

## Welcome from the Principal



As we end this spring term, I would like to congratulate the performing arts team and all students involved, on an outstanding dance show! It was absolutely amazing, and I was blown away with the talent on display. To see so many students performing with such creativity and flair was an absolute delight. I shed a few tears throughout the performance and felt incredibly proud of everyone. Thank you to all the families and members of staff who came on Wednesday night to watch, it meant a lot to the students to see the support they had.

You will see from the content in this newsletter that it has been another extremely busy term with lots of highlights throughout. From World Book Day celebrations to pantomimes and trips both home and abroad, I have enjoyed being reminded of all the wonderful opportunities on offer to our school community. Thank you to our

staff for making these events possible and our families for your continued positive engagement and support.

We know the holidays can be a difficult time for some and have posted links on our social media channels to services that can be accessed for extra help whilst school is closed.

Please note that school will be open during the break for revision and intervention sessions - students have been invited to the relevant lessons. It will also be open during the second week to host the Halton Holiday Activity Fund (HAF) Easter activities, for children in Years 4,5 and 6. Places can still be booked via the link on our school website.

I wish you all safe and peaceful break.

**Mrs Evans**  
Principal

## Key Dates

- Friday 31st March** - INSET Day: School closed to students.
- Monday 3rd - Friday 14th April** - Easter Holiday
- Monday 17th April** - Students return to school after Easter break.
- Thursday 20th April** - Year 10 Progress Evening
- Friday 21st April** - Year 10 trip to the University of Liverpool
- Monday 1st May** - Bank Holiday: School Closed
- Tuesday 2nd May** - INSET Day: School closed to students.
- Monday 8th May** - Bank Holiday: School Closed.
- W/C 15th May:** GCSE/A level exams start.
- Friday 26th May** - School closes for May half term (Monday 29th May - Friday 2nd June).
- Monday 5th June** - Students return to school after May half term.
- Monday 19th June** - Friday 23rd June - Year 12 Work Experience.
- Monday 26th** - Wednesday 28th June - Year 10 Work Experience.

## Contents Click on the links below

### [World Book Day 2023](#)

[OBA Students 'Move It' in the Capital](#)

[Rome cityscape brings learning to life for Runcorn students](#)

[Bishop rewards students' efforts with free pantomime tickets](#)

[Year 7 Castle Competition](#)

### [Year 12 University Visit](#)

[Lessons for Life Update](#)

[OBA Achieves National Online Safety Certified Schools Status](#)

[Coram Shakespeare Schools Festival 2023 - Macbeth](#)

[LAMDA HUB Day](#)

### [Ormiston's Got Talent](#)

[Sixth Form Bake Sale](#)

[All That Dance!](#)

[Sixth Form Showcase](#)

[Saturday Academy WOW Days](#)

[New Arrivals! Fond Farewells](#)

[Free Cereal!](#)

# World Book Day 2023



Can you spot your favourite fictional character? Which of the costumes is the effervescent Ms Evans hiding behind? OBA celebrated World Book Day in style on the 3rd of March this year. The focus of this year's celebration was 'Reading for Pleasure', and staff were determined to show

were also keen to get involved, adorning their classroom doors with literary themed decorations, and of course dressing up as their favourite literary characters for the day!

### English priority!"

Miss Howard has pledged next year to encourage even more staff and students to get involved so watch this space!



students how fun and engaging reading can be. In English, students in KS3 created their own pieces of exciting children's fiction aimed at engaging children younger than them with reading. Students were also able to join an OAT wide competition where they could perform and record their stories as an audiobook. Over in the library, students were encouraged to join the Big Book quiz and even win their own mystery fiction! Staff across the whole school

Miss Howard, who oversees literacy and reading whole school, was overwhelmed with the enthusiasm from staff and students. Miss Howard said, "I am aware how busy as a school we already are at this time of year, and it was admirable to see so many members of our community get involved with the celebration of reading and promoting reading for pleasure. I would like to say a special thanks to the science, tech, admin, and attendance/I-zone departments who really committed to making the day as memorable as it was and for really going the extra mile to show reading isn't just an



# OBA Students 'Move It' in the Capital

Dance students from OBA travelled to London this month to take part in the esteemed dance and performing arts show, Move It.

