

OBA NEWSLETTER

JULY 2024



WELCOME FROM THE PRINCIPAL

What a wonderful time we have all had during this final term! From celebrating everyone's achievements to exploring Delamere Forest, Ainsdale Beach and Moel Famau, our students have shown great spirit, determination and teamwork.

Throughout the year, I have taken great pleasure in many OBA events and felt an enormous sense of pride at what our students and staff have done to help the community. We presented Christmas hampers to vulnerable families, hosted many community events, went litter-picking across Runcorn and held charity events which raised money for Halton Haven.

However, none of this would have been possible without our staff and I would like to thank everyone at OBA for their hard work. Thank you also to you, parents and carers, for your continued support. Have a wonderful summer break.

Mrs Evans
Principal

KEY DATES:

MONDAY 2ND SEPTEMBER - Inset Day

TUESDAY 3RD SEPTEMBER - Y7 only for Induction Day 1.

WEDNESDAY 4TH SEPTEMBER - Y7 only for Induction Day 2.

WEDNESDAY 4TH SEPTEMBER - Y12 Student & Parent Induction Evening

THURSDAY 5TH SEPTEMBER - All year groups return

SUMMER TERM ATTENDANCE:

Best year group: Year 7

Most improved form: 10LMN

Most improved year: Year 9 & 10

Best house: Ursa

Best form: 7LVS

SIXTH FORM:



Year 12 have been busy exploring their options for September 2025. A group of students spent a week at Edge Hill University which included trips to Manchester, Lancaster and Liverpool University to learn how medicine is taught.

They also had the privilege of campus tours and participated in team-based and problem-based learning sessions, as they would at medical school. Edge Hill also provided students with the opportunity to undertake mock interviews which were led by current medical students and the admissions team to simulate the real thing. Year 12 student Courtney McGhee found the experience incredibly worthwhile: "For me personally, it's made me more open-minded about going to med school as I was quite unsure and had a lot of doubts before the programme but after speaking to current students, I feel reassured and inspired rather than worried. Overall, it was a really good experience and gave us a taste of what studying medicine at university is really like."

We said goodbye for now to our Year 13 students who celebrated their hard work at The Botanist in Manchester. We look forward to welcoming you back to OBA on results day and seeing you celebrate your achievements once again!



NATIONAL THANK A TEACHER DAY

On Wednesday 19th June, we all celebrated National Thank a Teacher Day. All staff were treated to a beautiful breakfast whilst they watched students' messages of thanks flashing up on screens around the academy.

Later in the day, staff were presented with a 'Little jar of big OBA thanks' which was jam-packed full of more thank you notes and sweet treats. We even had thank you balloons dotted around the academy, kindly donated by the local business, Simply Balloons.

We are so grateful to have a building full of wonderful staff who always go above and beyond for our students.



OAT SPORTS CUP

A huge well done to students who attended the OAT sports cup and demonstrated excellent team work and resilience.

A special mention must go to:

Aimee Flannery (Gold 400m and silver speed bounce)

Rihanna McClennon (Gold Discus - speed bounce)

Oscar Enamu (silver long jump)

Ryan Hanson and **Holly O'Hanlon** (bronze speed bounce)



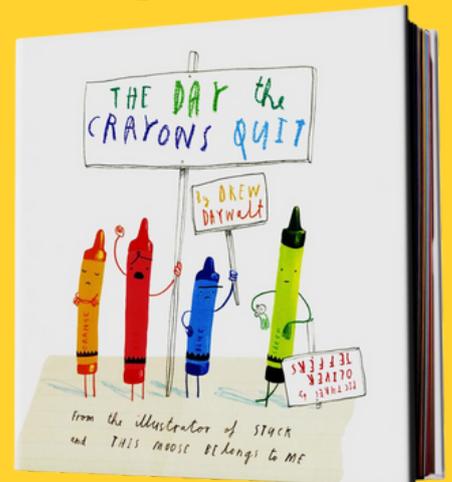
ROWING REGATTA 2024

A huge congratulations to our rowing team. Secondary schools across the country participated in a project organised by Warrington Rowing Club. The initiative aimed to get 10,000 students rowing in competition! OBA students entered the competition later than most and still managed to finish in a very respectable 31st place. Well done Team OBA!



