

## Welcome from the Principal



Dear Parents and Carers,

This has been a busy term for everyone with lots of events to report on. Open Evening, Year 11 Information Evening and Progress Evenings have meant that we have had the wonderful opportunity to see and speak to lots of our families in the Academy this term. I would like to take the chance to thank everyone who has taken part.

Our Year 7 and Year 12 students have now had a term to settle in and progress. It has been fantastic to see them thrive.

Last term the Academy received its Inclusion Mark report, and I am delighted to say that that it has retained its gold standard award for its inclusive provision. I am so proud of this achievement which is a testament to the hard work and dedication of our staff and wider school community. Please see the report in the newsletter. One of the staff members who was

integral to us gaining the award was Miss Porschke, who is a familiar member of staff to lots of our families, and whom has also just been promoted to the role of Vice Principal.

Currently we have a vacancy for a parent governor, if you are interested in being part of our continuing journey then please contact Mrs Smith Principal's PA at the Academy.

I hope you enjoy reading a full round-up of all the latest news and information in this latest edition of the Academy newsletter.

Please take care over the Christmas holiday, I wish you and your families an enjoyable break and look forward to welcoming all the students back to school on Wednesday 3rd January 2024.

**Mrs Evans**  
Principal

## Key Dates

**Friday 22nd December.** Christmas Holiday.

**Wednesday 3rd January 2024.** Students return to school.

**Thursday 11th January.** 6th Form Progress Evening Face to Face.

**Thursday 25th January.** Year 9 Progress Evening Face to Face.

**Monday 5th February.** KS3 Assessment Week.

**Monday 26th February.** Year 11 and 13 Mocks as well as Year 10 and 12 assessments.

**Thursday 14th March.** Year 8 Progress Evening Face to Face.

**Thursday 28th March.** INSET Day (Easter Holiday begins for students).

**Monday 15th April.** Students return to school.

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# Attendance at OBA - Make Every Day Count

Why is it important for children to attend school?

All parents want their children to get on well in life. In today's work climate, it is more important than ever to have a good education behind you if you want opportunities in adult life. Children only get one chance at school, and your child's chances of a successful future may be affected by not attending school regularly. If children do not attend school they may:

- Struggle to keep up with school work due to missing lessons.
- Miss out on the social side of school life. Poor attendance can affect children's ability to make and keep friendships.
- Employers want to recruit people who are reliable. Children who have a poor school attendance record may have less chance of getting a good job.

An excellent record of attendance at school has a major impact on your child's academic progress. Research shows that there is a direct link between poor attendance and poor examination results.

Every student in OBA has an absolute minimum attendance target of 95%.

**Remember:**

- Missing ½ a day a week = 90% attendance = 4 weeks missed per year.
- Missing 1 day a week = 80% attendance = more than half a term missed per year or 2 full years missed over the course of their school career.
- Missing 1 ½ days a week = 70% attendance = more than a quarter of the school year missed.
- An average attendance of 80% or less across a child's school career adds up to missing a whole 2 years from school.

Just 17 days absent from school a year could mean a drop in GCSE grade across all subjects!

Make every second of school count as this time cannot be made back up!

Students attending the academy receive a range of pastoral support from their form tutors and year teams. Form tutors are the first point of contact for any concerns and queries. Within this role the form tutor also delivers a weekly attendance-based form session in which students

update their attendance trackers, review their current attendance, and discuss attendance and punctuality related topics.

Our new attendance trackers look like this-

**MAKE EVERY DAY COUNT** **ATTENDANCE TRACKER 2023** *Lucere Aude*  
Ormiston Bolingbroke Academy

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

WEEK COMMENCING	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI
04/09/23	04 Inset Day	05	06	07	08
11/09/23	11	12	13	14	15
18/09/23	18	19	20	21	22
25/09/23	25	26	27	28	29
02/10/23	02	03	04	05	06
09/10/23	09	10	11	12	13
16/10/23	16	17	18	19	20
23/10/23	23	24	25	26	27 Inset Day
06/11/23	06	07	08	09	10
13/11/23	13	14	15	16	17
20/11/23	20	21	22	23	24 Inset Day
27/11/23	27 Inset Day	28	29	30	01
04/12/23	04	05	06	07	08
11/12/23	11	12	13	14	15
18/12/23	18	19	20	21	22

**MILESTONES REACHED**  
Congratulations on reaching your milestones. At these points you will receive a treat/positive contact home.

