



## A Message From Our Principal

Dear families and friends of OBA,

I am delighted to confirm that the Academy now formally has a third specialism in Mathematics (alongside Applied Learning and English & Literacy). This week saw the SSAT (The Schools Network) award OBA with the Specialist Quality Mark for Mathematics at the top grade of 'Leading & Transforming'. We already know that we have fantastic Maths teachers and results, but this award also recognises our work with other secondary and primary schools, as well as across other subject areas in the Academy. More importantly, the award opens the doors for our students and staff to gain even further experiences and opportunities with Maths. Congratulations to Mr. Hall, our Teaching & Learning Coordinator who led the award bid, the whole Maths team and all the students and staff who contributed to this great achievement.

Year 11 students collected their mock examination results on Thursday. On the whole, most were encouraged by their achievements and are pleased with their progress towards the real exams in the summer. Some know that they just need to push themselves a little harder to plan and undertake their revision to be even more effective. Parents of Year 11 students are also reminded about next Tuesday's Parents' Evening. You will also receive a letter outlining the schedule of revision workshops taking place over the upcoming half-term holiday and also guidance on how to help your child prepare for their English speaking and listening presentation, which is worth a whole 20% of their final English GCSE grade.

Please follow this link for Year 11 enrichment schedules, key dates, the examination timetable and revision tips:

<http://www.ormistonbolingbrokeacademy.co.uk/parents/year-11-examination-preparation>

Best wishes.

*Mr. M Wyss - Academy Principal*

## Jack The Giant Slayer!

We know our students at OBA achieve incredible things: yet again, having the best GCSE results of all Runcorn schools being one of them. This year's year 11 students have, of course, taken up the mantle and are working hard to keep up this proud tradition in 2015.

We also know that such success does not just happen overnight. The hard work begins in year 7 and the momentum builds as the students progress through the school. This term, OBA's incredible Accelerated Reader programme has been re-vamped and a heightened element of competition has been introduced by Miss Styles. Each class is valiantly competing against every other class in the school to see which will read the most books this term.

This month's results are in and they have thrown up a surprise. Who would have thought that a year 7 student could beat the brain-boxes in all the other years for the number of books read in one month? Well, after close analysis of the January data, it appears that Jack Porter (7KRR/JSM) has done just that! He has read and passed quizzes on a mind-boggling 35 books in one month alone!

Keep it up, Jack, your future success is written in the stars!



# OBA Awarded Specialist Maths Status

On 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2015 The academy Maths department welcomed an assessor from the Specialist Schools and Academies Trust. The assessor was evaluating whether Mathematics in the academy was at a standard where it could be declared a specialism. The assessor was extremely happy with everything he saw and at the end of the visit confirmed that we had achieved the specialist award at the highest possible standard of "Leading and Transforming". This adds to our specialism of English and Applied-Learning.



This Specialism celebrates the outstanding work that has been carried out in OBA Mathematics over the last few years and the assessor highlighted four strengths that he felt set us apart from other schools and academies. The strengths that will form part of the formal letter from the SSAT were;

- Very strong Teaching and Learning in Mathematics, substantiated by excellent student attainment and progress, results from embedded strategies such as 'Gap Learning' which provides students with the information and appropriate support they need to improve.
- The vast array of enrichment activities provided by the school is strongly supported by the Mathematics team who offer bespoke, focussed support to students throughout the week, on Saturdays and during holidays too.
- The cross curricular nature of Mathematics is encouraged by the Department's strong involvement in the direction and management of Teaching and Learning across the school and through its capacity to share, coach and model best practice.
- Student attainment and progress is above national average and there are no gaps in performance for all groups of students, this is made possible by the department ethos of "No Child Left Behind!"

To be recognised for the fantastic work we have been doing is a wonderful achievement and this is an award that is challenging to attain. Mr Barry (Head of Maths) said "Being recognised for all the innovative and cutting edge practice that we have developed over our time as OBA is a credit to all the Maths Department and students at OBA. Going forward this will help us to be able to keep delivering and developing the kind of Maths education that really makes a difference to our students and has seen us go from strength to strength."

In true OBA fashion we are not resting having achieved the award and already have identified things we will be delivering in the future as a result of this. The key one is that we are going to;

- Broaden an already very successful Partner school involvement by supporting parents, families, and local business in further developing mathematical skills, whilst also promoting the school's productive teaching and learning strategies through regional and national networks.

As the leader of the bid it has been a privilege to look over all the work the Maths team has done over the years and without our fantastic students this wouldn't have been possible. The assessor sang the praise of every student he met on the corridor and once again we made a positive impression on people coming into the school. Well done to our whole school community. If anyone wants any more information about the specialism or would like to be involved in our next steps on our journey please contact Mr Hall.