The popular exhibition, dubbed the highlight of the dance calendar celebrates all forms of dance and performing arts over a 3-day event. 30 dance students from Years 7-12 at the academy attended on Friday 10th March, after a cold 5am coach start from a snow-covered Runcorn.

On arrival at the ExCel venue, students participated in dance classes before watching live shows, talent spotting on the free-style stage and watching and joining in acro events. The group also had the opportunity to visit dance school stalls, talk to professionals and even undertake some retail therapy for dance clothes, accessories, and props.

As part of the planned events the group took part in a lyrical jazz talent spotting class where the exciting opportunity to win one of four places was up for grabs.

Miss Power, Head of Dance and Trip Leader, said **“We were over the moon that Adam in Year 7 and Codey in Year 11 secured two of those four places! As a result, the two boys have been invited to attend a professional program residential over the summer. This is a fantastic opportunity for them, and I can’t wait to hear all about it”**.

Later in the day the students took part in a commercial class. Miss Power commented that this was **‘extremely challenging, and the students performed brilliantly.’**

The day was topped off with a visit to McDonalds before the long drive home.

Well done to all those involved, Miss Power is already planning next year’s event!





OBA Sixth Form students recently visited Rome for an immersive 4-day expedition, rich in culture and classical heritage.

The 25 students who are currently studying a mixture of History, Philosophy, Geography and Sociology courses at the academy's sixth form, had the chance to see their learning in action as they explored the eternal city and its world-famous landmarks.

On day 1, the group, accompanied by 3 members of OBA staff, visited the Catacombs of St. Calixtus, and enjoyed a walking tour in the sunshine to the Basilica de Santa Maria Maggiore and Spanish Steps. Day 2 involved an early start with another busy day of sightseeing

ahead. The legendary and monumental Colosseum was the group's first stop, followed by the Roman Forum, Vittorio Emmanuel II monument and the beautiful 18th Century Trevi fountain.

On day 3 students visited Vatican City and climbed an impressive 551 steps to the cupola at the top of the imposing St. Peter's Basilica! This was a particular highlight for the group who were blown away by the sheer scale and grandeur of the largest church in the world!

Trip Leader, Mr McGlory, Head of Humanities, said "**As the heart of one of the largest religious denominations, it was the ideal opportunity for students to experience this belief system**

**whilst also having the chance to appreciate a cosmopolitan cityscape with such a blend of ancient and modern."**

When taking a break from architecture, students and staff enjoyed immersing themselves in Rome's other famous heritage, sampling a great deal of authentic pizza, pasta, and ice cream!

Mr McGlory further commented, "**It is one of the best trips I have been on as a teacher. The students were exceptional, the sites and exhibits spectacular and we have already started planning the trip for next year - with some students already asking to come for a second time. That just shows how good of a trip it was!"**

# Bishop rewards students' efforts with free pantomime tickets



Hard working students from OBA have been rewarded for their amazing efforts with an all-expenses paid panto trip, courtesy of funny man, John Bishop.

The popular comedian reached out to OBA and generously donated 180 tickets for students to watch the hilarious Mother Goose pantomime he has recently starred in. In this family friendly musical comedy, John Bishop and his legendary co-star Sir Ian McKellen, provided a hugely entertaining double act that had the whole audience laughing out loud.

Students across the academy were selected based on their good attendance, behaviour, and attitude to learning since the beginning of this academic year. Transport as well as tickets were paid for by John to ensure that every child receiving the reward could attend.

Prior to the trip departing OBA, a small number of sixth form, Year 10 and Year 11 Performing Art students set off early for an additional opportunity, set up by John, for them to go behind the scenes.

The group toured the theatre and were able to go on the stage, backstage and meet the crew including the tour director and lighting team. The director showed students the costumes and props and discussed the logistics of the performances and how it's choreographed to the finest details.

The group then attended a workshop delivered by Professor Helen Brooks, Professor of Cultural and Creative History, University of Kent- School of Arts,

all about the history of pantomime and traditions and culture of the theatre.

After lunch, the group joined the wider OBA crowd for the highly anticipated performance.

