

THE "OHA" 'ER"

Vol 8: Friday 16th January

Principal's Update

Dear Parents & Carers,

Firstly, Happy New Year! I hope you and your family had a lovely Christmas break.

Hopefully, we have seen the last of the snow. Thank you for your patience with the disruption we had last week and I hope you felt we communicated in a timely manner.

I have led assemblies with all year groups regarding our new year's resolutions and how we can all work on our values of Resilience, Respect and Responsibility to ensure our school performs at the highest possible standard.

I have also spoken to all students about the importance of attendance and that all students need to be in school every day! We also discussed how they can take responsibility for their attendance.

Finally, a warm welcome back to Dr Scragg who returns after her maternity leave, we are really looking forward to welcoming her back.

~ Mr Fitzgibbon

Key Dates



Monday 19th January – Friday 23rd January
KS3 OAT Common Assessment Window

Wednesday 21st January
OHA Sports Tour Parental Evening (5pm)

Friday 30th January
Y11 Photographs

Friday 13th February – Academy closes at 3.10pm for half term
100% Homework Roller Disco – PT/P1 (invite only)
Purple Ticket Movie Afternoon – P4/P5 (invite only)

Monday 23rd February
OAT INSET Day – Academy closed to students

Tuesday 24th February
Academy reopens to all students. 8.30am line up

Arbor/EduLink Updates



We have now moved our Management Information System (MIS) to Arbor. Pupils have had instruction to log out of their EduLink apps, and re-log back in, making sure that they use the postcode ST6 6JZ NOT 'Horizon' to login.

Username and passwords remain the same.

Parents are now asked to check that their child has done this, and to also log out of EduLink and re-log in, making sure that you use the postcode ST6 6JZ to log in.

You will know that you are on the correct platform if the 'Ormiston Horizon Academy' logo is in a white circle and there is NOT a black box on the logo.

If you are on the old EduLink, there is a black box. Please log out and use the postcode ST6 6JZ to login.

Detentions

Detentions re-start from Monday 19th January. Detentions can be seen on the 'Behaviour' dashboard on EduLink, under detentions

Assembly Overview

WB 19th January
School Nurse – Y7 and Y10

WB 26th January
Stoke 6th Form – Y11
Options Process – Y9
Standards – Y8



PSHE/RS Overview

Year 7 – Sleep and Vaping

Year 8 – Units & Effects of Alcohol

Year 9 – Commitment in relationships

Year 10 – Freedom of speech

Year 10 – Natural World & Environmental Ethics



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Year 7

We are thrilled to see such a fantastic start to the new year across the academy.

Students have returned with energy and enthusiasm, and we are excited to build on this momentum. This term, we are putting a big focus on **enrichment activities** – these opportunities are a great way for students to explore new interests, develop skills, and make lasting friendships. We strongly encourage every student to get involved and make the most of what's on offer.

~ Miss Wood (HOY)

Year 8

A big well done to all Year 8 students who attended the Introduction to University mini programme this week. They represented the year group brilliantly.

I hope to hear that students are also taking part in enrichment clubs over the coming weeks, as these provide valuable opportunities beyond the classroom.

Uniform and equipment standards are looking good, and I hope we can continue this positive start moving forward.

~ Miss Betley (HOY)

Year 9

As we return it is the perfect opportunity to start fresh, set new goals and make the most of the weeks ahead. Remember, every day is a new opportunity to try your best, to support one another and to be proud of your progress – no matter how small. Let's all work together to make this a positive, focussed and successful year.

Just a polite reminder that all students are expected to wear the correct uniform each day. This promotes a sense of pride and belonging. I would also remind students who would like to go outside at lunchtime to bring along a warm coat. Thank you for your continued co-operation in maintaining high standards and supporting our shared commitment to a respectful and focused learning environment.

~ Mrs Milne (HOY)

Year 10

Welcome back, Year 10 and happy new year! I trust you had a relaxing and fun-filled Christmas break. It's great to see so many of you back with such focus on your coursework and revision!

Work Experience is fast approaching and you need to start securing your placements. If you're having trouble finding a work experience placement, don't hesitate to reach out—we're here to help.

~ Miss Harris (HOY)

Year 11

I hope you all have had a peaceful Christmas and fun New Year. I hope the Year 11's managed to have a bit of fun in the snow. It's been lovely catching up with students and hearing about their time off. Before we broke up for the holidays, it was fantastic seeing the Year 11's engaging so positively in PD day and taking part in different activities they wouldn't usual do.

