

The “OHA’er”

Vol 10: Friday 13th February

Principal's Update

Dear OHA Community,

As we approach half term, I am delighted to be able to share with you some really exciting news that will benefit the school and the wider local community.

After a significant amount of work behind the scenes and a number of different fundraising events, I am thrilled to let you know that OHA has been awarded a major grant from the Football Foundation—funded by the Premier League, The FA and Government—to support the development of a brand-new 3G pitch on our site. This investment recognises both the strength of our plans to grow women's and girls' football and the fantastic fundraising efforts of our pupils and staff, whose commitment has helped bring the project to this stage.

While this is an exciting step forward, the project will take time to progress through the necessary planning and construction phases, so we'll keep families updated as timelines become clearer. Once complete, the new facility will provide a high-quality space for all our students to play, train and enjoy sport for many years to come.

I want to take this opportunity to thank all the staff and students who have been involved in the project to this point. As you can imagine, a significant amount of time and effort has already been invested and we are really excited about what the coming weeks and months will bring.

~ Mr Fitzgibbon

Key Dates



Friday 13th February – Academy closes at 3.10pm for half term

100% Homework Roller Disco – P1/P2 (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

Wednesday 4th March

Year 9 Options Evening (In Academy) 5pm – 6.45pm

Thursday 12th March

MHST Tea & Talk Morning – *further information to be sent out*

Tuesday 17th March

Year 10 Revision Evening (In Academy) Times TBC

Options Evening Wednesday 4th March



Join us for our Year 9 Options Evening on Wednesday 4th March, with doors opening at **5pm**.

This is a fantastic opportunity for students and families to meet subject teachers, explore possible options for Years 10 and 11, and speak with our careers team about how these choices can help shape future pathways. We look forward to welcoming you!



Assembly Overview

WB 23rd Feb

Year 10 – Phoenix Gas (Careers)

WB 2nd March

Year 8 – Planterra (Careers)

Year 9 – MPCT (Careers)



PSHE Overview

Year 7 – Hygiene & Puberty

Year 8 – Health Conditions & First Aid

Year 9 – STIs & Democracy

Year 10 – FGM/HBA & Legal Systems



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Year 7

Year 7 have had a fantastic start to the year and we are already halfway through! Well done to everyone for their brilliant Sparx homework completion and for earning the highest number of purple tickets in the whole school. Congratulations also to the Year 7 girls' netball team, who placed 4th this half term in the City Netball Tournament—we can't wait to see them progress in future competitions. Next half term brings the exciting Year 7 residential to Anglesey, a great opportunity for pupils to build friendships and enjoy outdoor activities. Our parent information evening will be held at 5:30pm on Tuesday 24th February, and we kindly ask that the online consent form is completed as soon as possible if it hasn't been done already.

~ Miss Collis (BD)

Year 8

Our recent 'Happy Friday' mornings were a great success, providing students with a valuable opportunity to chat with friends and teachers in a relaxed setting and build new positive relationships across the year group. As we move forward, I'm confident that Year 8 will continue to grow in maturity and independence. This means taking ownership of homework completion, demonstrating responsibility by attending any detentions promptly, and playing their part in creating calm, focused learning environments. The effort that so many Year 8 students are already putting in by earning their Purple Tickets is making a real difference, and I'm excited to see this continue!

~ Mr Williamson (BD)

Year 9

I'm pleased to report that we've seen improved homework completion rates among Year 9 students in recent weeks, which is encouraging to see. However, it remains crucial that all students complete their Sparx homework for English, maths, and science, which is due every Wednesday. Completing homework regularly not only reinforces classroom learning but also helps students develop the independent study skills they'll need as they move towards their GCSEs. On a separate note, the options process has now begun, and Year 9 students have a valuable opportunity to explore their choices through half-hour taster sessions taking place after school on 9th and 10th February.

