lands building their village to be the best pirate, hippie, king, warrior or Viking. The application uses Facebook to connect players to their friends and encourage more users.

Although the game is cartoon style in nature and the App Store gives it an age rating of 12+, it also notes that there is ‘Frequent/Intense Simulated Gambling’. The game is essentially a virtual slot machine. You collect ‘spins’ as you progress throughout the game and when you have amassed enough you can spend them to spin a slot machine. This allows you to win coins (the ultimate goal), attacks, raids, shields or more spins.

The main idea of the game is to use a slot machine feature to earn coins. There are concerns around this game as it encourages gambling for children. Parents/ carers are advised to be aware of this game and discuss its potential dangers with their children.

We would also like to make all parents and carers aware of some useful apps and websites which you may find useful in keeping your children safe online:

Resource	Link	What is the resource about?
Common Sense Media	<u>Common Sense Media: Age-Based Media Reviews for Families</u>	Information about apps, games, videos, etc
Internet Matters	<u>Gaming consoles and platforms - Internet Matters</u>	Step-by-step guides designed to parents set up consoles to support their children in the gaming environment
Google Family Link	<u>Google Family Link - Home</u>	Google guide to support children using android tablets and phones
Apple Family Share	<u>Family Sharing -Apple (UK)</u>	Guide to support children using iPhones and iPads

Anthony Walker Foundation Visit

As a truly inclusive school, we educate our students about equality through our Lessons for Life (PSHE) provision. Year 8 students will be learning about the nine 'Protected Characteristics' which are identified in the Equality Act 2010.

To enrich this important topic, year 8 students recently had a visit from the Anthony Walker Foundation to raise awareness of hate crime. Anthony Walker was murdered in a racially motivated attack in 2005. The Foundation was set up in Anthony's name to raise awareness of hate crime and

to spread an anti-racist message. As part of the visit to school year 8 students had a talk from Rachael who is an Education Officer at the Foundation. Rachael shared Anthony's story and discussed how hate crimes are reported. As well as looking at racism and the effect it has on victims Rachael also raised awareness of hate crimes that are motivated by: sex, sexual orientation, religion/belief, disability and gender reassignment.

Mr Hussey commented, 'it was great to welcome the Anthony Walker Foundation to OBA to

share their 'Speak Out/Stop Hate' campaign. Equality education is an important part of our Lessons for Life programme and I am really pleased to have formed a partnership with the Anthony Walker Foundation. We will be doing some training with staff in the coming months delivered by the Anthony Walker Foundation and all students will be completing lessons to raise awareness of protected characteristics. I thank Rachael for coming to visit us and well done to year 8 for understanding such a hard-hitting topic in a mature manner.'





www.oba-careers.co.uk

6th form - Apprenticeships - College - University - Resources - Advice

It's been another busy half term of careers education at OBA. This half term has seen our Year 10 and Year 12 students continue to prepare for their work experience placements which take place during the summer term. Our Year 8 students have received an introduction to the Unifrog platform, an online careers advice and guidance website. This important tool allows students to answer questionnaires to receive career suggestions and to browse a vast careers library which not only contains videos and details of careers but also labour market information including salaries, working hours and whether there are predicted to be more of less of that type of job in the future.

Furthermore, Year 9 students have received advice and guidance through the options process in Lessons for Life. This has included an options fair that was attended by our qualified careers advisor to help students to choose the options that will help them towards any post-16 qualifications or careers that they have in mind.

Lee Chadwick from Futurelec visited our Year 11 students to talk about the importance of desire, dedication and discipline. Lee related this to careers both as an employee and as an entrepreneur and business owner. Lee described his journey from a difficult beginning in life through to becoming a successful business owner and employer, explaining the obstacles he had to overcome on the way. This was a really powerful and inspiring session, and one which will have an impact on our students as they move from through their GCSEs and into their post-16 courses – and beyond.

Students are always welcome to book appointments with one of our careers advisors. To do this they can either request this with their form tutor, or email m.oakes@ob-ac.co.uk

OBA's Got Talent

On Friday 4th March the Performing Arts team held 'OBA's Got Talent' which saw entries from across the arts including Dance, Musical theatre and singing. Entries ranged from Year 7 to Year 13 students.

The team now have the tough decision to award the top 3 places who will be automatically entered into Ormiston's Got Talent which is OAT's first ever national performing arts showcase and competition, created exclusively for OAT pupils. It celebrates all pupil talent, skills, and creativity.

Well done and best of luck everyone who submitted entries!

Don't forget to check back in the next newsletter to see who got through!



Ormiston Humanitarian Fundraiser

Ormiston
Humanitarian Fundraiser



On March 23rd Students at OBA joined forces with students at all of the 43 OAT academies across the UK to show solidarity with the people of Ukraine. At OBA, we invited our students to add a splash of blue and yellow to their uniforms and our sixth formers and staff to wear some blue and yellow.

Students, staff and members of the community were invited to make a voluntary donation to the OAT Humanitarian Fundraiser through the OAT JustGiving page and, at the time of writing, OAT are well on their way to achieving their £10,000 target.

Liverpool Theatre Trip



On Wednesday 23rd March Year 10 & 11 GCSE Drama students eagerly attended The Empire Theatre in Liverpool to watch The National Theatre's award-winning production of 'The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Nighttime' which is based on the novel by Mark Haddon and adapted for the stage by Simon Stephens.