Miss Porschke, Assistant Principal, who attended the trip alongside academy students, said "At the start of the show John gave a shout out to his old school being in the audience and asked everyone to say hello to OBA! The show was very funny throughout and our students had lots of laughs and loved joining in with the songs and classic Panto calls - 'he's behind you!'

This afternoon was topped off with a surprise visit from John Bishop, Sharon Ballard and Sir Ian who came to see OBA students at the end of the show for an invaluable Q&A session.

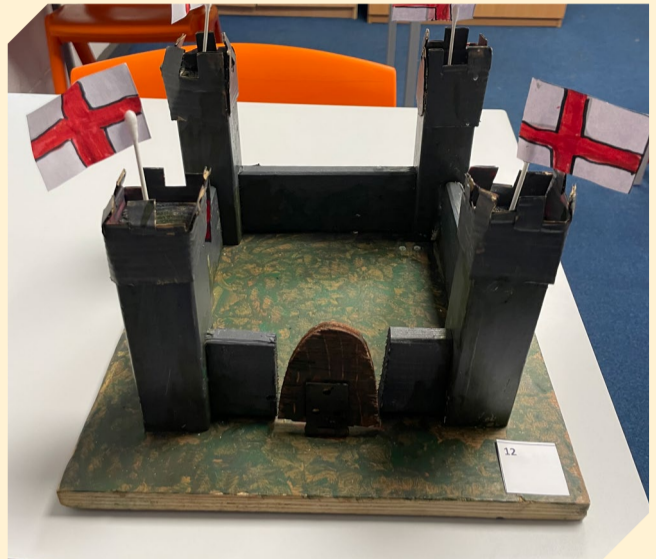
The esteemed actors answered questions about nerves before stage time, the difficulties of dancing in costume, quick outfit and scene changes and other tricks of the trade. Sir Ian gave year 11's advice for their upcoming exams taking inspiration from his Gandalf character!

Mr Fenner, Head of Sixth Form at OBA, said **"As a school we are hugely thankful to John Bishop for providing our students with this fantastic reward. It really was a day to remember! We would also like to thank Sir Ian McKellen, John Bishops Team and the rest of the cast, crew and staff at The Empire who helped to make this experience so brilliant for our students."**

# Year 7 Castle Competition

The OBA History department set a challenge this term for Year 7 students to create their very own castle at home. Students could make castles from any period, as long as they were authentic. However, students were also asked to show off their creativity and Mr Crawley, History teacher commented that **'they did not disappoint'**, adding that even some edible castles were submitted!

A huge well done to the year group, everybody displayed amazing effort, knowledge of castles and huge amounts of creativity.



# Year 12 University Visit



On 17th March, 60 of our Year 12 students visited The University of Liverpool to find out what university life is all about. The day began with an introduction to higher education, which was followed by a tour of the campus. On the tour, our students were shown around a range of the university's

buildings and facilities by some of the university students, who were more than happy to answer questions about what it's like to study in Liverpool, and at university in general.

Later, students spent lunchtime in the Guild of Students and then took part in an interactive session learning about life as a student, which covered what it's like to learn at university, student finance and the social side of university, including the nightlife and the range of societies and clubs that students can join.

Mr Oakes, Assistant Principal responsible for Personal Development, said "While many Year 12 students are already planning to apply to university, there are naturally some students who are less sure and this day gave them an opportunity to find out what university is really like and to help them to make the choice that's best for their future. Next month, we're looking forward to taking Year 10 to the university for a similar experience!"

# Lessons for Life Update



It has been another busy half term for our PSHE curriculum at OBA with a wide range of projects and activities taking place across all year groups to enrich our students' personal development.