~ Mr Williamson (BD)

Year 10

Year 10 have been doing some great work on human rights recently in PSHE and it has been great to get into some of these lessons and listen to the very mature conversations taking place. - I think some of our students would make great politicians! Our students have also been doing some great intervention work recently. This is helping keep students on track to make good progress by the end of Y11. It has been really positive seeing so many of our Y10 students gaining awards and getting high numbers of house points. This shows great engagement.

~ Mr Maher (BD)

Year 11

As we reach a crucial stage, our Y11 students are working hard on the final preparation for their mocks and final exams that begin soon. It is understandable that during this stressful time students can begin to feel stressed and overworked. Please remind them support is available and students can speak to any of the year team if they want some support. We are always here to help them, especially during this busy time. There is lots of advice on teenage mental health and during half term if students can get out for some fresh air then that can help - taking short breaks in between revision also helps.

~ Mr Maher (BD)

Y11 Mock Exams

As we approach the Year 11 mock examination period, we would like to ensure that all students and families have the key information needed to feel prepared and confident.

The mock examination schedule has also been sent out via Edulink – please take time to review the timetable carefully with your child to ensure they are fully aware of dates, times and any specific requirements.

Examination Conduct & Malpractice

It is important that students understand the expectations around exam conduct. Mock examinations follow the same regulations as formal GCSE exams.

Malpractice includes:

- Bringing unauthorised materials into the exam (e.g. mobile phones, notes, smart watches).
- Communicating with other candidates during the exam.
- Copying or attempting to share answers.
- Any behaviour that could give an unfair advantage.

Any incidents of malpractice will be taken seriously and will result in sanctions being put in place.

Attendance Matters

Full attendance during the mock period is extremely important. These exams provide valuable experience and inform future support, predicted grades and intervention. Please ensure your child attends all scheduled exams and arrives punctually.

We are very proud of the hard work Year 11 students have shown so far. We wish all of our Year 11 students the very best of luck in their mock examinations — you've got this!

~ Mrs Thomas

House Update

The Dodgeball League got off to a flying start with Vulcan completing a clean sweep for the first fixtures against Apollo for the year 7 & 8, and year 9 & 10, boys and girls teams. Neptune and Tellus shared the spoils in their fixtures the following week.

Polite reminder that all players arrive to the academy in their PE kit ready for the fixtures, they'll have time to get changed into their uniform after the game.

We finished up the blindfolded find the potato races, with Apollo taking 1st place for year 9. Hopefully you enjoy the photos that will appear on our socials this week. Apollo yet again took 1st place in the final balloon relay race for year 7 & 8s, never has so much fun been seen with just 8 balloons.

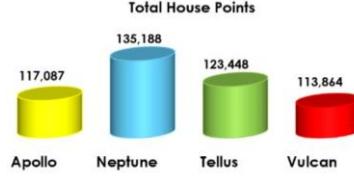
Our second chess tournament of the academic year has already broken the record of the highest number of entries and certainly looks like it'll become the longest running if the final isn't played before the week is out.

Lunchtime competitions have continued with the addition of quick chess challenges for year 10 and 11. The newest lunch competition on the block is the Maltesers challenge which is certainly going to become the most popular. I wonder why...

We finish the half term with Neptune still at the top of the leaderboard but the story has to be about Vulcans come back. Having been over 11'000 points behind the 3rd place house, they are now only less than 4,000 points behind.

With some high scoring competitions coming up the race for the house cup is still wide open.

