

THE "OHA" 'ER"

Vol 6: Friday 5th December

Principal's Update

Dear Parents, Carers and Students,

I'd like to start by congratulating Mrs Steenkamp and our academy debating team for their recent performances in the Stoke On Trent Schools' Debate Challenge. Public speaking is a real skill which takes courage, bravery and personality. A huge well done to Liam, Kiara and Lena for their amazing performances.

Next, I'm thrilled to announce that the amazing Ruby (Y10) has been elected on the OAT National Student Voice Panel. She will now work alongside five of her peers from around the country to represent over 30,000 OAT students nationally. Ruby is a true example of an OHA'er and demonstrates incredible resilience on a daily basis. Well done Ruby - you really deserve this!

Finally, I want to really focus on the attendance of each and every student over the next two weeks. Traditionally, we have seen a drop in attendance in the build up to Christmas which leads to loss learning and students falling behind in their studies. We expect to see all students in school consistently over the next ten days and to enjoy the Christmas spirit around school.

~ Mr Fitzgibbon

Key Dates

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

Friday 19th December

Academy closes for Christmas Holidays at 12.20pm

Monday 5th January

Academy INSET Day - Closed to Students

Tuesday 6th January

Academy reopens for all students - 8.30am line up

Wednesday 14th January

Y11 Parents Evening (face-face)

Personal Development Day 1

Tuesday 16th December

We strongly believe that the experiences that we have outlined will allow our students to develop their academy values of Resilience, Respect and Responsibility both inside and outside of the classroom. These experiences will allow our students to broaden their horizons and allow them to develop a deeper understanding of the wider world.

Parents/Carers will not be asked to contribute to each individual activity and opportunity the students are given as part of our OHA Charter. Our intention is that the money required to run this will be raised through fundraising events, school funds and donations. If your family can make a small contribution towards the running costs of these opportunities, please log into your Parentpay account and choose the required option.

- **Year 7** - Regent Theatre (out of academy)
- **Year 8** - STEM Day (in academy)
- **Year 9** - Staffordshire University (out of academy)
- **Year 10** - Salford Quays/Imperial War Museum (out of academy)
- **Year 11** - Enrichment Day (in academy)

Any out of academy events, require the parental Edulink Form completed with the most up to date medical/allergies and emergency contact information. Please complete this ASAP, or contact your RSL for support with the forms.

Assembly Overview

WB 8th December

PD Day Expectations - Year 10

DWP - Year 7

WB 15th December

Celebration Assemblies - All Years



PSHE/RS Overview

Year 7 - Cyberbullying and Taking a Stand Against Bullying

Year 8 - Crime Assessments

Year 9 - Drugs Assessment

Year 10 - Health Services & Meningitis/Stroke

Year 10 - Helping Others and Charity

Year 11 - Pensions & Taxes

Year 11 - Morals & Universal Rules



Safeguarding contact information:

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Year 7

Year 7 have shown an excellent start with attendance, and we are determined to make sure they finish this term as the **best-attending year group in the academy**. Keep up the great effort—every day counts! A huge well done to the students for producing some incredible **3D cell models** in Science for Miss Fisher. These creations have been expertly made and packed with detail.

As we head into the last few weeks of term, let's keep the momentum going! Year 7, continue smashing it with **homework, attendance, punctuality, and achievement points**. Well done for everything so far—you're making us proud!

~ Miss Collis (BD)

Year 8

Year 8 recently took part in a knife arch activity in collaboration with our local police partners. This was organised as part of the PSHE curriculum, following recent lessons on the dangers of knife crime. It was fantastic to see our students approach this activity with such a high level of maturity and responsibility.

In addition, Year 8 attended a careers assembly delivered by Mrs Naylor, where they explored a wide range of career options available to them after leaving OHA.

A reminder: Year 8 Parents' Evening will take place in the academy on Wednesday 10th December, between 3:00 pm and 6:30 pm. Appointments can be booked via Edulink. ~ Mr Williamson (BD)

Year 9

Recently, Year 9 students have been exploring several important topics during PT time. These include understanding the dangers of recreational drug use and learning to recognize the key signs that someone might be using drugs. In addition, students have received valuable information about potential career pathways after leaving OHA.

A significant focus for Year 9 continues to be homework completion. We are delighted to report a major increase in the number of students completing their homework which has been wonderful to see. Please note that homework now runs from Wednesday to Wednesday. If any student is finding it difficult to complete their homework, we offer after-school homework clubs to provide support with logging in and completing tasks.

~ Mr Williamson (BD)

Year 10

Year 10 are now fully engaged with their options courses and I am really happy to say they have started really well. Feedback from teachers has been positive with the year group focussing well and engaging well in lessons. It's important they continue with this momentum as the pressure and workload will increase the further into courses they get.

One area for all years to focus on is late to learning. We have a clear structure to learning at OHA and the first part is crucial for reflecting on prior learning from previous lessons/ topics. Please remind them of the importance of getting to lessons on time.

~ Mr Maher (BD)

Year 11

Year 11 have had their first round of Mock Exams and this has been an eye opener to many of how little time they have before the real exams in the Summer. They approached the exams well and it will be great preparation for the real ones. Please remind your child that p6 is a vital part of the extended learning offer we give to OHA students.

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~ Mr Maher (BD)

Student Celebration

S Tolos in Year 8, pictured below, stood next to her winning entry of the CAFAG community art competition, which took place last academic year just before the Summer.

