

OBA NEWSLETTER

MAY 2025

WELCOME FROM THE PRINCIPAL



Welcome to our latest newsletter.

This term, our Year 11 and 13 students have begun their GCSE and A Level examinations and I wish to commend them for the maturity and dedication they have demonstrated.

Remember, if you need any last-minute guidance or a quiet space to revise, your teachers are here to help. Next term will be equally as busy with end of year trips, celebration assemblies, Year 11 prom, sports day and transition days for our new Year 7 students on 7th and 8th of July.

Enjoy the bank holiday weekend, and the best of luck to any parents and carers who are supporting their children through exam season. Lots of fruit, vegetables, sleep and walks will help to see them through.

Mrs Evans, Principal

KEY DATES:

MON 9 JUN - Y10 and 12 revision week begins

THURS 12 JUN - Year 7 Progress Evening

MON 16 JUN - Year 10 and 12 mock exams begin

WED 25 JUN - GCSE and A Level exams finish

THURS 26 JUN - Year 10 work experience begins

MON 30 JUN - Year 12 work experience begins

FRI 4 JUL - Year 11 Prom

THURS 17 JUL - Sports day

FRI 18 JUL - Academy closes for summer at 12.30pm

SUMMER TERM ATTENDANCE:

Best attendance:

Year group: **Year 7**

House: **Ursa**

Form:

1st: **11GCN**

2nd: **7JBT**

3rd: **8LVS**

4th: **11JPD**

5th: **7GRY**

Most improved attendance:

Year group: **Year 11**

House: **Ursa**

Form: **11JPD**



Did you know that...

in a school year, if your child is late every day by...	your child would have lost approximately...	or they would have missed approximately...
5 minutes	3.5 days from school	20 lessons
10 minutes	7 days from school	41 lessons
15 minutes	10 days from school	55 lessons
20 minutes	14.5 days from school	82 lessons
30 minutes	22 days from school	123 lessons

OBA STUDENTS ARE THRIVING!

At OBA, we know that students learn best when they feel happy, safe, and understood. That's why we're using the **Thrive Approach** to support the emotional wellbeing of all our students.

The Thrive Approach helps children and young people build the social and emotional skills they need to cope with life's ups and downs. It's based on the idea that every child's emotional development is just as important as their academic progress—and that sometimes, they need a little extra support to feel ready to learn.

Using Thrive, our trained staff work with pupils to help them:

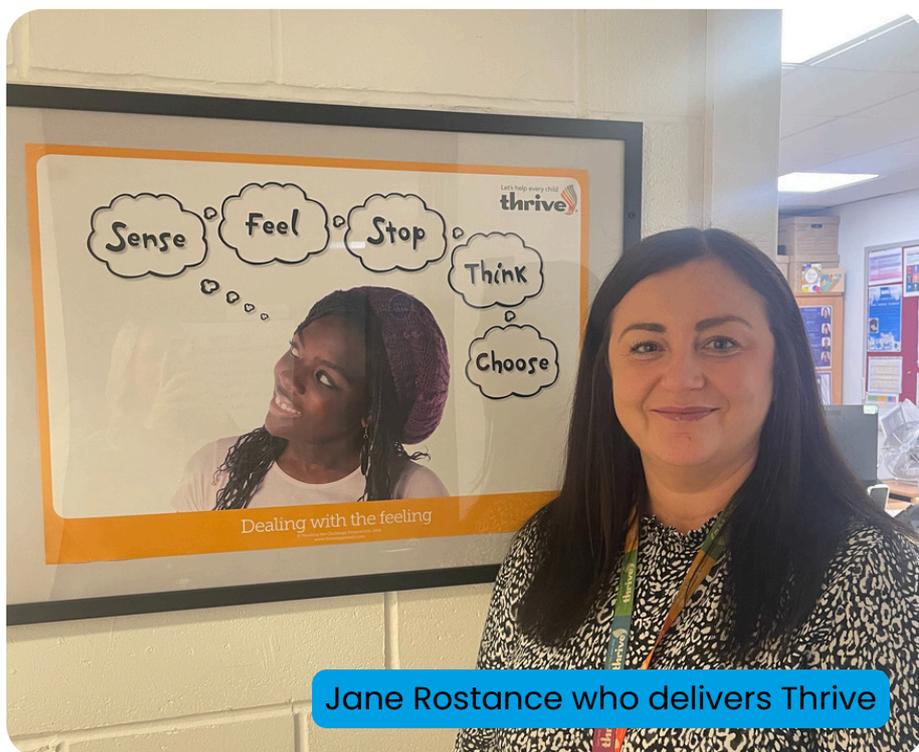
- **Understand and manage their emotions**
- **Build positive relationships**
- **Boost their confidence and self-esteem**
- **Feel calm, secure, and ready to learn**

