

THE "OHA" 'ER"

Vol 3: Friday 17th October

Principal's Update

Seven weeks have past us in a flash and we are almost ready to enter the last week of half term.

A huge congratulations to our Year 7 cohort for such a great start to the academic year. They have really hit the ground running and it seems like all our transition work has paid off.

Well done to all the students who have taken part in our enrichment programme. This is an area of the school that we are really proud of and have been blown away by the huge number of students attending different clubs.

Well done to all the families who have achieved 100% attendance so had this half term. Only four more days to go - you've got this!

Finally, a very warm welcome back to Mrs Richardson (Head of Y11) who returns from maternity leave. A special thanks to Miss Harris who has been overseeing both year groups since September.

~ Mr Fitzgibbon

Key Dates



Tuesday 21st October

Year 10 Work Experience Parent Information Evening
5pm - 5.45pm (In Academy)

Thursday 23rd October

Bonkers Bingo Rewards Breakfast (selected students only)

Friday 24th October

Academy closed

Monday 3rd November

Academy reopens for all student
Year 11 Mock Exam Walkthroughs

Monday 10th November - Friday 21st November

Year 11 Mock Exams

Thursday 27th November

MHST Tea & Talk Parental Workshop on Behaviour
9.15am - 10.15am (further information to follow)

Wake up Wednesdays



☀ Stay Informed with #WakeUpWednesday

Every Wednesday, **National Online Safety** releases new, easy-to-digest resources through its **#WakeUpWednesday** campaign – empowering **parents, carers, and educators** to keep children safe, healthy, and informed in an ever-changing world.

📖 What is #WakeUpWednesday?

#WakeUpWednesday provides **weekly guides, videos, and expert advice** across three key areas:

- **Online Safety** – helping families understand the latest digital trends, apps, and online risks.
- **Mental Health & Wellbeing** – supporting children's emotional development and resilience.
- **Climate Change & Sustainability** – encouraging awareness and positive action for the planet.

📱 How to Get Involved

Resources are available for **all age groups**, from early years to secondary school, and can be accessed online or through the **#WakeUpWednesday app**.

💡 **Tip:** We share the #WakeUpWednesday posts through our social school community each week to keep everyone up to date and empowered.

Assembly Overview



WB 20th October

ALL - House Celebrations – ADS
Y7 - Anti-Bullying (JJC)

WB 3rd Nov

Y11 - Walking, Talking Mocks

PSHE/AS Overview



Year 7 – Racism & Offering Support
Year 8 – Gangs & Knifecrime
Year 9 – Drugs & Reasons for taking them
Year 10 – First Aid & Drugs/Alcohol First Aid
Year 10 – Nationalism & Helping Other
Year 11 – Electoral Systems & Voting
Year 11 – Promises

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Year 7

It's been fantastic to see so many of you already getting involved in house competitions and after-school clubs - your enthusiasm and team spirit are truly shining through!

As we look ahead, a quick reminder that the deposit payment deadline for the Year 7 residential trip is 28th October 2025. Please ensure payments are made by this date to secure your child's place on what promises to be an exciting and memorable experience. Next term, we're looking forward to hosting our Settling-In Parents' Evening. This will be a valuable opportunity for personal tutors to speak with parents and carers, sharing how well students have settled into life at OHA.

Parents and carers will soon receive a letter with details on how to book appointments using the Edulink app, so please keep an eye out for that.

~ Miss Collis (Behaviour Director)

Year 8

Year 8 have made a really positive return to school this term, settling quickly back into routines and showing great focus in lessons. It's been fantastic to see so many students demonstrating our core values of respect, resilience and responsibility both in and out of the classroom.

As we enter the final two weeks before half term, our focus is on catching students being good - recognising and celebrating those who consistently do the right thing. Let's keep up the excellent effort, maintain high standards, and finish the half term as strongly as we started it.

~ Mr Williamson (Behaviour Director)

Year 9

Year 9 have made a strong and settled start to the new term, showing maturity and focus in lessons. We're looking forward to our virtual Parents' Evening on 15th October, which will be a valuable opportunity to discuss students' progress and celebrate their achievements so far. In the weeks ahead, we'll continue to acknowledge and praise those who consistently show the right attitude and set a positive example to others. This is an important year for Year 9, with the options process beginning after Christmas, and we're excited to see them continue to build on this positive start.

