

Welcome from the Principal



Dear Parents and Carers,

Exam season is upon us, and Year 11 and 13 students are now in the thick of their GCSE and A Level examinations. I am proud of the mature way they have handled this process and wish them every success for the remainder of their exams.

As a school we recognize that it's not only our exam students who may be experiencing feelings of stress and anxiety. Children worry for a wide range of reasons and therefore, we were pleased to offer a workshop in school this week to help support and manage

these emotions. We were delighted to see so many families in attendance at the event and hope the practical advice and strategies discussed, are beneficial.

You will be aware that Ofsted visited the academy recently. We are currently awaiting their written report and will share this with you as soon as possible.

I wish you a safe and peaceful break over the half term and thank you as always for your continued support.

Mrs Evans
Principal

Welcome to the OBA Family

Congratulations to Mr Cleator and his wife who recently welcomed beautiful little Tobias into the world.



Key Dates

Monday 5th June - First day back after half term.

W/C 19th June - Year 12 Work Experience, Year 10 Mock Exams and Sports Week for Years 7-11.

Tuesday 20th June - Year 10 Sixth form taster day.

W/C 26th June - Year 10 Work Experience.

Thursday 29th June - Leavers Assembly.

W/C 3rd July - Barcelona School trip.

Monday 3rd, Tuesday 4th and Wednesday 5th July - Induction Days for New Y7 cohort.

Friday 7th July - INSET Day (School closed to students).

Wednesday 19th July - Summer Term Ends - 12.30pm finish for all students.

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OBA Bake Sale

Following the death of Brianna Ghey, a young transgender person from Warrington, our academy Allyship students have been focusing their time and efforts to support anti-knife crime and transgender charities.

Our recent bake sale marked the beginning of many planned fundraising activities in school and in our local community. Staff and students contributed delicious homemade goods, ranging from shortbread to tray bakes, there was an abundance of donated cakes for everyone to purchase.

Alongside the bake sale, Allyship representatives issued Acts of Kindness 'challenge' cards to students across the school, challenging them to spend the week completing as many acts of kindness as they could with the chance of winning 1 of 5 £20 Cineworld vouchers.

The group gave out pronoun badges and took custom orders for students to proudly show their support or individuality to others to support a more inclusive culture and to help people use pronouns respectfully.

The bake sale raised an outstanding £111.22 which will be going to 'The Daniel Fox Foundation'. This important charity will be coming into school later in the year to educate students around anti-knife crime. The Daniel Fox foundation works closely with schools running educational workshops with students to prevent knife crimes.



Uniform Swap Shop



Our pre-loved uniform shop will be open in school during half term on Wednesday 31st May 8.30am - 3.30pm.

If you have any good quality items of school uniform or PE kit that your child has outgrown or no longer needs, please consider donating them to school. Items can be dropped off at the academy reception during the term or half term, 8am-4pm, Monday-Friday.

If you require a specific item of uniform, please contact Mrs Crane - s.crane@ob-ac.co.uk who will be able to assist with your request.



Brilliant Club



Brilliant club is a scholar's program run across the country to allow students exposure to university level writing and access to higher education. Whilst on the course students work closely with a PHD researcher on a niche topic. This year OBA's focus was, 'Health, is it a postcode lottery?'

Students will complete the course by writing a short essay on their given topic, practicing vital skills like referencing. Once their work is marked, they will receive a university

grade of a 1st, 2:1, 2:2, 3rd and be presented with their certificate at the graduation ceremony.