~ Mr Salt



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OHA GALLERY

Netball Teams for KS3 Tournaments



Y8 Capula Industry Visits



Y10 Student,
Liam T, leads
Parent
Reading
Morning

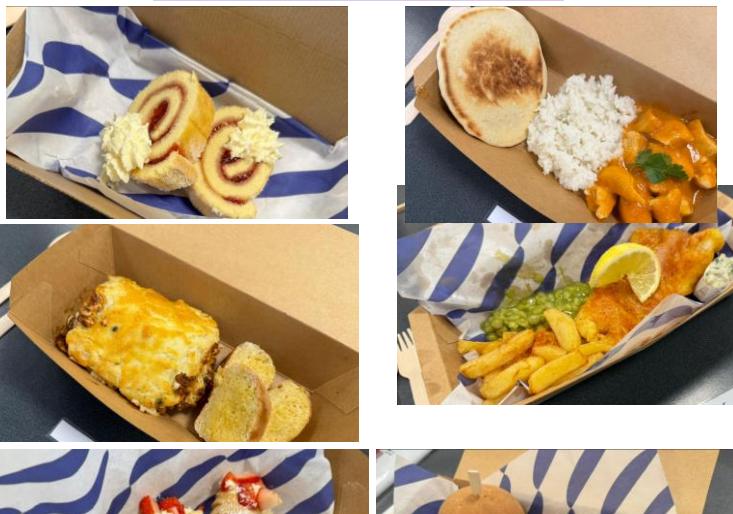


Happy Fridays continue!



Congratulations
to ex student
D.Moran on his
acceptance to
Cambridge
University

Y11 Food Exam Success



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Careers of the Month

FEBRUARY **Y7**

MULTI-SKILLED ENGINEER



Check out this career on Unifrog, or scan here to:
 • Watch the video
 • Find out what the job involves and how to get in
 • See how much you could be paid



FEBRUARY **Y8**

CHEF



Check out this career on Unifrog, or scan here to:
 • Watch the video
 • Find out what the job involves and how to get in
 • See how much you could be paid



FEBRUARY **Y9**

ELECTRONICS ENGINEER



Check out this career on Unifrog, or scan here to:
 • Watch the video
 • Find out what the job involves and how to get in
 • See how much you could be paid



FEBRUARY **Y10**

WEB DEVELOPER



Check out this career on Unifrog, or scan here to:
 • Watch the video
 • Find out what the job involves and how to get in
 • See how much you could be paid



FEBRUARY **Y11**

GROUNDSPERSON



Check out this career on Unifrog, or scan here to:
 • Watch the video
 • Find out what the job involves and how to get in
 • See how much you could be paid



National Apprenticeship Week 2026

Use the links below for further information on Apprenticeships:

[National Apprenticeship Week 2026, 9 - 15 February 2026](#)

[What is an apprenticeship?](#)

[The Apprenticeship Assembly Film - Amazing Apprenticeships](#)

For any further support, visit our website page or speak to Mrs Naylor:

[Ormiston Horizon Academy | An ambitious school at the heart of our community - Careers Guidance](#)

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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/GCSE POD
- Homework completion – Sparx Science

Current No.1 Ranking in the Academy:

Luna Rae (Year 7)

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

YEAR 7	YEAR 8	YEAR 9	YEAR 10	YEAR 11
Gibson, L	Bailey, C	Shaw, E	Melenciuc, A	Williams, M
Harrison, M	Lahillonne, S	Smart, L	Menzies, L	Robinson, Y
Wozny, A	Marsden, F	Hughes, M	Moores, R	Boardman, L
Tilstone, H	Whitefoot, K	Wain, J	O'Leary, I	Ashley, L
Wood, I	Bagguley, E	Tustanowski, O	Espley, L	Postles, M
Bagnall, D	Ingram, J	Gallimore, A	Rapi, E	Davis, F
O'Leary, C	Rostami, A	Rajhman, H	Grosiak, J	Clowes, F
Phillips, L	Davies, O	Muomah, M	Malbon, R	Bryan, S
Stephens, R	Davies, B	Allin, L	Moisoiu, A	Cartwright, S



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BOOST YOUR ATTENDANCE!

ATTENDANCE CHALLENGE!

24th February - 27th March

24 DAYS!

IMPROVE YOUR
ATTENDANCE!

SHOW BETTER
ATTENDANCE THAN
LAST HALF TERM...

EARN A DELICIOUS REWARD!

GET A FREE
**CRÈME
EGG!**

