



OBA NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2025



WELCOME FROM THE PRINCIPAL



As we enter the festive season, I would like to celebrate the many achievements and events from this term. We've enjoyed Matilda Jr, Christmas markets, fundraising, trips, celebration assemblies and so much more.

I would also like to take this opportunity to praise our students for working so hard, Year 11 in particular, and thank our staff, governors, PTA, parents and carers for all your support.

Finally, may I wish each and every one of you a Christmas filled with warmth, laughter, and quality time with loved ones. I look forward to an even more fulfilling and successful new year.

Mrs Evans, Principal

KEY DATES:

MON 5 JAN - Academy reopens for all year groups

MON 12 JAN - KS3 revision week begins

MON 19 JAN - KS3 assessment week begins

MON 19 JAN - Y8 Learn to Earn with Young Enterprise

TUES 20 JAN - Y10 & Y11 immunisation catch ups

MON 26 JAN - Y11 & Y13 revision week begins

THURS 29 JAN - Year 9 Options evening

MON 9 FEB - Y11 & Y13 mock exams begin

MON 12 FEB - Y7 Progress Evening

FRI 13 FEB - Academy closes for half term

MON 23 FEB - Academy closed for INSET

TUES 24 FEB - Academy reopens for all year groups

AUTUMN TERM ATTENDANCE:



Best attendance:

Form:

1st: **1ICGN**

2nd: **7NPE**

3rd: **8LMY**

4th: **8JBT**

5th: **1ILDN**

Year group: **Year 7**

House:

1st: **Ursa**

2nd: **Pegasus**

3rd: **Draco and Orion**

Most improved: Form: **9MJS**

ATTENDANCE
MATTERS



MATILDA

We must begin this newsletter by celebrating the success of Matilda Jr, directed by Miss Urmson.

After months of sacrificing every possible spare second to rehearse, our very talented students gave the performance of their lives to a packed theatre on the 9th and 10th of December. Their sacrifices were most definitely worthwhile as the audience clapped and howled with laughter from start to finish! It was also a joy to see students from different year groups working together and supporting one another, creating life-long memories. The cast also put on an extra show especially for Year 5 children from St Martin's, Gorsewood and Brookvale. Ms Wright from Gorsewood Primary praised the show: 'Thank you for a wonderful morning and the opportunity to watch your amazing performance. It's always difficult performing to younger children; they don't have the same energy as a grown up audience. However, you all did wonderfully and the pupils at Gorsewood were inspired by you all; back at school, all the children were excited to talk about the show and many said they wanted to be part of drama and be in a show like yours.'



The cast:



Isobel Gorodkin – Matilda Wormwood
Rhys Bennett – Miss Trunchbull
Zoe Ellis – Miss Honey
Mia Taylor – Mrs Wormwood
William Pinnington – Mr Wormwood
Lucas Wolstencroft – Michael
Johnathan-Paul Eves – Eric
Adam Behn – Bruce Bog Trotter
Natalia Dowolska – Mrs Phelps & Student
Lilley Edwards – Rudolpho & Sergei
Leighvi Harris – Acrobat & Student
Cecelia Fenwick – Student
Faith Ellis-Jones – Nigel
Brody McCabe – Escapologist & Student

Ella Robson – Cook & Student
Tilly Heatley – Student
Maisy Stinchcombe – Amanda Thripp
Ella Shaw – Lavender
Leah Wolstencroft – Student
Leighvi Harris – Acrobat & Student
Hayley Neill – Student
Backstage/ Stage Hands – **Liani Byrne & Elle Woods**
Director & Choreographer – **Miss Urmson**
Lighting – **Mr James**
Co Director & Sound – **Mr Muscart**
Projection – **Mrs Quinn**

**The whole cast were treated to a well-deserved party.
WELL DONE, EVERYONE!**



YEAR 7 CHRISTMAS CONCERT AND PTA CHRISTMAS MARKETS

Once again, our wonderful PTA hosted our Christmas markets. A variety of stall holders sold every possible Christmas gift imaginable! Thank you to everyone who came and supported this event. **A massive thank you must also go to our PTA members** who go above and beyond to support OBA. Well done also to Year 7 who dared to shine as they participated in our Christmas concert with all funds raised going to Halton Haven Hospice.



HALTON HAVEN

This term we have continued to raise money for Halton Haven Hospice through our Christmas jumper day, Christmas markets and Matilda performance.