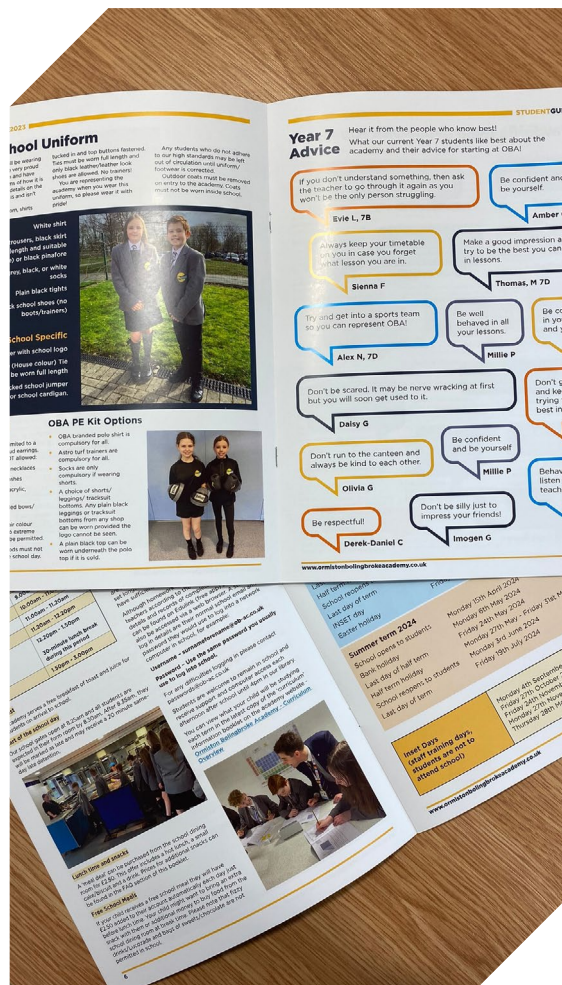
The brilliant club allows two opportunities to visit some of the UK's top universities, starting with the introduction of the course at one, and graduating at the other.

Miss Williams, Science teacher oversaw the Brilliant Club project at OBA and attended the trips alongside our students. Miss Williams said, "**Students attended the**

University of Manchester and the University of Liverpool. Whilst on their visits, they participated in campus tours and received information about university life, courses available and future job opportunities. The project provides an invaluable insight into university life and beyond and I was incredibly proud of how well all our students responded to the challenges set!"

Well done to everyone involved.

Transition Visits



It's transition time again! Mrs Snagg, Mr Crawley and Miss Sothern have been busy visiting primary schools this term, meeting our fantastic new cohort of Year 7 students. All children joining the academy in September receive a welcome bag, containing an information booklet about the academy and a variety of branded goodies!

Mrs Snagg said, **"It has been great to meet our new students and talk to them about their move to the academy. Everyone has been so excited, and we look forward to welcoming them into school in July for their Induction days."**

SATURDAY ACADEMY

WOW DAYS!



WOW days are back this term! Local children in Year 4 and 5 enjoyed working with the Art and Technology department on Saturday 13th and Saturday 20th May 2023. Amongst other activities, the children had the chance to bake fruity flapjacks, create 'Day of the Dead' masks and design their own stained-glass window-effects.



SATURDAY ACADEMY



WOW DAYS!

Saturday 10th June 9.00am - 12.00pm

This week in the OBA Science labs, you will have the chance to:



Make Ice cream!



Think like a forensic scientist - take fingerprints and use chromatography to analyse ink samples.



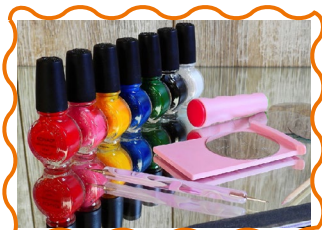
Investigate acid and alkali's using coloured indicators.

Saturday 17th June 9.00am - 12.00pm

This week the Technology team will give you the skills to:



Taste test sweet treats



Experiment with nail polishes and practice hand and arm massages



Use acetate acrylics and paint pens to create fantastic pieces of window art!

Saturday 24th June 9.00am - 12.00pm

Join us at OBA this week for everything Performing Arts.

You will have the chance to be involved in show production, including theatre lighting, sound management and maybe even become Britain's next star!

