



A Message From Our Principal

Dear families and friends of OBA,

It is great to see Year 11 approaching their mock examinations this week on such a mature and focused manner. This will stand them in great stead for the summer exam period for which they are preparing so well for. We have great faith in you Year 11, keep up with all your positivity!

We have had some wonderful news about one of our Year 11 students, Emily Burkey, one of our keen rowers who is a member of the British Rowing Association and was recently part of the winning J16 quad who now hold the Northern Champions title. Emily and her team have been invited to compete at the Olympic rowing lake at Dorney in March. This is a fantastic achievement and we are delighted that she got her first taste of rowing at one of our enrichment sessions led by Miss McAuliffe. I look forward to sharing a full report of the event with you next half term.

OBA is also extremely proud of its talented Year 9 artists whose creative work on the theme of personal identity is on display at The Brindley Arts Centre as part of the 'Inspired Responses' exhibition which runs until February 21st. This work will form an important element of their final GCSE portfolios. I urge you to pop in and see for yourselves!

As you can see, there continues to be lots that we are proud of here at OBA.

Mr. M Wyss - Academy Principal

Year 9 GCSE Artwork on Display At The Brindley

A group of Year 9 GCSE Art pupils currently have some stunning artwork on Display at The Brindley Arts Centre. Their teacher Miss Holmes reports on their journey from ideas to exhibition;

Our Year 9 GCSE Art students had just started to explore their creative personalities with an identity based project when they were introduced to an exciting opportunity to work with Cathy Rounthwaite and participate in the Brindley's annual Inspired Responses exhibition.

Cathy and I spent a good deal of time discussing ideas and concepts particularly around the students' project on Identity and how it would be a great experience for them to explore new techniques through print-making. From this, Cathy came in to speak to the group and we got started with preparing our plates and backgrounds based on her work for an upcoming morning at Hazlehurst Studios, this is where students could really get involved with collograph printing.



Over the course of the initial session, it was clear to see that the students couldn't wait to get stuck in with the morning that we had planned and to get going with their ideas, all stemming from a printed sock that Cathy had brought in! Who knew that this would produce an ambush of prints over the remaining workshops!

Hazlehurst Studios morning arrived and our students (and mini bus) were fully loaded up with personal possessions, prepared plates, backgrounds, hot chocolate and anything deemed printable for the busy session ahead. Over the course of the morning, students relished in the fact that they could produce masses of work, simply by inking up their plates and personal possessions and recreating them in print format using the rolling press. For some students, they produced a series of high quality prints from 'exploding shoes' and baby garments. Others experimented with extracting images from 3D objects like skulls and shoes which could later be developed with stitch. (Continues Over.....)

Continued...Year 9 GCSE Artwork On Display At The Brindley

.... Needless to say, it was certainly a messy day with students sporting war type paint from the ink at the end of the session and waving large scale prints around, but the quality and sheer amount of work was fantastic! Students thoroughly enjoyed their time with Cathy and learning about collograph printing so much so that she invited us all back for a further session to finish everything off ready for the exhibition.

The follow up session certainly allowed those students who attended to really make an impact on their GCSE portfolios, with more experimental prints being produced for example garments including an art apron, jumpers and blouses. There was a sense of magic and excitement during these sessions, particularly from the students as they could see how their ideas were unfolding. Also, something that started out as an excited 'ok, let's just try it out and see what it does' approach between Cathy and I to the actual final outcomes, really is a testament to the Brindley's Inspired Responses programme and to what has been an inspiring creative journey for all involved. We certainly hope to work with Cathy and the Brindley team in the near future with future projects.

Sixth Form Pupils Visit Berlin

In the final week of term before the Christmas break a group of our A Level History Pupils visited Berlin where they had a very thought provoking experience. Miss Pauline reports on their Visit;

After a long day in OBA, in the last week of term before the Christmas holidays, four dedicated Sixth Form historians set off to the airport to fly to Berlin. Arriving in the city late Monday night, the group explored the Eastern Part of the city to sample some quintessentially German cuisine- they soon opted for pizza! The next morning, the students travelled to Sachsenhausen concentration camp, on the outskirts of the city. The students were reflective of the horrors with which the Nazis and the Soviets inflicted on their opponents. The harsh reality of war and human sacrifice was prevalent amongst the vast, bleak expanse. Later that night, the students visited the famous German markets, sampling German bratwurst and purchasing presents for their loved ones (after Ryan Walker had decimated several baubles in the process).

The next day, the group rose out of their rooms (once Nicola Seddon had blow dried her hair and accessorised her Topshop boots accordingly) and took to exploring the city. We explored the Reichstag, the German Parliament. Not only were the pupils able to learn about German politics and the history of the building, but they also enjoyed the historical significance of the building in German history. The students then walked to

the many other attractions of Berlin- the Jewish memorial, Hitler's Bunker, Alexander Platz, and of course the remnants of the Berlin Wall. At this point the sixth formers were 'exhausted' and couldn't possibly carry on walking, although, Mr. Parkinson, nearing the age of retirement, (sorry) was eager to explore further.

Frequent stops were made at MacDonal's to recharge their brains and feet and also take advantage of the free Wi-Fi!

The second day was particularly action-packed, (more walking- as stated by the group, especially Kenniann) starting with a walking tour of Berlin that included sights such as the Brandenburg Gate, Checkpoint Charlie and the Topography of Terror. From here, we crossed the city to the Stasi Museum, a museum dedicated to State Security in East Germany due to the Cold War, and particularly interesting for those with an interest in Stalin! The evening allowed for some down time, with a meal at Hackescher markt and exploring a new Christmas Market, Gendarmenmarkt, an idyllic backdrop surrounded by the historical Royal Opera and public library- however our sixth form disapproved of the smell of cheese. We walked (again!) back to the hotel, with numerous trips to Macdonald's on the way for more Wi-Fi opportunities and also for Ryan to achieve a feat never before witnessed by any mere mortals- consuming, no less than seven beef burgers in under six hours! Back at the hotel it was decided that a pool competition must be held- who would hold sixth form history's best at pool award? Needless to say Elliott Collins struggled to keep his eyes open and Mr. Parkinson triumphed!

The final day began with a trip to see more of the Wall and explore the districts of Kurfurstendamm and Fredrickstrasse, just leaving enough time to return to the city centre before the train transfer back to the airport. By the time the pupils landed back in Liverpool, they were very tired but had thoroughly enjoyed their visit to one of the most historically fascinating cities in Europe.

A huge thank-you must go to Mr. Parkinson as tour guide and chief organiser and to Mr. Rigby for sponsoring the students to learn outside the classroom.

