

## Welcome from the Principal



Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to the first newsletter of 2024! Students have made an excellent start to the year, and we have many successes to share with you.

I would particularly like to acknowledge how well year 7 have settled in and are now firmly part of our OBA family. Year 13 also deserve great recognition as they have submitted their UCAS applications. It has also been a pleasure to see a record-number of primary school students attending our Saturday WOW sessions, embracing the opportunities that only OBA offers.

Early next term, the next round of mock examinations and in-class assessments

will begin for students in years 10-13, so please support them with revision at home and encourage them to ask their teachers for anything that they require further help with. At the back of this newsletter, you will find the schedule for this summer's GCSE and A Level examinations, as well as the timetable for mock examinations.

I would like to thank you for your continued support of OBA in our drive to maintain high standards and expectations and I wish all students and their families an enjoyable half-term break.

**Mrs Evans**  
Principal

## Key Dates

**Monday 19th February** - Academy reopens to students

**Monday 19th February** - Revision week begins for students in years 10, 11, 12 & 13

**Monday 26th February** - Mock examinations for students in years 11 & 13 (until Friday 8th March)

**Monday 26th February** - In-class assessments begin for years 10 & 12 (until Friday 1st March)

**Tuesday 27th February** - TdIPV/MenACWY vaccinations for year 9 students

**Thursday 7th March** - World Book Day

**Friday 8th March** - British Science Week begins

**Wednesday 13th March** - Year 10 students visit Liverpool University

**Thursday 14th March** - Year 8 Progress Evening (face to face) and International Maths Day

**Thursday 21st March** - 6th Form Music Show

**Monday 25th March** - Progression to 6th Form Interviews (until Wednesday 27th March)

**Tuesday 26th March** - Dance Show (and Wednesday 27th March)

**Wednesday 27th March** - Last day of term for students

**Thursday 28th March** - Inset day

**Monday 15th April** - Academy reopens to students

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# Attendance Autumn Term:

Year group with  
best attendance:



Most improved  
attendance:



Best form  
attendance:



2. 7AES 3. 11SWS 4. 7HHI  
5. 7ARO 6. 9VNN

Most improved  
form attendance:



Best house  
attendance:



2. 9DCY 3. 11GST 4. 8IMW  
5. 10JMR 6. 9AMN 7. 10PTT  
8. 11GME

# OBA are proud to announce the launch of our brand new PTA!

The PTA will operate separately from the academy and is an opportunity for parents, carers and friends of OBA to get involved in the school, raising funds and organising events for the students and community to benefit everyone in the academy and the surrounding area. The PTA welcomes anyone who has any time at all to give - no matter how much or how little. At the time of going to press, our first meeting has taken place and we are in the process of electing a chair, vice chair, secretary and treasurer who will run our PTA. Please look out for further details of what the PTA has been doing in future newsletters or if you have any questions or would like to become involved, please email [m.oakes@ob-ac.co.uk](mailto:m.oakes@ob-ac.co.uk)



# Uniform Swap Shop

Our pre-loved uniform shop will be open in school during half-term 8.30am – 3pm.

If you have any good quality items of school uniform that you no longer require, please consider donating them to school. Items can be dropped off at reception during term or half term, 8am-4pm, Monday to Friday.

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





# Year 11 Prom Sponsorship Packages

Do you have any links to local businesses? We are offering a selection of sponsorship packages to help raise funds for a prom to remember! Our year 11 students are looking forward to celebrating at Chester Racecourse on Friday 21st June and

we want to ensure that every student in the year group can attend and shine! Please pass the details below to any businesses that you think might be interested.



## Sponsorship Proposal

Year 11 Prom Friday 21st June 2024

## Ormiston Bolingbroke Academy



The prom is about everyone coming together as a year group to shine, celebrate and reward students for their time at Ormiston Bolingbroke Academy.

Here at OBA, we strive to be as inclusive as we can; meaning that we aspire to provide all with equal opportunities. This commitment extends to this year's prom, which we aim to make affordable for everybody. This can be made possible with your help and generosity; we are reaching out to you to offer the chance to sponsor a singular chair or an entire table of ten!



### Our Aim

As a year group, we intend to contribute to raising money by:

1. Event planning - Each tutor group will plan a fundraising event to cover as much of the cost as possible.
2. Sponsorships - As I am sure you can imagine, venue and coach hire are incredibly expensive, not to mention balloons and a DJ too! This is why we are looking towards your generosity to partner with us.

## Partnership Packages



#### Platinum £500

- Sponsor a whole table for 10 students
- Event publicity via social media before, on the day and after the event
- Corporate branding/logos on tables



#### Gold £250

- Sponsor a table of 6 students
- Event publicity via social media before and after the event
- Corporate branding on tables



#### Silver £100

- Sponsor a chair for one student
- Event publicity via social media before and after the event
- Corporate branding on tables



#### Bronze £50

- Contribution towards the disco/photobooth/balloons
- Event publicity via social media after the event

### Get In Touch

If you have any inquiries or are interested in sponsoring our prom, feel free to reach out. We welcome your involvement and support in making this event memorable.

