

A Message From Our Principal



Dear families and friends of OBA,

It was fantastic to welcome so many Year 11 students and parents to our 'Sixth Form application and revision workshop' this week. This really emphasised the strong partnership we have between the Academy and home in supporting our youngsters. There was a real sense of purpose as we outlined the forthcoming application process for Sixth Form and everyone left with some great tips on how to help students with preparation for exams.

In other news, a range of our table tennis teams enjoyed considerable success in the Cheshire Inter-School Table Tennis Championships. The under 16 girls claimed fourth place, our under 13 boys reached the semi-finals and the under 19 boys narrowly missed the top spot in second place. We must congratulate the students and their coach Mr Daniels on these wonderful achievements.

We literally got a glimpse into the future of technology as we were selected to trial the new virtual reality 'Googlebox' headsets. A range of classes were given access to these and were able to virtually explore locations around the globe. Science fiction is really now just science!

Finally, it was an honour on Remembrance Day to commemorate the many people who laid down their lives in Word War 1 so that we could enjoy liberty and democracy today.

Best wishes

Mr. M Wyss - Academy Principal

Pupils Lead The Way On Sporting Activities

10 of our Yr 8/9 students took part in the Youth Sport Trust Peer Leaders course in September. The aim of the programme is to increase participation in those students who are not meeting the guidelines of 60 minutes a day activity.

The programme aims to engage those students through using their peers to lead them during simple activity. The peer leaders that have been trained and are excited to lead this fun programme to Year 7's are Charlotte Allen, Alex Bolton, Ellie Dyson, Taylor Briathewaite, Jessica Keggins, Alex Caddick, Levi Gumbs, Elais Gumbs and Tom Hopwood.

The peer leaders have started leading sporting activities during tutor time on Tuesday. After 3 weeks they will move these sessions to after school and build up the activity time as they lead the session. So far we have had 70 Year 7's raising their heart rates and having fun each Tuesday. A massive success for our leaders so far.



YOUTH SPORT TRUST

Pupils Travel The World On 'Google Cardboard Expedition'



On Thursday 12th November OBA was part of the Google Expeditions Pioneer Project to bring low cost virtual reality expeditions into the classroom. Pupils were provided with a mobile phone and specially designed cardboard box which allowed them to have a panoramic view of some of the most fascinating locations around the world and beyond.

As well as being an exciting visual experience, pupils were able to engage with content related to their lessons that they wouldn't otherwise be able to.

Of the 21 classes taking part, Miss Hanson took her Science class to explore Mars, the Maths department used Pythagoras' theorem to study the London Eye, Mr Hendry took his Year 7 class to the American Museum of Natural History and Miss McKeivitt's Drama class experienced the Verona, the set of Romeo and Juliet.

For anyone interested in trying out the experience themselves, search online for "Google Cardboard" and prepare to be amazed.



Miss Zhao Reports: Chinese group donates statue of Ming the Giant Panda to ZSL London Zoo

Chinese companies and official groups joined together to create and donate to ZSL London Zoo a statue of Ming, a giant panda who lived in the UK from 1938 to 1944 and became a symbol of hope for the children of London during the World War II bombing blitz.

The statue, standing 1,6 metres high, was made by a group of artists in Sichuan and shipped to ZSL London Zoo to be installed for today's ceremony.



Ming, the first giant panda ever seen in the UK, divided her time between London Zoo and ZSL's other establishment, ZSL Whipsnade Zoo about 40 miles from London. She quickly became a celebrity and amongst the children who flocked to see her were Princess Elizabeth, now the UK's monarch, and her sister Princess Margaret.

"Today we are here to unveil the statue of Ming. This has a special meaning – Ming was named after a Chinese dynasty, but also means Brightness in Mandarin" said Guo Weimin, Deputy Director of China's State Council Information Office.

"This is to promote China-UK friendship and communication. Ming will continue to bring joy and happiness to London," he added.

London's Mayor Boris Johnson sent a message to the people attending the unveiling, saying: "I am pleased to hear China Daily is staging an event during the state visit (of President Xi Jinping) to encourage tourism and cultural exchange to the capital. I look forward to welcoming more visitors, students and businesses from China to our great city."



On 11.11 in the UK, people always do the 2 minutes silence to memorize the soldiers in World War I. What will Chinese do on that day? Actually, we call it the Single Day, The day is also referred to as Double Eleven because of its date. It has become the biggest online shopping event in recent years because of the Chinese online shopping web site Taobao, which belongs to the Alibaba Group. I really love shopping on Taobao when I was in China. This year E-commerce giant Alibaba has broken its own record for sales on China's Singles Day.

By the close of trade, the site had seen sales worth 91.2billion yuan, equals approximately 9.12 billion pounds, a 60% increase from last year. In comparison, sales on Cyber Monday, which is the biggest online shopping day in the US, hit \$1.35b, according to data analytics firm ComScore. The reaction to China's Singles Day shopping bonanza reflects the drama and excitement of China's capitalist holiday.

"I wanted two different coats, but they both sold out in the first three minutes of the sale!", complained one young woman online. "I spent 2,000RMB last night (207pounds)" exclaimed another. "Now I'm going to have to eat dirt if I'm hungry because I'm broke!"

As a result, the express companies become very busy. It predicts that 1.7 million couriers, 400,000 vehicles and 200 planes will be making deliveries of products that range from electronics goods to cosmetics.

China's Alibaba breaks Singles record as surge