~ Mr Williamson (Behaviour Director)

Key Stage 4

Year 10 and 11 have done really well starting the year in a positive manner. Standards of uniform have been very high and students have looked incredibly smart. This has sent a really positive message and visitors to the school have commented how organised our students are with things like uniform and equipment. Students are ready to learn and there has been little disruption to their learning. In the past 2 weeks we have really focussed on "catching students being good". This has resulted in a high number of achievement points being issued and in the recent draw there were a high number of KS4 students with numerous entries to win prizes. This demonstrates a high commitment to the schools standards.

Year 10 have made a positive start on their KS4 journey and have settled in well to their option choices. I have seen some fantastic work taking place and great enthusiasm in lessons as students study option subjects they chose in y9. Year 11 have started well and attendance to p6 has been high. It is important y11 students continue with this high level of commitment and give themselves the best chance of success in the Summer exams which are only 7 months away.

~ Mr Maher (Behaviour Director)

Year 10 Health and Social Careers Day

14 of our Year 10 students studying Health and Social Care visited NSCG College in Stafford for a Health & Care Careers Roadshow. The event was aimed to inspire and inform the next generation of healthcare professionals and what roles are available in the Health and Social Care sector in Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent.

There were a number of workshops and training providers available at the event to show that there is a place for everyone within health and care, providing clear routes for both jobs and career progression. Our students, attended workshops in Midwifery and Social Care, and tried out activities as though they were patients with visual impairments, and the struggles the elderly have with their mobility.



House Update

Four weeks on the bounce for Neptune at the top of the House points leaderboard for week 6, will they make it 7?

How fast can you eat 3 cream crackers, dry?

Our current OHA record is 1 minute 19 seconds set by Liam T.

Our 'You must be crackers' event is quickly becoming a weekly thing with lots of students, and a few staff, wanting to have an attempt. But we won't mention the DNF of a certain staff member.... yet!

Maybe a Staff v Students competition is the next evolution.

Our impromptu lunchtime challenges have increased each week and only this week we have loved watching an amazing group of year 7s battle it out over two weeks in a 3v3 basketball tournament showing some fantastic skills, dribbles with the odd double dribble thrown in for good measure. The year 8s have had several quick-fire crossbar challenges and group of year 7 and 8s took part in the first Lego challenge. This week we have had a group of year 11s girls and Miss Wilkes take on the cream cracker challenge who all went from confident to dread faster than a Halloween ghost shouting "boo". And finally, we had a fantabulous mixed group of year 9, 10 & 11s got to hide away from the chilly afternoon taking part in a music/general knowledge quiz.

Our regular morning Inter-House competitions have continued, the Eggspectacular concluded with Tellus completing a clean sweep while Apollo also completed a clean sweep in the You must be crackers challenge.

The football competitions are almost complete with the year 8 and 9 girls, along with the year 8 boys competitions concluding with further wins for Vulcan, year 9, Tellus (year 8 boys) scrapping it by goal difference and the points were all shared with Year 8 girls ending in a complete stalemate.

And finally, the fist chess tournament of the year drew to a close with a thrilling final game between Liam T and Casper S finally ending with Casper S being crowned the champion.



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OHA GALLERY

KS3 PE Football Fixtures



KS4 Netballers



KS4 Football Fundraiser Winners



Y10 Health Careers Roadshow



Y11 Food Masterpieces



Y7 Partnership Games at Fenton Manor



Staff support for World Mental Health Day



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PATHWAYS AFTER OHA: T-LEVELS

13 – 17 OCTOBER 2025 MARKS NATIONAL T LEVELS WEEK.

WITH THE NEW ACADEMIC YEAR UNDERWAY; A NEW T LEVEL SUBJECT IN MARKETING AVAILABLE; NEW STUDENTS, PROVIDERS AND EMPLOYERS ON BOARD, THERE'S A LOT TO CELEBRATE!

