

OBA NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2025

WELCOME FROM THE PRINCIPAL



As we approach the end of another busy term, I am delighted to share with you the latest news and achievements.

Our students continue to excel both academically and in enrichment activities. Our rowing, chess and maths teams have demonstrated exceptional skill and sportsmanship. Keep shining! We are incredibly proud of all students who performed in our recent open mic night and dance show. A special mention must also go to Caitlyn Molyneaux and Mia Catterall who danced and sang in OAT's Got Talent.

Our students and staff also raised an impressive £285 for Red Nose Day this term. It was a joy to see everyone pulling together to support such a wonderful cause. I hope our Year 11 and 13 students take advantage of the additional revision sessions available over Easter so that they are fully prepared for such a crucial phase in their academic journey. I wish our school community a restful and enjoyable break.

Mrs Evans, Principal

KEY DATES:

TUESDAY 22ND APRIL- Academy reopens
THURSDAY 24TH APRIL - Year 9 Progress Evening
TUESDAY 6TH MAY -KS3 Revision Week begins
MONDAY 12TH MAY - KS3 Assessment Week and GCSE and A Level exams begin
THURSDAY 15TH MAY - Year 10 Information Evening
FRIDAY 23RD MAY - Academy closes
MONDAY 2ND JUNE - Academy reopens

SPRING TERM ATTENDANCE:

Best attendance:

Year group: **Year 7**

House: **Ursa**

Form:

1st: **8LVS/8GST**

2nd: **7JBT**

3rd: **7SRV**

4th: **7JDS**

5th: **7GRV**

Most improved attendance:

Year group: **Year 10**

House: **Ursa**

Form:

1st: **7SRV**

2nd: **1ISS**

3rd: **8LVS**



ATTENDANCE

WHY IT MATTERS



Persistent absence means pupils who miss more than **10% of school** every year.

-£750

For each additional day of absence between years 7 to 11, the typical pupil could miss out on an average of **£750** in future lifetime earnings

-£10,000

Persistently absent pupils in year 10 and 11 could earn **£10,000 less** on average at age 28, compared to pupils with near perfect attendance

This **rises to almost £20k less** on average at age 28 for those who are **severely absent**

-£20k

For **employability over a sustained period**, people age 28 were around:



Less likely to be employed when **persistently absent***



Less likely to be employed when **severely absent***

*Compared to their peers with near perfect attendance

WORLD BOOK DAY

Reading is one of OBA's priorities and on Thursday 6th March, OBA celebrated World Book Day bigger and better than ever! Take a look...



As always, staff loved getting into character for World Book Day! We had Mr Darcy, Little Miss Bossy, the Grinch, Blind Mice, Humpty Dumpty, Dorothy and The Wicked Witch of the West, The Queen of Hearts and many, many more.



Congratulations to **TISSS** who won our door decorating competition with a very creative design based on Alice in Wonderland. Our **Maths Department** were crowned the winners of our best dressed department competition for teaming up as the crayons from Oliver Jeffers' children's book, The Day the Crayons Quit. Well done, everyone!

Year 4 and 5 students from **Brookvale Primary School** visited our library. They spent the morning participating in a variety of reading-based activities and even chose their own book to take home and enjoy. Well done Brookvale – you were wonderful!



We also teamed up with **Curiosity Bookshop** in Runcorn to take a group of students for a book-browsing experience where they chose a book each as a reward for their commitment to our library club. They also chose £750 worth of books to take back to our library thanks to the generosity of **The Siobhan Dowd Trust**.

Our wonderful Librarian, Mrs Rayner said: *"This has to be the highlight of my year - seeing the children so excited and enthusiastic about the books was incredibly humbling. The pleasure the students got from this amazing opportunity was palpable and one, I hope, they will remember with delight."*

Students are welcome to browse and borrow any of our new books; there is something for everyone!



"The new books will give students the opportunity to gain more education and have more enjoyment." Jacob B



"It was an amazing opportunity because you don't get to go to a bookshop very often." Erin C



Whilst at Curiosity Bookshop, we collected **500 books** which our students made into bundles and delivered to **13 primary schools across Runcorn**, including Beechwood, Hill View, St. Berteline's, Murdishaw West, Gorsewood, St. Martin's, Windmill Hill, and more. We are so grateful to have been able to spread our passion for reading across Runcorn primary schools!



OAT'S GOT TALENT...AT OBA!

