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Ormiston Academies Trust
AN OAT ACADEMY

Academy Prospectus





Welcome

I am very proud to be the Principal of Ormiston Bolingbroke Academy (OBA). Our motto *Lucere Aude* – “Dare to Shine” – is at the heart of everything we do and truly reflects what we hope for, for all of our students. We want our students to excel and gain the confidence to be whatever they want to be, regardless of background or circumstances. We want to build ambition and courage to succeed; students leave us as forward-thinking young adults who have the skills and knowledge to make informed choices and live a rewarding life.

We offer fantastic opportunities for students to gain the qualifications they need to be successful. Our talented, hardworking and committed staff provide individual care and attention while also challenging students to achieve their goals. At OBA everyone is valued; students work hard but also make the most of the enrichment opportunities on offer to develop them as well-rounded young adults ready to face their future with confidence.

We want to ensure that our students can go to university or can enter the world of work with a choice of career pathways ahead of them. I believe that the opportunities and unique pastoral support available are also very special and can transform lives. OBA is truly a community school and we are proud of this.

Come and see our facilities and find out how OBA can support you through the next stage of your education. I look forward to meeting you at one of our open events. It is your time to shine.

Kathryn Evans, Principal





Curriculum

We have designed a curriculum to dare our students to shine – to be courageous and to make positive choices that lead to a happy and healthy future. We seek to achieve this through:

- Recognising and celebrating that everyone is an individual
- Building caring, trusting and positive relationships where students feel safe and valued
- Instilling fairness and integrity and compassion in our students
- Developing resilience, self-discipline, tolerance and respect

We deliver our curriculum over a two-week cycle with week A and B. There are 25 lessons per week with five lessons and two tutorial periods each day. Throughout Key Stage 3 pupils are separated into two broadly equal bands, 'O' and 'B'.

On average we have 26 students per class.

Our intention is that all students make outstanding progress through a well-planned and sequenced curriculum that removes any potential barrier to learning.

At Ormiston Bolingbroke Academy, pupils will:

- Experience a bespoke broad, deep and knowledge-rich seven-year curriculum.
- Leave us with essential literacy and numeracy skills.
- Have high expectations for their achievement and behaviour.
- Develop healthy lifestyles, both physically and mentally.
- Participate in high quality enterprise and work-related learning.

Key Stage 3

Our Key Stage 3 includes Years 7, 8 and 9. Our students study a broad range of subjects to lay the foundations for future study and we choose to deliver over three years to allow a sufficient depth of knowledge to be acquired in order for students to be prepared for the rigor of Key Stage 4 and to ensure each student has fulfilled their entitlement of study.





Based on the National Curriculum, as a benchmark to surpass, our teachers have developed clear learning journeys in every subject. Knowledge and skills have been mapped out to ensure effective retention. This avoids the accumulation of misconceptions. In Years 7, 8 and 9 students study a curriculum of:

- English
- Mathematics
- Science
- Physical Education (P.E.) including Dance
- Geography
- History
- Spanish
- Design and Technology
- Computing and Business
- Music
- Art
- Drama
- Philosophy and Religious Education

Key Stage 4

In Year 10 and 11 students choose a personalised curriculum. All students study a core curriculum of:

- English Literature and English Language
- Mathematics
- Combined Science (inc. modules in Biology, Chemistry and Physics)
- PE (Core PE is based around essential health and fitness and does not lead to a qualification)
- Philosophy and Ethics (this does not lead to a qualification)
- PSHE and Careers (delivered through tutor time, in lessons and bespoke events.)

Students personalise their remaining curriculum time by selecting further optional qualifications to study at Key Stage 4. We do not limit the curriculum choices for any of our students.

All students receive guidance and are able to freely choose to study all available subjects including the English Baccalaureate (EBacc.) which is achieved by completing qualifications in English, Mathematics, Science, History/Geography and Spanish. Other options such as Separate Science GCSEs in Biology, Chemistry and Physics are also open to all regardless of prior attainment. Current option choices* include:

- Art
- Animal Care
- Business Studies (GCSE and BTEC)
- Catering
- Construction
- Computer Science
- Dance
- Drama
- Engineering
- Film Studies
- Graphic Design
- ICT
- Music
- Philosophy of Religion
- Separate Sciences (biology, chemistry and physics)
- Spanish
- Sport

Key Stage 5

In Years 12 and 13 we continue to offer a wide range of qualifications that allow our students to progress from their studies at Key Stage 4. There is a comprehensive range of academic A-Levels on offer and a variety of vocational BTEC qualifications as well as opportunity to re-sit essential qualifications in mathematics and English. We deliver our personal development and wellbeing curriculum to all years through tutor periods, assemblies and one-off events. We offer extensive extracurricular enrichment each day in which students have the opportunity to engage with academic intervention and support, and to participate in a wide variety of clubs and groups.

