

OBA NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2026

WELCOME FROM THE PRINCIPAL



As we approach the end of a brief but busy term, I am delighted to share some recent news and achievements with you.

We are incredibly proud of our students who performed in OAT's Got Talent. Although they did not win, they are the winners in our eyes and were rewarded with a breakfast. It was also a joy to see so many families supporting our dancers again this year at our annual dance show. Thank you to everyone who joined us, and to the dancers themselves for their courage and dedication. Finally, I hope our Year 11 and 13 students take advantage of the additional revision sessions available over Easter so that they feel confident and fully prepared.

I wish our school community a restful and enjoyable break.

Mrs Evans, Principal

KEY DATES:

- MON 13 APR** - Academy reopens for all year groups
- MON 13 APR** - Practical GCSE and A Level exams begin
- TUES 14 APR** - Y10 mock exam week begins
- MON 4 MAY** - Academy closed for Bank Holiday
- TUES 5 MAY** - GCSE and A Level exams begin
- THURS 14 MAY** - Y9 LaunchPad day with Young Enterprise
- FRI 22 MAY** - Academy closes for half term break
- MON 1 JUN** - Academy reopens for all year groups

SPRING TERM ATTENDANCE:



BEST ATTENDANCE:

Form:

- 1st: **11NRL/AHH**
- 2nd: **7NPE**
- 3rd: **11CGN**
- 4th: **8GRY**
- 5th: **8IMY**

House:

- 1st: **Ursa**
- 2nd: **Pegasus**
- 3rd: **Draco**
- 4th: **Orion**

Year group:

- 1st: **7**
- 2nd: **8**
- 3rd: **11**
- 4th: **9**
- 5th: **10**



JOHN BISHOP INVITES OBA STUDENTS BEHIND THE SCENES AT MEDIACITYUK

Following his visit to OBA last month, comedian, actor and presenter John Bishop invited Sixth Form to MediaCityUK in Salford for a unique behind-the-scenes experience.

During their trip, students toured the renowned Dock10 studios, where they visited the sets of a range of productions, including the new game show *Wisdom of the Crowd* as well as firm favourites like *Match of the Day* and *CBeebies*. They were given exclusive insight into the inner workings of live television, observing sound stages in action and hearing directly from studio managers about the technology and production processes behind major broadcasts.

Students also had the opportunity to take on the role of game show audience members and participants. They were mic'd up, had their photographs taken and joined an audience of around 200 people to take part in a full run-through of *Wisdom of the Crowd*, hosted by John Bishop. Students learned how the show operates, participated in sound checks and used voting pads to contribute to the game, playing a vital role in the only full rehearsal of the series ahead of its Autumn release.

Following filming, he invited the students back onto the main stage for a catch-up, where they reflected on their experience and took a group photo to mark the occasion. The visit provided invaluable insight into the wide range of roles within the media and creative industries, from production and technical operations to on-screen performance.



Students described the trip as eye-opening, with many gaining a new appreciation for the scale of work and collaboration involved in producing television.

Mr Fenner, Head of Sixth Form, said:

“It was an incredible opportunity for our students to go behind the scenes at MediaCityUK and experience the realities of television production first-hand. Following John’s inspiring visit to the academy, this trip brought those conversations to life in a powerful way. Our students gained a real understanding of the breadth of careers available in the media sector and the skills required to succeed. We are hugely grateful to John for making this experience possible.”

Mrs Evans Evans, added:

“This was a truly memorable experience for our students and a fantastic extension of John Bishop’s visit to the academy. Providing meaningful, real-world experiences is central to our commitment to raising aspirations and broadening horizons. Opportunities like this help students to see the many different pathways available to them and inspire them to pursue their ambitions with confidence.”



WORLD BOOK DAY

Once again we celebrated one of our favourite days of the year: World Book Day! Staff dressed up as their favourite character or a word from their subject area.



The day began with a special breakfast for Year 7 students, parents and carers. They read books and talked literature together over breakfast and a brew! This was such a wonderful, family event and it was great to see a grandmother and a 9 month old baby joining in too! Our marvellous librarian, Mrs Rayner also provided students with a free book to take home and enjoy too. Thank you to everyone who joined us!



Children from **Brookvale Primary School** also joined us for World Book Day. Year 4 watched 3 groups of students from Years 8 and 9 present a children's book that they had worked so hard to bring to life. Year 4 voted for their favourite one and it was an incredibly tough choice as they were all so imaginative. However, they finally decided to crown **George, Charlie and Jack** the winners for their book, *Dystopian Danny!* Well done boys! Thank you to our Year 8 and 9 students for the effort they put into their books and for being brave enough to present to 30 people! Finally, thanks for our Sixth Formers who worked with students. Well done Team OBA!



The winning team!



Well done for all your hard work:

- Jessica
- Olivia
- Emilie
- Evie
- Millie
- Theo
- Louie
- Miah
- Amna
- Mollie-Mae
- Daisy
- Ava

Also, a huge thank you goes to Ms Rushton's class who were a pleasure to work with! They sat and watched the presentations with such focus and maturity. We were also incredibly impressed by their own short stories that they created! Well done, Year 4 and we'll see you again soon!



HOUSE OF DANCE - A STUNNING SUCCESS!

On 17th and 18th March, our Dance Department proudly showcased this year's House of Dance performance – and what an unforgettable show it was! With a sell-out audience on both nights, our talented pupils lit up the stage with creativity, confidence and incredible skill. Our Dance staff could not be more proud of every student who took part. Their hard work, commitment and passion for performing truly shone through, making this one of our most exciting shows yet.



