

THE OHA'er

Respect • Resilience • Responsibility

Ormiston
Horizon Academy

Vol 1: Friday 18th September



Principal's Update

*Together
we go further*

Dear Families,

A warm welcome back to all our families. I hope you had a wonderful summer and were able to enjoy some valuable time together.

I would like to begin by extending my sincere sympathies to the Goldenhill and Sandyford communities following the devastating fire that occurred over the summer. We have been in contact with several families who have been directly affected and have offered our support wherever possible. During such difficult times, it has been inspiring to see the incredible strength of the local community and the way people have come together to support those in need.

It has been a pleasure to welcome over 220 new families into our Year 7 community. Our Tie Giving Ceremony was exceptionally well attended, and it was wonderful to offer our newest students a warm OHA welcome. Year 7 have made an outstanding start to life at OHA, quickly embracing our routines, values, and high expectations.

I would also like to recognise our Year 11 students, who have returned with a highly positive attitude towards their studies. Their focus, commitment, and engagement in lessons have been excellent, and we have been particularly impressed by the strong attendance at Period 6 sessions. This dedication will undoubtedly support their preparation for next summer's examinations.

This year, we have introduced changes to the structure and responsibilities of our Attendance Team to strengthen our support for students and families. Attendance remains one of the most significant barriers to educational success for some young people, and improving attendance continues to be a key priority for the school. We have high aspirations for every student, and regular attendance is essential if they are to benefit fully from the opportunities and education they deserve.

We are committed to working in partnership with families to ensure that every child attends school every day and to provide the appropriate support where challenges exist. Together, we can ensure that all our students have the best possible chance of success.

Thank you for your continued support, and I wish all our students and families a successful and rewarding year ahead.

Mr A. Fitzgibbon
Principal

**A BRIGHTER
TOMORROW
TOGETHER**



Key Dates

Tuesday 22nd September:

Y11 Information Evening, 5:00-6:30pm

Wednesday 23rd September:

Y8 and Y9 SEND Evening, 2:30-3:45pm

Tuesday 29th September:

D of E Parents Information Evening,
5:30-6:00pm

Wednesday 30th September:

Paris Information Evening, 5:00-7:00pm



Save the date!



Assembly Overview

Monday 21st September-

Y10 Saturday Academy Launch
Assembly

Tuesday 22nd September-

Y9 RSL Assembly

Tuesday 29th September-

Terrific Tuesday

Friday 2nd October-

Y11 Achievement Assembly



*Be informed
Be involved*



PSHE Overview

Y7- Looks and Labels, Parliament and Politics

Y8- Mind and Mood, Health and Help

Y9- Mind and Mood, Spending and Saving

Y10- Rights and Responsibilities

Y11- Financial Safety and Finance



*Building brighter
futures*

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Head of Year Updates

*Together
we go further*

Y7

Y7 Head of Year Update

Year 7 have made an amazing start to their year and have settled into our OHA family extremely well. It has been lovely to see the year 7s in lessons engaging in the learning with smiles on their faces, enjoying lessons, gaining confidence and new relationships being built with teachers and peers- it has been really lovely to see. They have made a solid start to their time here at OHA, showing respect, responsibility and resilience with new challenges they faced with the transition from Primary school to High school. Keep it up Year 7, Well Done. Miss Lowe.



Y8

Y8 Head of Year Update

It has been fantastic to welcome all of Year 8 back to school and to hear about the wonderful summers you have had. As we begin a new academic year, I encourage each of you to challenge yourselves, aim high, try a new enrichment activity to discover new interests and talents. Attendance is a key part of success, and I would love to see all of your smiling faces in school every day, making the most of every opportunity. Let's make this a positive, successful, and memorable year together!

Miss Wood



Y9

Y9 Head of Year Update

What a great start to Year 9. It's been full steam ahead and the Year 9 have gotten stuck in. Lot of improvement with attitude towards learning and our students are showing our values of respect, resilience and responsibility. We are hoping they continue to go on and put in 100% into their effort towards learning and continue to see the importance of attendance. Got to be in it to win and get a scratch card to win some lovely prizes!

Mrs Richardson



Y10

Y10 Head of Year Update

It has been a pleasure to welcome Year 10 back to the Academy. The students have returned with a commendable sense of maturity, responsibility, and resilience as they begin Key Stage 4. There has been fantastic enthusiasm across the year group as students commence their chosen option subjects. This focused attitude sets a strong foundation for the academic demands ahead and ensures they are well-prepared for their GCSE examinations next year. I look forward to guiding and supporting Year 10 throughout this crucial year to help every student achieve their full potential.

