



Principal's Update

*Together
we go further*

Dear Families,

Pride of place this week goes to our Year 11 students for the incredible start they have made to the academic year. Their work ethic in lessons has been exceptional and attendance at Period 6 remains above 90% each day.

Last week, we also held an excellent Year 11 Information Evening, where we shared key dates, revision strategies and individualised plans to support students throughout this important year. We were also pleased to welcome a number of local sixth form colleges, who provided valuable information about their upcoming open events and post-16 opportunities.

Although we are only five weeks into the academic year and there is still a long journey ahead, it has been incredibly pleasing to see the maturity, responsibility and determination that the year group is demonstrating each day. They have made a fantastic start and should be proud of their efforts.

Two weeks ago, we welcomed colleagues from the Ormiston Academies Trust as part of our annual academy review. Members of the senior team visited lessons, spoke with students and staff, looked at students' work and met with a range of middle and senior leaders.

I am delighted to share that the review highlighted a number of strengths across the academy, including:

- A highly effective safeguarding culture.
- Strong foundations in place to support excellent student attendance.
- Effective and consistent classroom routines that enable all students to learn successfully.
- A wide range of inclusion provisions that support the individual needs of our students.

We are proud of this feedback, which reflects the hard work and commitment of our staff, students, and wider school community.

It has also been fantastic to see so many students taking part in our extracurricular clubs and activities over the past four weeks. As always, I try to visit as many as possible, and it is wonderful to see such enthusiasm, engagement and effort on display.

If your child has not yet become involved in an after-school club or activity, I would encourage them to explore our enrichment timetable. With such a wide range of opportunities available, I am sure there will be something to spark their interest.

Mr Fitzgibbon
Principal

**A BRIGHTER
TOMORROW
TOGETHER**



Key Dates

Friday 9th October-
World Mental Health Day.

Wednesday 14th October-
Year 7 Settle in Parents Evening

Friday 23rd October-
Paris Trip Departure



Save the date!



Assembly Overview

Monday 5th October
Y10 Principal's Assembly

Tuesday 6th October
Y7 Principal's Assembly

Friday 9th October
Black History Month Assembly

Tuesday 13th October
Y8 Principal's Assembly

Friday 16th October
Anti-Bullying 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*





Behaviour Director Spotlight

*Together
we go further*

Y7

Y7 Behaviour Director Update

A huge well done to all of our Year 7 students for their fantastic commitment to attendance this year. As a year group, we are currently the best-performing year group in the academy for attendance, which is an achievement you should all be extremely proud of!

Our aim is clear: 100% attendance for every student. Every lesson matters, and by coming to school every day, you are ensuring that you at second of learning is lost. Your dedication to being present, engaged, and ready to learn is helping Year 7 set an outstanding example for the rest of the academy.

We would also like to congratulate Year 7 on their excellent homework completion rates. So many students are submitting high-quality work on time, showing great organisation and responsibility. Remember, the earlier you submit your homework, the more achievement points you can earn, so don't leave it until the last minute!

Looking ahead, there is already plenty of excitement building for our Year 7 Residential in March. Although it may seem a long way off, discussions are already taking place about the many exciting activities students will enjoy. From team-building challenges and outdoor adventures to the much-anticipated evening disco, there will be plenty of opportunities to create lasting memories with friends.

If you have any questions about the residential trip, please do not hesitate to contact me at jcollis@horizonat.co.uk.

Finally, a reminder that our Year 7 Settling-In Parents' Evening is fast approaching and will take place on 14th October.

Appointments can be booked through the EduLink app. On the evening, parents and carers will have the opportunity to meet their child's form tutor in the academy and discuss how they have settled into academy life.

Miss Collis



Y8

Y8 Behaviour Director Update

Year 8

What a brilliant few weeks it has been for Year 8! Students have returned ready to embrace the year ahead and have already given us plenty to celebrate. I have been particularly impressed by the resilience and respect they are showing each day, whether overcoming challenges in lessons, supporting one another or making positive choices around the academy. There is a real sense of enthusiasm across the year group and I am excited to see what they can achieve as the year progresses. Well done, Year 8 – keep it going!

Mr Maher



Y9

Y9 Behaviour Director Update

Year 9

Year 9 have continued to impress with the maturity and determination they are showing across the academy. Students are working hard in lessons, taking greater responsibility for their learning and responding positively to the expectations of the year ahead. It has been particularly pleasing to see so many students approaching challenges with confidence and making choices that set a great example to others. Keep up the fantastic effort, Year 9!

Mr Williamson



Y10

Y10 Behaviour Director Update

Year 10

It has been a really positive start to an exciting new chapter for Year 10 as students have begun studying their chosen option subjects alongside their core curriculum. They have embraced the increased expectations brilliantly, showing enthusiasm for their new courses and a real willingness to succeed. This is an important stage in their journey towards their GCSEs, and the commitment shown so far gives them an excellent foundation to build upon. Well done, Year 10 – a great start!

