



THE "OHA" 'ER"

Vol 7: Wednesday 18th December

Principal's Update



As the Christmas break approaches, I would like to thank staff, students, parents, and governors for their hard work and support this term. As always, it feels like our feet have not touched the ground over the last fifteen weeks; I really cannot believe we have reached the last week of term already. When we started this September, we used the phrase 'the best September yet' with staff and students, and I feel that positivity and enthusiasm has carried on throughout the term.

Our staff and students have demonstrated vast amounts of resilience and responsibility since September and have engaged really well in their curriculum. I have enjoyed visiting a range of lessons, in different subjects, and speaking with students and staff about what they are learning. A couple of key points that are worth sharing: how well students can now work independently in lessons, how successful our universal call for attention of 'Hands Down, Pens Down, Eyes on Me - in 3, 2, 1' has been, and finally, our enrichment offer to all students has once again been incredible. One of the favourite parts of my job is dropping in to the different clubs that take place across the academy and speaking with staff and students about their interest in a specific area.

Our OHA 'Core Offer' continues to go from strength to strength this academic year. We have three-year groups out of the academy on different trips on Wednesday 18th December, with Y8 and Y11 engaged in different activities in the academy. This is an area of the school that we are really passionate about and want to give all students rich experiences outside of the classroom. We feel that our Personal Development programme helps develop our core values of: Respect, Resilience and Responsibility. Thank you to all the families who have contributed to this offer, it really has made a difference. Please log into your parent pay account and select a donation amount if you can support us by donating throughout the academic year.

Our Open Evening & Mornings have also been a huge success this term. As always, our students were wonderful ambassadors for OHA. The feedback we receive from parents/carers and students who visit the academy is very student centred and talks about the pride that our students have for our school. For any Principal, this is the best type of feedback to get from our wider community, and I am always filled with pride by the verbal and written comments that came back from our potential families.

A final reminder on the importance of attendance right up to Friday 20th December; I have shared quite a bit of communication with all families about this in recent weeks. Please ensure all students are in school throughout the week and they might be one of lucky reward winners!

Thank you to all our families who supported our Christmas Fayre, it was lovely to have you in school and hopefully you managed to pick up some bargains along the way. A big thank you to the large group of Y11 students who supported the event, I am sure you will agree they did a fantastic job.

Before we break up on Friday 20th December, there are a couple of events that I want to make you aware of:

Christmas Dinner

Our traditional Christmas Dinner will be served to students and staff (over 1060 meals!) on Thursday 19th December. All students have the opportunity to receive lunch free of charge served by Senior Leadership and Student Leaders. It should be a fantastic day for all.

Friday 20th December

The academy will close on Friday 20th December at 12:20pm. This year, we have not asked students or staff to wear Christmas jumpers on this day. We do not want to put any extra financial pressure on families at such a busy time of the year.

January Opening

The academy will re-open to students on Tuesday 7th January 2025, at the usual time of 8:30am. Please ensure academy standards are adhered to on return and uniform is worn to highest possible standard. Festive nails, hair and piercings need to be left at home alongside any inappropriate footwear.

A separate letter will follow on Friday regarding our move to a mobile phone free school from January.

I wish you a peaceful and safe Christmas and a wonderful New Year.

~ Mr Fitzgibbon

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Key Dates



Monday 6th January

STAFF INSET DAY - Academy closed to students

Tuesday 7th January

All students return - 8.30am start to line up.

Monday 13th January - Friday 17th January

Year 11 Mock Exams

Wednesday 15th January

Year 9 parents evening via telephone (3.30pm - 6pm)

Thursday 30th January

Parental Tea & Talk with the Mental Health Support Team

Wednesday 5th February

Year 11 Science Booster Day at Staffordshire University

Friday 14th February

Academy closes for half term (1 week)

Monday 24th February

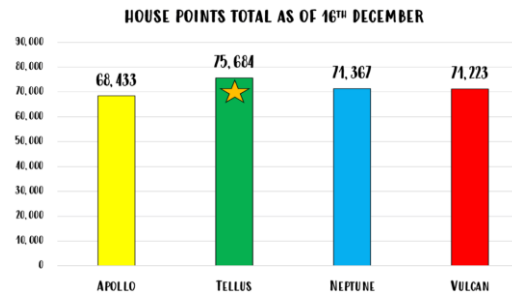
Academy reopens to all student (8.30am line up)

House Update

As we approach the end of an amazing term of House at OHA, I wanted to give a huge shout out to all of the staff and students for their enthusiasm, support and engagement so far this academic year.

Over the last 15 months we have developed our House System to provide opportunities for our pupils to showcase their amazing talents and have some fun along the way! Our House System is now fully embedded into the OHA structure and is only going from strength to strength! Well done to all pupils that have taken part in an event over the past 15 weeks, so far this year we have had 486 participants in our House Events and we want even more in the new year! Sign-up for the next term begins on the first week back!

The final House Points table of 2024 see's Tellus finish the year on top! There is still a long way to go before they are crowned OHA House Cup Winners 2025, but they are off to a great start. Over 285,000 House Points have been awarded so far this academic year, showcasing just how amazing our OHA'ers are each and every day! Have an amazing Christmas and we'll see you in 2025!



Uniform Expectations

In order to maintain our high standards, we ask that you take the time over the holidays to ensure any uniform issues are rectified. Whilst we understand there has been a supply issues with regards to ties, this has now been resolved and new ties can be purchased on ParentPay and students can collect them from the academy. Furthermore, a polite reminder that hoodies are not permitted and if students wish they can wear a plain black V-neck jumper or a coat. Moreover, trousers should be a black and a straight fit, as we do not allow students to wear a skinny fit or flared style.

Also, please ensure that when students return, items such as nails, hair, piercings are in line with the academy policy. Please see attached a link to our uniform policy that is on our school website. <https://ormistonhorizonacademy.co.uk/admin/wp-content/uploads/sites/19/2024/07/Uniform-policy-July-2024.pdf>

Should you need any further clarification, please feel free to contact your child's Head of Year or Raising Standards Leader.

Have a lovely Christmas,
Mr Meakin



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An OAT Academy



OHA GALLERY

5-4 win for the Year 8s against Birches Head



Year 11 Rewards Breakfast Bingo Winners!



Regional Finalists for the OAT MFL Spelling Bee



Year 7s supporting the community church



3-1 win for the Year 9s against Co-Op Academy



Year 10 support the Chell Parish Pantry



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An OAT Academy



Year 11 Driving Lessons with Young Driver



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