



# OBA SUMMER SCHOOL 2016

## Summer School 2016

Attendance (8<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> August 2016)

	Monday 8 <sup>th</sup>	Tuesday 9 <sup>th</sup>	Wednesday 10 <sup>th</sup>	Thursday 11 <sup>th</sup>	Friday 12 <sup>th</sup>
Morning	108	113	106	104	103
Afternoon	111	113	106	106	105

### Summary

- 63% of the new Year 7 cohort attended Summer School 2016
- 129 children attended in total with over 100 children attending each day for both morning and afternoon sessions.
- 31% of the children who attended are identified as FSM (40 Children in total).
- 61% of our identified nurture group attended summer school.
- 100% of children stated they had enjoyed summer school and all said they would recommend the programme to other children starting at the Academy.
- Total cost of project: £6,250.

### Evaluation

Date: OBA summer school 2016 ran between Monday 12<sup>th</sup> and Friday 16<sup>th</sup> August 2016.

Venue: Activities took place at OBA, Brookvale Recreation Centre and offsite at LA Bowl (Warrington).

Objective: To reduce the dip in academic ability and confidence often generated by the long summer holiday, to boost reading and writing ability, to increase confidence overall about starting secondary school and provide students with the opportunity to create new friendships as well as trying activities they may otherwise not have the chance to do.

Target Group: Activities were advertised to the new Year 7 cohort only. Over the course of the programme a total of 129 different children attended summer school at the Academy.

Funding: This year no government funding was available; previously, £500.00 per FSM student was allocated by the government to run a two-week summer school scheme. OBA recognize the value of a summer school as part of a successful transition process and therefore JRY/MWS allocated £6,000 to enable a programme to take place.

To achieve this, cost cutting was mainly achieved through the following ways:

- One week programme (instead of two weeks).
- Increased in-house activities.

## OBA Summer School 2016- SSG

- Slightly reduced payments for staff.
- Parents provided children with packed lunches.

Approximately £250.00 was spent over-budget. This was due to the following reasons:

- 1) Coach costs (the cost of 3 coaches was £55.00 above that budgeted)
- 2) £149.00 was spent on ingredients for the cooking sessions and also a small selection of snacks. Based on previous experience we bought in a small range of food/drink so that we could provide a snack/lunch to children who didn't have anything (not accounted for in original budget).
- 3) Printing and resources for academic lessons (not accounted for in original budget).

**Timetable:** The programme consisted of academic sessions in the morning and a choice of recreational activities during the afternoon. The children participated in English lessons Monday – Wednesday and Maths lessons on Thursday and Friday. Afternoon activities included the following; dance, drama, cooking, science, ICT, textiles, sports and a trip out to LA Bowl in Warrington.

**Groups:** This year students are in mixed-ability sets for their lessons and therefore this format was largely reflected in the groups for the academic sessions at summer school. We did however group students identified as 'nurture group' candidates together. This enabled smaller groups and increased support for those students most at need academically.

Children chose which activity they wanted to attend in the afternoon and thus the groups were very mixed both ability and gender-wise.

Overall, Summer school 2016 was extremely well represented with an average number of 108 students attending each day. A particular strength this year was that the vast majority of the group attended full days from 9.30am – 3.30pm. This created a strong group dynamic and helped pupils to form bonds with both staff and peers over the course of the week.

**Recruitment:** Advertising the event, issuing information booklets and allowing parents to book their child on to activities at induction evening proved to be an efficient way of raising interest and securing commitment from both parents and students. Following this, a copy of the completed booking form was posted home as confirmation. As in previous years, a note was included on the bottom of the booking form to encourage parents to think carefully about their child's availability to attend sessions in a bid to minimize wasted places. This had a great impact and significantly reduced the number of non-attenders in comparison to former years. The booking forms were an effective way of acquiring parental consent for all activities as well as obtaining an emergency contact number.