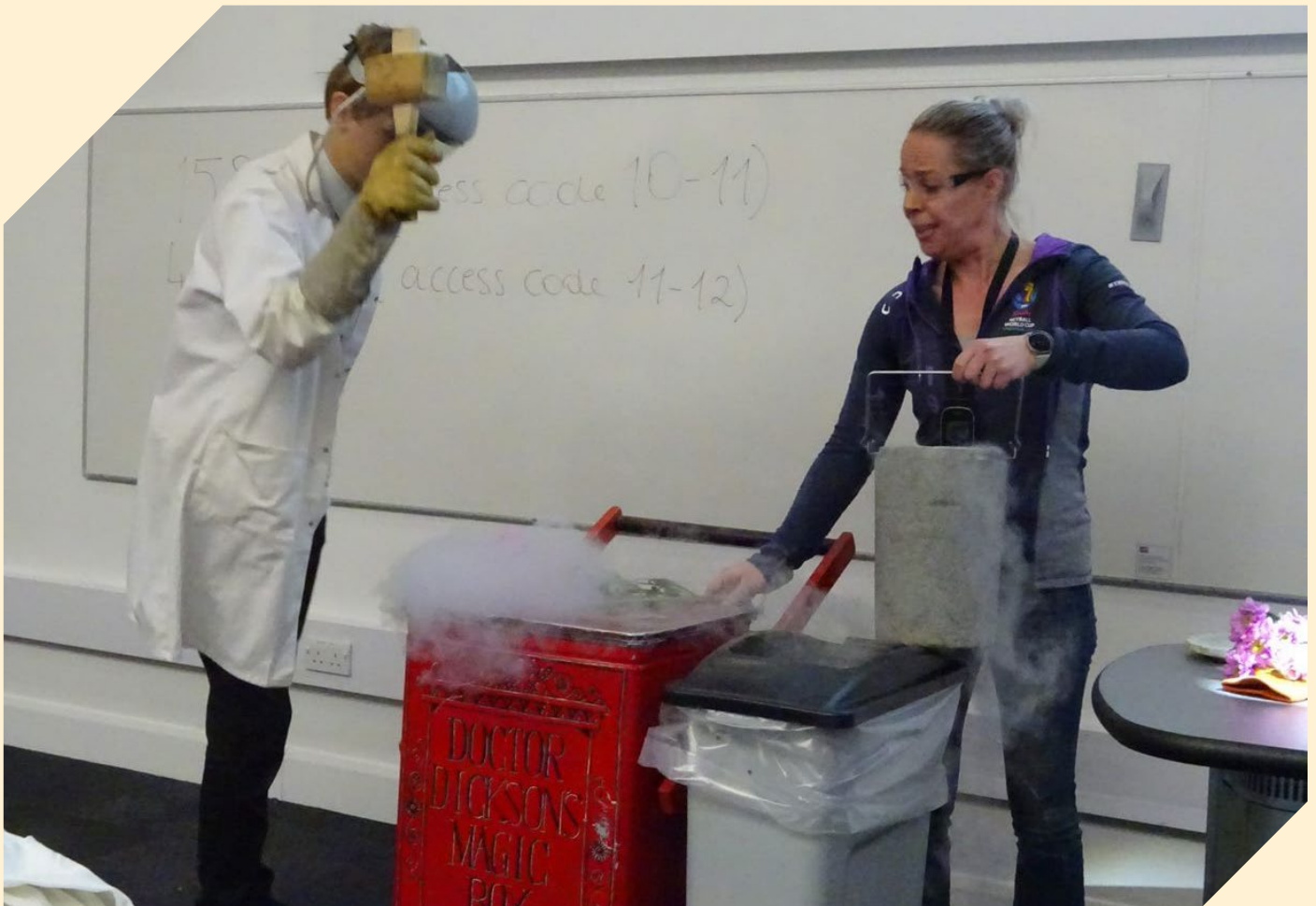


Open to children in Years 4 and 5

Parents/Carers please contact the academy reception to book your child a place:
01928 711643 / admin@ob-ac.co.uk

Please note that sessions are free of charge but will be allocated on a first-come, first-served basis.

Runcorn Students Get a Taste of University Life



Following on from the Year 12 visit last term, Year 10 students from OBA have now also visited the University of Liverpool for a taste of university life.

Academy students were treated to a tour of the vibrant campus and found out about the vast number of courses on offer. They spoke to staff and current scholars about student finances and what it's like to live away or to commute from home. They also learned more about the social opportunities on offer before visiting the Guild of Students and several other key buildings including lecture halls, the sports center, and a library.