#### Contact Us :

☎ 01928 711643

📍 Ormiston Bolingbroke Academy, Barnfield Avenue, Murdishaw, Runcorn, WA7 6EP


✉ H.Bowers@ob-ac.co.uk

## Contact us

# TANZANIA 2024... is coming!

We are delighted to officially announce our amazing trip of a lifetime, taking place in July 2024 in conjunction with Camps International. Students from years 10, 11 and 6th form who have opted to be part of this amazing opportunity, will be jetting off to Tanzania, accompanied by Mrs Quinn and Mr Ellis for an unforgettable 4 weeks. Students will visit the stunning Marangu waterfalls, experience the magic of safari and learn about Tanzanian culture and traditions in this immersive expedition. They will also be working closely with local people to improve infrastructure of rural villages and make a positive impact to the surrounding environment.

Students have been busy fundraising in order to reach their individual target goal. As a school and community, we would like everyone to get involved in the fundraising and donate! If you are able to contribute a donation, you can do so via the QR code. Alternatively, please speak to Mrs Quinn/Mr Ellis directly.




## Mr Ellis - Tanzania Mountain Walk Fundraiser

I am travelling with a group of students to Tanzania on a month-long expedition to complete community project work and give the students the experience of a lifetime.

To help with fundraising I am planning to walk the same distance as Tanzania's largest mountain Kilimanjaro through a selection of walks around the UK.

The target distance is the longest route which is the Northern Circuit, which is 56 miles (90 Kilometres)

**Scan to donate!**



# Shopping City Sing-along!



Before Christmas, a group of year 7 students attended The Shopping City to spread some Christmas cheer with our Curriculum Leader for Music, Mr Tallant! They sang Christmas classics, such as Merry Christmas Everyone by Shakin' Stevens as well as Mariah Carey's All I Want for Christmas is You. Students also sang a less traditional but personal favourite of theirs, I'm Just Ken from the Barbie movie.

Students performed to help raise money for Halton Haven, a hospice dedicated to providing care for people with life-limiting conditions. Mr Tallant said: **"Our students really did dare to shine today. Singing in public can be incredibly nerve-wracking, yet even when shoppers stopped to listen, they sang from the bottom of their hearts knowing what a brilliant cause they would be helping. We are already making plans to return to The Shopping City next Christmas!"**



# Jingle Jam!

OBA's music department were busy again in December when they hosted the annual Christmas showcase event, Jingle Jam. Bands, duos and soloists from right across years 7 to 13 provided some superb performances and played all the instruments themselves. Students had spent weeks and weeks preparing for the show and this dedication was clearly reflected in the quality of their performances.



# Christmas Choir

During December, our staff came together in true Band Aid style to create our very own Christmas single. We put together our own cover of Merry Xmas Everybody by Slade with Mr Muldoon taking the spotlight for Noddy Holder's "It's Christmas!!!!" scream. Mr Tallant and Mr Easton from the music department produced the backing track, and teachers from across the entire school then sang different lines from the song. It ended with all our staff singing the outro on the stage. We didn't do quite as well as Bob Geldof, but we had fun nevertheless!





# LIPA Showcase Performance

Also before the Christmas break, year 9 students had the amazing opportunity to be part of the audience at LIPA. Students were first treated to a performance in the George Harrison Studio Theatre from 3rd year acting students, entitled *The IT*, which explored the story of a teenage girl who felt something growing inside her. Growing, expanding, pushing into her organs - taking over, possessing her. A dark but comedic state-of-the-nation play

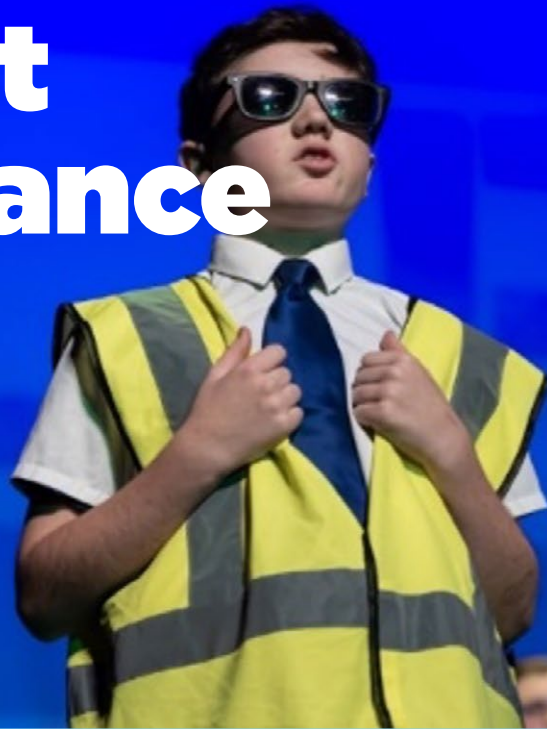
exploring themes of adolescent mental health. This showcase was part of a season entitled *Youth in Revolt*. The plays were thematically linked, exploring the experiences of teenage characters. Students also took part in a Q&A session after the performance with the 3rd year actors who provided tips on how to get involved in theatre performance and prepare for auditions for college and university.

After lunch, students were treated to an installation which took place in LIPA 6th form and delved into the world of all things chocolate!

Mrs Quinn, who ran the trip, said: **“All students had a thoroughly enjoyable day asking questions and being an audience member. They were all extremely well-behaved - perfect audience members!”**



# LIPA Fest Performance



In early January, OBA students were back at LIPA once again! Over 35 year 9 drama, dance and music students experienced a day in the life at university and even performed on the Paul McCartney auditorium stage to a live audience. The students who took part had been working for over 6 weeks with LIPA in partnership with Shaping Futures to create a performance piece based around the theme of Festival. Every week after school, students rehearsed tirelessly to produce some superb work!