Students in Year 7 have been learning about staying safe online with a project named 'The Web We Want'. This involves understanding the risks and dangers that exist online and also what students should do if they have an online safety concern. This project has been enhanced by a visit from a guest expert named Mark who works for an organisation called 'Collaborate Digital'. You can find out more about staying safe online here: [Ormiston Bolingbroke Academy - Online Safety](https://www.ormistonbolingbrokeacademy.co.uk/online-safety)

**To coincide with National Careers Week which takes place early in March, our Year 8 students have been starting to think about their future careers with a project named 'Me and My Future'. Our Year 8 students also recently had a cookery demonstration as part of the OAT wide social action project named 'We Will Cook'. Students had the fantastic opportunity to watch a trained chef demonstrate live how to cook healthy and cost-effective meals. A special thanks and well done to all those who volunteered to cook and be part of the competition.**

It is currently a very important time for our Year 9 students as they edge closer to making their options choices. Our Lessons for Life programme supports the

options process with a project named 'Courage and Choices'. Here, Year 9 students have had a wide range of guidance and information about making the right choices for them at Key Stage 4. This has involved a mixture of visits from external agencies and classroom lessons and culminated with an 'options roadshow' information event where all courses on offer were represented and students could find out more about the courses they were interested in. The roadshow was also attended by one of our careers advisors to provide information and guidance.



As part of a different interaction which was offered to us by Cheshire Police, students in Year 9 recently benefited from a performance about county lines and coercion. Proudly funded by Arts Council England, TRAP is an applied theatre production centred around County Lines and Child Criminal Exploitation. The 'TRAP' story was co-developed with young people and parents/carers across both Merseyside and Cheshire. The narrative, themes and issues covered

inside of the play were also developed alongside Merseyside Police, Cheshire Police and North West Regional Organised Crime Unit (NWROCU). TRAP delves into the complex nature of Gang Culture, County Lines and Debt Bondage and examines how fear and manipulation can be used to exploit someone. The production also demonstrates how County Lines can tear a family apart. You can find out more about the performance here: <https://www.perceptiontheatre.com/trap>.

Students in Year 10 have been learning about healthy relationships in Lessons for Life

and have recently moved on to learn about equality including the protected characteristics and racism in society. In Year 11 students have been working hard on their employability and have been completing a project named 'Preparing for Employment'. This project has seen students complete CVs, covering letters and application forms, learn about how to succeed in a job interview and also learn about their rights and responsibilities at work.



# OBA Achieves National Online Safety Certified Schools Status



Ormiston Bolingbroke Academy has successfully completed a comprehensive online safety training programme demonstrating its commitment to keeping children and young people safe online.

The academy has received a National Online Safety Certified School Accreditation for its whole school community approach to protecting children in the online world.

National Online Safety is a multi-award winning digital training provider with extensive resources in online safety, developed in line with the Department of Education's statutory requirements.

Its CPD accredited courses and educational resources support UK schools in educating the

whole school community in online safety- including all senior leaders, teachers, all support staff and parents - on how to make the internet a safer place for children.

James Southworth, co-founder of National Online Safety, said: **“Congratulations to everyone at Ormiston Bolingbroke Academy on becoming a National Online Safety Certified School. By completing our training programme, the school has shown its strong commitment to implementing an effective whole school approach to online safety.”**

**“It can be increasingly difficult for schools and parents to stay ahead of online threats and ensure both children and staff are safeguarded**

**from potentially harmful and inappropriate online material. We arm schools with the knowledge they need to understand online dangers and react in the best way possible to any problems.”**

Liam Hussey, Digital Safeguarding Coordinator at OBA, said: **“We have long been proud of our approach to online safety at OBA and we have a comprehensive programme of digital safety education and training for students, parents/ carers, and staff along with robust reporting mechanisms. I am pleased that we have been able to work with National Online Safety to further enhance our work to keep the entire school community safe online.”**

# Coram Shakespeare Schools Festival 2023 – Macbeth



On Tuesday 7th February, OBA Bake off winners took part in the Regional Bake off against Sandymoor Ormiston Academy and Ormiston Chadwick Academy, competing for a place in the Final at Birmingham football stadium in April. They were faced with the challenge of a technical Swiss roll bake with an opportunity to add their own creativity and flair. It was tough competition from all the entries, especially working against the clock!

Our KS3 students Alfie R, Kieran A, and Finn S presented an amazing Ferrero Rocher Chocolate and Hazelnut Swiss roll, perfectly baked, and presented within the allotted time.

Holly G and Kallie M entered a beautiful White Chocolate Buttercream and Fresh Raspberry Swiss roll, decorated exquisitely, which won the KS4 section. Hollie and Kallie have now been invited to the Great Ormiston Bake off final.

