

A Message From Our Principal



Dear families and friends of OBA,

It is my pleasure to update you on events at the Academy for the first time in 2015!

We ended 2014 on a thrilling high; on Monday 15th December our Year 7 students enjoyed a craft and enterprise day where they designed, budgeted for and produced items for our Christmas Market.

Years 8 to 11 took part in a range of activities in Tuesday's ECM Day; these included sessions on alcohol awareness and road safety. This was followed by OBA's stunning Christmas Market extravaganza on Tuesday evening. It featured lots of stalls selling Christmas gifts, food and drink, reindeer, an ice rink and performances by our choirs and musicians.

Hundreds of members of the school and local communities attended and helped to make this first Christmas Market a huge success and set the benchmark for future years!

A huge thank you to Mrs. Snagg who arranged this so superbly.

On Thursday 18th December I was delighted to attend the official opening of our sister Academy, Ormiston Chadwick in Widnes. We look forward to continuing our great partnership together.

The staff also played Year 11 in a charity 'Christmas Truce' football match in remembrance of the famous World War 1 game. The staff won although Year 11 are already plotting their revenge!

Finally, the whole Academy enjoyed celebration assemblies on Friday 19th and broke up for the Christmas holiday with a real sense of satisfaction about a great term's work.

I hope you all had a very peaceful Christmas and wish you a prosperous New Year.

Best wishes

Mr. M Wyss - Academy Principal

Staff and Pupils Call A 'Truce' For Charity Football Match



On Thursday 18th December two staff teams took on two teams of Year 11 pupils in a charity football match. The game was inspired by the famous football match played on the battlefields of World War One when English and German troops called a truce on Christmas Day.

Players were encouraged to wear the shirt of their rival football team in keeping of the spirit of the game.

After some very close games eventually the PE staff team remained undefeated and took the championship title.

Well done to all involved!



6th Form Pupils Take Part In Mediation Training

A group of OBA's 6th form students took part in a mediation training session at the Liverpool headquarters of Hill Dickinson Solicitors on 29th November 2014. The day was sponsored and hosted by Hill Dickinson's school's team in Association with TalkingWorks.

TalkingWorks trains sixth form students in mediation skills through role-plays and interactive exercises. The one day session was coordinated by lead trainer Jackie Miller, assisted by Robert Still and a team of professional mediators.

David Rawlinson, Head of Hill Dickinson's schools' team and an accredited mediator, commented: "We are delighted to sponsor this mediation session in association with TalkingWorks. The training is excellent in giving students new skills with which to explore the resolution of internal school disputes and take into their future education and employment environments. It gives them the mind set to approach conflicts and disputes in later life, in a different and less confrontational way."

Miss Scriven, Law teacher at OBA, commented on the session: "The mediation day was a great success. We spoke to our students after the session and they all said they found it very helpful and that they now understand how mediation works on a practical level."



We Need Your Views - Urgent Call For Surveys To Be Returned

As you will already know we are constantly trying to improve the education that we offer the students of our Academy and are now at a stage in the Academy year where we need you to tell us how well you think we are doing and how we can improve the things that are important to you.

The Kirkland Rowell Survey was posted home to all parents just before Christmas and additional copies will be sent home via your child on Monday. Please spare ten minutes to fill in the questionnaire and tell us what you think. By completing the questionnaire, you will be telling us how you think we should be spending our time and resources, to make our Academy the best that it can be for your child.

Your answers will be treated in the strictest confidence and will make a real difference to how we run the Academy and plan for the future. Please answer each question on the questionnaire, then seal it in the envelope provided and return it to your child, who will then hand it in to their form tutor.

Each completed questionnaire is vital in finding out what parents think!

Thank you in anticipation for your support.