

THE "OHA" 'ER"

Vol 8: Friday 17th January

Principal's Update

Happy New Year! I hope you had a lovely Christmas break and enjoyed some quality family time together.

A big thank you for your support last week with the dangerous weather conditions. I never like to close the school, and it is quite a significant decision to make, however, our site was not safe on Tuesday and Wednesday which really left us with no other option. I would like to take this opportunity to thank our amazing site team. The really were incredible last week and we would have really struggled to open the academy on Thursday and Friday without their collective efforts.

The students have really embraced our move to a mobile phone free academy over the last week. As staff, we have been really impressed by their attitudes towards the initiative and how quickly they have got up to speed with it. We will continue to closely monitor the systems we have put in place to ensure they are as effective and efficient as they possible can be. I intend to communicate with all families by the end of January on mobile phones specifically, so you have a clear understanding on the positive impact it is having in the school.

Well done to our Year 11 cohort who have started their mock examinations this week. They have had a very positive first week and I know they are prepared and looking forward to week two.

Finally, a warm welcome back to Mrs Ricci, who returns after her maternity leave and we welcome Mrs Brunt into the position of Assistant Principal - Classroom Practice, taking over from Mrs Grant.

~ Mr Fitzgibbon

Key Dates



Wednesday 5th February

Year 11 Science Booster Day at Staffordshire University

Wednesday 12th February

Year 11 Results and Parents Evening (face-face, 3.30pm - 6pm)

Thursday 13th February

Y11 Rewards Breakfast and Y7-Y10 Rewards Film P5

Friday 14th February

Academy closes for half term (1 week)

Monday 24th February

OAT INSET Day - Academy closed to students

Tuesday 25th February

Academy reopens to all student (8.30am line up)

Wednesday 26th February

Y10/Y11 London Trip (Wicked)

Aspire to be more



Our elevated rewards system has launched this term, with "Aspire to be more".

This system now allows students to earn purple tickets for their achievements; attendance, tassomai, house points and assessment data.

Students will have weekly updates on their standings and parents will receive a letter each half term detailing the progress your child is making with their tickets.

Awards will be given every week for the students consistently doing the right things both in and out of the classroom.

At the end of each term, the tickets will be placed into a raffle for more prizes. The more tickets students earn, the more times they are entered into the raffle!

Assembly Overview



WB 20th Jan

Y7 - WeWill Explore Launch

Y8 - RSL Choice

Y9 - Options

WB 27th Jan

Y7 - Y9: Safeguarding (SLS/KXS)

Y10/Y11 -: Drugs/Alcohol Awareness (ADS)

PSHE/WS Overview



Year 7 - Screentime/Sleep

Year 8 - Prescription Drugs/Units

Year 9 - Personal boundaries/Sexual Harassment

Year 10 PSHE - Human Rights/Balancing our rights

Year 10 WS - Global Justice/Value of Natural World

Safeguarding contact information:

DSL: Jadams@horizonoat.co.uk/ssheldon@horizonoat.co.uk

Deputy DSL: ksheldon@horizonoat.co.uk

Support: safeguarding@horizonoat.co.uk

Year 7

Our students have adapted exceptionally well to our new phone-free policy, and I am already seeing the positive impact it's having on their focus, connections with peers, and overall mental health. The absence of phones has helped them be more present and engaged in their learning and school life.

It's been wonderful to see Year 7 embrace their new routines with such enthusiasm, maturity, and kindness. They are setting a great example, both academically and socially, and I look forward to seeing them continue to thrive throughout the year. ~ Miss Betley

Year 8

Happy New Year everyone!

I am more than proud with how well they have all settled back into academy life and learning. This term, during PSHE we will be focusing on health, which covers topics such as caffeine, prescription drugs, and the physical and social effects of alcohol. Our enrichment timetable started again this week, and I would encourage our students to sign up for at least one; there are lots to choose from.