Mr Tallant, Cecelia Fenwick, Maisy Stinchcombe, Johnathan-Paul Eves and Jessica Davies and went to the hospice to present staff with the money we raised. They also thanked staff for their hard work and rewarded them with some festive mince pies!

Well done, team OBA!



SANTA DASH SUPERSTAR!

A huge well done also goes to **Demi-Rose Eaton** who took part in Halton Haven's annual Santa Dash event. She raised a staggering £600! What an amazing young lady she is. We are so proud of her.



GIFTS GALLORE!

We would like to say a **HUGE THANKS to OBA staff** for purchasing an extra gift during their Christmas shopping trip so that all of our students have a gift to unwrap this festive season. Our pastoral team have also played a crucial role in this initiative, ensuring that no one goes without. Thank you, everyone!



LIBRARY UPDATE

Once again, it has been a busy half term in the library. We had the Scholastic Book Fair at the end of October which was open to all and Year 7 students had the opportunity to visit during their English lessons. If you missed out – don't worry as it will be returning in March with lots of new titles to choose from. This half term has also seen our "Too many books, so little time" competition and the winner was Oscar in Year 7 who read a grand total of 8 books. We also entered some of our students into a national Christmas Poem competition and wish them good luck – winners will be announced in January. Finally, we are rounding off a great term in the library with a party for our incredible Library Ambassadors. I hope you all have a lovely, peaceful Christmas and get the chance for a quiet few moments to indulge in a book.

Merry Christmas and Merry Reading, Mrs. Rayner



DECK THE BOARDS

Mrs Conway-Russell organised our annual Deck the Boards house competition once again this year. Well done to all forms who entered and congratulations to the winners, **10VDS**. Well done also to **8JBT** who raised a whopping £55 for Peru through the Penny Challenge.

Current house scores:
1st place = Pegasus 15,690 points
2nd place = Draco 13,085
3rd place = Ursa 12,163
4th place = Orion 10,398

STAR POINTS!



Congratulations to students who achieved enough star points this term to be invited to a festive breakfast! They were rewarded for their hard work with hot chocolate (with cream and marshmallows, of course!) muffins, chocolate and cakes. Students were also entered into a raffle for the chance to win an Amazon voucher.

Well done everyone and keep daring to shine!



CHRISTMAS CRAFT WORKSHOP

Year 5 children from **Beechwood Primary School** joined us in the final week of term to participate in a Christmas craft session. Our wonderful Mrs Norton helped them to make some beautiful wreaths and Christmas trees to take home. Well done, Year 5!



ATTENDANCE MATTERS!

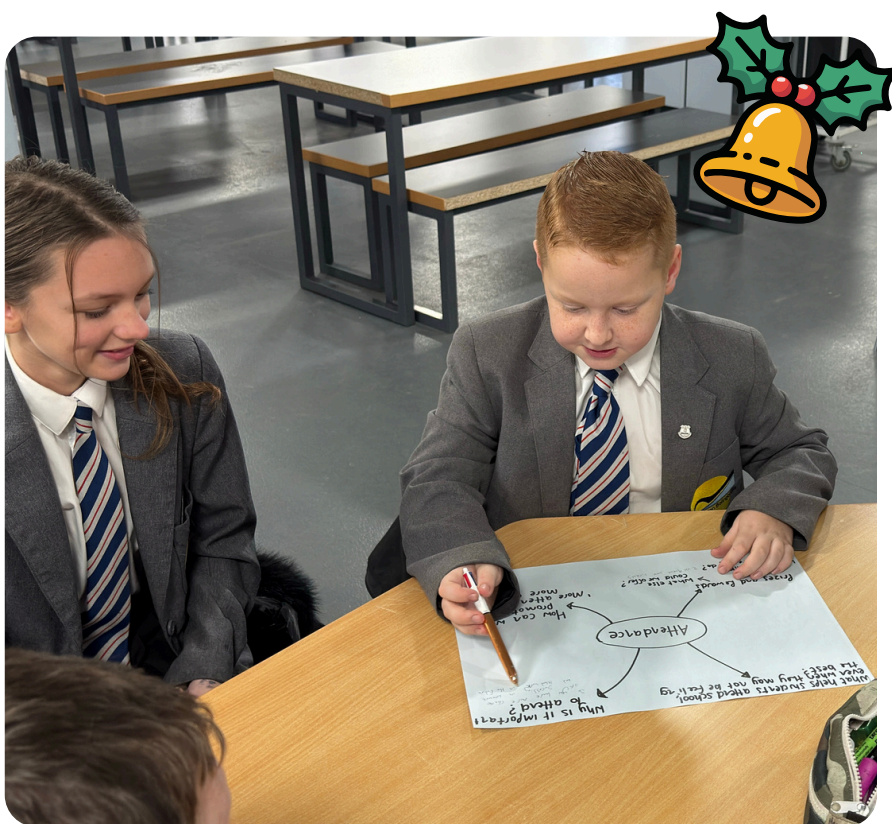
Attendance is a huge priority for all schools, so to support our local primaries, we offered them a Christmas chocolate hamper to present to a student who had improved their attendance this term. Our transition co-ordinator, Helen Andrews, and family early-help co-ordinator, Jane Rostance, delivered hampers to Brookvale Primary, St. Martin's Primary and Gorsewood Primary School. Congratulations to the 3 winning students and keep up your good attendance!