Support might look different for each child. It could be a quiet chat with a trusted adult, a short one-to-one session, or a fun activity that helps them express their feelings in a healthy way.

We've already seen how Thrive is helping to create a more caring, respectful, and positive atmosphere in school—where every child feels seen, supported, and valued.

If you'd like to know more about how Thrive works or how we're using it to support your child's development, please get in touch with **Sarah Cooke (s.cooke@ob-ac.co.uk)**.

Alternatively, please join us for our **SEND breakfast morning on Friday 6th June, 8.45-10am**. Here you can find out more about Thrive and other interventions available for social, emotional and mental health support from Jane Rostance and Mrs Cooke, SEND Intervention Lead. Please contact the main office to confirm your attendance.



"I find the sessions help me talk about things that have built up all week, sometimes when I feel like I'm going to walk out I will check when the next session is so I can focus on what I need to deal with. It's meant to be an hour but sometimes once I get started I can't stop and we have to keep going until I feel I have shared everything I needed to!!! It can be emotional but this is good as I am not bottling things up. I am hoping to be calmer eventually."

Year 9 student

EMMA'S GARDEN

Emma's Garden is growing bigger and better! OBA's gardening club is back for its second year and there are huge developments this year! The garden is in three parts, a lawned flower area (for relaxing at lunchtimes), an allotment area (for gardening therapy and gardening club) and a wildlife area (coming soon!).



Liverpool John Lennon Airport

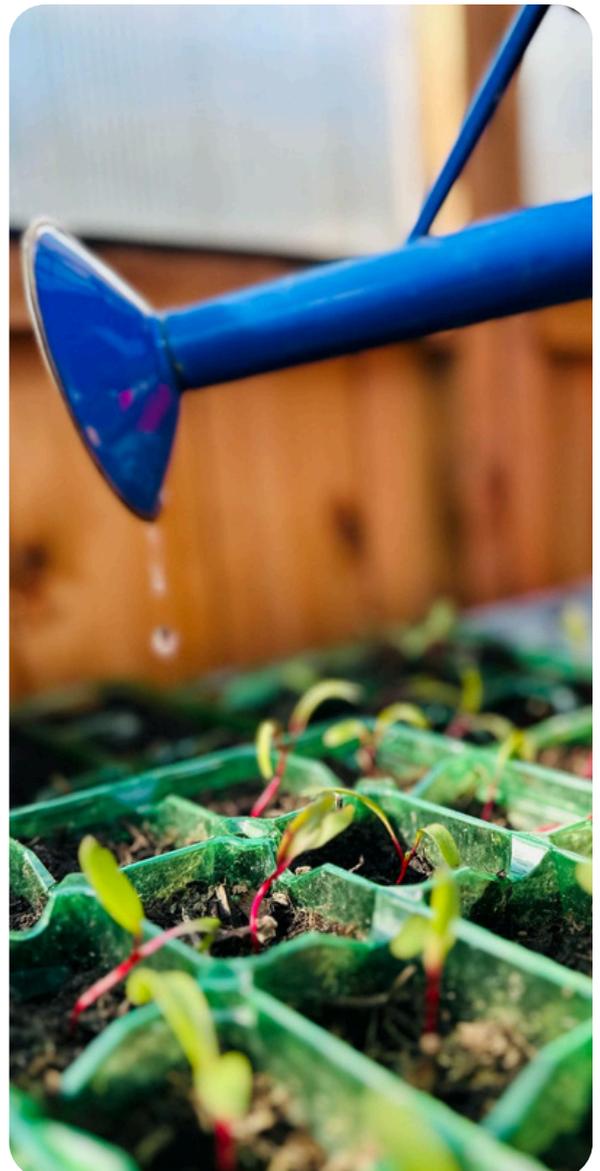
Faster. Easier. Friendlier.

