

A Message From Our Principal



On Saturday we celebrated an evening of music with the Maghull Wind Orchestra, OBA students and boys and girls from four primary schools: Brookvale, Gorsewood, Palacefields and Windmill Hill. Musicians from the Maghull Wind Orchestra carried out masterclasses with OBA and Primary students before a joint afternoon rehearsal. The evening show was a great success and ended with a brilliant melody of Beatles' songs.

Our Drama students performed "The Importance of Being Earnest" and "Bouncers" as part of their GCSE Drama examination. The shows were very well acted and the students are in track for excellent grades.

This week saw the appointments of Mr Glancy (Head of Science), Mr Grant (Second in Maths Department), Miss Smyth (Spanish and French teacher) and Mrs McLelland (Senior Leader and Psychology/ Sociology teacher).

Last week we received our Parental Engagement Gold Award which commented "the culture and climate of OBA is warm, welcoming and professional. The school building is hugely aspirational and gives the impression of a forward thinking school that has its students at the heart of all it does".

Mr. J Rigby—Principal

OBA Hosts Celebration of Music With The Maghull Orchestra

On Saturday 10th May OBA celebrated an evening of music in association with the magnificent Maghull Wind Orchestra. The ensemble was joined by pupils from OBA and four local primary schools: Brookvale, Gorsewood, Palacefields and Windmill Hill.

Pupils were invited into the academy during the day on Saturday to rehearse for the performance which took place in the evening.

The group put on a spectacular performance which stunned a very captive audience and ended with an absolutely fantastic Beatles' medley.

Formed in 1978, the Maghull Wind Orchestra is a community based symphonic wind orchestra with over 100 members from a variety of different backgrounds from full-time students, to music teachers, people working in other professions and those in retirement.

The aim of the orchestra is to provide a high quality musical experience for all woodwind, brass and percussion musicians, regardless of age or ability with professional level directorship and without audition or fee.

The evening was a great success and we would like to thank all of the musicians and pupils involved for making the night such a memorable one.



Table Tennis Tournament a Smash for OBA pupils

Table Tennis players from OBA recently competed at the regional qualifying round of the National Under 11 to 14 Table Tennis Championships. The event was held at Halton Table Tennis centre on the 5th and 6th of April 2014. With nearly one hundred competitors, some travelling from as far as Lancashire and Cumbria, there was a high standard of competition. Our students had some great matches, a number of successes, close games and spectacular points. Congratulations go out to all who competed, each receiving a regional ranking for their age group. Most notably, Emily Shone from year 8 claimed the number 4 ranking for the under 13 girls group. She has been invited to compete at the National Finals held in Doncaster in four weeks. Well done Emily!

Pupils do the Conga for International Dance Day

On Tuesday 27th April all pupils in year 7 and 8 celebrated International Dance Day by taking part in OBA's first ever giant conga! Pupils danced their way around the yard and astroturf during morning registration to reflect their termly ECM topic of 'be healthy.' The event was a huge success and pupils had lots of fun. A special mention should go out to Mr Doran whose dance moves were particularly spectacular on the day, earning him a reward from dance teacher Miss Roper. Well done Mr Doran!



Pupils Visit Anfield for a day of Reducation

On Wednesday 23rd April a group of Yr7 and 8 pupils went to visit the home of Liverpool Football Club, Anfield as part of a trip that helped them to explore the idea of globalisation in football.

The day started in the Reducation centre where pupils learned about football teams as global brands, and how the influence of football teams can spread around the world. The day was packed full of fun quizzes with lots of prizes and awards for pupils.

Pupils also visited the club museum to learn all about the history of LFC, and went on a behind-the-scenes stadium tour where they got to visit the team changing rooms and sit in Brendan Rodgers' seat in the dugout.

Miss Walsh said "The pupils had a fantastic day at Anfield. Their enthusiasm and behaviour throughout the day was outstanding."



Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Expedition

On Friday 28th March OBA took 40 pupils on their Bronze practice expedition. This is OBA's biggest and best DofE year to date with more staff and students involved in the award than ever before. The expedition took place in the forest of Bowland with a nights camping at Waddow Hall girl guides site.

On Friday night pupils pitched their tents, cooked their own dinner and enjoyed a night of team building games and activities before settling down for a well-earned rest. All teams were up bright and early on Saturday to complete a 15km walk. Pupils navigated the Ribble Way and through the forest of Bowland. Some teams had the chance to complete a river crossing whilst others met with Alpaca's on a local farm.

All pupils were excellently behaved and completed the expedition to the highest level with excellent team work and navigation skills on display throughout. Pupils will undertake their final Bronze Assessment in June whilst the Silver group will be undertaking their practice expedition in May. In July the first ever OBA gold cohort will complete their assessment expedition.



BTEC Sport Pupils Complete Outdoor Education Module at PGL

As part of the Level 3 BTEC Sport students undertook a 2 day outdoor adventure trip to PGL Boreatton Park, Shropshire to plan and deliver outdoor adventure activities. A former mansion house, Boreatton Park is situated within 250 acres of superb grounds including three lakes, a sandstone cliff and a river. The centre has a huge choice of activities from abseiling to zip wire and an impressive range of facilities - with a good mix of both indoor and outdoor activities to ensure a fantastic time whatever the weather! PGL kept our Level 3 BTEC Sport students busy from breakfast to bedtime with a huge variety of land and water based adventure activities. Operating with a clear "plan-do-review" approach, students began to think and talk about their planning and delivery of activities to recognise their own and others' achievements, strengths and targets as leaders. PGL's trained staff allowed for positive interaction between students to help build strong, supportive relationships and develop each individual.

The two days was full of action packed activities from Kayaking, abseiling and a high rope course and saw some students (alongside staff) face their fears. Jack Shield Roberts completed the high ropes course in 29 seconds (only 4 seconds short of the parks record – held by an individual from an army training course!!), Steven Lally fell into the lake whilst Kayaking and Liam Hodnett overcame his fear of heights.

