

THE "OHA" ER

Vol 5: Friday 21st November

Principal's Update

Dear Students, Parents and Carers,

I want to start by congratulating Mrs Smith and her family on the birth of her son - Freddie. I am pleased to inform you that mum and Freddie are both doing really well.

Secondly, I'd like to congratulate Tom Alcock (Year 11) for representing Wales U16 football team over the half term. Despite his high levels of performance outside school, Tom continues to work hard academically and also play an important part in our school teams.

Well done to our Y11 cohort for a tough few weeks of mock examinations. It is really pleasing to see how the year group is maturing collectively and building their work ethic and resilience which will be massively beneficial for them come May and June.

Finally, I'd like to draw your attention to the amazing work Mr Salt is doing as part of our House system. There is a range of competitions and games taking place before, during and after school that allows students to have some fun and gain some valuable house points.

~ Mr Fitzgibbon

Key Dates



Thursday 27th November

MHST Tea & Talk Parental Workshop on Behaviour
9am - 10am (invitations to parent sent via Edulink)

Friday 5th December

Academy INSET Day - Closed to Students

Friday 5th December

Academy Rewards Trip to Chester Zoo

Wednesday 10th December

Year 8 Parents Evening (face-face)

Monday 15th December

Year 11 Rewards Afternoon - Trafford Centre

Tuesday 16th December

Personal Development Day 1

Thursday 18th December

Christmas Dinner Day



OHA Christmas Fayre Tuesday 16th December



Our annual Christmas Fayre is on Tuesday 16th December from 5.30pm - 7pm.

Please come along to enjoy in our festivities as a community! We have lots of local stallholders coming in with items available such as jewellery, gift items, hot food and desserts!

We have tarot card reading from Mr Charlesworth and the impressive tombola run by our Y11 Prom Fundraising Team!

We also have our Y10 Enterprise students selling their Christmas Creations.

Any tombola donations are greatly appreciated - please bring to reception or send in with your child to give to their PT.

Assembly Overview



WB 24th November

DWP Careers - Year 10

WB 1st December

DWP Careers - Year 8/ Year 9

Stoke 6th Form - Year 11

PSHE/RS Overview

Year 7 - Healthy Friendships and Bullying

Year 8 - Extremism and Hate Crimes

Year 9 - Drug Risks and Addiction

Year 10 - Body Examinations and Organ Donation

Year 10 - Charity & Money Happiness

Year 11 - Loans/Mortgages and Insurance



Safeguarding contact information:

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

Deputy DSL: ksheldon@horizonoot.co.uk

Support: safeguarding@horizonoot.co.uk

Year 7

Year 7 continue to impress everyone with their enthusiasm, resilience, and commitment to the OHA values.

One area where we're really shining is attendance—and we want to keep that momentum going! Every single day in school counts and turning up consistently is the key to success. Let's aim to be the best year group in the school for attendance. Remember, every lesson missed is an opportunity lost, so keep showing up and making it count.

As we head towards the Christmas break, it's important to maintain our high standards. Keep working hard, stay focused, and continue to demonstrate the fantastic attitude that makes Year 7 stand out.

~ Miss Marriot (RSL)

Year 8

Having visited several lessons recently, it has been wonderful to see Year 8 working hard, staying focused, and engaging so positively in their learning. Particularly during their Bright Start at the beginning of each lesson.

In addition to their excellent attitude in the classroom, Year 8 have also been doing a fantastic job of keeping the restaurant clean and tidy at lunchtime. They are taking responsibility for their rubbish and showing respect to the dinner staff and cleaners, true OHA'ers!

Keep up the great work Year 8!

~ Miss Smith (RSL)

Year 9

This term our Y9 Framescapes group attended the Wade Conference Centre, where students were introduced to a variety of potential career pathways and had an inspirational talk from Jonty Sargeant, who shared his experiences and offered valuable insights into future ambitions.

Year 9 have also begun using Sparx this year for homework which supports and extends their learning. Homework is due in every Wednesday and achievement points are awarded for early and on time submissions.

I look forward to seeing how many achievement points we can earn as a year group! ~ Miss Haynes (RSL)

Year 10

As we are coming to terms with life in Key Stage 4, it has been great to see a real shift in focus on academic importance.

I want to remind pupils and parents on the importance of homework and attendance. Homework is the first major step that our Year 10 pupils take where they take full responsibility for their own learning.

Additionally, nothing is more important than face-to-face learning, therefore I must urge pupils and parents to be committed to ensuring that pupils are in the academy as much as possible. Well done to our pupils who have 100% attendance so far this year, and well done to those that are showing great resilience by looking to increase their attendance with each passing week!

~ Mr Rose (RSL)

Year 11

Well done to our Year 11 students, who have shown great effort and resilience throughout their mock exams. Lets take the time now to refocus to get the best grades we can in the Summer.

Prom fundraising is now underway, and we'd like to give a big thank you to our Student Senior Leadership Team for organising the Tombola for the Christmas Fayre. Their hard work and enthusiasm will help us get off to a fantastic start.

~ Miss McGowan (RSL)



An OAT Academy

Nicotine Pouches

A Growing Concern Among Young People



Earlier this year, the UK government banned the sale of disposable vapes to help reduce the number of children accessing and using them. However, attention is now turning to another addictive product that is becoming increasingly popular among young people – **nicotine pouches**, sometimes called **snus**.

According to **Action on Smoking and Health (ASH)**, awareness of nicotine pouches among 11-18-year-olds has risen significantly. In 2024, **38%** of young people in this age group knew what a nicotine pouch was. By June this year, that figure had increased to **43%**.