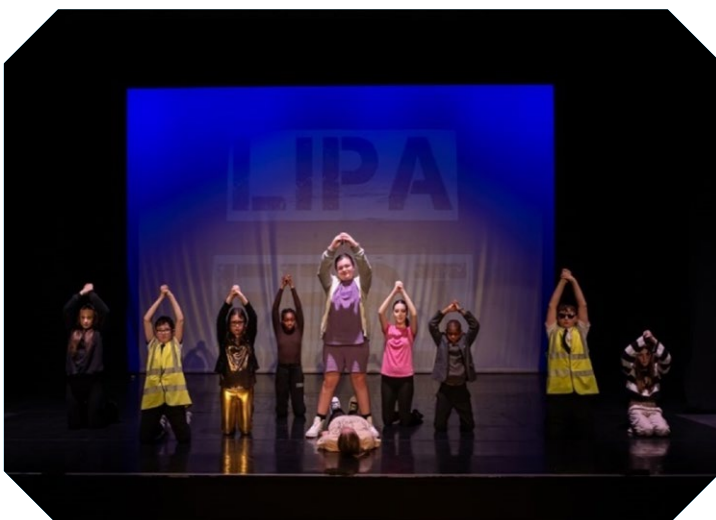
The day began with a tour of the first-class facilities at LIPA, including theatre spaces, dance studios, the costume and art

department, woodwork rooms and music production spaces. Students then participated in a workshop with graduate students from LIPA in their own areas of discipline either drama, dance, music and backstage. Students' enthusiasm during this time was notable and everyone acted upon feedback with great determination to improve their performance in the afternoon.

After lunch and a rehearsal period, students were first up on the bill to perform their pieces to an audience of peers from various schools around the Northwest. Our drama students were up first with their devised performance entitled, A Tragic

End, and then our dance group provided a slick and upbeat routine to the song Light It Up. Finally, our music students performed their rendition of Abba's Dancing Queen. The day ended with a group picture on stage.

Mrs Quinn, who organised and facilitated the trip, said: **"All students performed brilliantly, showing off their hard work after many weeks of rehearsal and refinement. They should all be extremely proud of themselves! Well done to all involved! Roll on LIPA FEST 2025!"**



# Ormiston's Got Talent

We are delighted to announce that Ava in year 8 has reached the regional finals of Ormiston's Got Talent with her commercial dance piece. If successful, she will then compete in the national finals. Each year, the winner receives a performing arts experience worth £1000.

Well done and good luck, Ava! We are already so very proud of you!





# This is no oar-dinary competition!

1000 secondary schools across the country are currently participating in a project organised by Warrington Youth Rowing which aims to get 10,000 students rowing in competition! Each school enters 10 year 8 students to row every Thursday morning. The aim is to build resilience, teamwork, leaderships skills and explore a potential new hobby!

So far, our OBA rowers have practised on land, but will advance to water next term at Runcorn Rowing Club.



Rowing results after just two sessions:

**Year 8 females:  
(171 participants)**

Scarlett H 28th

**Year 8 males:  
(165 participants)**

Bobby H 51st

Mason B 53rd

Caleb LP 91st

Nathan G 123rd

Thomas B 130th

Harley T 135th

**Year 8 relay  
25th out of 31.**





# Saturday Academy

WOW days have been a smash hit this term! Children in years 4, 5 and 6 from local primary schools have enjoyed sessions making their own Roman aqueducts with Mr Crawley, performing on our stage with Mrs Quinn and developing their

art skills with Mrs Norton. Our Saturday morning sessions always offer a wide variety of enriching opportunities. Students can be signed up by contacting OBA on the telephone number below. Here is what is on offer next half term:

  
**Ormiston Bolingbroke Academy**

# SATURDAY ACADEMY

# WOW DAYS!

**9am - 12pm**

Saturday 2nd March	Saturday 9th March	Saturday 16th March	Saturday 23rd March
 <b>Yoga and Wellness with a Special Guest!</b>	 <b>Drama</b>	 <b>Magic and the Supernatural</b>	 <b>Architecture</b>
 <b>Clay Creations</b>	 <b>Languages</b>	 <b>Greek Gods and Mythical Creatures.</b>	 <b>Mindfulness and the Human Body</b>
			 <b>Chinese Cuisine (cooking)</b>

**Open to Pupils in Years 4, 5 and 6**  
Please contact the academy to book your child a place: **01928 711643**  
Please note that sessions are free of charge but will be allocated on a first-come, first-served basis.

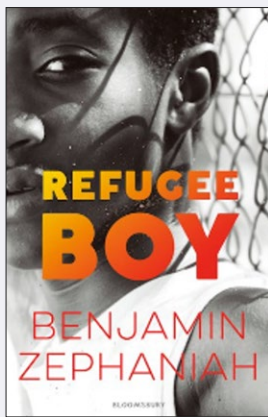
# Reading Revolution

As part of our expanding reading programme, OBA students are given a range of opportunities to experience and enhance their reading expertise. We have been really impressed with the way staff and students alike have joined our reading revolution!

## Reading Ahead:

Students across all year groups at OBA have the rare opportunity to read a range of fiction with their form tutors during tutor time. In total, students at OBA will read almost 1.4 million more words than previously, and we are seeing a big increase of excitement and enthusiasm for reading across the academy.