THE DAY THE CRAYONS QUIT!

For many months, our amazing music teachers Mr Tallant and Miss Royales have been working with students from St Bertelene's, Windmill Hill and Astmoor primary schools, developing their performing arts skills. Each school practised and perfected their own section of a performance which



was then joined together for a show based on the children's book *The Day The Crayons Quit*. Nearly 200 parents and carers from across all three schools came to watch! Unfazed by this large audience, students performed on stage with great confidence and pride. Mr Tallant commented: "It's the first time we have attempted something on this scale, and we will most definitely do it again soon! Everyone's had the best time! The children have worked so hard and I am incredibly grateful for the commitment their teachers have shown to the project. I can't wait to get back into our local primary schools in September!"

We would also like to thank OBA's PTA who supported the event by selling a delicious selection of refreshments. Your assistance was very much appreciated.

VOCABULARY VICTORIES!

This year we have trialled a new reading intervention called Lexonik with a range of students from Year 7-11. The aim of the programme is for students to make rapid progress with vocabulary understanding, something which they can then use to decode new and unfamiliar words from subjects across the curriculum. Students receive 6x1 hour sessions across a half term with trained members of staff who teach students how to read and figure out a word's meaning at speed. The programme has been a success, with the 62 students who have completed the programme so far making a phenomenal 42 months of reading age progress and making far above average progress. Next year, we will be using Lexonik in lesson and in interventions so that all students can benefit from the programme!

TRANSITION

Students who will join OBA Sixth Form in September enjoyed a series of transition events, preparing them for life in Year 12. As well as sessions in our sixth form areas students also enjoyed a fully-funded team building experience at Go Ape!



We also provided transition days for our new Year 7 students. They spent time getting to know their form tutor, finding their way around the academy and meeting lots of new faces! Students also enjoyed English, maths, science and P.E. lessons as well as a Dare to Shine assembly where they were rewarded for their hard work and bravery. We hope that they now feel a great sense of excitement. We can't wait to see them again in September, ready to shine and looking smart in their new uniform!

OAT MATHS CONTEST

Congratulations to our fantastic team of Year 9 Mathematicians; **James Cunningham-Martin, Asrin Dalgic, Abigail Kelley** and **Alexander Wan**.

After qualifying from an OAT wide maths contest earlier this term, the team worked together fantastically in the final round of 2 hours, using a wide array of ciphers to crack codes, presenting a Power Point on Teams with a brief biography detailing the key achievement of a famous historical mathematician and finishing with a challenging rapid fire maths quiz. They finished second overall from the Top 5 schools.

DARE TO SHINE AWARD WINNERS

ABC Taxis kindly donated some JD Sports vouchers to OBA for students who have Dared to Shine.

Mrs Evans presented the vouchers to **Demi-Leigh Poynton** for 'Daring to Shine' through an outstanding contribution to work experience and **Ethan Grice** for 'Daring to Shine' with outstanding effort and behaviour across the academic year. Congratulations!

ABC Taxis have promised more vouchers for September so students must be ready to shine for a chance to win! Thank you once again to ABC Taxis for their generosity.



UNIFORM

We hope that everyone has a restful summer break so that they can return in September ready to shine. Here is a reminder of our uniform expectations:



Correct Uniform:

- Academy blazer
- White shirt
- Academy tie (House colour)
- Black trousers, tailored school shorts, skirt or pinafore
- Skirts and pinafores must be on or just above the knee
- Girls are also welcome to wear black trousers
- Black, dark grey or white socks/tights
- Grey or black v-neck school jumper or v-neck cardigan (optional)
- Plain black shoes with a minimal heel