- 20 DAYS** TUTOR
- 40 DAYS** ASSISTANT HEAD OF YEAR / PASTORAL MANAGER
- 60 DAYS** HEAD OF YEAR

These trackers provide a simple and visual way for students to monitor their own attendance and provide a range of incentives and rewards simply for being present!

If you have any questions or concerns relating to attendance, please contact a member of the attendance team - [attendance@ob-ac.co.uk](mailto:attendance@ob-ac.co.uk)

Year 7 and 8 attendance officer - Mrs Oram  
[r.oram@ob-ac.co.uk](mailto:r.oram@ob-ac.co.uk)

Year 9 and 10 attendance officer - Miss Campbell  
[r.campbell@ob-ac.co.uk](mailto:r.campbell@ob-ac.co.uk)

Year 11 and Sixth Form attendance officer - xxxxx  
[s.richardson@pb-ac.co.uk](mailto:s.richardson@pb-ac.co.uk)

# OBA retains gold flagship status for its inclusive provision!

In July 2023, the academy was re-visited by an Assessor for the Inclusion Quality Mark (IQM) and we are delighted that it retained its gold standard award for its inclusive provision.

During the visit the assessor noted that leaders and staff, have worked at an impressive rate to further enhance inclusive practice, never resting on their laurels. They further commented that it is this attitude towards continuous improvement which maintains our high standards of inclusive provision.

The schools Leadership Team was described in the report as exhibiting a reflective and adaptable approach. The assessor noted that the academy remains dedicated to upholding its core inclusive principles, with practice constantly evolving to ensure the students' needs are put first.

Resources such as our new Intervention Centre and recently re-structured IZone were praised, along with Reading initiatives, Anti-bullying ambassadors and the popular 'Head Salad' (emotional wellbeing) programme also receiving positive feedback.

On a tour around the IZONE, the assessor documented improvements over the last 12 months, recognising that it now has a more academic focus. They also commented

on the schools SEND provision, acknowledging that young people with SEND are supported well. Early identification of SEND students, the appointment of an assistant SENCO and an increased TA team has provided additional capacity to support students with SEND and this investment reflects the academy's ongoing commitment to doing so.

The academy was described as a 'trailblazer' when it comes to Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer or Questioning + (LGBTQ+) education and support. The report states that led by an inspiring and passionate TA (Mr Allen), the Allyship Programme is embedded in the 'Lessons for Life' curriculum as well as enrichment opportunities throughout the year. The assessor found that Allyship is fundamental to the inclusive culture and forms part of the daily practice of the school.

The Family Support Worker (Mrs Rostance) was noted as a positive addition to the inclusive provision offer at Ormiston Bolingbroke Academy this year. The report states they adopt a cohesive approach, employing the 'team around the child' model to ensure comprehensive care and assistance.

The report concluded that OBA continues to fully meet

the standard required by the Inclusion Quality Mark's Inclusive School Award to maintain its status as a Flagship School. This is a fantastic achievement, given that the academy is one of only 100 schools in the UK achieving this flagship status, with over 5,500 schools having either received an IQM Inclusive Award or are actively working towards meeting the standard required.

Mrs Porschke, Assistant Principal for Inclusion, said:

**"I am really proud to achieve this award as it recognises OBA as a truly inclusive academy and acknowledges the hard work that staff put in to support our students on a daily basis."**

Mrs Evans, Principal commented:

**"I am so proud of this achievement which is a testament to the hard work and dedication of our staff and wider school community. OBA is on a rapid journey to improvement and with committed and caring staff; we hold the students at the heart of everything we do. I am therefore delighted that the report findings reflect this ethos and acknowledges the depth of work taking place here each day."**

# Star Points

We are excited to introduce our revamped school rewards system - Star Points at Ormiston Bolingbroke Academy! These Star Points are being awarded to our exceptional pupils who consistently demonstrate our academy's core values both within and outside the school premises.

As pupils accumulate Star Points, they will be eligible for a range of exciting rewards. These rewards include special certificates to recognize their achievements, E-postcards to celebrate their success with their families, and even queue jump passes for break and lunch to make their school day a little more exciting!

