

OBA NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2024

WELCOME FROM THE PRINCIPAL



As we approach the festive season, I want to express my gratitude to our dedicated staff, supportive parents, and, of course, our superb students.

The highlights of this term include our Shine days, trips to Liverpool museums and the theatre, our launch of Tesco's Fruit and Veg for Schools initiative, rewards breakfasts and our Christmas Markets event, which was organised by our wonderful P.T.A.

I am also incredibly proud of OBA's fundraising events for Halton Haven; we have raised over £550!

Once again this year, we have been able to support many families through the festive break with hampers; thank you to everyone who donated.

I hope that your Christmas is filled with warmth, laughter and quality time with friends and family.

Mrs Evans, Principal

KEY DATES:

MONDAY 6TH JAN - Academy reopens
MONDAY 6TH JAN - Y10 & 12 revision week begins
THURSDAY 9TH JAN - YEAR 13 Progress Evening
MONDAY 13TH JAN - Year 10 & 12 assessment week begins
THURSDAY 16TH JAN - HPV Year 8 (1 of 2)
SATURDAY 18TH JAN - Ski trip
MONDAY 20TH JAN - KS3 revision week begins
FRIDAY 24TH JAN - UCAS deadline
FRIDAY 31ST JAN - 6th Form applications for Sept 2025 close
MONDAY 3RD FEB - Revision week for Years 11 & 13
WEDNESDAY 12TH FEB - HPV Year 8 (2 of 2)
THURSDAY 13TH FEB - Year 10 & 12 Progress Evening
FRIDAY 14TH FEB - Academy closes for half term
MONDAY 24TH FEB - Academy closed for INSET
TUESDAY 25TH FEB - Academy reopens

AUTUMN TERM ATTENDANCE:

Best attendance:

Year group: Year 7

Form: 8LVS

House: Ursa

Most improved attendance:

Year group: Year 11

Form: 7SRV

House: Pegasus



OBA ARTISTS BRING LOCAL NATURE RECOVERY STRATEGY TO LIFE

Alongside five local schools, OBA was selected to represent Halton as part of Liverpool City Region Combined Authority's exciting new art project to bring to life the Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) which is being developed for the region.

The new project draws from the geography of the Liverpool City Region to inspire students to design and produce a large-scale map of their region, in partnership with dot-art, a Liverpool based social enterprise which champions creativity and creates opportunities for young people to take part in the arts.

The map will focus on highlighting areas in the Liverpool region which have existing natural importance, alongside areas that could be made important in the future, and the key species found there which need to be protected.

As part of the initiative, **Year 9 students** had the chance to take part in a workshop with the acclaimed artist leading the project, Joe Venning, who specialises in large scale wall murals which draw inspiration from local landmarks. The imaginative students helped create the design for the new map, drawing on their broad arts curriculum in school to suggest colour selections and generate ideas for the map doodles.