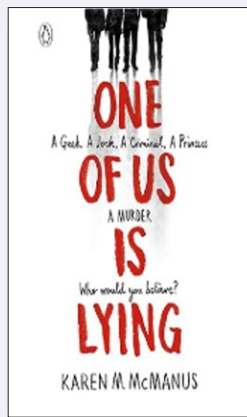
This term, students are enjoying exploring the following stories:



Y7 - Refugee Boy  
Benjamin Zephaniah



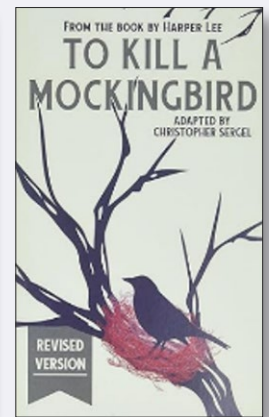
Y8 - Kestrel For a Knave  
Barry Hines



Y9 - One of Us is Lying  
Karen M. McManus



Y10 - Animal Farm  
George Orwell



Y11 - To Kill a Mockingbird  
Harper Lee

A full list of texts read in form time are available on the school website.

## Reading Interventions:

Students across Y7-13 are also given the opportunity to access a range of intensive reading and vocabulary interventions such as our Fresh Start, Lexonik and Reading Plus programmes which are already having a positive impact on students' ability, comprehension and decoding skills. Miss Howard, head of whole school literacy, is thrilled with the engagement of students

involved in the programme: "This year alone, those involved in Lexonik have made an average of 46 months progress in just 6 weeks! Equally, we now have 50 students involved in our new initiative Reading Plus and we are already seeing lots of progress with these students too."

## Reading Culture:

Following the success of Book Buzz and The Library Club earlier this year, our librarian Mrs Rayner has been astounded by the volume of students who are

using the library at breaks and lunchtimes, as well as another record year of book borrowing for the school. "Students are queuing up to collect their library passes at the start of the term and I am being inundated with requests to order in sequels and extra copies of certain texts!"

If parents would like to recommend any reading material or have any questions regarding the reading programme at OBA, they can contact Miss Howard at: [a.howard-hildige@ob-ac.co.uk](mailto:a.howard-hildige@ob-ac.co.uk)



# Library Club

Our Library Club have been busy again making a poster for Holocaust Memorial Day and choosing books that they would recommend to anyone interested in the Holocaust or World War 1. Some of their choices include the following: KS3 - When the Sky Falls by Phil Earle, D-Day Dog by Tom Palmer, When Hitler Stole Pink Rabbit by Judith Kerr; KS4 - Orphan Monster Spy by Matt Killeen, The Book Thief by Markus Zusak; KS5 - The Salt to

The Sea by Ruta Sepetys, Birdsong by Sebastien Faulks. There are so many to choose from and all our recommendations are available from the school library -there really is something for everyone. The freedom to read is a right of mankind, the freedom to learn is a right, let us remember all those who were denied these rights and the right to life on Holocaust Memorial Day.



# Lessons for Life: Update



It has been a busy half term for our Lessons for Life subject area at OBA with all year groups commencing new projects as we start 2024.

Year 7 students have been reflecting on the past year and outlining their hopes and aspirations for the new year in their project Me and My Community. Also in this project, students have been learning about how they can make a positive contribution to the local area as well as learning about the history, geography and democratic arrangements for the Runcorn area.

Students in year 8 have been learning about equality and the protected characteristics. This involves looking deeply at diversity and the nine

protected characteristics as well as understanding how to support and respect people's individuality.

Year 9 have had an important project on this half term - online safety. This project is timed to coincide with the global Safer Internet Day, which took place on 6th February. As part of this project, students have learned about a range of different online safety issues and how to stay safe online. This project was enriched with a visit from Cheshire Police where Detective Constable Andy Kevan came to school and delivered a fascinating talk about the law and online conduct.

In year 10, as we approach Valentine's Day, students have been learning about healthy

relationships. This project covers a range of different outcomes including different types of romantic relationships, healthy relationships, control and coercion and the risks and dangers associated with sexting.

As our year 11 students approach the end of their compulsory education, students have been covering a project named Preparing for Employment. This project saw students write their CVs, understand how to succeed at a job interview and their rights and responsibilities in the workplace.

Parents and carers can find out more about what their children are studying in Lessons for Life by visiting our newly created live tracker which can be found on our website [here](#).



# Safer Internet Day

Tuesday 6th February 2024 marked the global Safer Internet Day, which is celebrated in over 170 countries. Online safety is a high priority for us at OBA and each year we utilise Safer Internet Day to raise awareness of online safety issues.

This year's Safer Internet Day saw assemblies delivered by our Digital Safeguarding Leader,

Mr Hussey, to all year groups focusing on digital safety. All OBA staff also had specific digital safeguarding training as part of Safer Internet Day and a mail shot about online safety was emailed to all parents/carers. Mr Hussey has produced a short video for parents/carers giving practical tips and advice on how to keep young people

safe online. This video, along with a range of other information and guidance about online safety, can be viewed on our website [here](#).

Students and staff also created a 'pledge wall' near Student Entrance where people shared their message/advice to stay safe online.

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 [nationalcollege.com](http://nationalcollege.com) for further guides, hints and tips for adults.

