

## A Message From Our Principal



Dear families and friends of OBA

We have now reached the end of our first half-term and I have found it extremely enjoyable and rewarding.

As well as all our usual diet of stimulating lessons, there have been so many great trips, events and activities taking place.

This week Year 8 students enjoyed a Project Day with a 'Science of fireworks' theme. They saw an awesome display of fireworks and learned about how they are made and why they bang, fizz and fly!

Earlier in the week, a group of Year 9 and 10's visited BBC Broadcasting House and the Science Museum in London, followed by a trip to Harry Potter World.

Finally, it was a real pleasure to welcome Year 7 students with their parents to a special 'Settling-in Evening' where they met with form tutors and House Teams, as well as their English and Maths teachers. This was a great opportunity to discuss their first half-term as part of the OBA family and how well they are progressing.

I wish you a peaceful half-term holiday and look forward to next half-term's many exciting opportunities.

Please stay safe on Halloween and Bonfire Night.

Best wishes

*Mr. M Wyss - Academy Principal*

## Year 10 Visit River Bollin

On Tuesday 10th October a group of pupils in Year 10 spent the day visiting the River Bollin on a GCSE Geography field trip. They worked in groups and took measurements of the river near its source in Macclesfield Forest and finished in Wilmslow. Some of the unlucky pupils even ended up to their chests in the water as they crossed to the other side, showing amazing dedication to gaining data for their coursework!



## Yr 9 and 10 Pupils Visit London

On 20<sup>th</sup> October 2014, 40 Year 9 and 10 pupils went on a two day trip to London. On the first day pupils visited BBC Broadcasting House where they were able to see the news going out live on air and have a look round the studios. They then looked at how radio plays are made and had a go at doing the sound effects and voicing a play. The pupils also got to see where The One Show is filmed and got to listen to Status Quo doing their rehearsal before going live on the show. The next stop was the London eye where pupils took part in a 4D movie experience before going on the London eye where they watched the sun come down over London. On the second day of the trip pupils visited the Science Museum where they were able to see some of the first computers and learn about how computers have developed to the present day, as well as seeing exhibited on 3D printing and the human body. The last stop was The Making of Harry Potter. Pupils got to see costumes and sets that were used in the Harry Potter films as well as visit the Great Hall, Diagon Alley and number 4 Privet Drive. All pupils had an amazing time and planning is starting on running the trip again next year!



## Pupils Perform Macbeth in The Epstein Theatre

Last week a very talented team of OBA's young performers took to the stage in the Epstein Theatre in Liverpool for a very special performance of Shakespeare's Macbeth. Mrs Noon reports below on their performance:

This year's production for The Shakespeare schools Festival was predominately made up of our drama GCSE Gifted and Talented students. The cast had 6 weeks to develop a stylised piece of Theatre after being introduced to it in a Shakespeare workshop in July. The cast worked tirelessly in Enrichment 3 nights a week as well as coming in on Saturdays, demonstrating their commitment to making the show a success. Due to the nature of the students this year I took a different directing approach, choosing to have the actors remain on stage for the whole play. The cast created a chorus which physically and verbally symbolised the thoughts and feelings of the characters. The chorus also represented the Witches power and control throughout the play. The play was a mix of naturalistic acting juxtaposed with some stylised physical sections that complemented the atmosphere of the dark play. I would like to thank the students for their creativity and input into the performance and their parents for their continued support of the drama department. The show was a HUGE success in both 'The Epstein Theatre,' where students performed on Tuesday the 14th October and in our first 'Ormiston Shakespeare Festival at OBA. We are already looking forward to next year's production!

Mrs Noon



# Miss Holmes' Enrichment Update

Our students have been super busy this half term exploring over 110 enrichments that we offer a week to make the most of having fun at school, making new friends, competing in local sporting and talent events and trying something new with some of the newer activities that we have offered to everyone this half term.

As part of the new activities on offer this Autumn term, we have introduced an 8 week Sign Language session taking place each Friday until the end of the term where students and staff have the opportunity to learn the basics of sign language in conjunction with our local D.E.A.F organisation. Students who participate and complete the programme receive a certificate of attendance which for some students, is supporting some of their BTEC qualifications. Mrs Howard has welcomed the opportunity and can't stop her students talking about it! Also, we have seen Swimming Club back by popular demand for our KS3 students to some stiff footballing competition happening with the Xbox Club and with Skiing looking to take steal some students away on Wednesdays and Friday after half term, it is all going on.



The Oliver! rehearsals are in full swing and with the opening night taking place at 7pm on Monday 8th December 2014, enrichments taking place across the week for all involved from behind the scenes, the lighting wizards, dancers and performers, have played an integral part. Over 80 students from years 7 to 13 have been dancing their socks off, humming a long to songs in lessons and talked to themselves down the corridors as they cram in those all important lines ready for opening night. Miss Carden and Miss Roper are really excited to be showcasing this famous production at OBA this year.

We have also welcomed a large number of our local primary schools to many of our enrichments which has proved to be a fantastic success as our younger students experience a glimpse into life at the Academy and also make some new friends as they meet some of our very own OBA-ers. For some, taking part in the production has been early practise for those future X Factor or Britain's Got Talent auditions and learning a new skill with Tuesday's Knitting Club and going all Einstein in Science Club, has students coming back for more and WITH some more!

As we approach the second part of the Autumn term, competition will be hotting up with the House competitions for the term together with prizes and rewards being awarded to students attending and just being brilliant at things they love to do. All the information you need is in the new booklet which is available on the school website, so let's really give 2014 something to shout about with our enrichments!