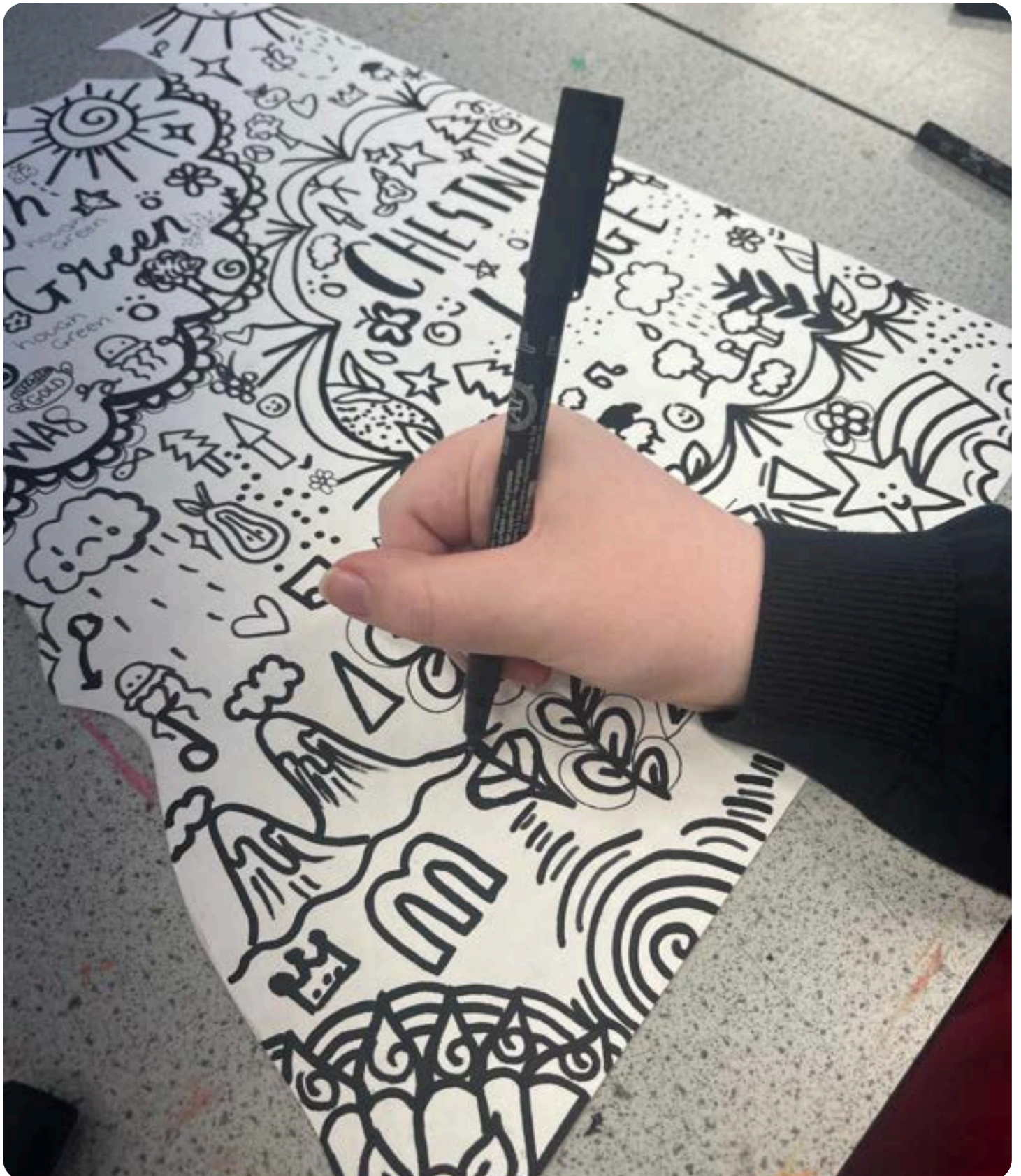


The project aims to engage local learners and residents with the strategy and encourage them to get involved with plans to support biodiversity and nature recovery, with OBA students thrilled to take part in a slice of creating Liverpool's future.

Once the map has been finalised, the students' pioneering artworks will be displayed in a public exhibition in Mann Island Atrium in Spring 2025 and digital versions of the map will be included with the Combined Authority's strategy, helping to bolster engagement with the important plans and share the students' creativity with the community.



Mrs Evans said: "Our students have loved taking part in this exciting project for Liverpool's Local Nature Recovery Strategy, sharing their creative skills and love for the Liverpool area. We're so proud to see how they have got stuck into the project, building on the confidence, creativity and skills they have developed as part of their learning at OBA, to create something really amazing. Having the opportunity to explore new passions and take part in exciting learning is so important for young people, and we're really happy to be able to create opportunities like this for our students."



CATERING

During the first full term of the school year, our **C3 intervention class** took part in a cooking on a budget project where they explored a range of recipes and worked out how much cheaper it was to cook with raw ingredients rather than shop bought sauces and pre-prepared items.

On Wednesday 27th November, they invited their families in for a 2-course lunch, which was prepared, cooked and served by the students. This was a wonderful opportunity for them to showcase their skills to their families. They then presented their family with the recipes they had used so they could make it together at home.