**Please note, the available options are subject to change.*

Sixth Form



The Sixth Form provides every student with excellent teaching and learning through high academic ambition combined with exceptional pastoral care and guidance. Students have clear progressions routes to university, apprenticeship and employment.

Pathways

Our pathways offer national progression from GCSE to Level 3 study. We have a variety of qualifications that students can opt for at Level 3 that fall within specific pathways. These pathways are in place to support students in taking the next steps within specific industries.

Academic – To study A-Levels, with the aspiration of future study at university or entry to a Degree Level Apprenticeship (three Academic subjects including Extended Project Qualification or Core maths and enrichment activity. Students must have 5 GCSEs at Grade 4/ Level 2 or above including maths and English, with subject-specific entry requirements).

Vocational – To study BTEC and other internationally recognised qualifications, with the aspiration of future study at university or apprenticeship or job (three Vocational subjects and enrichment activity – students must have five GCSEs at Grade 4/Level 2).

Blended – To study a bespoke combination of A-Levels and vocational subjects (three subjects chosen from Academic and Vocational and enrichment activity – students must have five GCSEs at Grade 4/Level 2).

STEM – this pathway is our science and engineering pathway, where students can opt for a choice of three subjects from biology, chemistry, physics and maths.

Business Communication – this pathway enables students to pursue their interests in business related careers through the choice of three subjects from Business, media, photography and graphics.

Humanities and Arts – this pathway enables students to pursue their interests with the study of humanities and English with a choice of three subjects from Geography, History, English literature and English Language.





Creative and Performance – this pathway enables students to access their more creative side with a choice of three subjects from the following Sport, Performing Arts, Animal Care, Photography and Art.

Outstanding opportunities

We offer all Sixth Form students:

- High quality teaching.
- Superb Sixth Form wing with a study room, café, gym, mezzanine, computers.
- Use of laptops with broadband internet access.
- A wide variety of enrichment opportunities and trips.

OBA Scholars Students achieving high GCSE results at grades 9-7, have a number of opportunities available to them.

Every year the academy sends a strong cohort of students to university including, Russell Group universities.

We support the progress of students in the following ways:

- Liverpool Scholars Programme which sees students receive both a cost and grade offer reduction to the University of Liverpool.
- Access to gifted and talented university programmes.
- Links to the Sutton Trust which promotes social mobility through education.
- An association with the Nuffield Bursary which provides financial assistance for students considering a medical degree.
- Demonstration of key skills for university by undertaking the Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) and/or Core mathematics.
- Individualised tuition in chosen subjects.
- Leadership opportunities.

For more information about our Academy Sixth Form, please view our Sixth Form Prospectus on our website using the QR code below.





Community

At the academy we pride ourselves on our strong pastoral care. From the moment our students join us they become part of the OBA Family, a team where everyone supports each other.

Pastoral care, safeguarding and well-being are at the heart of the academy ethos. We have a blended approach to support students, using a competitive house system to run alongside the traditional year group format. Along both strands all students are expected to strive for our school motto, *Lucere Aude*, a Latin phrase meaning “Dare to Shine”. Creating opportunities that allow our students to live by this motto is pivotal for them to grow into courageous and resilient learners.

There are many opportunities for students to take up positions of leadership and responsibility.

The academy has a strong Student Parliament made up of elected representatives from each year group. Student Parliament provides students with a forum to be actively involved in shaping life within school.

Within our pastoral structure we have many layers of support to ensure that all our students have the opportunity to make positive choices and reach their true potential whilst at the academy. Value is placed on supporting each students’ progress and this key responsibility is assigned to Form Tutors. These in turn are supported by a large team including non-teaching Pastoral Support Managers, Heads of Year and Senior Leaders.

The academy is proud of the community it serves and is committed to creating regular opportunities for local people to utilise our first-class facilities. Our Primary Partnership Programme, WOW days, Summer School and annual Christmas Market events are synonymous with this drive.





Involving Parents/Carers

Ormiston Bolingbroke Academy is committed to working closely with parents and carers to ensure students succeed and enjoy their life in school.

Transition – Parents/carers are invited to attend informal drop-in sessions in addition to a 1:1 form tutor meeting to discuss their child's transition to the academy. A welcome breakfast and assembly are held on the first day in September where parents/carers can see their child officially inducted into the academy as part of a tie-giving ceremony.

Progress Report – Parents/carers receive a progress report for all subjects regularly throughout the year. Academic mentoring meetings take place between students and their form tutors to celebrate success and to set challenging targets.

Progress Evenings – Parents/carers will have the opportunity to meet with their child's form tutor as well as individual teachers to discuss their progress and attainment across all subjects.

Curriculum Information Booklet – Each term parents and carers are issued with an information booklet detailing what students are studying that term, along with additional resources and suggested activities to support learning at home.

Principal and Pastoral Drop-In Sessions – Mrs Evans and the pastoral team hold informal half termly drop-in sessions for parents/carers to discuss face-to-face any questions they may have.