But that's not all - We have also created opportunities for our students to win even bigger prizes, such as gift vouchers and exclusive invitations to join school trips. This revamped rewards system aims to motivate and celebrate the outstanding efforts of our pupils in embodying the values that make OBA such a remarkable place of learning.

Mr Walsh, Rewards Lead said, **"I am looking forward to witnessing our students' dedication and achievements as they strive to earn their Star Points and enjoy the fantastic rewards that await them. The first achievable target is 50 Star Points where pupils will be issued with a certificate to take home. Watch this space!"**



# Buzzing about books!

Once again, the academy has been able to provide every student in year 7 with a reading book of their very own to take home and to keep. Students had a choice from sixteen titles which included a variety of genres - so there really was something for everyone. All the books are specially chosen for age and suitability to encourage reading for pleasure. Figures show that 93.5 % of children across the country do not have access to books at home and owning a book is a very different experience to borrowing one from the library. Statistics also show that having books at home and reading for pleasure improves children's lives from childhood to adulthood, socially, academically, and professionally. Reading for pleasure also has a dramatic impact on well-being and mental health. Having the opportunity to provide this experience for our students is very special.

Mrs Rayner, Librarian commented, **“This is the best time of the school year for me. I just love the excitement and buzz around school about books! I have students asking me when they will get their books every day. The whole process has been met with great enthusiasm and I can’t wait to deliver the much-anticipated titles”**.





## **Ormiston Bolingbroke Academy recognised for its commitment**

### **to helping pupils stay safe online**

*Ormiston Bolingbroke Academy is now a  
National Online Safety Certified School*

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

The Runcorn secondary school 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 school 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 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. "

Any schools that would like to discuss their online safety provision or would like access to up to date online safety learning resources, are encouraged to contact National Online Safety on 0800 368 8061.

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 of many apps which we believe trusted adults should be aware of. Please visit [www.nationalonlinesafety.com](http://www.nationalonlinesafety.com) for further guides, hints and tips for adults.

# What Parents & Carers Need to Know about SNAPCHAT

AGE RESTRICTION  
**13+**



Snapchat is an instant messaging app which allows users to send images, videos and texts to people in their friends list. One of Snapchat's unique features is that pictures and messages 'disappear' 24 hours after they've been viewed; however, this content isn't as temporary as many believe – with some users saving screenshots or using another device to take a photo of their screen. This year, Snapchat added 'My AI': a customisable chatbot with which people can chat and share secrets, as well as asking for advice and suggestions of places to visit.

## CONNECTING WITH STRANGERS

Even if your child only connects with people they know, they may still get friend requests from strangers. The Quick Add option lets users befriend people the app recommends – but these 'friends' are merely a username, which could have anyone behind it. Accepting such requests reveals children's personal information through the Story, SnapMap and Spotlight features, potentially putting them at risk from predators.

## EXCESSIVE USE

Snapchat works hard on user engagement, with features like streaks (messaging the same person every day to build up a high score). Spotlight Challenges tempt users into spending time producing content in search of cash prizes and online fame, while it's easy for children to pass hours watching Spotlight's endless scroll of videos.

## INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Some videos and posts on Snapchat aren't suitable for children. The hashtags used to group content are determined by the poster, so even an innocent search term could still yield age-inappropriate results. The app's 'disappearing messages' feature also makes it easy for young people (teens in particular) to share explicit images on impulse – so sexting continues to be a risk associated with Snapchat.

## ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

My AI is Snapchat's new chatbot, which replies to questions in a human-like manner. However, the software is still in its infancy and has significant drawbacks, such as biased, incorrect or misleading responses. There have already been numerous reports of young users turning to AI for medical help and diagnoses, which could be inaccurate and therefore potentially dangerous.

## ONLINE PRESSURES

Although many of Snapchat's filters are designed to entertain or amuse, the 'beautify' effects on photos can set unrealistic body-image expectations – creating feelings of inadequacy if a young person compares themselves unfavourably with other users. Snapchat now also has 'priority' notifications (which still get displayed even if a device is in 'do not disturb' mode), increasing the pressure on users to log back in and interact.

## VISIBLE LOCATION

Snap Map highlights a device's exact position on a virtual map which is visible to other users. There are options to restrict who can see this information: all friends, only you (Ghost Mode) or selected friends. Snapchat also has real-time location sharing, which is intended as a buddy system to ensure friends have reached home safely – but which could also be used to track a young person for more sinister reasons.



