

# OBA NEWSLETTER

## OCTOBER 2025

### WELCOME FROM THE PRINCIPAL



Welcome to the first OBA Newsletter of this academic year. I am delighted to share many exciting developments from this term.

We are particularly proud to announce the appointment of our Head Girl, Safia, Head Boy, Oliver, our prefect team and student parliament. I have full confidence that they will shine as they serve and represent OBA.

I would also like to congratulate Year 7 on their successful transition to secondary school. Our Year 12 students have also adapted incredibly well to their next stage in the academic journey in our sixth form.

Our recent Open Evening was attended by many prospective parents, keen to explore all that OBA offers. I was especially moved by the number of students who volunteered to help showcase our wonderful departments or provide tours for families whilst sharing their educational experiences with them. This shows what a strong sense of community we have fostered and I could not be more proud.

I hope everyone enjoys a restful break over the half term holiday. As always, thank you for your ongoing support.

**Mrs Evans**, Principal

### KEY DATES:

**MON 3 NOV** - Revision week begins for Years 11 & 13  
**MON 3 NOV** - Whole school intervention week begins  
**MON 3 NOV** - Y11 progression to 6<sup>th</sup> Form interviews (all week)  
**MON 17 NOV** - Y11 & 13 mock examinations begin  
**TUES 25 NOV** - Y9 Careers Day  
**WED 26<sup>th</sup> NOV** - SEND Information Evening  
**FRI 28 NOV** - Academy closed for INSET  
**MON 1 DEC** - Academy closed for INSET  
**TUES 2 DEC** - Y10 & 12 Revision week begins  
**THURS 4 DEC** - Y8 'Smashed' (Lessons for Life)  
**FRI 5 DEC** - Academy closed for INSET  
**MON 8 DEC** - Y10 & 12 Assessment week begins  
**TUES 9 DEC** - Matilda Jr The Musical performance 7pm  
**WED 10 DEC** - Matilda Jr The Musical performance 7pm  
**THURS 11 DEC** - Y11 and 6<sup>th</sup> Form Progress Evening  
**FRI 19 DEC** - Academy closes at 12.30pm for Christmas break  
**MON 5 JAN** - Academy reopens for all year groups

### AUTUMN TERM ATTENDANCE:

#### Best attendance:

Form: Year group: **Year 7**

1st: **8LMY**

House: **Ursa**

2nd: **79LVS**

3rd: **7AES**

4th: **7DCY**

5th: **7BCN**



**ATTENDANCE MATTERS**



### ATTENDANCE REWARDS

- ★ Certificates and prizes presented during celebration assemblies
- ★ You will be entered into a raffle for a chance to win a voucher for a retailer of your choice
- ★ Positive phone calls home
- ★ You could be celebrated on our socials or in our newsletter



## HALTON HAVEN

You may recall our last newsletter was a special edition for Halton Halton. We are pleased to now be able to share with you the final amount raised: **£1275!** Halton Haven staff were delighted when two of our wonderful fundraisers, **Grace** and **Mia**, presented them with the cheque. A huge well done to everyone!



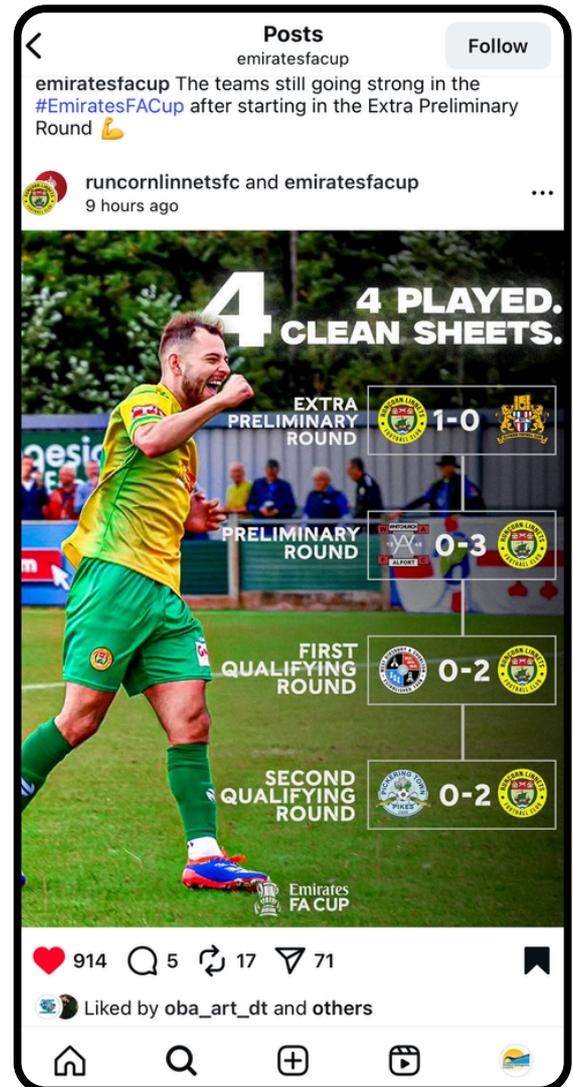
**OBA raised £1275 for Halton Haven Hospice!**