## What Parents & Carers Need to Know about MYLOL

**AGE RESTRICTION 13-19**

MyLOL is a free social networking and dating site aimed at teens. Profiles can publicly display users' images and information, including sexual orientation and personal interests. The service bills itself as "the number one teen dating website in the world", claiming to have more than a million users globally. Despite its popularity, the MyLOL app is no longer available from Google Play or the App Store, although the site is still active. In some countries, police forces and schools have previously warned parents about "sinister predators" and "inappropriate activities" on the site.

### WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

#### FLIMSY AGE GATES

Although MyLOL states it is exclusively aimed at users aged between 13 and 19, there is no credible age verification system to prevent a younger child – or an older adult – from signing up to the platform. Coupled with the fact that it's impossible to establish a user's true identity on MyLOL, this raises a serious concern that the site could be used for grooming.

#### AGE-INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

MyLOL maintains that it monitors all uploaded images for nudity or sexual content. It also claims to be able to detect suspicious keywords. However, there have been numerous reports of explicit content being found on the platform, with users often posting provocative, semi-nude pictures of themselves and engaging in flirty or sexually explicit conversation.

#### POTENTIAL CYBER-BULLYING

MyLOL lets users 'vote' on other people based solely on their appearance, much in the same vein as the now-defunct site Hot or Not. This feature could easily lead to distress and bullying, especially if a young person's profile pics receive an unfavourable response. Various reviews of MyLOL have noted that bullying frequently becomes an issue in the platform's chat groups and private messages.

#### IN-APP SPENDING

MyLOL is free to join and use, but it also offers paid-for memberships. Users who have paid money get their profile promoted at the top of the site and in search results. They can also earn additional credits for increased engagement with the platform – such as sharing, replying to messages and voting. At the time of writing, the monthly membership fee was \$9.95 (just under £8).

#### DATA COLLECTION

According to its privacy policy, MyLOL collects user data including email addresses, contact details and interests. While the company says it is committed to protecting users' privacy, the small print states that information may be shared externally. MyLOL claims to follow procedures to keep data secure, but does not specify what these procedures are, or whether such information is encrypted.

#### CONTACT FROM STRANGERS

MyLOL makes it easy to connect with strangers. In fact, the site's rewards feature encourages users to send private messages to people they don't know. There have been several media stories of adults posing as teens on MyLOL to connect with minors, which could lead to extremely dangerous situations, such as a young person meeting up with someone who has been posing under a false identity.

### Advice for Parents & Carers

#### DISCUSS ONLINE DATING

It's vital to talk to your child about the possible dangers of platforms like MyLOL – particularly the threat of online predators. Remind them of the risks of sharing intimate images and information with strangers and emphasise that most people don't realise they're being 'catfished' until it's too late – it really isn't wise for a young person to meet up with someone they've only spoken to online.

#### EXPLAIN PRIVACY RISKS

Before your child begins using a service such as MyLOL, it's important that they understand the potential pitfalls of giving out their personal data on this type of platform. Explain to them, for example, that they shouldn't divulge any personally identifying information to people who they don't know, as scammers can be quite convincing when attempting to steal someone's identity.

#### RESTRICT IN-APP SPENDING

If your child has access to a bank card or other payment method, they may be enticed into signing up for MyLOL's premium features. Having their profile boosted and receiving more attention could be especially tempting if their friends also use the site. You could consider altering their device's settings to disable internet purchases, or at the very least keeping an eye on their online spending.

#### SET UP LOCATION ALERTS

If you're worried that your child may be planning to meet up with someone they've met on MyLOL, you could consider utilising GPS or WIFI location tracking technology to follow their whereabouts in real time. You can even set up a virtual boundary or 'fence' and opt to receive an alert to your phone if your child enters or exits a specified area.

#### Meet Our Expert

Carly Page is an experienced technology journalist with a track record of more than 10 years in the industry. Previously the editor of tech tabloid The Inquirer, Carly is now a freelance technology journalist, editor and consultant.






#WakeUpWednesday

 @natonlinesafety
  /NationalOnlineSafety
  @nationalonlinesafety
  @national\_online\_safety

Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 24.01.2024



# Mental Health Support



This week, Emily from Kooth has been to the academy, educating our students about Kooth online. Emily delivered an assembly with each year group, talking through the importance of our mental health and what we can do to look after it. She also shared some information about anxiety, including top tips when feeling worried or anxious and how to support friends who may feel like this. Emily also showed students how they can access Kooth online, and all the different ways they support, including the wellbeing mini activity hub, a journal space, discussion boards, live forums and the online chat function to speak to trained counsellors. The counsellors are available everyday Monday - Friday 12pm - 10pm, Saturday and Sunday 6pm - 10pm.



# Mental Health First Aid at OBA

Three more members of our staff are now officially mental health first aiders. Mrs Miller, Mr Woods and Miss Hughes successfully completed a two-day training programme.

Mr Woods said: **“We are thrilled to have passed the Mental Health First Aid course! It’s such a valuable skill that will allow us to support and help students in our academy. We can’t wait to put our new-found knowledge into action and make a difference in their lives. It’s a great feeling to know that we can be there for others in times of need and shows how important the academy takes mental health.”**





# Working Wonders



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



On Monday 22nd January, Performance in Education visited our year 9 students with their Working Wonders performance and workshop.

