

## Principal's Update

Dear OHA Community,

I wanted to reflect on some of the amazing enrichment opportunities that have taken place since returning after the Christmas break.

As you will know, providing rich opportunities for our students both inside and outside of the classroom is something we are really proud of. On top of our extensive enrichment programme we have had a range of other trips that have taken place. A big thank you to Mrs Hackney and Mrs Naylor for leading a trip to Oxford University for a group of our Year 10 students. Mr Copestake has also been doing some great work with our Year 8 scholars as part of our Brilliance Club. We are really excited about seeing them develop over the coming months. A big well done to our Year 10 Reading Leaders who have been doing some excellent work with our Year 7 students, displaying excellent leadership and communication skills.

Attendance continues to be a key focus for all students across the academy. Each year group have now had specific attendance assemblies and certain students are working with members of the senior leadership team to ensure they move above 90% attendance. As always, if we can support with attendance in any way, please do not hesitate to reach out and contact us.

Finally, if your son / daughter has not mentioned Terrific Tuesday or Fun Friday yet, please have a chat with them about these great experiences that students have been apart of. A big thank you to Mr Maher and Miss Wilkes for all their hardwork behind the scenes to make sure these happen.

~ Mr Fitzgibbon

### Key Dates



#### Friday 30<sup>th</sup> January

Y11 Photographs

#### Friday 13<sup>th</sup> 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 23<sup>rd</sup> February

OAT INSET Day – Academy closed to students

#### Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> February

Academy reopens to all students. 8.30am line up

#### Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> March

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

#### Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> March

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

### Aspire to be more



Due to the move from Edulink ot Arbor, we have **reset** all purple tickets for everyone!

Tickets are awarded weekly for:

- 100% attendance
- 0 Behaviour Points
- House points (1 ticket per 20 HP)
- SPARX Science
- SPARX Maths
- Sparx Reader/GCSE POD

Purple Tickets means invites to this term's celebrations, February movie afternoon and an Easter cinema/laserquest trip – the more you get, the more chance you get to be invited!



## Assembly Overview

### WB 2<sup>nd</sup> Feb

Principals Assembly – Y7 and Y10

### WB 9<sup>th</sup> Feb

Principals Assembly – Y8, Y9 and Y11

House Assembly – All years



## PSHE/WS Overview

Year 7 – Dental Hygiene & Physical Activity

Year 8 – Social effects of alcohol & Managing Influences

Year 9 – Personal boundaries & safe relationships

Year 10 – Privacy and rights for Asylum Seekers

Year 10 – Amnesty International



### Safeguarding contact information:

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## Year 7

Year 7 have had a fantastic start back after the break. One of the standout achievements has been their fantastic engagement in house events. Participation has been incredibly high, and the positive team spirit they bring is amazing to watch. Whether it's competitions, challenges, or whole-school activities, Year 7 are always ready to get involved and give their best.

Uniform standards have also improved significantly. Students are taking real pride in their presentation, and it's great to see them representing themselves—and the school—so well each day. Year 7 should be proud of everything they've accomplished so far. With more events, trips, and opportunities coming up, the rest of the year is looking incredibly bright.

~ Miss Marriot (RSL)

## Year 8

A huge well done to Year 8 for successfully completing all their recent assessments. Alongside their hard work in the academy, a number of Year 8 students have had opportunities and experiences outside of the classroom over the last two weeks.

A group of students visited Stoke City for a stadium tour and careers workshop, where they all had an informative and enjoyable day. Another group also visited Capula Ltd, gaining valuable insight into local career pathways and the world of work.

A focus of ours over the next few weeks will be on homework. Well done to those students who are consistently completing their Sparx each week, keep this up!

~ Miss Smith (RSL)

## Year 9

The new year has got off to a fantastic start, and it's been great to see Year 9 students returning with enthusiasm, focus and a positive attitude to learning.

Over the next few weeks, Year 9 students will begin exploring their GCSE option choices. This is an important and exciting stage, giving students the chance to think about their interests, strengths and future ambitions. Staff will be supporting students throughout this process to help them feel confident and informed when making their decisions.

To support families as well, there will be an Options Evening on March 4<sup>th</sup>, where parents and carers are warmly invited to come along, meet subject teachers and ask any questions they may have.

