

Principal's Update

Dear OHA Community,

I want to focus all our attention this week on attendance.

Firstly, the link between attendance and achievement is undeniable. Department for Education research shows that pupils with the highest attendance are far more likely to achieve strong GCSE results, while even small dips in attendance can significantly reduce progress. This is equally important for students in KS3 and KS4. Every single day in school matters — not just for learning, but for confidence, friendships, routines and long-term success.

At OHA, we're seeing a pattern that mirrors the national picture: more students being absent on Mondays and Fridays. These short, regular absences quickly add up, and they interrupt learning far more than many families realise.

We are asking all families to work with us to break this pattern. We need your partnership to ensure:

- Every child is in school, every day, on time
- Non-urgent appointments are arranged outside school hours
- Holidays are not taken during term time
- Routines at home support good attendance throughout the week

If your child is struggling with mornings, routines, anxiety, or anything else that might be affecting attendance — please talk to us early. Our pastoral and attendance teams are here to help, not to judge. Together, we can remove barriers and make sure every student has the best possible chance to succeed.

Let's make strong attendance a shared commitment between home and school. The next thirteen weeks can have a significant impact.

~ Mr Fitzgibbon

Key Dates

Monday 4th May

Bank Holiday – Academy Closed

Tuesday 19th May

Celebration Evening – Invited Students Only

Friday 22nd May

Rewards Afternoon – Selected Students Only
Academy closes for half term

Monday 25th May – Friday 29th May

Half Term

Monday 1st June

Academy re opens for all students – 8.30am start

Wednesday 10th June

Year 10 Parents Evening (In Academy)

Friday 12th June – Sunday 14th June

Bronze DofE Expedition Weekend



EduLink Issues

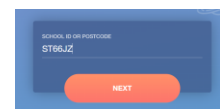


As we moved to our new MIS system, Arbor, the details needed for the up to date EduLink platform are below. Please ensure you have followed this to stay up to date with communication from the academy.

If your EduLink App has a black square around the name, **this is the old one**.

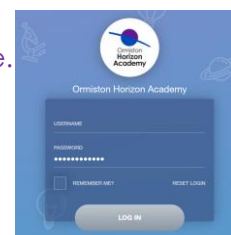


Log back out fully, and then re-enter the academy postcode: ST66JZ.



You will see the black square has gone. Then use your previous username and password.

If you have forgotten it, use the "reset login" button and remember to check your junk/spam.



Assembly Overview



WB 4th May

No assembly due to Bank Holiday Monday

WB 11th May

Y7-Y9: Sports Day Launch with Mr Millington

PSHE/WS Overview



Year 7 – Trainline Safety & Online Safety

Year 8 – Consent & Commitment

Year 9 – The legal system & Court Sentencing

Year 10 – Disappointment & Exams

Year 10 – Nature vs Nurture & Media Literacy

Year 7

It was lovely to see so many parents attending Parents' Evening. Your time, engagement, and ongoing support make a real difference to your child's progress.

We would also like to encourage pupils to take advantage of our extra-curricular activities. These offer a fantastic opportunity to try something new, develop skills, build friendships, and gain confidence. Whether it's sport, creative clubs, or enrichment activities, getting involved can be a very rewarding experience for all pupils.

~ Miss Wood (HOY)

Year 8

After the Easter half term, it has been such a lovely and positive start for Year 8, and it's been a real pleasure to see students settling back in, getting involved, and showing such a great attitude to their learning.

I'm really excited to see what the next few weeks will bring, especially with some fun reward trips on the horizon for those showing great effort and behaviour, and we'll also be encouraging everyone to keep a strong focus on attendance so they don't miss out on any of these opportunities and can continue to do their very best.

~ Miss Betley (HOY)

Year 9

Year 9 have made a fantastic start to the summer term, returning refreshed, focused, and ready to learn.

Our girls' football team also deserves special recognition. They did us incredibly proud in their semi-final match, despite a 2-0 defeat. The scoreline does not reflect the effort and teamwork. Our Y9 construction students recently visited a site off Turnhurst Road where they gained valuable insight into the industry.

There is still a real buzz around the academy following the recent trips abroad. Students have returned full of stories and experiences and we are extremely proud of the way they conducted themselves throughout their travels.

~ Mrs Milne (HOY)

Year 10

I am so pleased at the maturity and dedication shown by the year group during their mock exams last week. The pupils should be proud of how hard they worked and it will be great to see what their results say in terms of where they did well and where they need to improve. The assessments have continued this week and it is great to hear that the pupils are getting into the habit of revising consistently.

Work experience placements are our next priority – please ensure to support your children with this, if you need help or support with organising a placement, contact me or Mrs Naylor.

~ Miss Harris (HOY)

Year 11

This will be last ever one for the Year 11's! It has been a great pleasure to see them through arguably the hardest year of their school lives. It has been a difficult journey for them however I hope they will see the fruits on their labour when it comes to their results, and they will continue thrive in whatever they decide to do!