Working Wonders is a theatre presentation funded by Shaping Futures, which is designed to raise aspirations, look at the importance of qualifications, and explore the skills and behaviours needed to be resilient in the world of employment. The project will also promote Higher Education and is designed to:

- Explore dealing with challenges and plans that don't work out in an unpredictable job market
- Reinforce the importance of qualifications to help future-proof your career in a changing job market
- Emphasise the importance of all exam subjects not just the lessons that will most obviously feed into a chosen career path
- Raise aspirations
- Promote University as being a positive option for all students, regardless of career choice or route



This is just one part of the careers education that our year 9 students will receive this year, which will also include a visitor from a local employer, visits from local colleges and guidance through their options process as well as learning about careers through their curriculum areas. Further careers information can be found at our dedicated website [www.oba-careers.co.uk](http://www.oba-careers.co.uk)



# University Awaits...



Our year 13 students have now made their applications to a wide range of universities across the U.K, including Glasgow, Plymouth, Bangor, York and Durham to name just a few. Courses include Medicine, Classics, Neuroscience, Mathematics, Media and Culture, Criminology, Counselling, Fine Art and Philosophy. Mr Fenner, Head of Sixth Form, said: **“We are extremely**

**proud of all of our students in year 13 and so far, 46% of students have applied to university to a variety of prestigious institutions and courses. We look forward to results day and confirmation of chosen courses. We will be working closely with those not applying to university to secure apprenticeships and employment by the end of year 13.”**





# Exam Preparation

With examinations fast approaching, OBA staff are working tirelessly to ensure that our students are fully prepared. Here are just a few examples of the many opportunities on offer...



## Students have it made!

As part of our commitment to support year 11 students in the run up to their GCSE exams, we arranged for them to participate in a workshop run by an organisation called Made Training. Their philosophy is to inspire young people and equip them with the necessary skills to navigate their way through education and life, for example:

exam technique, study skills, revision techniques, managing stress/wellbeing, building resilience and motivation.

OBA staff also took part in a training session from the same experts so that staff are clear on the tips and guidance which our year 11 students are now working hard to embed into their revision.

We also feel that it is important that parents and carers are equipped with the skills and knowledge to support young people at such an important time in their school careers. On Monday 5th February, MADE Training ran a workshop for parents/carers about exam preparation. Here, parents and carers learned how to promote and develop positive study habits, set up an effective study zone at home and help children

to manage their time efficiently.

This series of workshops were very well received and Mr Hussey and Mrs Fitzgerald, who



organised for MADE Training to visit OBA, have received wonderful comments and feedback from students, staff and parents/carers. We wish all our year 11 students well in their next round of mock examinations, which commence on Monday 26th February.

## Practice makes perfect

Ms Styles, Curriculum Leader for English, started a series of walking talking mock examinations with students in preparation for G.C.S.E. English Literature. Students were guided through questions on Shakespeare's *The Merchant of Venice* and unseen poetry as these are often the most challenging sections.

Ms Styles commented: "I was so impressed with the focus

and resilience that students demonstrated whilst working through the walking talking papers. They listened carefully to the techniques and strategies provided and worked tirelessly to apply them; I look forward to reading their finished responses. I am really proud of the effort and determination that students demonstrated and am positive that we will see this reflected in their mock results in February. If you would like to know how to further support your child with

their English Literature revision, please go to the English page on the school website where a handy bank of tips and tricks is posted for you to download. It includes lots of great web links and resources."

Miss Styles has organised more walking talking mock examinations and is very much looking forward to delivering them next term.



# Mock Examinations

Below is the timetable for year 11's mock examinations, which commence Monday 26th February and finish Friday 8th March.

## Year 11 Mock Exam Timetable Feb-March 2024

Date	Morning (9am)	Afternoon (1pm)
Mon 26 Feb	<b>(Start at 9:30)</b> Maths Paper 1 (1h 30)	English Literature Paper 1 (1hr) (Merchant of Venice)
Tue 27 Feb	English Language Paper 2 (2h)	Biology (1h 45) Combined Science (1h 10)
Wed 28 Feb	English Literature Paper 2 (2h30m) <small>A Christmas Carol, An Inspector Calls, Unseen Poetry</small>	Maths Paper 2 (1h 30)
Thur 29 Feb	Maths paper 3 (1h 30)	Chemistry (1h 45) Combined Science (1h 10)
Fri 1 March	Physics (1h 45) Combined Science (1h 10)	English Lang Paper 1 (1h 45)
Mon 4 March	GCSE Business Studies Paper 1 (1h 30) Music 1h 30 Room TBA	History (1h 45)
Tues 5 March	Psychology (1h 45) Drama (1h 45)	Computer Science Paper 1 (1h 30)
Wed 6 March	Dance (1 h 30) Engineering (1h 30)	Geography Paper 1 (1h 30) Spanish Listening & Reading – (H) (1h 45) Spanish Listening & Reading – (F) (1h 10)
Thur 7 March	Catering (1h 30)	Computer Science Paper 2 (1h 30) GCSE Business Studies Paper 2 (1h 30)
Fri 8 March	Geography Paper 2 (1h 30) Spanish Writing – Higher (1h 20) Spanish Writing – Foundation (1h 10)	BTEC Sport (1h 30)

Below is the timetable for year 13's mock examinations, which commence Monday 26th February and finish Friday 8th March.