**Feedback:** 102 students completed an evaluation form on the last day and **all** stated they had enjoyed summer school and all said they would recommend the programme to other children starting at the Academy.

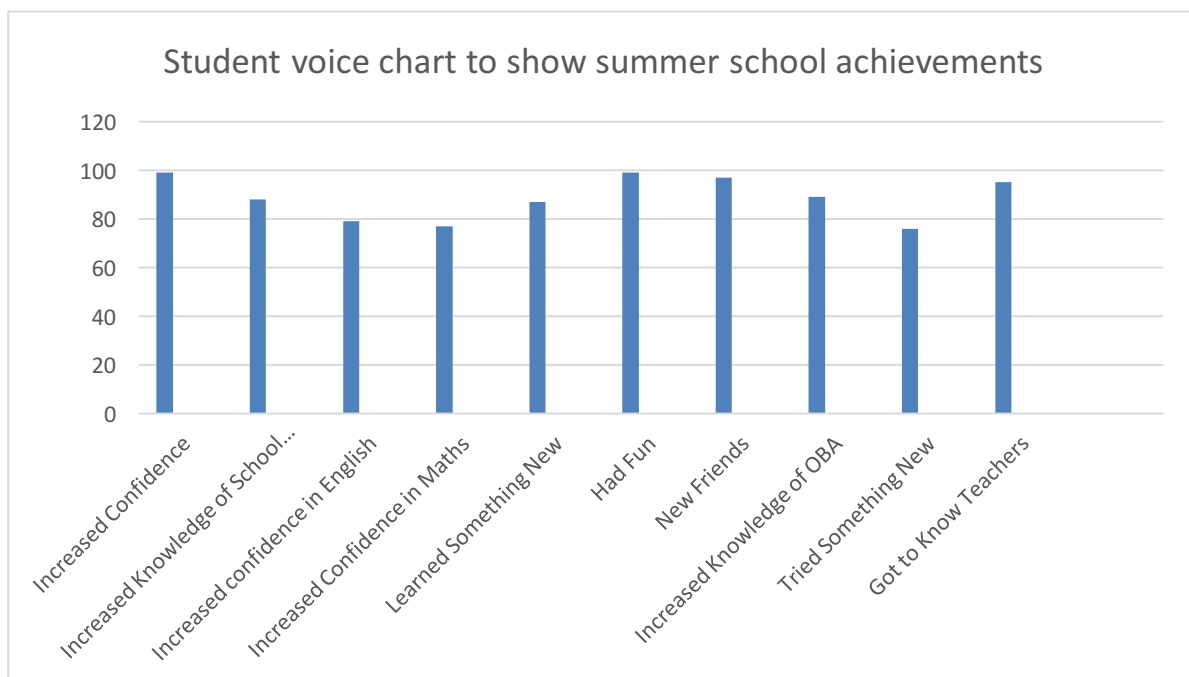
As part of the evaluation form, students were asked what their favourite part of summer school was and below highlights a selection of the most common answers;

- "Just being here, meeting friends and teachers because it was helped a lot."

- “I enjoyed everything!”
- “Maths and Multi-Sports because it was extremely fun”
- “All of it!”
- “The Maths because I love Algebra and how fun the teachers made the lessons.”
- “Cooking because we worked as a team.”
- “The lessons and the afternoon activities because I feel I have improved on everything – even the stuff I hated!”
- “Everything because it’s been amazing!”
- “Making new friends because I know that in September I won’t be alone.”
- “All of summer school because it was all fun!”
- “Multi-Sports because I made lots of new friends.”
- “Making new friends and getting to know people so that we can get along in OBA.”
- “Bowling because we had so much fun and everyone enjoyed it,”
- “Meeting the teachers and other students because when I come to OBA in September I know some teachers.”

As part of the evaluation form students were asked to state what they felt they had achieved from attending summer school and the graph below depicts their answers.

A weighty 97% of students said that they felt more confident about their move to OBA as a result of their experience at summer school.