**Well done, everyone!**

## PHOTOGRAPHY SUCCESS

The past few weeks have been incredibly exciting for one of our Sixth Form students. **Ben Jackson**, who currently studies A Level Photography, also works as the official photographer for the Runcorn Linnets. In a post on their social media page, the Emirates F.A.Cup have used some of Ben's photographs to report the club's recent success, meaning an audience of over 4 million! We are so proud of Ben and so pleased to see his hard work paying off. We are certain that this is the start of a very successful career in photography! Well done, Ben!

**Ben Jackson**  
Official  
Photographer for  
the  
**Runcorn  
Linnets**



## ENGLAND'S NEXT LIONESS!

We are also super proud to announce that **Demi-Rose** in Year 7 has gained a place at Halton Girls Football Club in midfield. Our Head of P.E. Ms Power, recognised Demi's talent during lessons and sent her for trials which led to the offer of a place in the Halton team.

Demi-Rose said: "I was very excited when my mum received the email from the club and keen to meet my new team. It's great to be surrounded by really good players."

She first started playing football when she spontaneously joined in an online training session that her brother was participating in at home during Covid, and instantly loved it. She also plays for two Helsby teams, taking up the opportunity to play as much as she can.

Demi-Rose's footballing role model is of course the one and only Chloe Kelly. Her bravery under pressure inspires Demi-Rose to be like her.

**Congratulations Demi-Rose and keep shining!**



Demi-Rose was recently awarded a trophy for being Player of the Match.



Ethan with Stan Moody.

## SNOOKER SENSATION

**Ethan Grice** was recently awarded the NJ Global Award for the Best Under 15 Junior snooker player over the past year. This included players from all over Europe and as far as Australia! He also picked up the Most Improved Player award from Scottie's snooker centre. Both awards were presented by new junior pro sensation Stan Moody who is also coached by Ethan's pro coach Neil Johnson.

He was also recently asked by the English Amateur Billiards Association to play in the English Amateur Championships where he played against the top players in the world. His first game was against Peter Sheehan who is currently ranked as world number four and, although he lost, he did exceptionally well. He then went on to compete for over nine hours and did himself and his parents proud. He will certainly be back again next year and will be a threat.

He also visited his primary school a few months ago to deliver a presentation to the younger years about juggling academic life with a potential sporting career.

OBA are sponsoring Ethan again this year and are so proud of all that he is achieving!

## IQ OLYMPICS

On Monday 13th October, 8 Year 10 students took part as two separate teams in a Humanities competition called the IQ Olympics, in Cronton College. Students not only competed against 24 other 4-person teams from schools across the North West, but also against each other to see who could gain the most points. The challenge consisted of tasks relating to History, Geography, Law, Business, Criminology, Psychology and an English Library Challenge. Students absolutely smashed the challenge and both of our teams did incredibly well, finishing in fourth and fifth place with just one point between them. The students really enjoyed taking part in this challenge and the staff at Cronton College couldn't praise the attitude of students enough.

Mr McGlory, who attended the event, said: 'Students put so much effort into their challenges and you could see their competitiveness! It was great to see them not only learning but also enjoying themselves. I was proud of how well they portrayed themselves to all the other schools and the college teachers.' Mr McGlory is already looking forward to next year's competition.



# HELLO YELLOW!

On Friday 11<sup>th</sup> October, OBA celebrated World Mental Health Day, which aims to raise awareness and fight social stigma. It was a day filled with activities, starting with a form competition to create the best poster. **Well done to 8JBT** for their phenomenal effort! During lunchtime, students added kind comments for friends and staff and sweets and stickers were shared too. Staff and students also rocked the yellow look, including ribbons, shoe laces and some beautiful hair accessories! All funds raised will go to the Young Minds charity. Thank you to Miss Stanley who co-ordinated the event.



## CAREERS CONVENTION 2025: A STEP IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION!

Over 30 local employers, training providers, and industry professionals gathered at our school this week for the annual Careers Convention, and what a fantastic event it turned out to be! From construction and healthcare to digital media and animal care, students had the chance to explore a wide range of career paths, ask insightful questions, and make meaningful connections with people working in the roles they aspire to. The energy in the room was electric as students from all year groups engaged in conversations about apprenticeships, college courses, university routes, and real-world job expectations. Employers were genuinely impressed by the confidence, curiosity, and maturity shown by our students.

One unexpected highlight? The **free socks!** Provided by one of our sponsors, they were a massive hit with students and staff alike. Whether it was the bold colours or the comfy fit, they certainly helped everyone put their **best foot forward.**

The Careers Convention wasn't just about information – it was about inspiration. Students left feeling more confident, more informed, and more excited about their futures. We're proud of every single one of them for making the most of the opportunity. Here's to many more successful steps on the journey ahead!