Last month OBA hosted the North Regional Finals of OAT's Got Talent. This competition is Trust-wide event where over 100 students enter dance, drama, music and musical theatre acts. **Catilyn Molyneaux** and **Mia Catterall** impressed the judges enough to win a place in the regional finals. The regional finals welcomed acts from across the North West area and consisted of musicians, singers, and dancers. The entries were of an extremely high standard and throughout the day, tension and nerves were high. We are proud to announce that **Caitlyn Molyneaux** has won a place in the finals which takes place at Birmingham Repertory Theatre on July 10th where Caitlyn will compete against students from right across the country. Should she go on to win, this will be the second time that OBA have secured the title after Adam Behn won the title in 2023. Well done to both girls on making it to regional finals and good luck Caitlyn at the final. We are so proud of you both for your hard work, confidence and performance.



MORE SUCCESS...OAT MATHOLYMPICS

A huge well done to **Amna Ayyub, Miah Welsh, Lilly Werpachowska and Evelyn Dobson** who earned a very impressive third place in the OAT MATHOLYMPICS. The competition encourages team work, mathematical reasoning and problem-solving and these girls certainly demonstrated these skills in abundance. Well done team and keep shining!



OAT CHESS TOURNAMENT

Six of OBA's very talented chess players have also had great success. They entered an OAT-wide fast chess tournament, and competed against 57 other secondary schools. We are proud to announce that OBA's chess team achieved first place!

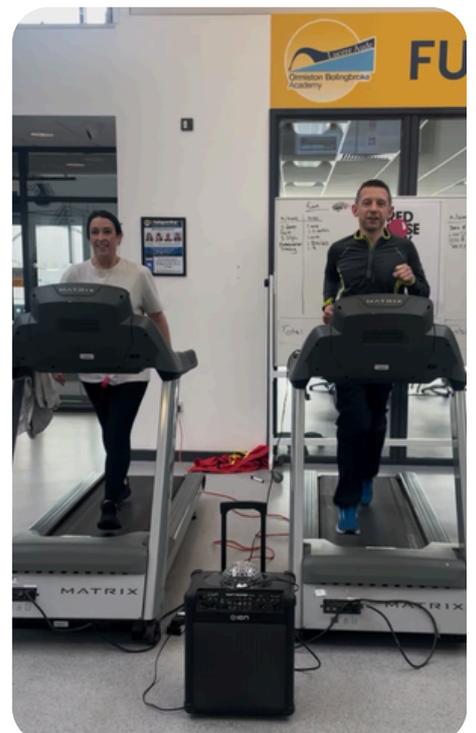
Congratulations to **Alexander Wan, Asrin Dalgic, Lucas Wolstencroft, Jake Dougherty, Michael McDonagh** and **James Cunningham-Martin**.



'PULLING TOGETHER' FOR RED NOSE DAY

Thursday 21st March marked the 40th anniversary of Red Nose Day. Our aim was to row and run 40 miles before the end of the day. Staff and students all chipped in and we smashed this target! Together, **OBA raised £285 for Red Nose Day**. Well done to everyone who ran, rowed, came to support or donated!

A big thanks must also go to our Head of Sixth Form, **Mr Fenner**, who organised the event.



DANCE SHOW NUMBER 4!

We ended this term with another stunning dance show, Better When I'm Dancing.

Students from Year 7 to 10 took to the stage across two nights to deliver some truly impressive performances. For weeks, students have rehearsed tirelessly.

Miss Power, Head of Dance, said: *"The enthusiasm and passion our students show for dance is overwhelming and we are blessed to have so many talented dancers within our academy. The dance show really highlighted this. The time and effort put in by everyone to make both evenings such a success shows how dedicated our staff and students are and I am sure that everyone has made memories that will last a lifetime. Thank you also to everyone who came to support our students, loudly applauding our brave and talented dancers!"*



**Dance Captain
Daisy James**



2025 DANCE AWARD WINNERS:

Dance Captain: **Daisy James**

Dancer Of The Year: **Caitlyn Molyneaux**

Year 7 Dance Ambassador: **Jessica Ball**

Year 8 Dance Ambassador: **Eva Bradford**

Year 9 Dance Ambassador: **Adam Behn**

Year 10 Dance Ambassador: **Darcey Morris**

Special Recognition: **Lilly Werpachowska**

Special Recognition: **Tamsin Butterworth**

Special Recognition: **Cadence McManus**

Special Recognition: **Gracie Warburton**