~ Miss Haynes (RSL)

## Year 10

The year group have settled back into academy life well after the festive break. Pupils have felt the importance of academic focus right from the get go, and have sat a number of assessments which gave them a clear target on which areas they need to improve on in the coming weeks and months.

Work experience week is quickly approaching, we are encouraging all pupils to get a placement sorted as soon as possible and to log this on Unifrog. Students are being given booster sessions on Tuesdays if they need it and take a look at the WEX page further down for more support or contact Mrs Naylor.

~ Mr Rose (RSL)

## Year 11

As we move into the final days before the next round of Year 11 mock exams, I want to take a moment to say how proud we are of our students. They have shown real resilience, and these final weeks are a crucial opportunity to finish strongly. Thank you to the many students who are consistently arriving promptly and ready to learn to both your lessons and period 6s your efforts have been noticed and are appreciated!

A reminder for parents that Year 11 leavers' hoodies are now available to order via the link that I have emailed. The deadline for orders is **27th February**. If students would like to try on sizes before ordering, I have a full range available in my office.

~ Miss McGowan (RSL)



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## OHA Brilliant Club

### Scholar Programme Launch with The Brilliant Club

We are proud to have launched our Scholar Programme in partnership with The Brilliant Club, offering students an exciting opportunity to experience university-style learning. As part of the programme, we welcomed Tanya Wood, a PhD student from Wrexham University, who will be guiding students through a series of seven tutorials titled *Disease Detectives*. These sessions are designed to develop students' academic thinking, research skills, and confidence in higher-level study.

The programme culminates in a 1,500-word final assignment, allowing students to demonstrate what they have learned throughout the course.

We look forward to seeing students celebrate this fantastic achievement later in the year at their Graduation Event, marking their success on the Scholar's Programme and recognising their dedication and hard work.

## House Update

After a slow snowy shivery start to the term we warmed up quickly and got the new year party started with new events, Balloon Relay Races and Blindfolded Find the Potato, joining one of the favourite competitions from the last few years, the first short story writing competition.

With almost 50 entries in the short story writing competition it is taking some narrowing down to one winner, especially with the high quality of entries all of which followed the prompt of 'the inside of a ping pong ball'. Stay tuned for the winners to be announced very soon and how you can read all of the wonderful short stories.

Our first ever Balloon Relay Race got off to a slow nervous start, but it didn't take long for the students to get involved giving it their all in the best fun you have ever seen with just 4 balloons. Keep an eye out on the socials for a short video of the final race of the first day.

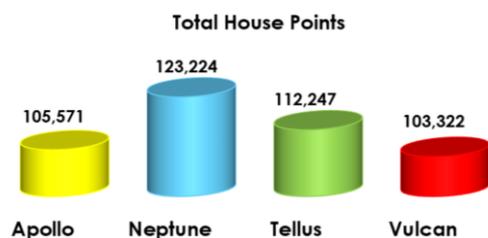
And then there is the wonderfully titled 'Blindfolded find the potato race' which in reality has actually started to look like a zombie race to find potatoes while bumping into each other. Don't worry, there's going to be a few videos on next weeks house update reel on the schools social media channels for you all to enjoy.

Our second Chess Tournament got off to the busiest and highest attended start ever with 43 students battling it out to be crowned the academies grand master. With so many entrants it's going to be a few weeks until we find out who will take the crown.

And finally, after a few false starts, due to timing, our inter-house dodgeball league has started with boys and girls' teams taking part in fixtures within their key stage groups. The first fixture, Apollo v Vulcan saw Vulcans Yr7 & 8 boys team, Yr9 & 10 boys team and both girls teams all succeeding to make it a clean sweep for Vulcan on the day that all the PT's found out, via the Terrific Tuesday Bulletin with Mr Maher, that Vulcan also finished at the top of the pile once again for week 18.

Roll on the next few weeks, it's going to get even busier.

~ Mr Salt



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# OHA GALLERY

The Brilliant Club



Y7 Partnership Games



Y8 Mini University Programme



Y10 students secure placements with NHS scheme – Aspiring Pharmacy Day



Y7 Gymnastics in PE is a hit!