SPELLING BEE SUCCESS

On 1st December, two of our Year 7 Spanish students travelled to Stoke to compete in the regional finals of the OAT Spanish Spelling Bee. **Michael Higgins** and **Lucas Dougherty** represented OBA as they competed against students from other OAT academies. Both students worked extremely hard to get this far and are amazing linguists in the making. They performed fantastically on the day, with Michael progressing into the National Finals which will be held in the University Of Cambridge at the end of January.

We are incredibly proud of both students, for all of their hard work practising and preparing, and for all that they achieved.



TRANSITION

Year 5 students from **Our Lady Mother of the Saviour Catholic Primary School** visited OBA this term. They participated in a series of science lessons, delivered by our wonderful Mr Houslay. They explored the particle model and used Bunsen burners to separate different materials. They watched a myriad of chemical reactions and explained their observations before they ended up with a bang by setting fire to their teacher! Students finished their science sessions eating the ice cream they made using their new knowledge of how particles change state.

Their teacher commented: "The children loved their sessions. They enjoyed seeing science in a more hands-on approach. They also learned new vocabulary and new ways to use their existing vocabulary."

Students were an absolute credit to their school and we hope to welcome them back again very soon!

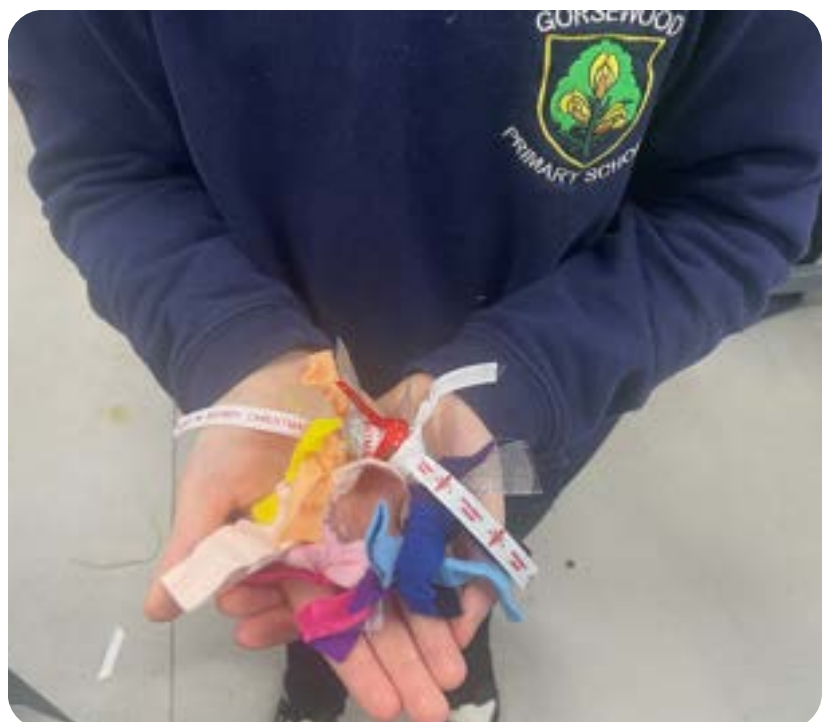


TRANSITION

Year 5 children from **Gorsewood Primary School** have also visited recently.

They participated in a Christmas themed workshop where they baked shortbread and made their own Christmas tree decoration to take home.

They also had a 'Q&A' session with ex-Gorsewood Primary School students who are now in Year 7 and received lots of guidance and advice from those who know best! Thanks again for visiting, Gorsewood Primary School!



YEAR 8 HISTORY TRIP

During the penultimate week of term, **Year 8** had the pleasure of a trip to Liverpool. The trip was organised by Mr McGlory, Head of Humanities. As part of the Year 8 history curriculum, students study the history of their local area and also the slave trade, so a trip to The Museum of Liverpool and The Merseyside Maritime Museum was a perfect opportunity to deepen their understanding.



OBA CHRISTMAS MARKETS

On Wednesday 11th December, OBA hosted our very own Christmas markets. There were so many wonderful stalls selling toys, handmade Christmas decorations, crafts and cakes, to name a few!

We raised £600! This will go towards revision packs for Year 11.