## Advice for Parents & Carers

### TURN OFF QUICK ADD

The Quick Add feature helps people find each other on the app. This function works based on mutual friends or whether someone's number is in your child's contacts list. Explain to your child that this could potentially make their profile visible to strangers. We recommend that your child turns off Quick Add, which can be done in the settings (accessed via the cog icon).



### CHOOSE GOOD CONNECTIONS

In 2021, Snapchat rolled out a new safety feature: users can now receive notifications reminding them of the importance of maintaining connections with people they actually know well, as opposed to strangers. This 'Friend Check Up' encourages users to delete connections with users that they rarely communicate with, to maintain their online safety and privacy.



### DISCUSS AI

Although My AI's responses can often give the impression that it's a real person, it's essential that young people remember this certainly isn't the case. Encourage your child to think critically about My AI's replies to their questions: are they accurate and reliable? Remind them that My AI shouldn't replace chatting with their real friends, and that it's always better to talk to an actual person in relation to medical matters.



### CHAT ABOUT CONTENT

It may feel like an awkward conversation (and one that young people can be reluctant to have) but it's important to talk openly and non-judgementally about sexting. Remind your child that once something's online, the creator loses control over where it ends up – and who else sees it. Likewise, it's vital that children understand that some challenges which become popular on the platform may have potentially harmful consequences.



### KEEP ACCOUNTS PRIVATE

Profiles are private by default, but children may make them public to gain more followers. Snap Stories are visible to everyone your child adds, unless they change the settings. On SnapMaps, their location is visible unless Ghost Mode is enabled (again via settings). It's safest not to add people your child doesn't know in real life – especially since the addition of My Places, which allows other Snapchat users to see where your child regularly visits and checks in.



### BE READY TO BLOCK AND REPORT

If a stranger *does* connect with your child on Snapchat and begins to make them feel uncomfortable through bullying, pressure to send explicit images or by sending sexual images to them, your child can select the three dots on that person's profile and report or block them. There are options to state why they're reporting that user (annoying or malicious messages, spam, or masquerading as someone else, for example).



### Meet Our Expert

Dr Claire Sutherland is an online safety consultant, educator and researcher who has developed and implemented anti-bullying and cyber safety policies for schools. She has written various academic papers and carried out research for the Australian government comparing internet use and sexting behaviour of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.



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#WakeUpWednesday

Sources: <https://help.snapchat.com/hc/en-gb/articles/5226789358932-What-is-My-AI-on-Snapchat-and-how-does-it-work> | <https://voices.snapchat.com/en-gb/news/early-learning-from-my-ai-and-new-safety-enhancements> | <https://s05nmac.com/2023/04/19/snapchat-ve-location-sharing-chatgpt/> | <https://help.snapchat.com/hc/en-gb/articles/7022304746844>



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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 of many issues which we believe trusted adults should be aware of. Please visit [www.nationalonlinesafety.com](http://www.nationalonlinesafety.com) for further guides, hints and tips for adults.

# What Parents & Carers Need to Know about GROUP CHATS

Occurring through messaging apps, on social media and in online games, group chats are among the most popular ways that young people engage with their peers online. Involving, by definition, three or more individuals, these groups allow users to send messages, images and videos to everyone in one place. While they are useful for helping friends, people with shared interests or members of a club to communicate and coordinate activities, they can also leave young people feeling excluded and bullied – as well as providing opportunities for inappropriate content to be shared and viewed.

## WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

### BULLYING

Unkind comments or images which are purposely aimed at an individual can be shared freely in a group chat – allowing and often encouraging others to join in the bullying behaviour. If this content is shared in a group of their peers (especially a larger group), it serves to amplify the hurt, embarrassment, anxiety and isolation that the victim feels.

### EXCLUSION AND ISOLATION

This common issue with group chats can happen in several ways: starting a new group, for instance, but deliberately excluding a certain child. Likewise, the chat may take place on an app which one child doesn't have access to, meaning they can't be involved. A child can also feel isolated when a group chat is used to discuss or share images from an event that everyone else but them attended.

### INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Some discussions in group chats may include inappropriate words, swearing and unsuitable images or videos. These could be viewed by your child if they are part of that group, whether they actively engage in it or not. Some chat apps have a disappearing message function, so your child may be unable to report something they've seen because it can only be viewed once or for a short time.

### SHARING GROUP CONTENT

It's important to remember that – while the content of the chat is private between those in the group – individual users can easily share a message, photo or video with others outside of the group or screenshot what's been posted. The risk of something your child intended as private becoming public (and potentially going viral) is higher if there are people they don't know well in the group.

### UNKNOWN MEMBERS

Within larger group chats, it's more likely your child will be communicating with people they don't really know. These strangers may be friends of the host, but not necessarily friendly toward your child. It's wise for young people not to share personal details and stay aware that they have no control over the messages and images they share after they've put them online.

### NOTIFICATIONS AND FOMO

A drawback of large group chats is the sheer number of notifications. Every time someone in the group messages, your child's device will be 'pinged' with an alert; potentially, this could mean hundreds of notifications a day. Not only is this highly distracting, but young people's fear of missing out on the latest conversation results in increased screen time as they try to keep up with the chat.

## Advice for Parents & Carers

### CONSIDER OTHERS' FEELINGS

Group chats are often an arena for young people to gain social status. This could cause them to do or say things on impulse, which could upset others in the group. Encourage your child to consider how other people might feel if they engaged in this behaviour. If your child does upset a member of their group chat, support them to reach out, show empathy and apologise for their mistake.

### PRACTISE SAFE SHARING

In any online communication, it's vital for young people to be aware of what they're sharing and who might potentially see it. Discuss the importance of not revealing identifiable details like their address, their school or photos that they wouldn't like to be seen widely. Remind them that once something is shared in a group, they lose control of where it may end up and how it might be used.

### GIVE SUPPORT, NOT JUDGEMENT

Remind your child that they can confide in you if they feel bullied or excluded in a group chat, instead of responding to the person who's upset them. Validate their hurt feelings and help to put them back in control by discussing how they'd like to handle the situation. On a related note, you could also empower your child to speak up if they're in a chat where others are being picked on.

### AVOID INVITING STRANGERS

Sadly, many individuals online hide their true identity to gain a child's trust – for example, to gather information on them, to exchange inappropriate content or to coax them into doing things they aren't comfortable with. Ensure your child understands why they shouldn't add people they don't know to a group chat – and, especially, to never accept a group chat invitation from a stranger.

### BLOCK, REPORT AND LEAVE

If your child is in a chat where inappropriate content is being shared, advise them to block the users sending the material, report them to the host app or platform and exit the group. If any of this content could be putting a minor at risk, contact the police. Emphasise to your child that it's OK for them to simply leave any group chat that they don't feel comfortable being a part of.

### SILENCE NOTIFICATIONS

Having a phone or tablet bombarded with notifications from a group chat can be a massive irritation and distraction – especially if it's happening late in the evening. Explain to your child that they can still be part of the group chat, but that it would be healthier for them to turn off or mute the notifications and catch up with the conversation at a time which better suits them.

## Meet Our Expert

Dr Claire Sutherland is an online safety consultant, educator and researcher who has developed and implemented anti-bullying and cyber safety policies for schools. She has written various academic papers and carried out research for the Australian government comparing internet use and sexting behaviour of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.





# Drama at OBA

This half term the drama department have had a jam-packed term visiting The Liverpool Playhouse Theatre, attending workshops at LIPA and participating in National Theatre's New View's project for young and aspiring script writers.

On Thursday 19th October year 10 and 11 GCSE Drama students watched a performance of *Metamorphosis* by Frantic Assembly.

This physical theatre piece was a new interpretation of Kafka's *Metamorphosis* tale. Frantic Assembly's highly physical adaptation of the well-known story shows the painful transformation of Gregor Samsa from a man to 'monstrous vermin'. Previous performances show Gregor turn into a literal insect, but this interpretation focused on symbolic transformation as Gregor feels the pressures of family life.