Mr Williamson



Y11

Y11 Behaviour Director Update

Year 11

Year 11 are rising to the challenge of their final year at OHA and it has been great to see such a determined approach to the weeks ahead. With GCSE preparation now well underway, students are working hard and showing that they understand the importance of making every lesson count. Engagement with Period 6 has been particularly pleasing, alongside the fantastic attitudes shown towards their learning more widely. Thank you also to everyone who attended our Year 11 Information Evening and supported such an important event. There is lots of hard work ahead, but Year 11 should be proud of the way they have begun this crucial year.

Mr Maher



THE OHA'er

Respect • Resilience • Responsibility

Ormiston
Horizon Academy

Vol 2: Friday 2nd October



OHA In Pictures

*Our Community
In Action*

ATTENDANCE PRIZE WINNERS!



Meet the Staff

*People
Make OHA*



Hello! I'm Mrs Naylor, Careers Adviser here at OHA. I support students with careers guidance, work experience, and visits to employers, colleges, and universities.

I am passionate about helping young people believe in themselves and aim high. Growing up, I dreamed of becoming a police officer, but someone told me I wasn't the right fit, and I believed them. Although my career took a different path and has brought me to a role I love, it taught me an important lesson.

My advice: Believe in yourself, follow your dreams, and don't let anyone else limit your ambitions.

Fun fact: I was a student at James Brindley High School, the former school on this site. When I left, I never imagined I'd return to work here. That was 18 years ago, and now I love seeing my former classmates whose children now attend OHA!



House and Student Rewards

*Four Houses
One OHA*



Final House Standings

Position	House	Total Points
1st	 Apollo	1886
2nd	 Neptune	1836
3rd	 Tellus	1880
4th	 Vulcan	1491





Sporting Success

*Celebrating
achievement*



Sandyford Cricket Club Sapphires

Congratulations to Year 11 students Liv and Jess, Year 10 student Maisie, and former student Sienna for their fantastic achievements with Sandyford Cricket Club Sapphires. After being crowned league winners, the team competed in the county finals at Eccleshall and finished third overall out of around 47 ladies teams across Staffordshire.

Beyond their sporting success, the girls gave up their time to support a charity day at the cricket club, helping raise over £4,000 for local families affected by the recent fires in Sandyford. Jess also went out into the local area in her cricket gear to knock on doors and sell raffle tickets for the cause.

We are incredibly proud of them all for their dedication on the pitch and their commitment to helping others in our community.



City Cross Country Races

A fantastic start to the season at the first City cross country races of the year.

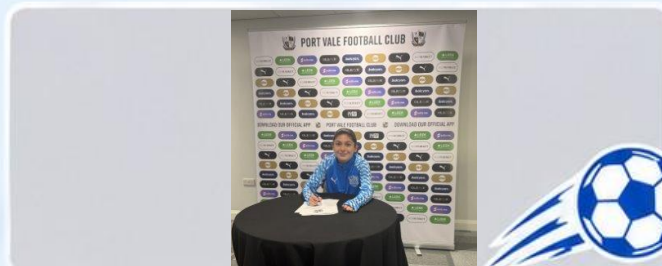
A huge well done to all our runners, some outstanding individual performances are as follows.... Caleb took 1st place and Dougie finished 4th in Year 7, while in the girls races Mia-Rose secured 3rd in Year 7 and Luna-Rae claimed 1st place in Year 8.

Superb effort and determination from everyone involved.



Ruby E Selected for Staffordshire

Our very own Ruby E (Y11) has been selected to represent the Staffordshire County girls' team. After a few weeks of trials, she managed to earn a spot in the squad for this season. Ruby has also signed for Port Vale Women this season and will be playing for both their U16 and U18 squads. She played her first game for the Under 18's last week, scoring twice in a 10-2 home win.



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College Open Evenings

Explore your
next steps



The City of
Stoke-on-Trent
6th Form College
REALISING POTENTIAL



OPEN EVENING
Wednesday 7th October
5pm – 7pm



NSCG

NEWCASTLE
COLLEGE



OPEN EVENING
Thursday 8th October
5:30pm – 8pm



Why It's Important to Attend

These open evenings are a fantastic opportunity for Year 11s to:

Year 11s –
don't miss
these events!



**SEE THE FACILITIES
AND CAMPUS**

Get a feel for the environment,
explore the facilities and see
what life at college is really like.



**SPEAK TO
EXPERT STAFF**

Chat with teachers and
industry professionals, who
can answer your questions
and give you advice.



**ASK ABOUT
THE COURSES**

Find out more about the
wide range of courses
and pathways available
to you.



Your future starts here...

EXPLORE • ASK • BE INSPIRED

Respect, Resilience and Responsibility