Year 10 students were invited to an interactive science talk as part of the visit, where they

experienced what teaching at university could be like. In this session, students learned about why liquid nitrogen behaves in the way that it does and saw it freeze a few items, before having the chance to smash them up!

Mr Matt Oakes, Assistant Principal at OBA, with a responsibility for Personal Development said,

“At OBA, it is our duty to raise aspirations and to make sure that all our students have a full and informed awareness of all the options open to them beyond their time with us.

Students in all year groups have regular careers education which includes visits from employers, one-to-one

interviews with careers advisors, projects in our Lessons for Life curriculum, a careers convention and work experience. For more information on what we offer, please visit the careers pages on our website.”

Many students commented that they had enjoyed the day and on reflection, were now considering university as an option when they hadn't before.

OBA is looking forward to continuing to work with Liverpool university on its widening Participation and Outreach program to offer more exciting opportunities for students in all year groups over the coming weeks and months.

Ormiston Bolingbroke Academy is now a National Online Safety (NOS) Certified School



We have received our plaque to celebrate our NOS status! The plaque is displayed in the academy reception area to signify our ongoing commitment to keeping children and young people safe online.

Stress and Anxiety Workshop



This term we were pleased to offer a workshop opportunity for our families to support mental health. Delivered by Ormiston Academies Trust's Mental Health Lead, Mrs Baljit Nhal, the session focused around supporting parents/carers to help their child manage stress and anxiety.

Stress and anxiety are normal for us all to feel, however, at times we can experience too much of it. Approximately 50 families attended, and Parents/Carers were provided with information on what stress and anxiety is

and spotting the signs when it is getting too much for their child. Practical advice and strategies with techniques that are proven to work were also discussed.

Mrs Baljit Nhal, OAT Head of Mental Health, said **“I joined the Ormiston Academy Trust in January 2023. Prior to joining the Trust, I spent over 20 years working within the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS), in Birmingham, Mid Wales and Shropshire. I have worked within Specialist CAMHS teams as well**

as front-line teams, delivering support within schools and health and community settings. I am passionate about promoting mental health and wellbeing and ensuring children get timely advice and support when they need it.”

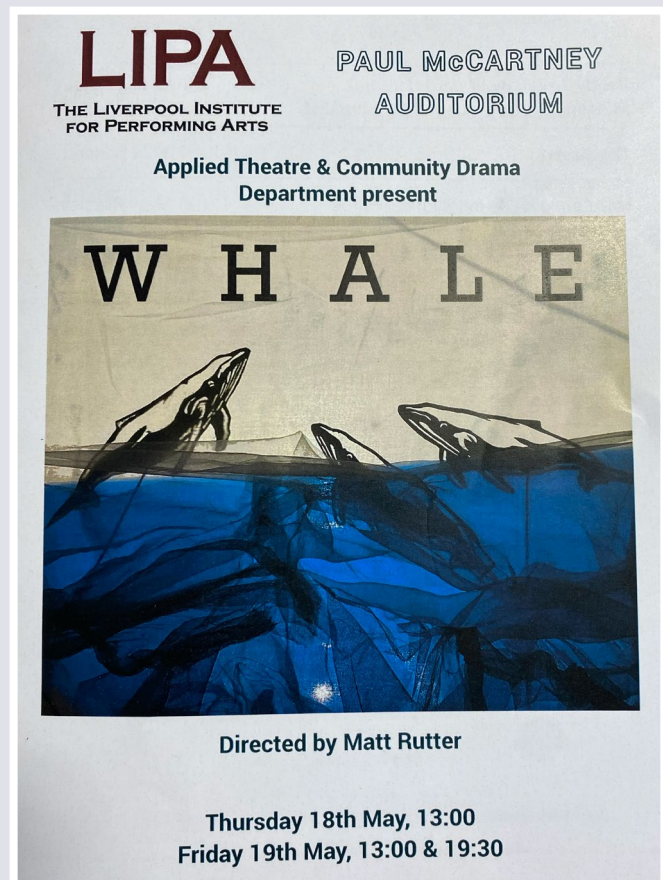
Mrs Evans, Principal said, **“This was an invaluable opportunity that I am pleased so many of our families could benefit from. Thank you to everyone who attended.”**

Drama Students in Awe with Exciting Theatre Trip

On Thursday 18th May 2023, 34 enthusiastic drama students from Years 7 and 8 were invited to The Liverpool Institute for Performing Arts (LIPA) university to watch a performance by the Applied Theatre and Community Drama students. The performance entitled 'Whale' used puppetry and ensemble narrative techniques exploring the ideas of citizenship, overcoming differences and the environment.