Mrs Davies, Technology teacher, said **“The five students represented our school incredibly well, displaying fabulous culinary skills, teamwork, and exemplary behaviour throughout the entire competition. They really are a credit to our wonderful school.”**



# LAMDA HUB Day



The London Academy of Music and Dramatic Art (LAMDA) invited OBA students to attend a Hub open day earlier in March.

Five Year 10 GCSE Drama students took up the opportunity and attended The Royal Exchange on Saturday 11th March, where they had the opportunity to take part in 3 short taster workshops exploring different elements of actor training at LAMDA, including acting, movement, and voice. The event culminated in a Q&A session where participants could ask questions to LAMDA tutors

and recent graduates.

The day gave students the chance to experience what training at a drama school is like, find out more about LAMDA and to meet other young people from arts organisations in the area.

Nikola D, Year 10 Drama student said, **“I had a really good time at the LAMDA day, it was really interesting. We took part in 3 workshops which were voice, movement and acting. My favourite ones would probably be the voice and movement**

**workshops. At the end of the day, we had a Q&A session, and we had some questions to answer about how we felt about the whole thing and a little survey.”**

Erin C, Year 10 Drama student said, **“Five of us Year 10 GCSE drama students recently got to attend a series of workshops conducted by people who have been in the industry and studied or are studying at drama school. We took part in three workshops; first a voice workshop where we learnt breathing techniques for longer and more effective speech. We then took part in an acting workshop. This is where we were shown a series of images in which we were asked to select one we felt connected to; once everybody had one, we were asked to gather as much detail as possible from the one image, to create a story and a character ready to perform. The final workshop we took part in was a movement workshop. This was my personal favourite as it was all about connecting with the people around you and communicating effectively. We played a series of games in which we had to listen to each other to complete. At the end of the day, we got to attend a Q&A with all the staff who were on the workshops with us, and we got lots of helpful information to take away - overall it was a great day.”**

Mrs Foulder, Head of Drama said that this is the first event in the academy’s developing relationship with LAMDA and we are excited to see what comes next. Watch this space!

# Ormiston's Got Talent

On Thursday 16th March at the OAT Annual Awards Ceremony, James Murray (Ormiston Trust) announced the results of Ormiston's Got Talent.

The winners will receive an invitation to a live event on 13th June 2023 at the Old Rep Theatre where they will showcase their talents for the judges on stage, and an overall winner will be crowned at the competition and will be awarded a theatre trip and an invitation to perform at the OAT Annual Conference on 23rd and 24th November 2023.

This year 34 schools entered up to three entries and the trust saw a fantastic range of talent and performances. A huge congratulations to Adam B in Year 7 at OBA for getting through to the final and winning £100 to spend within the performing arts department here at school. Well done Adam, everyone at OBA is super proud of you!



# Sixth Form Bake Sale



On Wednesday 29th March students from 13B ran a bake sale to fundraise for charity. Year 13 pupils, Niamh W and Elly U are taking part in the Pretty Muddy event in July. This will take place in Sefton Park and will require the girls to complete a 5k run whilst dodging various muddy obstacles. Some of the money raised in the bake sale will go towards their sponsorship to raise money for Cancer Research. The rest of the money will go towards the sponsorship of Maddison L as she takes part in Race for Life, again raising money for Cancer charities. Niamh, Elly, and Maddison worked hard to pull the event together making sure they had lots of delicious Easter themed treats to sell to staff and students in the sixth form. They managed to collect over £150 for their charities.

Mrs Platt, their form tutor said, "I'm really proud of the girls in my form and their commitment to charitable causes. They took complete control of organising the event dedicating their time for the benefit of others."

Niamh W commented, "Thank you to everyone who bought our cakes. We are grateful for the support, and we're excited to take part in the Pretty Muddy and Race for Life events in July."



# All That Dance!

OBA's annual dance show took place on Wednesday 29th March 2023. 'All That Dance!', showcased the dance talent of students from across the school and sixth form. Dances in a range of styles were performed including, jazz, contemporary and commercial dance. The evenings events also saw the dance captain role being handed over to its new recipient- Jasmine M In Year 12, and the honouring of six new dance ambassadors. Congratulations to all who received the accolades.

