



A Message From Our Principal

Dear families and friends of OBA,

The highlight this week has undoubtedly been our World Book Day celebrations. Mrs Johnson's visionary organisation saw the Academy's Learning Street decorated with book-themed posters, hangings and soft furnishings.

These were in place for reading activities with pupils from our family of primary schools that were led by our students and staff. Other students took part in a creative writing workshop, whilst our star guest was famous children's writer Melvyn Burgess. He spoke to students about his life, career and ambitions, as well as reading excerpts from some of his novels.

The wonderful buzz around the Academy was also heightened by the many teachers and staff who donated money to 'Book Aid' to dress up as characters from books; these ranged from Frankenstein's monster, Alex from 'A Clockwork Orange', to many of the characters from 'Harry Potter' and 'Game of Thrones'.

Literacy is one of our Academy specialisms and reading is at the heart of this. Mrs Johnson did a superb job in leading OBA to celebrate the joy of reading. I hope that many of our students came home after the day, ready to grab a book and lose themselves in the power of writing.

Also this week our Year 10 students have been undertaking their mock examinations and many of our Year 11's received some excellent results for their examined units in ICT, Creative iMedia, Leisure & Tourism and Science.

Well done and keep the momentum going!

Best wishes.

Mr. M Wyss - Academy Principal

Dance Pupils Boost Grades At Residential

Year 11 GCSE dance students along with some Year 9 GCSE dance students attended an overnight residential to Menai Conway Centre.

At the residential, students worked through Friday evening and Saturday to work on their dance performances and choreographies ready for their upcoming exam.

Miss Roper and Miss Johnson who led the residential said; "The students worked really hard and have shown great improvement!

Good luck for your exam dancers!"



Year 9 Pupils Perform At The Brindley

On Thursday 26th February our Year 9 GCSE Drama and Expressive Arts students took to the stage at The Brindley Theatre in Runcorn, to perform in front of a packed theatre, in their first practical piece: "Future Past: A world at War".

Both groups took to the stage alongside pupils from our sister school, Ormiston Chadwick Academy and were met with a fantastic applause at curtain call, acknowledging all their hard work and dedication throughout the rehearsal period and in the run up to the performance. A big well done to all involved and who took part. Also a huge thank you to Mr O'Toole, Mr Mogg and all the staff at The Brindley Theatre for making their first performance such a success!

Olympic Boxer Provides Inspiration To Students

On Thursday 26th February we held our 4th Sky Sports Living for Sport day. We were incredibly lucky to have Olympic boxer Courtney Fry in to work with our students. Courtney competed in the Kuala Lumpur Commonwealth games, where he won Gold in the light heavyweight category, he also competed in the Sydney 2000 Olympic Games. Courtney delivered a 3 hour session to a group of Year 10 sports leaders who all thoroughly enjoyed themselves and learnt a lot. They participated in and led games that helped them develop their communication and leadership skills, alongside allowing them to plan ahead and strengthen their mental toughness. He also spoke to the students about his path to success with the clear message that ultimately hard work brings success. In the afternoon Courtney then delivered a boxing taster session to a reward group of girls and boys. They developed technique and had a chance to participate in some of the drills and games Courtney does himself in practice. The students enjoyed having a chance to spar with each other and learnt quickly that reactions are so important in boxing. Courtney was excellent with all groups and really encouraged them to do their best. There was even chance for some autographs at the end! Well done to all who took part.



Year 7 Pupils Take Part In Interform Rowing

Throughout the whole of last term, over 80 students in Year 7 have had a chance to try indoor rowing. Working in the school fitness suite they have all developed the skills and knowledge necessary to row safely on the indoor rowing machines.

During the sessions they had to work together to complete different challenges and coach each other to help improve technique. At the end of the session all students set themselves a target for the 500m challenge, and I'm really pleased to say that most students met their target. I was really impressed with the attitude of Year 7 during the sessions, they all had a positive mind-set and all managed to achieve.

The pinnacle of the sessions was the interform rowing competition that took place in the last week of the term. It was a really good event with 25 students involved. They all competed in a time trial, a distance trial and a team challenge. It was very close but Nickson were the overall champions, Wilson were second, with Browne house third, Tafari took 4th place and Miss Taylor's Cottrell Boyce bought up the rear in 5th place. Massive well done to all who took part in the rowing taster sessions! Year 7 Rowing enrichment will start after Easter, speak to Miss Belford to get your place. Well done to everyone who took part!



Swimming Enrichment Update

Swimming enrichment runs every Tuesday from 3-4pm in the Brookvale recreation centre. It is open to all year groups and is completely free. We are using a system called swimtag that tracks how far you swim, how many lengths you do, rest time, strokes done and the students are really enjoying looking at their data online. It is not all about swimming, we also play fun games and are learning how to play water polo.

Next term we are holding a school swimathon to raise money for Marie Curie Cancer Care. Students can challenge themselves to complete either 10, 25, 50 or 100 lengths with all money raised from sponsorship going to charity. If you want to get involved you need to get a sign up sheet from Miss Belford. Thank you and keep up the good work at swimming enrichment!