The play follows Christopher, who is fifteen years old, as he investigates the death of Mrs

Shears' dog. The dog has been speared with a garden fork, it is seven minutes after midnight and Christopher is under suspicion. He records each fact in the book he is writing to solve the mystery of who murdered Wellington.

Our students will use their experience as an audience member to answer Section B of the written GCSE exam and for the Year 11s, that will take place this summer.

Miss McKeivitt - Drama Teacher and Mr Wynne - Science Teacher (and theatre enthusiast!) who accompanied the students, were extremely proud of the behaviour and maturity displayed by all students while representing the academy on this trip as the play itself addresses some difficult and sensitive themes and issues.

Our next theatre trip is coming up soon so make sure you keep an eye out for that in the next newsletter!

Enrichment

OBA's enrichment provision continues to grow, now with more than 55 separate clubs, some of which take place more than once a week. Our sporting offer has been expanded to include a rowing club, a gym club and sixth form football while other new enrichments included a Dungeons and Dragons club and a history movie club. A new enrichment schedule will be published on our website shortly after Easter and we encourage all of our students at OBA to make the choice to take part in enrichment clubs, to have the courage to try something new and to dare to shine both in lessons and in their participation in enrichment!



OBA Pop Up Shop

Once again, OBA opened the doors to its community pop-up shop. In the February half term holiday, the academy took over a unit in Runcorn Shopping City 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. The shop was well attended by parents and carers who enjoyed using the option and asked if we would be doing it again."

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.

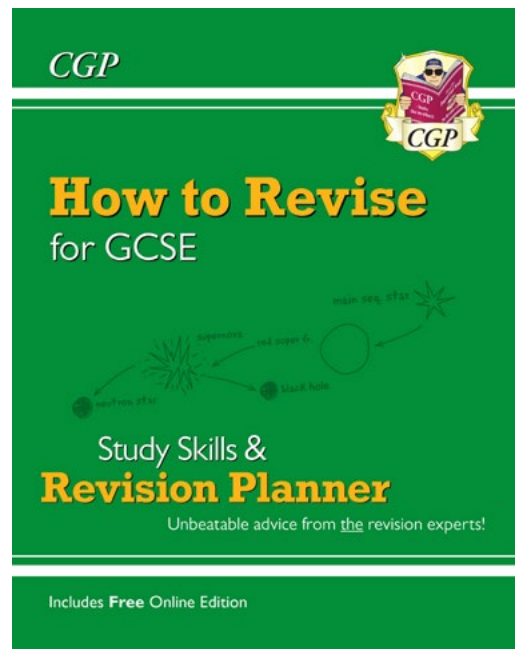
The next pop up shop will be on Tuesday 5th April and Wednesday 6th April at the old Shoe Zone unit opposite Poundland in Halton Shopping City 9am to 3pm.

How to Revise books for Year 11s

To support your Y11 child with their mock and final exams which they will be sitting in the Summer, we have purchased a 'How to Revise' support book for all Year 11 students. These books are billed as the ultimate guide to GCSE revision and are written by exam experts. There is a huge range of advice covering everything from effective study techniques to tips for specific subjects and lots of helpful checklists, guidance to command words, timetables and planners to make sure students are 100% ready for their exams.

These books also feature guidance on managing workload and wellbeing which is of course of paramount importance. These books have been issued to Year 11 students. If your child did not receive a copy, they should collect one from Mr Hussey.

We are asking Academic Mentors within school to utilise these books with students both now and in the run up to their final exams. Please encourage your child to keep this book safe and to use it at home to their advantage as they prepare for their exams.



Exam Timetable

Once the Easter holidays are over, we will be into the exam season. If your child is in year 11 or 13, you should have received an email with their exam timetable. Please read this carefully as it outlines the dates and times for each of your child's examinations.



New Arrival

A massive congratulations to Mrs Diamond who welcomed her baby boy, **Billy** into the world on Friday 18th March at 9.48pm weighing in at a whopping 9lb 11oz!

New Starters

We wish to welcome two new members of staff to the Ormiston Bolingbroke team. The first is **Kirsten Lamb** who will be taking on the role of Teaching Assistant and the second is **Sam Arrowsmith** who will be working on reception. Best of luck in your new positions.

Departures

Jamie Houslay

Very few teachers have had the impact on students that Mr Houslay has had. His commitment to this school and the community has been unbelievable. You only need to look at the line of students waiting to speak to him at the end of each day to show you just how much the students valued his teaching, his care and his council. He will be a huge loss to the school and the community but leaves a wonderful legacy behind. We wish him every success for the future!

Daniel McArthur-Greenall

This term we are saying goodbye to Mr McArthur-Greenall who is moving on to share his knowledge and skills with other lucky students. He is a brilliant teacher, who loves his subject and all students who come out of his lessons know how much he loves it and how much he passes that on to them. Anyone visiting Mr McArthur-Greenall's lessons know that you will be inspired when you are watching him with his absolute passion he shows in his teaching. He will be missed by all students, the Humanities department and the whole school. We wish him the best of luck for the future in his new school.

Beth Lacey

Miss Lacey will also be leaving us just after Easter after three years with team English at OBA. Miss Lacey will be greatly missed, and we wish her the best of luck.