This term will fly by, I hope they are recharged to fully commit to their learning including Period 6's on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday.

~ Mrs Richardson (HOY)

Happy Fridays

Our new year's resolution for 2026 is all about developing relationships further and building connections between staff-students and students-students. After student voice before Christmas highlighted that students main reason for attending school is being with friends, along with teachers – we have launched a new Happy Fridays initiative which runs every week for Y7, Y8 and Y9.

This is a community year group morning, where students are in the restaurant, together, enjoying each other's company, talking and building connections with their peers and year team staff and having a few snacks as well!

This has been really well received by students and staff so far, with students asking for more games mornings and a BYOB (Bring your own biscuits) morning planned for the coming weeks.



House Update

We knew (hoped) it would happen and it finally did. Tellus beating all of the other houses to end the 1st term with a win. Well done to everyone in Vulcan house.

We ended the last term with a bang and our first ever LipSync Battle, with the crowd's noise [cheering] choosing the winners, ending the final day of term with a live Assembly with the winners and runners up from Key Stage 3 & 4 battling away for that top slot and what a performance they all gave.

Kirsten W & Scarlett D (yr8) produced an amazingly acrobatic routine and narrowly lost out to Holly B & Ivy D (yr8) very polished and cool [loved the shades] in the KS3 final.

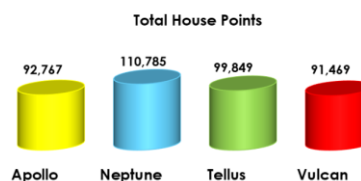
Pollyanna P (yr11) just edged out Olivia P (yr9) to win the KS4 final with both acts giving amazingly energetic performances.

Our Grand Final arrived and wow, the performances got better and better, the nerves were gone even with the entire academy watching online, and wow, perform they did. Once all the votes were cast there was very little between 4th and 1st place with Holly B & Ivy D (yr8) winning by just a votes. All four acts were amazing and already requests on coming in for the next LipSync Battle.

Our 2nd term has a far gentler start, especially with the snow! This week we have rolled out our first ever quiz all about Cheese. It's true, you can ask many many questions just about cheese.

Our first ever, Cheese facts or fiction, quiz winners were: Tellus for years 9 & 10 and Apollo taking first place for years 7 & 8. Our overall winners with a combined score of 27 out of 30 were Tellus.

With so many new events coming up, Term 2 is shaping up to be amazing



Safeguarding contact information:

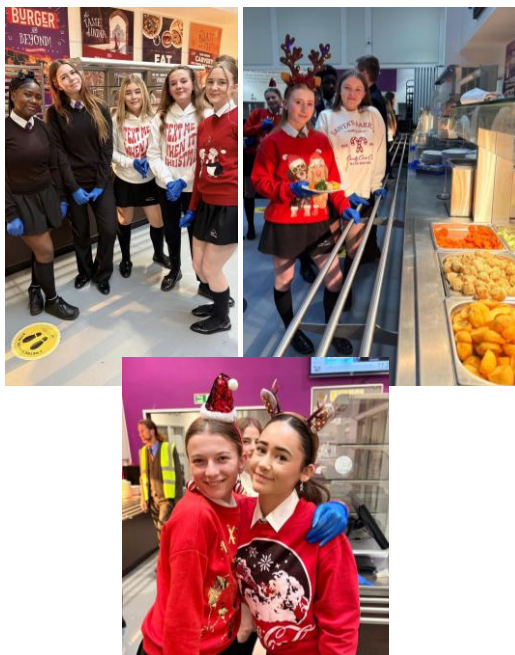
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Christmas Dinner Day Leaders



OHA GALLERY

Y10 Science Lessons -
DNA Samples



Happy Fridays for Year 9 - Friday 9th January



Christmas Lip Sync
Battle Finalists



Y11 Christmas Rewards for 100% P6 attendance



Girls Cinema Trip to see Wicked: For Good



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NATIONAL
APPRENTICESHIP
WEEK 2026



University of
Staffordshire

APPRENTICESHIP FAIR 2026

Saturday 7 February 9am – 3pm

Join us and meet leading employers, explore all apprenticeship opportunities and get direct insight into real career pathways.

Register your place today, all are welcome.

Location: The Catalyst Building, University of Staffordshire, Leek Road, Stoke-on-Trent, ST4 2DF.

Free to attend and free parking!

2026 employers confirmed
so far include



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