

## A Message From Our Principal



Dear families and friends of OBA,

As you know, one of our Academy's specialisms is English with Literacy so any showcase events that celebrate this are key dates in our calendar. Last week we fully promoted National Poetry Day, with a range of activities. Staff gave readings of their favourite poems to groups of students, all based on this year's theme 'Light'. We were also very lucky to host another visit from hip-hop performance poet Levi Tafari. Mr Tafari is one of our house patrons and it is always a joy to welcome him here. He presented some of his most popular poems to our students; these all have a real focus on celebrating cultural and racial diversity.

Next week is a busy week for the Academy, with our Sixth Form Open Evening taking place next Thursday from 6:00pm to 8:30pm. Please do come along and meet our staff to see the many exciting courses and opportunities we have on offer for prospective A Level students.

Finally, we are all set for our annual Ormiston Academy review next Thursday and Friday. This matches the process of a full Ofsted inspection and gives us a fantastic chance to review our progress and further confirm those areas that we still need to develop. I look forward to sharing the outcomes of the review with you.

Best wishes

*Mr. M Wyss - Academy Principal*

## Levi Tafari Visits OBA For National Poetry Day

This year's National Poetry Day at OBA has once again been a huge success.

It was smiles all round when special guest and house patron, Levi Tafari, started the ball rolling on Wednesday 7th October, running workshops with Years 7, 8, 9 and 10. The pupils chosen to take part were an absolute credit to the school and Levi Tafari asked at the end of the day if he could come back and visit us again in the future! The pupils, staff and Levi all thoroughly enjoyed themselves.

On Thursday 8th October, Year 7 and 8 pupils, were taken into the library and various teachers, from across various subjects, came and read some of their favourite poems to the pupils. Some of our brave students even got up and had a go themselves. In lessons, Year 9 and 10 pupils were writing their own poems about Runcorn and what it means to them. Judging by the standard of their work we definitely have some poets in the making!

Overall, the two days were brilliant, enjoyed by all involved and there was a great buzz around the academy.



# Year 9 Pupils Enter Dragon's Den

On Wednesday 7th October, a group of OBA students put their business skills to the test when they entered the Dragons' Den. OBA have had three previous teams enter the competition run by Manchester airport, which asks for a team of young entrepreneurs to develop a product with a Christmas theme to sell and raise money for charity. There are around thirty schools from the North West that enter the competition. This year, we are determined to win!



This year's team are determined to succeed further, so have looked at what the previous teams did well and what they could improve on. They have designed a range of Laserply Christmas tree decorations, which can be personalised and can also double up as gift tags for Christmas presents. The decorations consist of different things such as Christmas stockings, snowmen, reindeers and robins for the Christmas period.

The team is headed by Tom Hopwood, who is managing director and includes Charlotte Allan, head of production and Grace Scott, Beth Howard and Anna Ng who are in charge of finance and sales.

As well as winning the competition, the team's main goal is to raise as much profit to give to their chosen charity Hope House. Hope House specialises in nursing care and support to life limited children, young people and young adults from Shropshire, Cheshire and North and Mid Wales. Their support extends to whole family, from diagnosis throughout the lifetime of the child and beyond. We hope that with the funds we raise we could help make a difference to a child's life.



Please support us in raising as much money as possible for this fantastic charity by purchasing one or two (or even a whole Christmas tree full!) of our products!