The evening also saw two performances from our newly established school dance company- 'Without Words', who wowed the audience with a jazz and commercial piece. The school dance company is run by year 12 students Ruby B, Jasmine M and Jenna W.

Miss Power, Head of Dance said, **"I am so proud of the students' performance this year, they have worked so hard over several months preparing for this event, and they exceeded all expectations!"**



# Sixth Form Showcase

On Thursday 23rd March, our sixth form band performed a full set of songs to an audience of Key Stage 3 students. This was to help prepare them for their practical coursework whilst allowing our younger students to see what they can achieve if they pursue a musical interest. On lead vocals, keys, guitar, and bass we had Gavin S, Lila P on lead guitar, Charlie C on drums and Kieran T on bass and guitar. Their set included covers such as 'Stuck in the Middle with You', Hot Chocolate's - Everyone's a Winner and as a tribute to Mrs Cathcart who is leaving us, they performed '500 Miles' by The Proclaimers.

Mr Tallant, Head of Music said, **"They were a credit to the school, and we are very proud of how well they performed. As a young audience they were very entertained."**



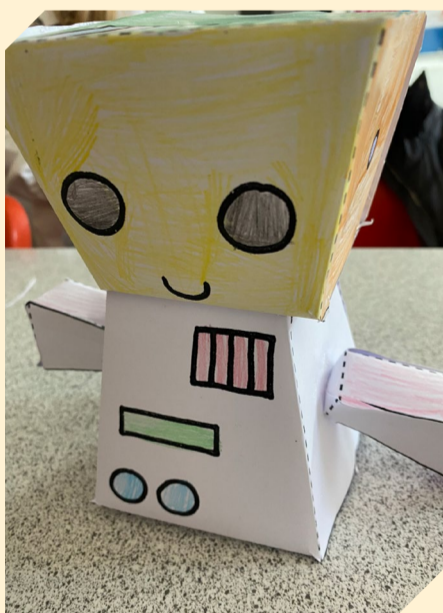


Our popular WOW days have continued this term with Year 4 and 5 children coming into the academy to do English, Geography, Science and Maths.

The English based week was based around World Book Day which had taken place the previous week. Children

completed some impressive stories to take home to WOW their families with! The Geography week included a treasure hunt around school and Science sessions saw pupils using microscopes and testing resistance with balloon rockets. During the Maths 'Brain Buster'

week, Students were able to use logical thinking skills and test their ability to follow detailed instructions. They used cutting and measuring skills to interpret 2D nets and visualize what they would look like as a 3D shape. They then created cool model robots.





# New Arrivals!

Congratulations to Miss Thornhill and Miss Lamb on the birth of their beautiful babies.

**Welcome to the OBA Family!**



Miss Thornhill welcomed baby Kenai on 2.3.23 weighing 9lb 2oz.



Miss Lamb welcomed baby Cecelia on 19.3.23 weighing 6lb 12oz.

# Fond Farewells!

As this term ends, the following members of staff are leaving the academy for pastures new. Goodbye and good luck from all at OBA.

- 1 Head of Year 10 and Teacher of Music - Catherine Cathcart
- 2 Teacher of Math's - Mark Robinson
- 3 Teacher of Math's - Sam Jones
- 4 Technician - Jason Thornhill

# Free Cereal!

This Easter Kellogg's has partnered with Morrisons to launch a breakfast club where the whole family can request a free bowl of cereal.

Both adults and children can choose from a bowl of Cornflakes, Rice Krispies or Coco Pops, with a choice of dairy and non-dairy milk, when they order a 'Kellogg's breakfast' before 11am, in any of Morrisons 397 cafés.

The joint initiative will run from 3rd to 24th April, while stock lasts, and aims to support families during the Easter holidays when many school breakfast clubs are unavailable. Please do feel free to share the below information with families at your school, helping to address holiday hunger in your local community.

Best wishes

**The Kellogg's Breakfast Club Team**



Kellogg's Breakfast Club Team

[BreakfastClubUK@kellogg.com](mailto:BreakfastClubUK@kellogg.com)