Thanks to a grant of **£1000 from Liverpool Airport Community Fund**, we have been able to think big in making our gardening dreams come true. We've created a potting up area near the shed, extended our raised bed area to grow more fruit and vegetables, bought a large amount of herbaceous perennials, created a native British wildflower bed and bought various things to make the whole garden more comfortable and more fun for everyone!



The garden is open every Tuesday lunchtime for staff and students to relax and enjoy the sunshine. Gardening therapy sessions are taking place every Wednesday morning. Students are learning basic horticultural skills and just being given the time and space to breathe if they want it. Gardening Club is open to everyone and takes places Wednesday 3pm until 3.50 pm. This year we are growing blackcurrants, raspberries, blackberries, rhubarb, strawberries, tomatoes, cucumbers, potatoes, courgettes, pumpkins, leeks, onions, broad beans, French beans, peas, sweetpeas and sunflowers! We're hoping for a bumper harvest so that we can donate produce to our local foodbank.

Emma's garden is a wonderful space which we are so lucky to have. It was created in memory of **Emma Clarke, a much-loved and gifted science teacher at OBA** who died in 2020. It has its own Instagram page for anyone who would like to keep up with the latest gardening news!
OBA_gardening



TRANSITION

This term we have had the pleasure of a visit from Year 4 and 5 students from **St. Bertelina's Church of England Primary School** for a Wow Day. They learned how to use a coping saw to make a jigsaw and also baked their own pizzas which they took home to enjoy for dinner. Well done, St. Bertelina's - you were amazing!



FIRST TROPHY FOR ETHAN

Our super talented billiard player, **Ethan Grice**, has won his first trophy in a major tournament. He entered simply to gain more competition experience but ended up winning five rounds, beating two previous champions along the way! Wow! In the final, his opponent (who was twenty five years older than Ethan!) played brilliantly and really made Ethan fight for victory. Ethan's dad said that in response, he appeared to 'flick a switch' and played in the most determined and calm manner which eventually made him champion! Now that Ethan has achieved his first major title, who knows what's next!



FRAMING THE FUTURE: BEN LANDS DREAM PHOTOGRAPHY ROLE WITH RUNCORN LINNETS

At just 16 years old, **Ben Jackson**, a talented Year 11 student with a passion for photography, has taken a remarkable step toward a future in sports journalism and photography. Through dedication, hard work, and guidance from the academy's Futures Department, he has secured an incredible opportunity—photographing for local professional football team, the Runcorn Linnets!

What started as a dream has turned into real-life experience, capturing electrifying moments on the pitch and bringing fans closer to the game through his lens. His photos not only showcase the fast-paced excitement of professional football but also highlight the dedication, emotion, and energy that make the sport so thrilling.

This experience is setting the stage for a promising career in sports photography and journalism, where Ben can continue to tell compelling stories through his images. His journey is an inspiration to other students—proof that with passion and the right support, incredible dreams can become reality.

Congratulations to Ben on this impressive achievement, and we look forward to seeing where his talents take him next!



LIVERPOOL HOPE UNIVERSITY TRIP

For our **Year 10 students**, the term drew to a close with a trip to Liverpool Hope University.

They were given a guided tour of the main campus by one of the university's student ambassadors. Students saw

lecture halls, accommodation, different subject areas, as well as the restaurant, gym and library. They also participated in a session which compared the features of all local universities to help work out which one they might want to visit and explore next.

A huge thanks must go to Mr Oakes who organised this opportunity for our students.