STUDENT PARLIAMENT

This term our student parliament met with Mrs Hasty to discuss mental health, attendance and belonging. Working in teams, they discussed specific questions, reflected on feedback from student voice.

A special mention must go to Rhys Bennett and Tyler Baxter who relayed everyone's ideas to the OAT student voice panel. Congratulations also to Year 7 who came up with some great ideas for promoting enrichment opportunities. Well done for daring to shine, everyone!



YEAR 9 CAREERS IN THE COMMUNITY DAY AT DARESBUURY LABORATORY

Our Year 9 students recently had an incredible opportunity to immerse themselves in the world of cutting-edge science and technology during their Careers in the Community Day at Daresbury Laboratory, delivered in partnership with STFC UKRI and Youth Fed. This visit was designed to connect classroom learning with real-world applications and inspire students to think big about their futures.

Throughout the day we had a fascinating tour of the site, where students explored the historic particle accelerator—a piece of technology that has shaped modern science. They learned about its rich history, its role in global research, and its ground-breaking impact on physics, including the two Nobel Prizes linked to discoveries made at Daresbury. For many, it was a revelation to see world-class science happening so close to home.

Exploring Innovation and Careers

Students were introduced to the range of businesses based at Daresbury, showcasing the diversity of careers available in science, technology, and innovation. From advanced computing to biotech startups, the campus is a hub of creativity and problem-solving. This helped students understand that STEM careers aren't limited to laboratories—they span industries and roles that combine science with design, data, and entrepreneurship.