Social Media – In addition to a half-termly newsletter, the academy has several active social media platforms which post daily messages to raise awareness, give notices or celebrate student successes. Follow @OBACademy on Instagram, @obacademy1 on Facebook or visit the academy website for all the latest news and events.





Lessons for Life

OBA's Lessons for Life curriculum is followed by students in all year groups and offers a themed approach to exploring PSHE topics such as physical and mental health, relationships and sex education, careers, financial literacy, British values, staying safe, citizenship and character education in addition to other topics relevant to the lives of our learners at OBA.

The themed approach to Lessons for Life allows students to explore each topic in depth and for the learning to build, rather than simply offering students a one-off lesson on each topic.

This ensures that students not only gain the knowledge from the lessons but are able to apply it to their own lives in a meaningful way.

As well as having the opportunity to explore these subjects with their form tutor, the Lessons for Life programme is supplemented by guests and visiting speakers to provide students with the chance to truly engage with the personal development topics that will lead them to being safe, informed and positive citizens.

Careers

The academy is committed to providing a programme of Careers Education, Information, Advice and Guidance (CEIAG) for all our students. From Year 7 through to Year 13, we prepare our students for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of life and help them to make informed choices about their future learning and career pathways.

CEIAG is designed to meet the needs of all students at the academy and the Careers programme enables students to progress through activities that are appropriate to their different stages of planning and development. This includes business experience days, work experience, visiting speakers, careers fairs, mock interviews, university visits and taught content in their Lessons for Life sessions.

We work in partnership with a range of outside agencies, employers, apprenticeship providers and universities and, in addition, we offer students 1:1 guidance sessions from an independent, professionally-qualified Careers Adviser who provides personalised, comprehensive and impartial advice.

All our planning is based on *The Eight Gatsby Benchmarks of Good Career Guidance*, as recommended in the *Government Career Strategy*.

These are:

1. A stable careers programme.
2. Learning from career and labour market information.
3. Addressing the needs of each student.
4. Linking curriculum learning to careers.
5. Encounters with employers and employees.
6. Experiences of workplaces.
7. Encounters with further and higher education.
8. Personal guidance.





Enrichment

Dare to Shine

Students are encouraged to fully participate in the wide and interesting range of opportunities that make their time at the academy enjoyable and fulfilling. The enrichment opportunities are available during lunchtimes as well as after school. The academy offers extensive enrichment activities for all years including Chess Club, LAMDA (London Academy of Dramatic Arts), Brilliant Club (STEM), Rock Band, Dragon Boating and the Duke of Edinburgh Award (DofE). Other opportunities include:

Recreational Sport

Sport is a vital and important part of the life of our students. Excellent indoor and outdoor facilities are available for all students and sports teams to compete in a vast range of sports, including football, netball, cross country and athletics.

Performing Arts

Academy productions give students the opportunities to act, sing, dance or work behind the scenes on lighting, sound and stage design.

There will be a number of productions, as well as the opportunity for joining the choir or school bands.

Cultural Trips

Students can participate in a range of cultural experiences from trips to museums, the theatre, skiing, water-sports and countries worldwide. Trips abroad include visits to The Netherlands, Spain, France, Italy, Germany, New York and China. In addition, we have many visitors to the academy including authors, artists, business leaders, dance companies and actors. Students take part in a range of initiatives such as the Duke of Edinburgh Award, accredited volunteering, sports coaching and Arts Leaders awards.

Leadership Opportunities

The academy offers a range of student leadership opportunities through a variety of projects such as The Student Parliament, The Sport Council, The Diana Award – Anti-Bullying Ambassadors, The #iwill Project and a range of subject champions.

Our Sponsor

Our school is proud to be part of Ormiston Academies Trust (OAT), one of the longest-established and largest school trusts in the country. Since 2009, OAT has been dedicated to transforming education, supporting over 35,000 pupils in 40+ schools with over 5,000 staff – across secondary, primary, alternative provision and special schools.

With schools across England, from Lowestoft and the Isle of Wight to Grimsby, Runcorn, London and the West Midlands, OAT serves a diverse range of communities. This national reach reflects the Trust's commitment to providing excellent learning opportunities for every child, regardless of background or location.

At the heart of Ormiston's rich history and the strong values that underpin everything they do, is a simple yet powerful vision: a school system where every child can thrive.

The Trust's mission is to ensure every child has excellent learning opportunities, inside and outside of the classroom, which enrich their lives and afford them choice and opportunity in the future.

You can find out more about Ormiston Academies Trust at www.ormistonacademiestrust.co.uk.





Ormiston Bolingbroke Academy



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

Tel: 01928 711643
Email: admin@ob-ac.co.uk
Web: www.ormistonbolingbrokeacademy.co.uk

Follow us on Instagram (@OBAcademy) and on Facebook (@obacademy1)



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