On Thursday 7th December our year 8's, 9's, 10's and 11's spent the afternoon on the edge of their seats and terrified watching *The Woman in Black* at The Liverpool Playhouse Theatre. The ghostly tale follows the story of Alice Drablow who lived alone at the infamous Eel Marsh House which becomes isolated from the small village town of Crythin Gifford every night as the causeway is

submerged by water. Following the death of her nephew in a tragic accident Crythin Gifford is haunted by a mysterious Woman in Black. Each time she is seen a child from the village becomes hurt or unwell. Students gasped at the sight of the Woman in Black as she appeared in the stalls and then behind the gauze curtain on stage.

# The Penny Challenge

## House Points

### Overall Scores

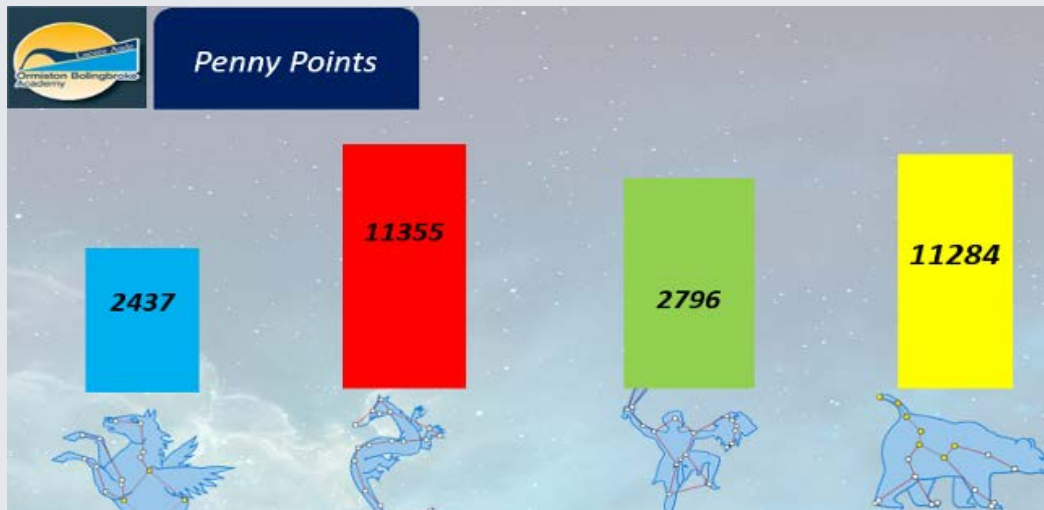
Ursa  
**15993**

Draco  
**14912**

Orion  
**7638**

Pegasus  
**5994**

## House Results



This term our house representatives (Frankie Wharmby, Alexander Wan, Connor Reed, Rhy Bennett and Poppy Frodsham) have been hard at work raising money to make Christmas Hampers for families in our community.

As a school we have raised a wonderful £278.00 that will towards our hamper efforts. With a 71p difference between first and second place, Draco raised £113.55 and became our winners! Followed by Ursa in second with an impressive £112.84. Orion and Pegasus took third and fourth place. 7LVS were our 'penny' winners and came top in terms of pennies donated with a huge 2250 individual pennies.

## Deck the Doors!

Our Deck the Doors competition is in full swing too! Our forms have been busy at work creating the most Christmassy door...

**WINNERS!**  
**11 VDS**



# Careers Education at OBA

At OBA, we are committed to preparing our students for life beyond Year 11 and Year 13. This year, our Year 11 students have received talks from Riverside College and Warrington and Vale Royal College as well as all Year 11 and Year 13 students receiving a careers interview with one of our qualified advisors. In addition, our Year 9 students have had a visit from the Navy and Cheshire Fire and Rescue Service.

In the coming term, we will be welcoming the Catalyst Museum to talk about STEM careers with our Year 7 students and a representative from the film industry to speak with our Year 8 students. We will also be welcoming an editor from a national daily newspaper to speak with our Year 10 and Year 11 students.

In addition, we are very much looking forward to our Year 10 and Year 12 students experiencing the world of work through their work experience



[www.oba-careers.co.uk](http://www.oba-careers.co.uk)  
6th form - Apprenticeships - College - University - Resources - Advice

placements in the summer term. Students are busy finding placements and submitting their placement forms ahead of the January deadline.

You can find careers information online at our dedicated website [www.oba-careers.co.uk](http://www.oba-careers.co.uk)

# Year 11 Student Leadership Team

OBA are delighted to announce the appointment of our Year 11 Head Boy, Head Girl and Prefects.