Mr Richardson



Y11

Y11 Head of Year Update

A big welcome back year 11's, who are embarking on their final and undoubtedly most significant year of school. We understand that the path to GCSEs can be demanding, I want to assure you that support systems are in place. Whether you need help with revision strategies or a listen ear please don't hesitate to reach out !

Miss Harris



D of E Update

Another year of DofE @ OHA is upon us, and there is still time for Year 9 pupils to join this year's cohort! If you are interested in joining this years Bronze Programme please see Mr Rose to collect an information letter and enrolment form so that you can get started. Our sign-up deadline is Friday 2nd October at 3pm. In light of this deadline we will be running a DofE Parents Information Evening on Tuesday 29th September at 5:30pm. All Year 9 parents and pupils are invited to attend whether they have signed up for this years DofE programme or not. This information evening provides the chance for Mr Rose to further explain to you what the award entails and gives pupils and parents a chance to ask any questions about the programme. An invitation letter will be going out via email next week with further details, however, if you have any questions, please contact Mr Rose via email (arose@horizonat.co.uk).



*Adventure
Builds
Character*

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OHA In Pictures

*Our Community
In Action*



Meet the Staff

*People
Make OHA*



Hello, I'm Ms Capper, Director of Personal Development at OHA. Each week, a new member of staff will be introduced here, to give you the opportunity to get to know the staff at OHA! I am a Spanish teacher and love all things relating to language and travel. Random fact about me: I was a member of the Air Training Corps and learnt how to fly a plane before I could drive a car!



House and Rewards Update

*Four Houses
One OHA*

A year of pride, participation, and success. The 2025–26 academic year was a remarkable showcase of energy, community spirit, and healthy competition across our entire school family. Over 120 unique house events brought students together to represent their houses with pride. From high-octane sports like football, dodgeball and streetball to creative and academic challenges such as the egg crash, geography challenge, spelling bees, escape rooms, and our annual Lip-Sync contest, there was truly something to ignite passion in every year group.

While Vulcan led the standalone house event points with 66,700 points, the overall championship victory belonged to Neptune once individual student house points had been added to the event scores. In the final overall standings, Neptune claimed first place as house champions with 237,756 points, followed closely by apollo in second place with 236,999 points, Vulcan in 3rd place with 227,210 points, and Tellus in 4th place with 223,638 points. A huge congratulations goes to Neptune on taking the overall crown, and to all four houses for making this year so memorable.

Final House Standings

Position	House	Total Points
1st	Neptune	237,756
2nd	apollo	236,999
3rd	Vulcan	227,210
4th	Tellus	223,638

Well done to all our houses!



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House and Rewards Update

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Celebrating everyday excellence, our digital Purple Ticket framework lies at the heart of how we recognize consistency, hard work, and positive conduct. Every week, students earn Purple Tickets across four core areas with tickets awarded weekly for: 3 tickets for completing all three weekly homework tasks (Maths, Reader/English, and Science), 1 ticket for achieving 100% attendance, 1 ticket for maintaining zero behaviour points, and 1 ticket for every 20 house points within a single week.

PURPLE TICKET FRAMEWORK



3 tickets

For completing all three weekly homework tasks (Maths, Reader/English, and Science)



1 ticket

For achieving **100% attendance**



1 ticket

For maintaining **zero behaviour points**



1 ticket

For every **20 house points** within a single week



To ensure student achievement was continuously celebrated, we provided a tiered range of rewards throughout the year. On a weekly basis, students are rewarded by receiving lunchtime queue jump passes. Half-termly rewards included sweet treats alongside popular in-school celebratory events, such as the big breakfast bingo with bangers, movie afternoons, summer chillout sessions, pizza afternoons, and house bingo. Finally, students reaching termly milestones earned places on unforgettable off-site trips, including visits to Chester Zoo, Cinema and Bowling, and our end-of-year celebration trip to Alton Towers.

Our house events and rewards framework should reflect our students. Thanks to invaluable feedback gathered through our student voice, our leaders have been listening closely to how we can make our events even more engaging and ensure our rewards are genuinely inclusive for every single student in our school community. Using these student insights, exciting adaptations to the purple tickets framework and house competition structure will be unveiled very soon for this academic year, making it easier and more rewarding than ever for every student to get involved and succeed.



Contact Us



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