Technology of the Future

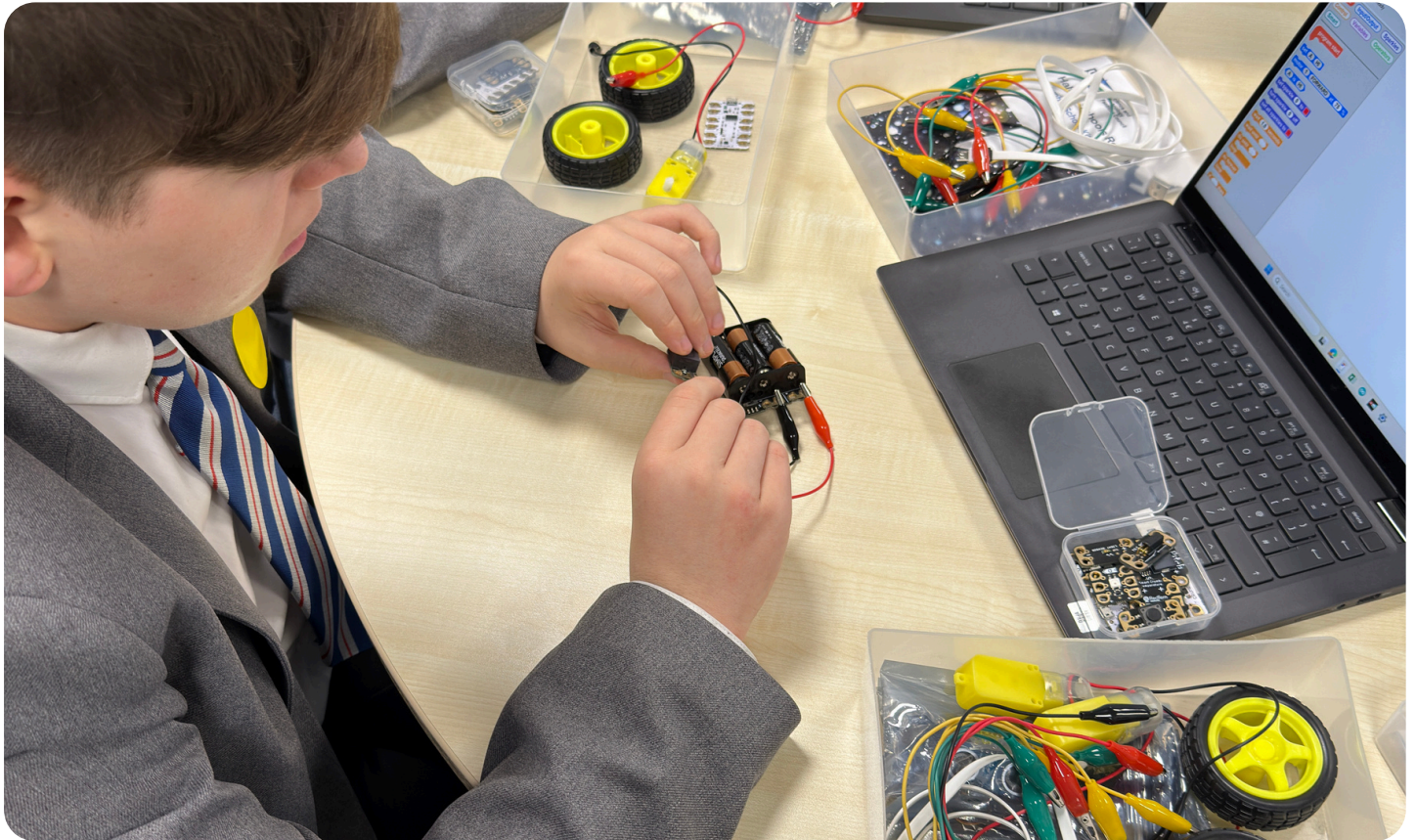
One of the highlights was exploring Virtual Reality (VR) and discovering how it is used in scientific research to model complex systems and solve real-world challenges. Students were amazed by the immersive experience.

The excitement continued as students met Mary Coombs, an Alsupercomputer on site, and engaged in a conversation about artificial intelligence. This was followed by an insightful lecture on AI and its potential dangers, sparking important discussions about ethics, job security, and the future of technology.



Hands-On Learning

The day wasn't just about listening—it was about doing. Students took part in a coding challenge, working with motherboards and programming tasks that linked maths and science to real-world applications.



"The visit linked classroom learning to real-world science and careers in a way that inspired everyone. Students learned about a range of completely new careers right on their doorstep!"

– D.Kenny (Careers Lead)



ORMISTON BOLINGBROKE ACADEMY AWARDED COMPUTING QUALITY MARK



Last but by no means least, we are proud to announce that Ormiston Bolingbroke Academy has been awarded the prestigious Computing Quality Mark, recognising our commitment to delivering outstanding computing education.

This achievement reflects the dedication of our staff and students in creating a dynamic and forward-thinking curriculum that equips learners with the digital skills needed to thrive in an ever-changing world. Through strong partnerships with external experts, including those at Daresbury Laboratories, our students benefit from unique opportunities to experience cutting-edge technology and real-world applications.

Liam Hussey, Curriculum Leader for Computing, said: *“Achieving the Computing Quality Mark is a fantastic milestone for Ormiston Bolingbroke Academy. It reflects our commitment to delivering a dynamic and forward-thinking computing curriculum that equips students with the skills to thrive in a digital world. Through strong partnerships with external experts, including those at Daresbury Laboratories, we provide unique opportunities for our learners to experience cutting-edge technology and real-world applications. This recognition celebrates the hard work of our staff and students and our vision to inspire the next generation of innovators.”*

Mrs Evans, added: “We are delighted to receive the Computing Quality Mark, which recognises the exceptional work happening in our Computing department. This achievement reflects our commitment to providing students with innovative learning experiences and future-ready skills. Partnerships with leading organisations, such as Daresbury Laboratories, ensure our students benefit from real-world expertise and opportunities that inspire ambition and excellence.”

This award demonstrates our ongoing mission to empower students with the knowledge, creativity, and confidence to succeed in a technology-driven future.