Impact- English: The aim of the three English Summer School sessions was to develop literacy skills and confidence within the subject. Nationally, it is shown that students' levels tend to regress once they have left Primary school in July and join Secondary school in September. Therefore, we aimed to avoid this 'dip' in progression as they make the transition from Key Stage 2 into Key Stage 3.

We also wanted to nurture and develop the enjoyment of reading and writing through a variety of activities over the sessions. Students read Anthony Browne's 'Voices in the Park' and enjoyed the vivid and imaginative images within the text. They were used to help students analyse deeper meanings about the characters and the plot. Also, students analysed Browne's use of language as well as completing a variety of writing tasks with a strong literacy focus.

The scheme introduced students to the P-E-E format which they need to use when analysing texts. Another main focus was to promote the enjoyment of reading and writing by encouraging creativity as well as nurturing their confidence in their ability.

Tracking progress was a little more complex this year as the current Year 7s have no target grades as yet and the way we assess them is changing. The new levelling for Year 7 uses phrases such as 'emerging, developing and mastered' and as a department we are still figuring out what each of these phrases would look like. Therefore, we all measured achievement by using the old APP grades (level 4 for example) as the new system has not been completely sorted yet. The aim was that all students aim for level 4a as minimum (the classes were mixed), level 6 was the challenge.

The nurture group focused on basic reading and writing skills as they are working significantly below a level 4a.

Impact – Maths: This year's maths summer school session was run as a carousel of six activities that each student would move through completely over the two days. The four basic operations (addition, subtraction, multiplication and division) which are the building blocks of maths were implicit in every session to help prevent lower ability students from losing fluency in these essential skills over the long break. Lesson content at the beginning of a new academic year is often slowed down to accommodate the time it takes students to regain this fluency in skills they possessed before the summer. By reducing the time since they were last asked to exercise these skills we increase the time that can be spent building new skills.

The actual tasks varied and covered all five overarching strands of the KS3 mathematics syllabus, namely ratio and proportion (rice krispy practical), algebra (substitution and solving equations), geometry and measure (alien coordinates mask and angles), statistics and probability (analysing sporting results) and number (all sessions). These tasks all built on their knowledge base from primary school, refreshing basic skills, and were structured to introduce some new concepts through games also. Substitution into multiple term expressions and solving equations will both be covered in depth in year 7 and familiarity with these topics beforehand will give students a head start in developing these skills next term reducing the time it takes them to fully master the topic. Covering topics across all five strands also helped the subject teachers identify any common areas of strength or weakness that may need to be addressed in September.

Being taught by six different maths staff in rooms across the department helped build their

confidence and understanding of how we work as a department hopefully reducing any sense of anxiety they may have about their first lesson in September also.

During the first half-term we will be reviewing the impact of our literacy and numeracy work from summer school with the students who attended.

Future considerations and ideas

- Student's expressed that they would be interested in the following activities being part of the programme in the future: gymnastics, go-karting, ice-skating and swimming.
- Summer School 2017 to be planned early again and booking forms to be completed once again on Induction Evening in July. A copy of each booking form will be posted home with a medical and SEN info form so that parents have confirmation of the activities they have booked.
- 

*"My favourite part of summer school was making new friends and getting to know new people. I loved every minute of it!"*

**Ruby Dawson**

*"My favourite part of summer school was the lessons and the afternoon activities because I feel like I have improved on everything – even the stuff I hated."*

**Paul Owen**

*"My favourite part of summer school was the dance class as I have never really done it before and now I am going to do it a lot more when I start at OBA!"*

**Letiesha Svenson**

*"All of it was fun and everyone was kind and the teachers and staff were very helpful."*

**Layla Carson**

*"My favourite part of summer school was Maths as the teachers helped me to understand a bit more."*

**Lois Thompson**

*"My favourite part of summer school was the morning classes because they are fun and educational!"*