A special well done to our award winners:

Heidi – Year 7

Lilly – Year 8

Isabella – Year 9

Adam – Year 10

Caitlin – Year 11

And congratulations to our new **Dance Captain, Grace W – Year 9**

Thank you to all pupils, staff, families and supporters who made the event such a success. We're delighted to share that our students are already planning the next show—and we can't wait to see what they create!



YEAR 9 EXCEL IN STEM PHYSICAL COMPUTING WORKSHOP WITH DARESBUURY LABORATORY

Year 9 students recently took part in an exciting extended STEM Physical Computing Workshop, using the Crumble Kit to explore how coding and electronics combine to solve real-world problems. The day formed part of the Computer Science curriculum and gave students the chance to develop hands-on skills that sit at the heart of modern digital technologies.

Led by specialist educators from Daresbury Laboratory, the workshop introduced students to programmable components, including LEDs, motors, sensors and input switches. Students were challenged to design, build and program working circuits, developing both their technical understanding and their creativity.

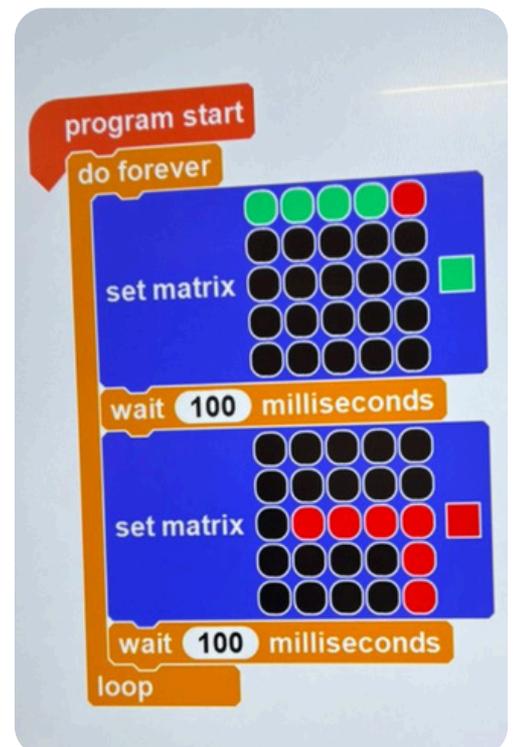
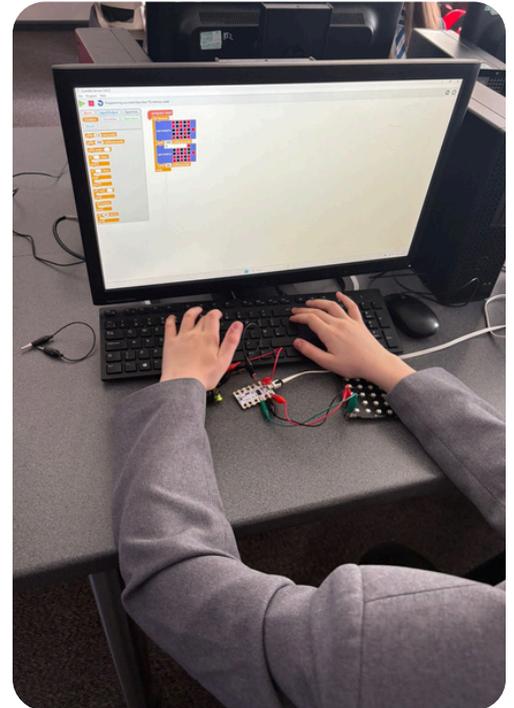
From constructing traffic-light systems to engineering automated devices, students demonstrated outstanding teamwork, resilience and problem-solving. Many commented on how the experience helped them see the real-life applications of Computer Science—and the wide range of careers that STEM pathways can lead to.

The team from Daresbury Laboratory praised the enthusiasm and engagement shown throughout the day, noting the confidence with which students experimented, adapted and improved their designs.

Curriculum Leader of Computing & IT, Mr Hussey said: “It was fantastic to see our Year 9 students immersed in hands-on computing and working with real industry experts. Physical computing brings the subject to life in a way that is both exciting and meaningful, and the students rose to every challenge thrown at them. We are incredibly grateful to Daresbury Laboratory for their support and for helping inspire the next generation of digital innovators.”

The workshop marks another step in OBA’s commitment to delivering engaging, future-focused STEM learning experiences that empower students with the skills, confidence and curiosity needed in the modern digital world.

Well done, Year 9!



YEAR 8 GO BACK IN TIME!

Year 8 students enjoyed an engaging and memorable history trip last week, visiting the Museum of Liverpool and the World Museum. This enriching experience allowed them to deepen their classroom learning by immersing themselves in the history and culture of Liverpool.



During the visit, students stepped back in time to explore life in the Industrial Revolution, including a life-size reconstruction of a Victorian street, which brought the challenges of living in the slums vividly to life. They also developed a stronger understanding of local history, discovering how nearby cities played significant roles in global conflicts such as the First and Second World Wars.

A particular highlight for many was the Ancient Egypt exhibition, where students were fascinated to see real artefacts, including mummified remains dating back over 3,000 years.

Students were a credit to OBA throughout the trip, demonstrating outstanding curiosity, enthusiasm, and a genuine desire to learn more. Well done, Year 8!