**“The students were brilliant – polite, engaged, and genuinely interested in what we had to say. It’s refreshing to see such enthusiasm!”**

– M-Power Activity Services



**“We’ve already had a few students follow up with emails asking about work experience. That kind of initiative is exactly what employers love to see.”**

– Fresenius Kabi

**“I spoke to several students who already had clear goals and asked really thoughtful questions. They’re a credit to the school.”**

– Army Rep



## LIBRARY UPDATE

Once again, OBA has taken part in Book Buzz and all Year 7 students were able to choose a new book to take home, read and keep. We feel so strongly that students should have at least one book in their home to call their own and to quote Cicero 'A room without books is like a body without a soul.' According to some of our Year 7 students, a life without books would be like perishing from lack of excitement, adventure and knowledge. Hopefully, all students will enjoy their chosen books in the weeks to come.



To celebrate National Poetry Day and this year's theme of "Play," we held a 'Poetry and Play' lunchtime event in the Library. Students played a variety of board games and then created a short poem about the theme. Mrs. Rayner said the library was bustling with competitiveness and enthusiasm; it was fantastic to see so many students taking part, playing in teams, having a great deal of fun and creating poetry.

Finally, our first Library Ambassadors have been appointed and are doing a brilliant job!

So, if you need any recommendations or help just ask your friendly Ambassadors - they are here to help.

*Perfecting the art of play  
Learning when and what to say  
Artfully using words in a way  
You will be a winner if you play.*

## HEAD BOY AND GIRL

Congratulations to our Head Boy, **Oliver Taylor** and Head Girl, **Safia Mason**. They both performed incredibly well during their interviews and will no doubt shine during Year 11 with their extra responsibilities. They will work closely with our appointed prefects to represent OBA. In fact, Oliver has already spoken at Open Evening to an audience of nearly 200 people! Well done, Oliver and Safia!



## PREFECT TEAM

We are also proud to introduce to you our prefects:

(Back row left to right) Oliver T, Alexander W, Jude M and Frankie W (Front row left to right) Liani B, Ava M, Ava Mae C, Safia M and Oliva M. Well done for daring to shine!



## STUDENT PARLIAMENT

Congratulations to our student parliament representatives who were voted for by their form tutor groups. Being elected to the student parliament is an exciting and rewarding experience that represents both trust and responsibility. Serving on the student parliament provides the opportunity to contribute to school improvement, plan events, and strengthen the sense of community among students. It also helps develop valuable skills such as teamwork, communication, and leadership. Above all, being elected is an honour – it is a chance to use your voice to make a positive difference and inspire others to get involved.

Well done to the following students and we look forward to your contributions this year.

Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10
<b>Dotty SG</b> <b>Luke B</b> <b>Jackson D</b> <b>Natalia D</b> <b>Oscar B</b> <b>Kylan PS</b> <b>Elle R</b> <b>Winnie S</b> <b>Errika PS</b> <b>Paige H</b>	<b>Tyler B</b> <b>Lilly C</b> <b>Lily W</b> <b>Lucas P</b> <b>Amna A</b> <b>Oliver J</b> <b>Clodagh C</b> <b>Noah F</b> <b>Louie W</b> <b>Demi E</b>	<b>Theo P</b> <b>Lilly C</b> <b>Mason G</b> <b>Scarlett B</b> <b>Jessica D</b> <b>Bella C</b> <b>Caitlin M</b> <b>Jack G</b> <b>Esme M</b> <b>Macie G</b>	<b>Zoe E</b> <b>Rhys B</b> <b>Olivia J</b> <b>Kacey O</b> <b>Lucy L</b> <b>Finn H</b> <b>Faith JE</b> <b>Iain L</b> <b>Tyler S</b> <b>Ava M</b> <b>Caitlin B</b>



(Back row left to right): Tyler S, Jude H, Faith Ellis J, Iain L. (Middle row left to right): Caitlin B, Luke B, Siobhan I, Kaitlin M, Jessica D, Mason G, Tyler B, Rhys B. (Front row left to right): Natalie D, Louie W, Jackson D, Dorothea SG, Demi-Rose E, Lillt Mae C, Lilly W, Lucas P and Amna A.

## YEAR 7

Finally, we cannot end our first newsletter of the year without celebrating the success of our **Year 7 students**. In what is surely one of the biggest changes in their lives so far, they have managed their transition from primary school to OBA with great maturity and a determination to shine.

Their Head of Year, Mr Houslay, said: Taking that first step into secondary school is no mean feat, yet our Year 7 students have taken to OBA like ducks to water! That's not to say we haven't had the odd struggle along the way, after all it wouldn't be learning if we didn't have to work at it! But they have done themselves proud whilst forming a true Year 7 community. I know what their form tutors are equally as proud, so much so that I think they are actually in competition with who has the best tutor group! Keep this up and the next seven years will be equally as successful!"

**Well done, everyone and keep shining!**