As part of her win, she received a £50 Love2Shop voucher and had her entry recreated on the side of the Whitfield Valley Community Centre building by a local artist.

Lord Mayor Steve Watkins unveiled the piece, and was very impressed!

Well done!



Student Celebration

The Vice Chair of Tunstall Together CIC (Community Interest company) has shared some lovely feedback about Phoebe and her work in the community.

"Phoebe, a Y8 student at OHA, is an amazing young lady, who has helped with many community events and projects in Tunstall. Volunteering for the Tunstall Town Centre Community Association, which is a small community group.

For remembrance, she attached 1000 poppy heads to 1000 stems so that they can be attached to boards in the memorial garden. She is always volunteering her time for Tunstall Together's community projects, and has helped from advertising events, putting banners up, collecting donations, informing the public via the community hub in Tunstall market about events, and spreading information out.

She has also come up with ideas for future events and I'm sure you are aware, helps her mum and nan on their market stalls, both at events and in Tunstall Market.

In January, Tunstall Together CIC will launch publicly and move into an office space, and we will hold a small event with a couple of Stoke's history originations, to explain who was Sir Smith Child and about Tunstall Tower Square's clock tower. Phoebe again, has volunteered to help at the event and make some decorations for the event."

We are all incredibly proud of Phoebe, demonstrating our academy values in community!



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OHA Debate Team



OHA GALLERY

Sports Hall Athletics Teams



England Netball Match at the Manchester AO Arena



Y10 Students meet the MP and Local Councillor



Year 8 PSHE Knife Arch Morning



Ruby selected to be on the OAT National Student Advisory Panel



Girls Netball against SMW



Girls Football Success Continues..



OHA Chess Team



Y8 Peer Mentoring Team 25-26



Stoke City Game



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PATHWAYS AFTER OHA:

APPRENTICESHIPS

Apprenticeships are a brilliant option for people of all ages to launch their careers in a huge range of exciting industries or upskill at various levels. There are thousands of apprenticeship vacancies on offer, with more than 640 high-quality apprenticeships approved for use by employers – meaning someone could pursue a career as anything from a space engineering technician to a junior advertising creative

GET INTO AN APPRENTICESHIP:

Apprenticeships combine practical training in a job with study.

As an apprentice you'll:

- be an employee **earning a wage and getting holiday pay**
- work alongside experienced staff
- gain job-specific skills
- get time for training and study related to your role (at least 20% of your normal working hours)

Apprenticeships can take from 8 months to 6 years to complete, depending on the type and level of the apprenticeship.

To start an apprenticeship, you'll need to be:

- 16 or over
- living in England
- not in full-time education

Levels of apprenticeship

Apprenticeships have equivalent educational levels.

	Level	Equivalent educational level
Foundation and Intermediate	2	GCSE
Advanced	3	A level
Higher	4,5,6 and 7	Foundation degree and above
Degree	6 and 7	Bachelor's or master's degree

KEY INFORMATION:

As an apprentice, you'll get:

- paid and be entitled to the [National Minimum Wage](#)
- time for training or study as part of your apprenticeship
- holiday pay and other [employee rights](#)

You must be paid for:

- your normal working hours
- training that's part of your apprenticeship (at least 20% of your normal working hours)
- study towards English and maths qualifications, if they're part of your apprenticeship

Your normal working hours should be in your employment contract (this might be your apprenticeship agreement).

If you're studying for English and maths qualifications which are part of your apprenticeship, your employer should allow you time to study during your normal working hours.

As an apprentice, at least 20% of your normal working hours must be spent on training.

Your training might happen every week, every month or in a separate block of time.

The training might take place:

- at your place of work
- somewhere else like at a college or training provider
- online
-

Your training provider will be able to tell you when and where your training will be.

You'll get at least 20 days paid holiday per year, plus bank holidays.

USEFUL LINKS

[FIND AN APPRENTICESHIP – GOV.UK](#)

[14 APPRENTICESHIPS JOBS IN STOKE-ON-TRENT | PAGE 1 | FIND A JOB](#)

[APPRENTICE JOBS IN STOKE – UPDATED DAILY | APPRENTICE JOB VACANCIES STOKE](#)

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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

Current No.1 Ranking in the Academy –
Elisa, Jay and Kirsten all even!



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

Top Students

YEAR 7	YEAR 8	YEAR 9	YEAR 10	YEAR 11
Ogunyemi, M	Bagguley, E	Bailey, R	Cooke, L	Hegarty, L
Harrison, M	Ingram, J	Muomah, M	Menzies, L	Davis, F
Williams, E	Whitefoot, K	Hughes, M	Grosiak, J	Hassall, L
Jones, R	Eardley, A	Hall, K	Badu, A	Hansbury, C
Folorunso, S	Bailey-Amison, F	Shaw, E	Khan, I	Jackson, A
Routledge, I	Lahillonne, S	Hanks, R	Hussain, N	Cartwright, S
Leech, R	Mountford, G	Gallimore, A	Twardochleb, L	Davies, L
Simm, L	Preston, G	Chapman, H	Moore, R	Ashley, L
Tilstone, H	Tate, E	Bailey, R	Woolliscroft, J	Dawson, K
Naylor, P	Kings, C	Muomah, M	O'Leary, I	Morris, R

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