Happy Fridays continue!



Staffs FA "Your Game" showing female students jobs within sport



Stoke City Careers Trip



Y10 Oxford University Trip



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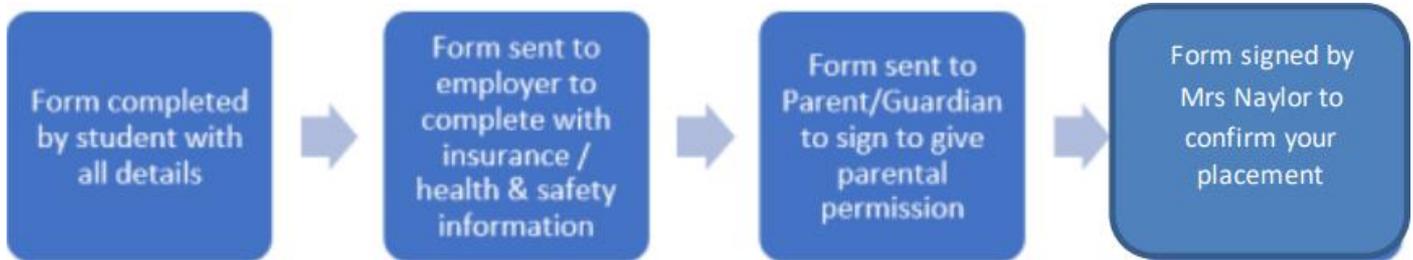
# CAREERS – Year 10 work experience reminders

Once you have confirmed your placement with your employer, you must input it onto **Unifrog**. This ensures we know where you are and we can do the Health and Safety checks necessary for you to go on placement.

You can watch the process video here:

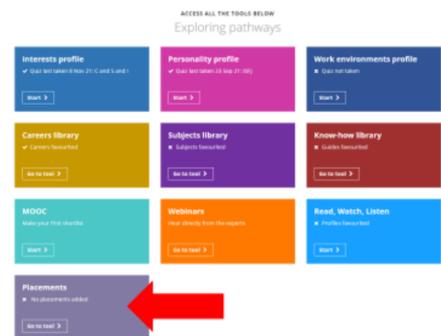
<https://www.unifrog.org/student/knowhow/direct/how-to-use-the-placements-tool>

Once you have added your placement to Unifrog, a chain of events happens:

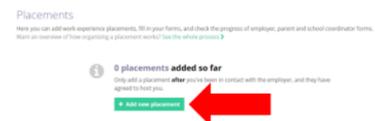


## How to register your confirmed placement:

- Step 1: Log into Unifrog using your school email
- Step 2: Go to the placement tool on the Home Page
- Step 4: Complete the form fully.
- It is an in-person placement
- The placement co-ordinator is Mrs Naylor.
- Placement start date is: 29th June 2026
- Placement finish date is: 3rd July 2026
- Time commitment: put what you have agreed with the employer
- Employer placement lead is often the Owner of the business, but in schools and larger companies they may appoint a Manager - put who has been communicating with you about your placement here.
- Parent/guardian contact: this is to give permission, so ensure the email address is correct.
- When the form is fully filled out, double check the email addresses are correct then click both agreement boxes before you "add placement"



Step 3: Click "Add new placement"



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 - Work Experience](#)

## 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:

Maisie W, Daisy B, Poppy C and Aaron W.

*All in 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
Harrison, M	Bailey, C	Bennett- O'Malley, B	Menzies, L	Boardman, L
Bagnall, D	Rostami, A	Hughes, M	Melenciuc, A	Murphy, S
Cyple, P	Marsden, F	Sims, E	Moore, R	Postles, M
Wozny, A	Moore, I	Moulton, E	Naka, L	Ashley, L
Tilstone, H	Haycock, T	Shaw, E	Malbon, R	Carter, M
Gibson, L	Kings, C	Tschubenko, L	Ingram, D	Hegarty, L
O'Leary, C	Raza, A	Cartlidge, C	O'Leary, I	Bryan, S
Adshead, E	Lahillonne, S	Wain, J	Mason, L	Williams, M
Morgan, B	Malbon, J	Chapman, H	Badu, A	Vyse, L

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