Nicotine pouches are small, tobacco-free products placed under the lip, delivering nicotine without smoke or vapor. While marketed as a "safer alternative" to smoking, they still carry risks of addiction and potential harm to health.

[A Parent's Guide to Nicotine and Smoking Products - Action on Smoking and Health](#)

House Update

It doesn't seem 5 minutes since the last newsletter, but we've squeezed so much in already!

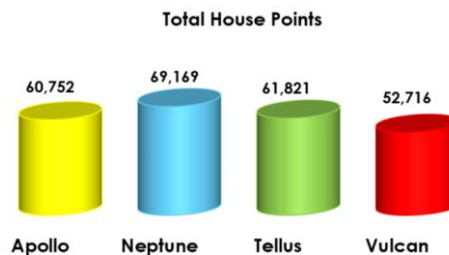
Our indoor lunchtime activities are becoming so popular now the colder weather has started to arrive, in fact just today we had over 30 students and 6 members of staff all frantically trying to beat Miss Amjads fastest time in our Cup Stacking challenge.

The impromptu lunchtime competitions still continue outside, as and when the students want to do any, and the last warmer, dry, lunch saw a group of year 8 girls compete in an impromptu 3v3 netball tournament with Vulcan taking the bragging rights with convincing wins against the other houses.

The first ever 'What the flag' quiz took place recently with mixed results for each of the four houses across the year groups.

Our year 9 boys finally got their re re rescheduled football tournament completed, and what a tournament it was. Very fine margins mainly due to two amazing goalkeepers, Kyle R and player of the tournament, Hudson, saw Apollo take the spoils albeit with help from the other houses loaning the odd player to a depleted Apollo squad.

The cadets took part in the 'You must be Crackers' competition with Aaron taking the topspot of the leaderboard with a new OHA record time of 1:14.31.



Safeguarding contact information:

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

Deputy DSL: ksheldon@horizoncoat.co.uk

Support: safeguarding@horizoncoat.co.uk

OHA GALLERY

KS3 EFL Utilita Cup Team



Lunchtime House Events - Cup Crazy!



Y8/Y9 Careers Workshop: A World of Films



Y10 Dance Workshop with Choreographer



Y10 Trip to Manchester City FC



Y8 Netball Team



Y8 Sports Hall Athletics Team

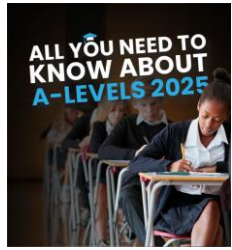


Safeguarding contact information:

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

Deputy DSL: ksheldon@horizoncoat.co.uk

Support: safeguarding@horizoncoat.co.uk



PATHWAYS AFTER OHA

A-LEVELS

A levels are England's main academic qualification for students aged 16-18, usually taken after GCSEs in years 12 and 13. A levels are offered by all schools with sixth forms as well as sixth form colleges. They remain the most common passport to higher education and future careers.

GET INTO A LEVELS

Entry requirements for A levels:

To take an A level, you normally need at least:

- 5 GCSEs at grades 9 to 4
- grade 6 in the subjects you want to study

You should check with the school or college where you'd like to study to find out exactly what you'll need.

You'll get a level 3 qualification from each A level you take. You can see [what qualification levels mean on GOV.UK](#).

A levels are also worth [UCAS points](#) which you use to apply to university or another type of higher education.

After your A levels:

After you've finished your A levels you could:

- apply to university or another type of higher education
- do a higher level apprenticeship
- find work or join a school leaver scheme

KEY INFORMATION:

Of all the further education pathways, A levels are the most traditional and academic.

Young people often choose them because they want to go to university (although note that most universities now accept BTECs) and/or they have a clear career goal in mind (eg studying STEM subjects to enter a STEM career).

Their focus on analytical thinking and research skills means they are best suited to motivated and intellectually curious students.

Comparing A-levels and GCSEs: Key differences

- You will study fewer subjects than you did at GCSE but, as A-levels are advanced qualifications, you will need to develop a much deeper understanding and knowledge of these subjects
- Because you're picking fewer subjects, A-levels are a good opportunity to start specialising and thinking about potential future careers
- At A-level, you have a lot less input from teachers and are expected to do more independent study
- However, you normally go to more lessons, so you can have more time with your teachers to ask questions and work on projects
- While A-levels are a great entry ticket to university, there are some subjects that certain unis won't accept, and some they will prefer – so do your research!

USEFUL LINKS

[Results](#) | [Find a Course](#) | [National Careers Service](#)

[What qualification levels mean on GOV.UK](#)

[What Is an A Level Course?](#) | [A Complete Guide to A Levels in the UK](#)

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

Deputy DSL: ksheldon@horizoncoat.co.uk

Support: safeguarding@horizoncoat.co.uk

PURPLE TICKET STANDINGS

Virtual Purple Tickets are awarded weekly for:

- 100% attendance
- 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 - Elisa (49)



Year 7 (45+)

Williams, E

Jones, R

Harrison, M

Routledge, I

Folorunso, S

Williams, E

Year 8 (47+)

Bagguley, E

Lahillonne, S

Eardley, A

Whitefoot, K

Bailey-Amison, F

Mountford, G

Year 9 (40+)

Bailey, R

Hanks, R

Gallimore, A

Hughes, M

Hall, K

Tustanowski, O

Innocent, E

Year 10 (42+)

Cooke, L

Menzies, L

Badu, A

Collinson, H

Year 11 (36+)

Hassall, L

Hegarty, L

Cartwright, S

Jackson, A

Newell, J

Robinson, Y