Our students are also now enthusiastically taking part in our House events, which are now well underway.

~ Mrs Milne

Year 9

Welcome back year 9s and happy new year! 2025!

The year we begin our GCSEs! As students return back to school after the Christmas break, it's a fresh opportunity to set new goals and embrace the upcoming challenges. I am very proud with how the year group have adapted to the academy going phone free and I can see the positive effect it's having on them already!

Thank you to all the parents that attended our over the phone parents evening, if you have any questions or concerns following the calls please contact me through email.

~ Miss Harris

Year 10

After a well-deserved Christmas break it is great to see the students back in the academy. It has been amazing to see how year 10 have settled into the new term and a focused on their learning.

A big thank you to both parents and students for supporting us with our journey as the academy has gone phone free. I am proud to see the students and their resilience.

As we move through this term our Learn-to-learn lessons are focussing on apprenticeships and college pathways with students working on Unifrog around work experience.

~ Miss Sheldon

Year 11

It has been a pleasure being with the Year 11's and watching them thrive in their mocks and hearing students speaking about their college interviews.

It been great seeing students excited when they've walked out their exams happy because they feel they've done much better this time around. I am very sad to be leaving them as I get closer to my maternity leave but looking forward to coming visit them to wish them luck during their GCSE's, leavers assembly, prom and celebrating with them on their results day.

Wishing them all the best in the future!

~ Mrs Richardson

What are we learning in.. Maths?

Year 7 - Algebraic Expressions

Year 8 - Applied Algebra

Year 9 - Fractions And Percentages

Year 10 - Higher Trigonometry & Percentages

Year 11 - Mock Preparation & Feedback



House Update

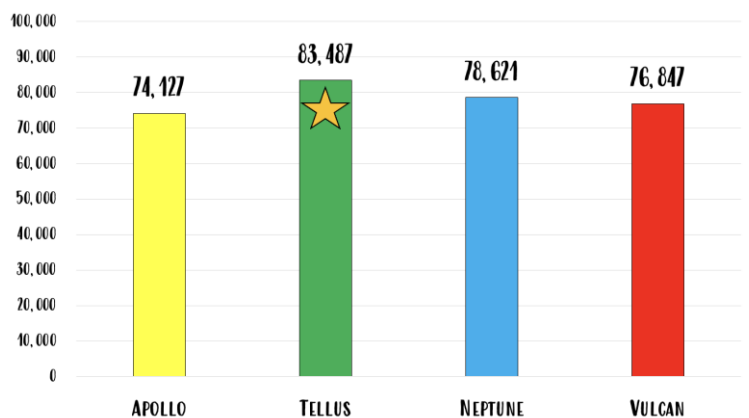
Hello everyone! We hope you have had a lovely festive break and an amazing start to 2025!

We're back like we have never left here at OHA, and this week has been all about sign-ups!

Our Term 2 calendar went live this week and pupils across the academy have had the chance to sign-up to a range of different events that are taking place between now and April. From Short Story Writing, Mixed Dodgeball and STEM, to Spelling Bees, Mixed Basketball and Easter Eggs hunts, there is certainly something for everyone this half term!

We can't wait to get back into the swing of things and kick off our 2025 house events next week!

HOUSE POINTS TOTAL AS OF 13TH JANUARY 2025



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PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT DAY 1

Our first Personal Development Day went off without a hitch on Wednesday 18th December 2024! Students to get enjoy lots of different experiences which build their character education, outside of our curriculum & the day was a great success.

Year 7 - Regent Theatre, Pantomime of Dick Whittington

Year 8 - STEM Day, in academy

Year 9 - Aston University

Year 10 - Staffordshire University

Year 11 - In Academy, live performance of Macbeth & an English exam preparation day

Stay tuned for the next one on Thursday 27th March where some trips/activities consist of Delamere Forest, Wrexham University, Science and Industry Museum and much more! More details to follow soon.



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