**Head boy: Zak Kirsners**

**Head girl: Isabella Cuthbert**

**Prefects:**

Jessica Davies

Laylah Crane

Paige O'Toole

Erika Moat

Jack Brown-Hughes

Alyssa Bake



Each of the students has an area of responsibility around the school including Social Action, Green and Eco schools, Student Voice, Enrichment and Conduct and Rewards.

Our Student Voice ambassadors have already run their first student parliament meeting, with students from all year groups attending, our Green ambassador has begun work on reducing energy use and plastic waste, our Social Action ambassadors are working on an initiative with our food department and our Conduct and Rewards ambassador will shortly be working with the results from the student parliament consultation. It's been a busy term for the Year 11 Leadership Team and we're looking forward to seeing the results of their efforts over the next term across the academy!

# The School Library

The Library Club Elves have been busy this term choosing new titles for the library, eating sweets, making displays, eating sweets, asking their teachers what they are reading, eating sweets, reading 'The Climbers' by Keith Gray and eating sweets. They have made Christmas decorations for the library, including Christmas book related garlands and Christmas baubles with their recommendations, whilst eating sweets. Library Club do love a good read and a few sweets too, if you hadn't noticed.

It's nearly Christmas but if you need a last-minute gift idea why not choose a book? A book is always original and not just for Christmas - it can be enjoyed again and again and again along with sweets and a mug of steaming hot chocolate or whatever floats your boat!

Wishing you all a relaxing book filled Christmas.

Mrs Rayner, Mrs Townley and the Library Club Gang.



# Anti-Bullying Week 2023



Anti-Bullying Week is organised by the Anti-Bullying Alliance and every year sees a different theme. This year was 'Make a noise about bullying'. OBA's anti-bullying lead, Mrs Musgrave and the student anti-bullying ambassadors arranged activities to mark the week and to continue in their work in raising awareness about anti-bullying. Years 7-10 had an assembly the week before that raised the issue of when banter 'isn't banter' and every student was asked to think of a phrase to use when seeing unkind behaviours. Our OBA chosen phrase in school is "If you can't be kind, be quiet." Everyone was prepared to make a noise about bullying.

Every day saw different activities from a poetry competition, to a "pledge it" photo booth, cake sale, music in the canteen at lunchtime and an Open Mic night. Prizes and gifts were handed out most days including blue lollies to cheer students up on Monday, hug in a mug chocolate kits, thank you cards with love hearts and whistle lollies for those who made the right noises! Fun

Friday lived up to its name with Mrs Musgrave dressing up as a giant frog and hiding tiny frogs around school for students to find. Despite the offer of a Freddo Frog, most students who found a frog chose to keep and rehome their frogs instead!!!

Mrs Musgrave was really pleased with how the week went. **"When the ambassadors asked for feedback off the students about what they enjoyed, frog was the main word used! Rest assured; the frogs will be making a return! And the music and singing in the canteen at lunchtime was very memorable too! I was especially proud of how well our students engaged with the week in general, the poetry competition alone had nearly 70 entries" and the queue for the photobooth was huge. Thanks to everyone including Mr Allen for all the support in making the week a success".**

The work of the anti-bullying group continues. Please follow the group on their Instagram page for up-to-date information on their activities .....oba\_ antibullying.



The winning poem was written by Declan Kirsners - 9DCY

In a world where kindness should reign  
We stand together, strong and humane  
No room for hate, no place for fear  
We'll lift each other, wipe every tear

Bullies may bring us down  
But we won't let them wear the crown  
With love and empathy as our guide  
We'll create a world where all can thrive



# The Great Ormiston Bake Off

Ormiston Bolingbroke Academy, along with several other academies within the trust, joined a gigantic baking lesson.

The aim was to host the biggest baking session in existence.

More than 700 pupils joined the online baking lesson on zoom this month.

Now they are officially crowned a Guinness World Record title holder as part of Ormiston Academies Trust (OAT)'s nationwide baking lesson.

Schools across the UK took part in a virtual cooking lesson, with 50 students from Sandymoor Ormiston Academy and Ormiston Bolingbroke Academy on their aprons to learn how to create a delicious, record-

breaking mango galette.

In an official presentation ceremony, Guinness World Records adjudicator confirmed that OAT has beaten the previous record, which stood at 497 people, with an incredible 713 budding bakers taking part in the live tutorial.

