

## A Message From Our Principal



Dear families and friends of OBA,

You will once again enjoy reading about some fantastic sporting and artistic success in this newsletter! We are very passionate about our students having these opportunities to excel in areas beyond academic success. So much of what we are working on together is to prepare them for exciting future lives, but it is important to also recognise that they need to have fun and achieve today.

There is also an article about our work to eradicate homophobic bullying via our recent 'Tolerance' day. The Academy continues to fight against all forms of bullying and prejudice in society.

We have also this week once gain been awarded with the Inclusion Quality Mark, of which I will share further details in next week's newsletter, but suffice to say that I am extremely proud of our inclusive and welcoming community.

Best wishes and enjoy the sunshine.

*Mr. M Wyss - Academy Principal*

Artistic Success For Both Students And Staff



OBA

Here at OBA we would like to say a huge congratulations to Art and Photography Teacher Miss Holmes on her recent success in the Halton Open Art Competition.

Miss Holmes scooped first place with her amazing piece encompassing 9 photographs, as well as this amazing achievement Year 9 pupil Stephanie Cullen scooped first prize in the Halton Dot-Art competition.

We would like to congratulate Stephanie on this amazing achievement and wish her the best of luck in the next stage of the competition.



# UPCOMING EVENTS

Music Summer Showcases—17th & 18th June	Year 6 Transition Day/s—6th & 7th July
Year 8 Parents' Evening 2nd July —School closes at 2:30pm	Sports Day—2nd July
Year 7 Parents' Evening 8th July —School closes at 2:30pm	Summer Fete—10th July

## Former Apprentice Contestant Visits OBA To Challenge Attitudes and Change Views

We recognise that promoting tolerance is a priority for our learners as homophobic bullying, stereotyping and other preconceived ideas can cause much pain and suffering. Therefore, students were able to benefit from learning about real life experiences.

Sanjay Sood-Smith delivered two very compelling and emotionally challenging assemblies to Year 9 and Year 10 students, sharing his experiences of growing up and recognising his own sexuality as a gay man.

He very openly described the impact that sharing his sexuality had for his parents and his friends and also some of the difficulties he has faced from others who have been less tolerant.

A powerful statement, **'If you asked me to define who I am in three words, gay would not be one of them'**. In these few words, Sanjay is open about his sexuality but does not believe that being gay has made him who he is or will define what he hopes to achieve.

Sanjay appeared on television as a contestant in last season's The Apprentice on the BBC and is a champion for Stonewall, a charitable organization campaigning against homophobic bullying.



## Word Of The Week—MILESTONE

**mile-stone** (mīl'stōn') - **PART OF SPEECH/DEFINITION:**

**NOUN:** 1. a significant event in life, history, etc

**SENTENCE:** He felt on top of the world, once he reached his milestone.

Achieving Mile Stone



## The Running Man—Book Review by Thomas Sheehy-Jamieson

The novel 'The Running Man' was written by famous author Steven King in 1982. It was also adapted into a film for the 1987 film 'The Running Man' but in this review I will discuss the original book.

The novel's protagonist is a poor but rather intelligent man who embarks on a thrilling journey, with the goal of saving the life of his dying daughter. In this dystopian novel the government controls the nation with a series of murderous game shows, the most notorious being the Running Man. The goal of the gameshow is to survive as long as possible and for each day survived the contestant (he or she) will receive a sum of money. The protagonist, Ben Richards, endures an excessive amount of tests before being accepted into the games when he is allowed into the gameshow, he attempts to survive through: disguising himself, traveling around the country and holding a hostage captive.

Ben Richards is a defiant citizen who is worried about the future of his family, throughout the book Ben is completely faithful to his wife. I feel that Ben possesses a deep hostility towards women, for example, the women in the test room is insulted repeatedly by Ben and the subjects of his insults were aimed at her sex. I feel that Ben thinks all women are sexual objects (objects that he has no interest in) apart from his wife and daughter.

The Book has thrilling and captivating from start to finish, with a sudden and unexpected end. Towards the end of the book I saw Ben as a deceptive being, who would do all in his power to live one more day. He was taken over by greed and the desire to ensure the survival of his family so much so that he is no longer capable of basic empathy or compassion for other human beings.

To conclude, it was amazing and I thoroughly enjoyed every word of this riveting novel. The book is relatable in terms of the fear felt by Ben for his family. The book is extremely well written. I look forward to reading more masterpieces by Steven King.