All students who attended were in awe at the mastery of the puppeteering and elaborate staging and set. For some this was their first trip to a professional theatre or to watch a live performance, but it certainly won't be their last!

Mrs Quinn, Trip Leader and Drama Teacher said: **"I was extremely proud of all students who attended the performance they showed respect to all performers and technical staff. We thank LIPA for opportunities like this for our budding dramatists as they are vital to continue to feed their thirst for the arts!"**



Synopsis:

In October 1988 three grey whales were trapped under the spreading ice-cap of an Arctic winter in Alaska. The story of Pitu, Siku and K'nik aroused international sympathy and support for the rescue operation which brought together the Americans, Russians and Inuits. Legend has it that the whales are trapped in Sedna's hair and only when she combs it will they be free.

At National Online Safety, we believe in empowering parents, carers and trusted adults with the information to hold an informed conversation about online safety with their children, should they feel it is needed. This guide focuses on one issue of many which we believe trusted adults should be aware of. Please visit www.nationalonlinesafety.com for further guides, hints and tips for adults.

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about DEEPIFAKES

A deepfake is an extremely convincing piece of media that is created using artificial intelligence (AI), based on pictures and recordings of the subject. The name comes from the deep learning approach to AI needed to generate them and the fact that they're used to create fake content. Deepfakes can be made as videos, static images and audio – where a person's voice is accurately mimicked to make it seem as though they have said something which, in reality, they have not.

Fake News

The most obvious use to date has been to spread fake news; a politician or well-known figure can be undermined by someone putting damaging words into their mouths. For example, in 2018, a video of Donald Trump advising the people of Belgium on climate change was revealed to be a deepfake, while in 2021 a convincing parody account supposedly belonging to Tom Cruise went viral on TikTok.



Fraudulent Use

Deepfakes are mainly associated with video clips, but audio versions do exist and are in fact much simpler to create. These carry obvious criminal potential: to commit financial fraud, for instance. It is possible for someone to be fooled that a trusted person gave specific instructions or authorisation during a phone call, while a fake voice could be generated to bypass phone authentication at some banks.



Potential for Extortion

A sophisticated deepfake video could be used for extortion, even if someone has not done anything to be blackmailed over. A deepfake could believably show a person in a compromising position, and – even if that individual was never actually present – the mere threat of the video being circulated on the internet could be enough to coerce them into paying a ransom.

Pornography

A 2019 study by research company Sensity AI found that 95% of deepfake videos online took the form of pornography. This involves realistically superimposing the faces of other people (usually celebrities or public figures, but members of the public have been victims, too) onto the bodies of actors in porn movies. Not only could this be used as a type of extortion, but it is also an appalling invasion of privacy.



Advice for Parents & Carers

Keep Profiles Private

Ensure that you and your family maintain a relatively limited public presence on social media. By enabling privacy restrictions, you can help to prevent scammers from having access to images, video and audio clips from which they could easily copy your voice and facial likeness.



Search for Other Evidence

If the video is supposedly of a prominent public figure, then it is probable that whatever they said on the clip would have also been recorded by someone else (especially if it was a political speech). Google the person's name with a few words of whatever they said in quotation marks. If no matching search results come up – and the video has not been covered by any news outlets – then it is likely you are looking at a deepfake.



Trust Your Instincts

Ask yourself whether the content of a video seems plausible. If the person in the clip is acting out of character (for example, using unexpectedly sensational or divisive language), it could be a sign of a deepfake. Investigate the source; newly created accounts or websites are often suspect. Check if any previous posts from that account display an ideology that would want to either glorify or discredit the speaker.