Thank you to everyone who came to support the event, including **Tesco, Widnes** who made a very generous donation to the event.

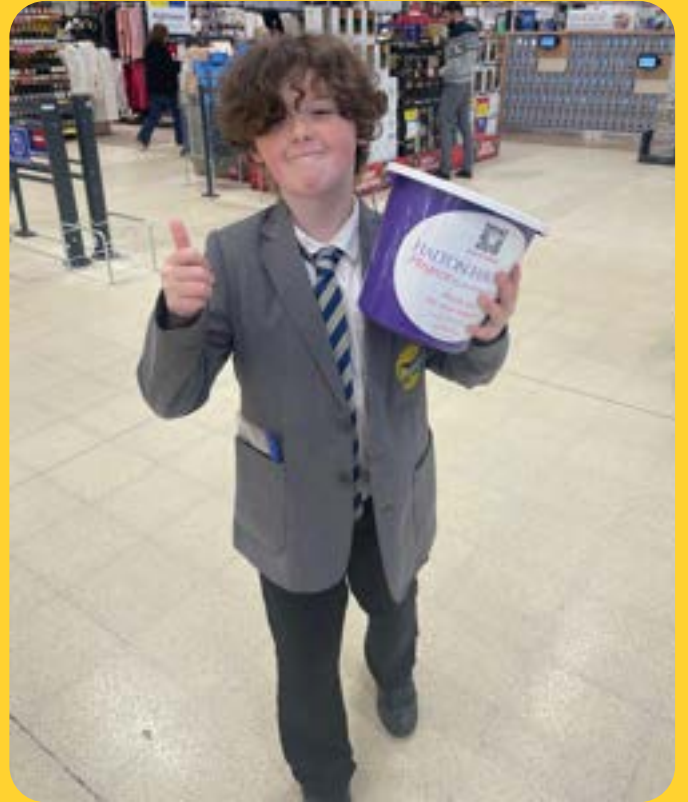
A particularly big thanks must also go to our **P.T.A.** who organised the entire evening. If you would like to join our P.T.A. please contact Mr Oakes: m.oakes@ob-ac.co.uk



Thank you to **Layla M, Lucy E** and **Evelyn M** who gave up their time to support their school. You demonstrated everything that we encourage our students to be!

HALTON HAVEN FUNDRAISING

A group of **Year 8** students performed a selection of Christmas songs to raise money for Halton Haven. **Mia Catterall** from Year 10 led the performance with her stunning vocals in The Shopping City, Tesco and Halton Haven. In just these few hours, **students raised over £100!**



HOUSE COMPETITIONS

A huge well done to **Mrs Davies** and **9VDS** who won this year's Deck the Boards competition, earning house points for **Pegasus**. They created an interactive Grinch-themed display and were clearly determined to win! They were presented with a well-deserved tub of sweet treats by Mrs Conway-Russell, who co-ordinates our house system events.

A huge well done to everyone who participated in The Penny Challenge; **we raised £159.20!**

Draco won the challenge, contributing £69.99.

So, combining all house points, the results are:

1st = Draco (16,616 points)

2nd - Orion (14,869 points)

3rd = Ursa (14,198 points)

4th = Pegasus (10,316 points)

Congratulations Draco!



NATIONAL CHRISTMAS JUMPER DAY

OBA students and staff participated in National Christmas Jumper Day to raise more money for Halton Haven. We saw a superb selection of Christmas jumpers, waistcoats and even hair buns!



CLUB 100

In the final week of term, star points were added up by our new Rewards Lead, Mrs Norton, and students who had achieved 100 or more, were rewarding with a certificate, queue jump pass, stationery set, sweets, as well as a pain au chocolat and hot chocolate for breakfast! Well done, everyone and **keep shining!**



CHRISTMAS CARD COMPETITION

A huge congratulations to the very talented **Daniel Hill** who won our Christmas card competition, earning house points for **Orion**. Mrs Evans presented him with a family pass for ice skating, LFC goodies and some sweet treats. Well done, Daniel!



Daniel's winning entry.
Merry Christmas, everyone!

Merry 
Christmas 