### 6th Form Mock Exam Timetable Feb-March 2024

Date	Morning (9am)	Afternoon (1pm)
Mon 26 Feb	9:30 start - Today only A Level English Literature Paper 1 (2h 30)	A Level History Paper 1 (1h 30) A Level Chemistry Paper 1 (2h 15)
Tue 27 Feb	A Level English Language Paper 1 (2h 30) A Level Psychology Paper 1 (2h)	A Level Sociology Paper 1 (2h) BTEC Law Unit 1 resits (1h 30) F020
Wed 28 Feb	A Level Pure Maths Paper 1 (2h) A Level Philosophy Paper 1 (2h)	Core Maths Paper 1 (1h 30)
Thur 29 Feb	A Level English Language Paper 2 (2h 30) A Level Biology Paper 1 (2h 15)	A Level Pure Maths Paper 2 (2h) A Level Philosophy Paper 2 (2h)
Fri 1 March	A Level English Literature Paper 2 (2h 30)	
Mon 4 March	A Level Business (2h) Year 13 BTEC IT (1h 45)	A Level Philosophy Paper 3 (2h) A Level Chemistry Paper 2 (2h 15)
Tues 5 March	A Level Biology Paper 2 (2h 15) A Level Sociology Paper 2 (2h)	A Level Applied Maths Paper 3 (1h 30) A Level Psychology Paper 2 (2h)
Wed 6 March	A Level Psychology Paper 3 (1h 30) A Level Business Studies Paper 2 (2h)	A Level History Paper 2 (1h 30)

## Year 11 Examination Schedule: for Summer 2024

Below is the current GCSE and Tech Award examination timetable for summer 2024. Please note that Wednesday 26th June is a national contingency day. If any exams cannot run for whatever reason before this date, they will run on the 26th. If you are booking any holidays, please do so from Thursday 27th June. Our year 11 prom date is also Friday 21st June; further details will be issued in due course.

Year 11 Summer 2024 GCSE and Tech Award Examinations (Provisional Timetable)

Date	Morning (9am)	Afternoon (1pm)
TBA	Dance (Responding to A Brief) Performance dates and times will be confirmed by teacher	
TBA	Drama (Performance from Texts Comp2) Performance dates and times will be confirmed by teacher	
16 & 17 April	Art & Des [Graphic Comm] Ext Set (10hrs over 2 days)	
18 & 19 April	Art & Des [Fine Art] Ext Set (10hrs over 2 days)	
18 & 19 April	Art & Des [Photography] Ext Set (10hrs over 2 days)	
24,25 & 29 April	Spanish Speaking (Student time slots TBC by teacher)	
Thu 02 May		IT (Btec TECH Effec.Digital Work.Prac.) 1hr 30m
Fri 03 May	Animal Health & Welfare (Btec Tech) 2hrs	
Wed 08 May	Business (Btec Tech Marketing & Finance) 2hrs	
Thu 09 May	Sport (Btec Tech Dev.Fitness Imp.Particip.) 2hrs	Drama: Theatre Makers in Practice 1h45m
Fri 10 May	Biology Paper 1 1hr45m Combined Science: Biology Paper 1 1hr10m	
Mon 13 May	English Lit. Comp. 1 Shakespeare 2hrs	
Tue 14 May		Business Paper 1 1hr45m
Wed 15 May	History Paper 1 Crime & Punishment 1hr15m	Computer Science Paper 1 1hr30m Psychology Paper 1 1hr45m
Thu 16 May	Mathematics: Non Calc. P1 1hr30m	
Fri 17 May	Chemistry Paper 1 1hr45m Combined Science: Chemistry Paper 1 1hr10m	Geography Paper 1 1hr30m
Mon 20 May	English Lit. Comp. 2 Prose & Poetry 2hr30m	
Tue 21 May		Computer Science Paper 2 1hr30m Engineering Unit 3 1hr30m
Wed 22 May	Physics Paper 1 1hr45m Combined Science: Physics Paper 1 1hr10m	
Thu 23 May	English Lang. Comp. 1 20th Century Lit. 1hr45m	Psychology Paper 2 1hr45m
Fri 24 May		
<b>Half Term</b>		
Mon 03 Jun	Mathematics: Calc P2 1hr30m	
Tue 04 Jun	Spanish: Listening & Reading [F] 1hr20m Spanish: Listening & Reading [H] 1hr45m	History Paper 2 1hr45m Business Paper 2 1hr45m
Wed 05 Jun	Geography Paper 2 1hr30m	
Thu 06 Jun	English Lang. Comp. 2 Non-Fiction 2hrs	<b>JCQ Contingency afternoon (students must be available)</b>
Fri 07 Jun		Biology Paper 2 1hr45 Combined Science: Biology Paper2 1hr10m
Mon 10 Jun	Mathematics: Calc. P3 1hr30m	Spanish: Writing [F] 1hr15m [H] 1hr20m
Tue 11 Jun	Chemistry Paper 2 1hr45m Combined Science: Chemistry Paper 2 1hr10m	History Paper 3 Weimar & Nazi Germany 1hr20m
Thu 13 Jun		<b>JCQ Contingency afternoon (students must be available)</b>
Fri 14 Jun	Geography Paper 3 1hr30m	Physics Paper 2 1hr45m Combined Science: Physics Paper 2 1hr10m
Mon 17 Jun		Music Written Paper 1hr30m
Thu 20 Jun	Hosp & Catering Unit 1 1hr20m	
Wed 26 Jun	<b>JCQ Exam Contingency Day (Students must remain available up to and including this day)</b>	



**Sixth Form Examination Schedule for Summer 2024:**

Below is the current A Level, Btec and GCSE resit examination timetable for summer 2024. Please note that Wednesday 26th June is a national contingency day. If any exams cannot run for whatever reason before this date, they will run on the 26th. If you are booking any holidays, please do so from Thursday 27th June.