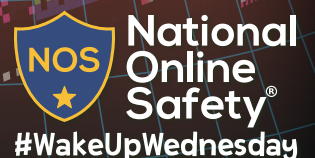
Look at Details

The process that creates deepfakes sometimes leaves obvious traces. Look out for blurry edges and flickering on faces – especially on textures that are difficult to replicate, such as hair strands. Oddly rendered teeth or a lack of blinking may also be clues. Pay close attention to whether the person's mouth movements directly correspond to the words spoken: many amateur deepfakes fall at this hurdle.



Meet Our Expert

Alan Martin is an experienced technology journalist and the former deputy editor of technology and internet culture website Alphr. Now freelance, he has contributed articles to publications including the *New Statesman*, *CNET*, the *Evening Standard*, *Wired*, *Rock Paper Shotgun*, *Gizmodo*, *Pocket Gamer*, *Stuff*, *T3*, *PC Pro*, *Macworld*, *TechRadar* and *Trusted Reviews*.



SOURCES: <https://www.theguardian.com/technology/2020/jan/13/what-are-deepfakes-and-how-can-you-spot-them>, <https://lab.wired.com/backgrounder>

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 more about the area which they live in with a project named 'Me and My Community'. This project aims to enlighten students to the history, geography and democracy of the area where we live.

After completing their project on careers education this half term, our year 8 students have had a visit from one of our partner organisations called Connect Futures who came to OBA and delivered an informative assembly about disinformation online including Fake News. Similarly, year 10 students have also had a visit from this organisation this half term to raise their awareness about commercialism online from an expert in this field. Kylie from a charity called Young Gamers and Gamblers Education Trust (YGAM) visited us during Lessons for Life this half term and gave an excellent presentation to the whole of year 10. YGAM is a national charity with a social

purpose to inform, educate, safeguard and build digital resilience amongst young and vulnerable people, helping them to make informed decisions and understand the consequences around gambling and gaming. The interactive presentation covered information on gaming and gambling in the UK and the tools needed to protect young people from the risks of problem gambling and gaming, including signs to look out for and information on where to go for advice and support. You can find out more about staying safe online and about the key issues related to online safety on our website here: <https://ormistonbolingbrokeacademy.co.uk/for-students/online-safety-2>

In year 9 students have been improving their financial literacy with a newly introduced project called 'Money Matters'. We often hear from many people that young people should learn about money and finances at school. We are pleased to say that all OBA students now complete not one but two projects about money as part of their Lessons for Life curriculum. This half term year 9 students have learned about budgeting, the current cost of living crisis, different types of bank accounts, financial

considerations when it comes to accommodation, how credit works and the importance of savings. Students have engaged really well with this project and have really enjoyed learning about money. This project will be followed up by a second project named 'Me and My Money' when students are in year 11.

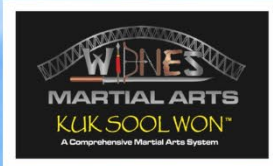
As well as the visit from YGAM about online commercialism, our year 10 students have also completed a practical First Aid session from the British Red Cross this half term. Again, we often hear that young people should learn first aid skills in school and we are proud to say that every student who attends OBA will achieve a first aid training session and certificate through their Lessons for Life curriculum. The first aid training covered essential life-saving skills and knowledge including: the primary survey, making an effective call to the emergency services, CPR, use of defibrillators and dealing with common injuries.

More information about our Lessons for Life (PSHE) curriculum can be found on our website here: <https://ormistonbolingbrokeacademy.co.uk/curriculum/lessons-for-life-pshe-2>

WIDNES & RUNCORN CANCER SUPPORT GROUP BRING YOU:

5K YOUR WAY 2023

WITH SUPPORT FROM:



WITH SUPPORT FROM:



Widnes & Runcorn Cancer Support Group

SATURDAY 22ND JULY 2023
VICTORIA PARK, WIDNES
FROM 11:30AM

CONTACT THE CENTRE FOR DETAILS: 0151 423 5730

INFO@WIDNESANDRUNCORNCANCERSUPPORT.ORG.UK

 **JOIN THE
EVENT HERE**



**REGISTER YOUR
INTEREST HERE**



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