Travis Bivens-Alderson, a year five pupil at Ormiston South Parade Academy in Grimsby, said: **“I really enjoyed taking part with my class and teachers, breaking a world record. It was very exciting. They also tasted beautiful.”**

The ambitious attempt follows the Trust's The Great Ormiston Bake competition last year, where over 3,000 students

competed to take home the prestigious baking title for their academy. Now, students and staff are celebrating together as they are officially confirmed a part of Guinness World Records history.

Dan Woods, lead practitioner for food design and technology, Ormiston Academies Trust said: **“We are so proud of all our academies, staff, and students for getting involved with this exciting challenge.**

**“It was great to see how much all our bakers across the country enjoyed creating their galettes, and the icing on the cake was to hear the Guinness World Records team confirm that we have officially broken the previous record.”**

# Mr Smyth Art and the News



Our very own Mr Smyth who teaches Art at OBA has made it onto the BBC with of his fantastic work on Fiddlers Ferry. The BBC recently interviewed him and are making a documentary too, you can find a link to the BBC News Website here [Fiddler's Ferry: Exhibition to commemorate landmark power station - BBC News](#)



# Help for Households in Halton



Halton Borough Council now have a number of schemes that are available to help you, this is due to funding from the household support fund which has come to us via central government.

These schemes will run from **April 2023 until March 2024**. Please check below to see if you qualify.



## FREE Prescription Pre-payment Certificate

**Do you pay for your prescriptions?**

If so, and you:

- Live in Halton
- Have a take home income of less than £26,000 a year

Under our scheme you will be entitled to a free pre-payment certificate, please contact us using the details at the bottom of this leaflet.

## FREE Bus Pass

**If you attend regular hospital or GP appointments, you may be entitled to a free bus pass.**

To qualify you must:

- Live in Halton
- Have a take home income of less than £26,000 a year

The bus pass can also be used for other day to day travel purposes.



## Do you regularly use essential electrical medical equipment at home?

We may be able to offer you some financial support. Requirements will vary depending on your circumstances, please contact us below.

## Help to Stop Smoking

**Do you want to stop smoking? Why not attend one of our stop smoking classes.**

Visit: [www3.halton.gov.uk/Pages/health/hit/live/quitsmoking.aspx](http://www3.halton.gov.uk/Pages/health/hit/live/quitsmoking.aspx)  
or call us on 0300 029 0029.

- We can now offer free Nicotine Replacement Therapy products (NRT) to all, even if you would normally pay for your prescriptions



## How to apply – contact the Public Health Team, Halton Borough Council



• Call us on **0151 511 5200**. You may be asked to leave your name and phone number and we will contact you back as soon as possible.



• E-mail us at **public.health@halton.gov.uk** – please include your name, address and a contact phone number and which part of the scheme you are applying for.



# Help for Households in Halton



Would you like to learn a new skill or expand your current knowledge? As an individual, if you take home less than £26,000 a year, come and join our **FREE** taster cookery sessions.

Sessions last for two hours and at the end of the session you will receive a **FREE slow cooker** and a **FREE food voucher for your local supermarket**. The scheme is funded by the household support fund which has come to us via central government.

To secure your place, contact us on the details below.

	Venue	Date	Time
Runcorn	Halton Lea Library WA7 2PF	Saturday 6th January 2024	10:30am - 12:30pm
Widnes	St Basil's Parish Club WA8 4SZ	Tuesday 16th January 2024	4:30pm - 6:30pm
Runcorn	St Andrew's Church, Grange WA7 5EJ	Tuesday 23rd January 2024	5:30pm - 7:30pm
Runcorn	Castlefields Community Centre WA7 2ST	Wednesday 24th January 2024	4:30pm - 6:30pm
Runcorn	Murdishaw Community Centre WA7 6JW	Monday 29th January 2024	5:30pm - 7:30pm
Widnes	Transform Widnes (St Paul's Church) WA8 7QU	Thursday 1st February 2024	4:30pm - 6:30pm



To secure your place, contact us on

-  • 0151 511 5200. You may be asked to leave your name and phone number and we will contact you back as soon as possible.
-  • E-mail us at [public.health@halton.gov.uk](mailto:public.health@halton.gov.uk)