~ Mrs Richardson (HOY)

What a journey it's been, 5 years and over 4000 lessons at OHA. Exams kick off next week and I'm so proud of you all already. Keep pushing and keep believing in yourselves – show everyone what you're made of! I hope the treats have helped so far, the end is in sight so stay focussed and strong. We're always here if you need us

~ Miss McGowan (RSL)

Celebration Evening Tuesday 19th May 2026

Invites have now been sent out to both students and parents/carers for all **55** students invited to join us on Celebration Evening.

Please check your Edulink inbox, emails or ask your child for the physical letter & invite.

Remember to RSVP with Miss Wilkes ASAP via the link or QR code that has been sent.



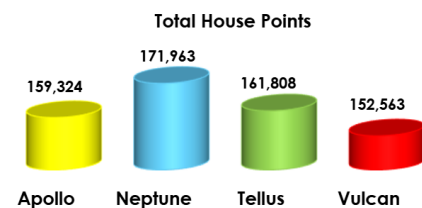
House Update

Neptune still sit at the top of the standings, but it certainly seems a while since they last won house of the week, and given the form of the other 3 houses, it could be while more.

We've made a few changes to when the different year groups will participate in house events. Week A will see year 10 participate on Mondays, with year 9 on Fridays. Week B is year 8 on Monday, year 7 of Friday, leaving every Tuesday for other one-off events or other challenges that may pop up. House captains will continue helping Mr Maher with the Terrific Tuesdays.

Apollo took the overall win in the final event of the Spring term winning the Easter Egg hunt with a difference with almost 200 students taking part. We finally got to the final game of the Dodgeball league with Tellus yet again proving to be the dominant force taking the clean sweep finishing on maximum points. With the year group/day changes our events had a little shake up on the calendar, Neptune took first place in year 7 & 8's spelling Bee, before Apollo earned the bragging rights with a narrow win over Tellus in year 7 & 8s first ever 'The Doughnut Quiz'. Years 9 & 10 have the next few weeks to look forward to these events.

This term all eyes are focused on the earning the most possible purple tickets to get a chance of reaching the reward trip in the last week of the Summer term. As always, our amazing students have taken to the challenge like only OHA'ers can. A huge well done to this weeks top 10 students in the Purple Ticket leaderboards.



Safeguarding contact information:

DSL: SSHeldon@horizonoat.co.uk

Deputy DSL: ksheldon@horizonoat.co.uk

Support: safeguarding@horizonoat.co.uk



OHA GALLERY

Y10 Photography Workshop



Football Fixtures Continue



Cadets visit to the NEC



Y9/Y10 Seddon Construction Visit

DofE practice walks continue before the expedition in June!



Safeguarding contact information:

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CAREERS

Year 8 Industry Days

Year 8 students are being offered the opportunity to visit a variety of industries to find out about what job opportunities are available on our doorstep.

Network Rail



Portmeirion Pottery

PORTMEIRION GROUP

Careers at OHA



Year 8 Industry Day

Our Year 8 students had a fantastic Industry Day at **Portmeirion Pottery** in Stoke!

They explored their creativity by lithographing their own mugs and designing unique plates, before going behind the scenes on a factory tour to see the full manufacturing process in action.

The day ended with a fun quiz, testing their knowledge of Portmeirion's history.

A brilliant hands-on learning experience for all involved!



Engineering Conference – NEC

Our Navy Cadet students visited **MACH Exhibition 2026** at the NEC in Birmingham for one of the UK's leading engineering and manufacturing showcases.

Our students were fortunate to see cutting-edge technology including robotics, advanced manufacturing, CNC machining, 3D printing, and smart factory systems. Exhibitors demonstrated how modern engineering is driving innovation in sectors closely linked to defence and maritime operations.

Cadets had the chance to engage directly with industry professionals such as the Royal Navy to explore real-world engineering applications, and see how science, technology, and precision manufacturing come together in modern industry. The visit highlighted clear pathways into engineering careers and gave our students further options to consider for their future.

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](#)

PURPLE TICKET STANDINGS

Current No.1 Ranking in the Academy:
Kirsten W (Y8)

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

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
Lola S	Kirsten W	Ella-Mae S	Nadia H	Amy J
Israel D	Elisa B	Lilly-Mae S	Liam T	Lucas H
Leanca C	Ella T	Aurora-Jae G	Paul Q	Liam H
Lily-Rose S	Chloe-Lea B	Rebecca B	Lydia M	Henry C
Hollie C	Florrie Bailey-A	Ryley H	Imsaal K	Jessica T
Maisie H	Gracie Mae M	Lottie W	Oliver R	Jacob W
Rahmone S	Stephanie L	Oliver T	Ruby M	Chloe H
Zachary H	Christabel K	Luke R	Casper S	Soloman B
Ralph S	Jay I	Lexy A	Julia G	Annabelle B
Ergi A	Beau D	Millie H	Ana-M	Libby G