*please note: btec are units only and dependent on entries for this season; therefore may be removed if entries are not required*

Date	Morning (9am)	Afternoon (1pm unless informed otherwise)
Date/time TBA	Dance (Btec) Group Performance Workshop	
Date/time TBA	Engineering (Btec) Product Design and Manufacture	
22 & 23 April	Art & Des Alevel [Graphic Communication] and [Photography] Ext Set (15hrs)	
24 & 25 April	Art & Des Alevel [Fine Art] Ext Set (15hrs)	
26 & 29 April	Art & Des Alevel [Textiles] Ext Set (15hrs)	
Wed 1st May	Dance (Btec) Investigating Practitioners' Work 3hrs	
Thu 02 May	Law -Dispute Solving in Civil Law (Btec) 1h30m Fitness Training and Programming (Btec) 2hr30m	
Fri 03 May	Applied Science (Btec) Investigation Skills 2h15m	Animal Care (Btec) Animal Welfare and Ethics 3hrs
Wed 08 May		IT (Btec) Creating Systems to Manage Inf Part A 3hrs Bus(Btec) Developing A Marketing Campaign Part A 2hrs
Thu 09 May	IT (Btec) Creating Systems to Manage Inf Part B 3hrs Law - Applying the Law (Btec) 2hrs	
Fri 10 May	Bus(Btec) Developing A Marketing Campaign Part B 3hrs	
Mon 13 May		Human Lifespan Development H&S (Btec) 1hr30
Tue 14 May	Market People & Global- Business (A) 2hrs The UK Travel and Tourism Sector (Btec) 1hr15m	Classic Civ: the World of the Hero P1 (AS) 1hr30m Anatomy and Physiology - Sport (Btec) 1hr30m
Wed 15 May	Mathematical Studies (L3) Paper 1 1hr30m	Criminology Unit 2: (L3D) 1hr30 Personal and Business Finance (Btec) 2hrs
Thu 16 May	Maths GCSE (Resit) Non Calc 1hr30m	Working in Health and Social Care (Btec) 1hr30m Information Technology Systems (Btec) 2hrs
Fri 17 May	Psychology (A) Paper 1 2hrs Sociology (A) Paper 1 2hrs	Classic Civ: Greek Theatre P2(AS) 1hr30m
Mon 20 May	Digital Media (Btec) Media Representations 2hrs	
Tue 21 May	Activs Decision & Strats.- Business (A) 2hrs Applied Science Chemistry (Btec) 40m	Applied Science Biology (Btec) 40m Applied Science Physics (Btec) 40m
Wed 22 May	Psychology (A) Paper 2 2hrs	
Thu 23 May	Mathematical Studies (L3 )Paper 2 History (A)Britain 1625-1701- 2h15m Engineering Principles (Btec) 2hrs English Lang (GCSE Resit) Paper 1 1hr45m	Eng Lang: Exploring Language (A) 2hr30m
Fri 24 May	Eng Lit: Drama & Poetry PRE-1900 (A) 2hr30m	
<b>Half Term</b>		
Mon 03 Jun	Maths GCSE (Resit) Calc P2 1hr30m	Psychology (A) Paper 3 2hrs
Tue 04 Jun	Sociology (A) Paper 2	Pure Mathematics (A) Paper 1 2hrs Criminology Unit 4: (L3D) 1hr30 Biology (A)Biological Processes 2h15m
Wed 05 Jun	Eng Lit: Cmptve & Cntxtl Stdy (A) 2hr30m	
Thu 06 Jun	Investigating Business - Business (A) 2hrs English Lang GCSE (Resit) Paper 2 2hrs	<b>JCQ Contingency afternoon (students must be available)</b>
Fri 07 Jun	Eng Lang: Dmnsns of Lngstc Vrtn (A) 2h30m	France & Russia Rev.- History (A) 1hr30m
Mon 10 Jun	Maths GCSE (R) Calc. P3 1hr30m Philosophy of Religion - Philosophy (A) 2hrs Chemistry (A) Prdc Tble Elmnt P1 2hr15m	
Tue 11 Jun	Usa Rights & Change in UK - History (A) 2hr15m	Sociology (A) Paper 3 2hrs Pure Mathematics (A) Paper 2 hrs
Thu 13 Jun		<b>JCQ Contingency afternoon (students must be available)</b>
Fri 14 Jun	Biology (A): Biological Diversity 2hr15m	
Mon 17 Jun		Philosophy (A) Religion and Ethics P2 2hrs
Tue 18 Jun	Chemistry (A): Synths & Anlytcl Tchnqs 2h15m	
Wed 19 Jun	Biology (A): Unified Biology 1hr30m	
Thu 20 Jun		Pure Mathematics (A) Stats & Mechns P3 2hrs
Fri 21 Jun	Chemistry (A): Unified Chemistry P3 1h30m	
Mon 24 Jun	Philosophy (A) Christianity 2hrs	
Wed 26 Jun	<b>JCQ Exam Contingency Day (Students must be available up to and including this day)</b>	

# OBA Examination Invigilator Role

OBA is looking for additional examination invigilators to join our experienced team who always ensure that our examinations run securely and efficiently, giving our students the best chance of achieving their potential.

This is a casual paid role and you must be available for mock examinations during November, February/March and external summer examinations.

Further information, the job description and application form are all available on our vacancies site, My New Term.

If you would like any additional information during the application process, please contact us on 01928 711643.

