

A Message From Our Principal



Our year eight Options Evening was a great success and I was especially pleased with the outstanding attendance from students and parents; especially Browne House as they were the highest with 92%. This was the first options process organised by Mr Wyss and he has produced an outstanding choice of curriculum for the students based on two inclusive pathways.

Over thirty students took part in a Duke of Edinburgh bronze award walk to the top of Moel Famau in North Wales. The weather was wild, windy and wet but the students and staff (Miss Porshke, Miss Beaumont and Miss Rugen) enjoyed their practise expedition.

Children's author Jon Mahew was in school last week working with groups of year ten students. Jon's books include "Mortlock", "The Bonehill Curse" and "The Demon Collector".

On Friday, I appointed two new Computing and I.T. teachers, Mr. Hussey and Mr Bowman, who will join OBA in September. Our year seven numbers for next year are looking healthy and we have had an increase in sixth form applications. I am therefore expecting the Academy to grow again next year by approximately 40 students.

The governing body met on Thursday and were very impressed by presentations from Bobbie Caddick (head girl), Zoe Longworth (deputy head girl) and Jonny Shaw (deputy head boy) as they spoke about life at OBA, and their progression to sixth form. We will need to appoint a new parent governor for next year and will be asking for nominations in September.

There will be a strike by NUT members on Wednesday and the Academy will be open for all students apart from years 7 and 8.

Mr. J Rigby—Principal

OBA Pupils Impress Roberto Martinez at Everton FC

On Wednesday 13th March Mr Townson & Mr Barrett took a group of Yr 9 boys currently studying GCSE PE over to Everton FC's training ground, Finch Farm in Halewood. The boys were refereeing the regional finals of the Year 5 Primary Schools Football Competitions. Whilst there, Ray Redmond (EFC academy) gave the students a tour of the facilities and a run-down of the day in the life of a professional footballer. The students also got to meet Duncan Ferguson at lunch, and also a surprise visit by the manager Roberto Martinez who commented that "the lads are doing a great job and the school should be very proud of them". Indeed we are, well done boys!



A-Level Physicists Visit CERN

As part of the Physics A level course, we took our AS level Physics students to visit CERN, the European Organisation for Nuclear Research, one of the world's largest and most respected centres for scientific research. CERN is located in Geneva, so we took a 3 day trip, staying over for two nights, from Monday 10th March to Wednesday 12th March.

We had a fantastic time; activities ranged from taking a River Cruise on lake Geneva, visiting the United Nations office in Geneva, we visited CERN's permanent exhibition 'Microcosm' and 'Universe of Particles', and had a personal tour from a professor who worked at the particle accelerator who gave us a good insight into what it is like to work at CERN, we then were taken around some of the experiments, such as the LINAC and ALPHA; an experiment that hopes to study the fundamental symmetries between matter and antimatter.

The trip coincided with the Particle Physics section of the course, students were inspired by the tour of CERN and thoroughly enjoyed the change to visit one of the world's largest and most respected centres of scientific research.



45 Pupils Undertake Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Training Day

On Thursday 20th March 45 pupils undertook a training walk to Moel Famau as part of their Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award.

All pupils were brilliantly behaved and completed the walk in an excellent time despite poor weather conditions. Pupils battled against the wind to ensure they reached Jubilee Tower at the top of the hill. Despite the blustery & wet conditions all pupils enjoyed the day and are now ready to undertake their practice expedition next weekend (28th March).



Sixth Form Students Show Off Their Talents In National Hairdressing Competition



A group of OBA's Sixth Form students travelled to Blackpool on Monday 17th March to enter the National Hairdressing Federation competition. Their entries into the competition form part of a unit of assessment for the pupils and they all showed excellent progress with their creative abilities. The experience has given them a vast amount of confidence after competing with professionals from all over the UK. This has showed them that they are fantastic hairdressers and now have the confidence and ability to progress into a career in hairdressing. Miss Finnigan, Head of the Hair and Beauty Faculty said; "I am extremely proud of all of the pupils who took part in such a big competition knowing this is something they have never done before. Their work was outstanding, they should be very proud of themselves."

