

A Message From Our Principal



One of the highlights of my week was the Principal's breakfast with the year 9 girls who have successfully completed the Teens and Toddlers programme at Palacefields Academy. The girls attended the graduation ceremony with four other Halton schools and provided entertainment with singing and dancing. Everyone agreed that they were a credit to OBA. Congratulations to Megan Wright Smith, Sophie Xavier, Chloe Brenton, Jemma Svensen, Beth Spann, Melissa Roberts and Courtney Martin.

I travelled to Great Yarmouth with Mr Wyss for the Ormiston Principal's forum at Venture Academy. There are currently 26 Ormiston Academies spread across the whole of England and we were once again inspired by our family of academies and the dedication to "achieving more together". The GCSE results of all Ormiston Academies were displayed and OBA's performance was outstanding.

On Thursday, we celebrated World Book Day with the English department in fancy dress as famous literary characters; and students taking part in a treasure hunt around the Academy.

Three new staff start at OBA on Monday 10th March, Mrs Scriven (Law and English); Mr Rushton (English and History) and Mr Bird (Maths). We have also said goodbye and best wishes to Mrs Handley, for a year, as she begins her maternity leave.

Mr. J Rigby—Principal

Future LFC Stars Visit OBA!

Last Friday we were very excited to welcome 5 Liverpool FC Academy players into OBA to help launch our AUDE project.

The players have been reading along with some of our Yr7 pupils to try to help to encourage pupils to enjoy reading. We were visited by; Harry Wilson, Ryan Kent, Daniel Trickett-Smith, Conor Randall and Daniel Cleary. We hope to see them breaking into the LFC first team in the near future.



Year 12 Visit University of Chester

On Wednesday 4th March Mr Fenner and a group of Year 12 students attended a session at University of Chester. This allowed them an insight into University life. Students were shown around campus and all the main buildings; gym, SU, lecture halls, sports facilities, Science buildings & library. Students then had a session on budgeting and finance; how much things cost and where they can gain financial help and advice whilst at Uni. The last session focused on UCAS application process and how to gain the most from convention days.

Mr Fenner said “The effort and enthusiasm from the group was fantastic, they came away from the day with lots of new thoughts and ideas about applying to University.”



VI Form Visit World Famous Pineapple Dance Studios

Last week Year 12 and 13 dance students went on an overnight stay to London for a spot of sight-seeing around the capital. In the evening they attended the Apollo Victoria Theatre to see the famous musical 'Wicked' in the West end. The following morning students along with Miss Roper and Miss Castrey participated in a workshop at Pineapple Dance Studios with Gerrard Martin (a professional dance artist who starred in The Lion King). Trip Leader Miss Roper said “Students and teachers had a great time and were very inspired by the trip.”



'Teens and Toddlers' Awards Event

On Wednesday 5th March seven of our Year 9 girls attended an awards ceremony for taking part in the 'Teens and Toddlers' project in partnership with Young Addaction and Palace Fields Primary Academy. For the last 10 weeks the girls have visited Palace Fields Primary Academy to help staff with the children in their nursery. The aim of the programme is to promote awareness of the reality of parenting as well as raising aspirations and boosting self-esteem. The workshops are designed to improve interpersonal skills and the students have the opportunity to gain a NCFE Level 1 in Interpersonal Skills. The awards ceremony was attended by the girls' as well as their families and Miss Hignett and Mrs Kane from OBA. Miss Hignett said "The girls have done a fantastic job working with the pupils of Palace Fields Academy and should be very proud of themselves."



D.I.Wise Event Inspires Pupils To Build a Career in Construction

Last week 30 students took part in a Junior DI Wise Construction event at the Academy yesterday as part of National Apprenticeship week.

The aim of **Junior DI Wise** is to inspire students and provide them with an insight into the various roles in the construction industry. The concept is to work with local LHT contractors to provide a hands-on experience for students, demonstrating the skills needed to work in construction. Whilst pupils are able to get involved in practical activities in the areas of plumbing, heating, electrics, joinery and plastering, they are also provided with information on apprenticeships. The purpose of this is to assist them with the knowledge of how to go into this as a career and to make them aware of the alternative options available to them if, after school, they choose not to go into higher education or full time employment. In conjunction with Liverpool Housing Trust, 15 contractors from local companies gave up their time to visit OBA. The hall was transformed into four interactive work areas and students were able to try their hand at the art of plastering and tiling, in addition to carefully painting a door, stripping plugs and even plumbing in a radiator. Students were engaged throughout the morning and all involved said they enjoyed the event and found it useful. One young person commented 'I want to get an apprenticeship in plastering after the advice I was given today'.