PATHWAY PROFILE

COURSE: BUILDING SERVICES ENGINEERING AND CONSTRUCTION

ABOUT THE COURSE:

The core element of a T Level in Building Services Engineering for Construction will boost your knowledge in a range of topics such as design principles, project management and health and safety. You'll also learn about the commercial side of construction, including stakeholder management, business structures and entrepreneurship. And as the construction industry is always evolving, you'll dive into the world of digital technology, innovation and sustainability, to understand how the industry will be shaped in the future. You'll then choose a specialism designed to support your interests, so you can get deeper into your chosen subject and build up the skills you need for your future job.

You can choose from paired specialist modules, such as Plumbing Engineering and Heating Engineering; Heating Engineering and Ventilation Engineering; or Refrigeration Engineering and Air Conditioning. Or you could opt for standalone specialisms, including Electrotechnical Engineering; Gas Engineering; Protection Systems Engineering; and Electrical and Electronic Equipment Engineering.

Then you'll be able to put everything you learn into practice, with a substantial industry placement of around 45 days. Giving you an amazing opportunity to work with an employer while you study, such as a construction or engineering company, and gain invaluable experience as well as key skills that employers are looking for.

WHERE CAN THIS TAKE YOU?

Following a T Level, you could progress straight into a skilled profession or continue your studies with a degree or higher apprenticeship.

Career options might include becoming an Installation Electrician, Maintenance Electrician or Plumbing and Domestic Heating Technician – speak to your careers adviser to find out more

KEY INFORMATION

T Levels are an alternative to A levels, apprenticeships and other 16 to 19 courses. Equivalent in size to 3 A levels, a T Level focuses on vocational skills and can help students into skilled employment, higher study or apprenticeships.

Each T Level includes an in-depth industry placement that lasts at least 45 days. Students get valuable experience in the workplace; employers get early sight of the new talent in their industry.

T Level students spend 80% of the course in their learning environment, gaining the skills that employers need. The other 20% is a meaningful industry placement, where they put these skills into action.

Minister for Skills Jacqui Smith said:

"T Levels are at the forefront of this government's technical education offer. They are excellent qualifications based on employer-led standards and they break down barriers to opportunity, giving young people hands-on experience through industry placements.

"T Levels are also helping to build talented workforces - around a third of T Level students who progress into employment get jobs with their T Level Industry Placement employer.

"I'm delighted to champion T Levels Week as we ensure these qualifications continue to thrive through our Plan for Change. T Levels are growing year on year, with £28 million of additional investment this year for specialist equipment. I would encourage young people to consider taking a T Level - including the brand new Marketing T Level - as a fantastic route into a rewarding career."

For more information: [Introduction of T Levels - GOV.UK](#)

USEFUL LINKS

[RESOURCES FOR PARENTS | T LEVELS](#)
[T LEVELS | THE NEXT LEVEL QUALIFICATION](#)
[TPGT-TLEVELS-2024/2025-SL.PDF](#)
[FIND A COURSE | NATIONAL CAREERS SERVICE](#)



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PURPLE TICKET STANDINGS

Virtual Purple Tickets are awarded weekly for:

- 100% attendance
- 0 Behaviour Points
- Per 20 House Points (running total)
- Homework completion - Sparx Maths
- Homework completion - Sparx Reader
- Homework completion - Sparx Science

Purple tickets earn rewards for:

- Weekly queue jumps/prizes
- Half termly "in academy" rewards event invites
- Termly external reward trips invites
- Termly raffle prizes - shopping voucher (1 raffle ticket per purple ticket)
- Y11 prom ticket/leavers hoodies

Current No.1 Ranking in the Academy - Riley (Y7)



Year 7 (15+)
Jones, R
Beardmore, M
Simm, L
Leverton, R
Law, E

Year 8 (15+)
Whitefoot, K
Lahillonne, S
Eardley, A
Martin, L
Preston, G

Year 9 (13+)
Hanks, R
Bailey, R
Innocent, E
Glass, L
Muomah, M

Year 10 (14)
Cooke, L
Leach, E
O'Leary, I
Bentley, C

Year 11 (13+)
Cartwright, S
Murphy, S
Tomlinson, T
Cartwright-Windsor, E
Hansbury, C



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