

### HEADTEACHER'S WELCOME

We are at the end of our first term back this year and I am always amazed at how quickly time flies! This term has been filled with a number of events (many of which you will read about in this copy of the gazette) that have left me incredibly proud of our students and their participation, attitude and achievements.



I have recently spoken to all students in an assembly about what it means to be a member of a community and, in particular, what it means to be a part of our OBHS community. I referred to the different people included in our community; the students and their families, and the importance of kindness and mutual respect; key values that make us decent human beings.

Kindness and mutual respect are some of the driving factors behind our mentoring system. Whenever I see our older students lending a friendly ear and being supportive with our younger students, it fills me with pride; I thank the mentors for giving their time to help. Students demonstrated their generosity by donating to Children in Need through our 'non-school uniform shoes' day and paid their respect for those who have lost their lives in conflict during our Remembrance Day event.

We were also able to celebrate our students' achievements in our Presentation Evening and many of our previous year 11 students returned to receive their awards and to catch up with their teachers and form tutors. It was a lovely evening, and my thanks goes to the staff, students and families involved. My particular thanks go to Mrs Skipsey (for organising the event), Mr Clarke and Mr Jay (without their help, there would not have been an event) and our Senior Senate who did an amazing job at being our hosts for the evening. Our guest speaker, Ellie-Jean Royden delivered an inspirational speech about resilience and persisting with our aspirations, even when we fail – a message I think we can all appreciate.

With Christmas around the corner, we have celebrated with our excellent Christmas concert and by coming together as a community for a Christmas meal and with a fun quiz and assembly to celebrate our students' achievements. A lovely way to end this term!

I would like to take this opportunity to wish all of you a very Merry Christmas and a wonderful New Year.

# REMEMBRANCE DAY



On Friday 11th November at 11am all staff and students gathered for a two minute silence to pay our respects to all those who have lost their lives in conflict since the end of the first world war. Our head students Bethany and Divyan read the poem 'Flanders Fields' and Mr Jay played the last post.



## CHILDREN IN NEED



In November, staff and students took part in a fundraising day for Children in Need. In exchange for a charitable donation, staff and students were allowed to wear non-school uniform shoes for the day. There was lots of fun footwear to be seen and we raised a total of £148.76

# YEAR 11 SENIOR SENATE

Early in November we announced our Senior Senate for 2022-23. Applications were taken from our Year 11 prefects and a rigorous interview process was undertaken. The successful students are pleased to introduce themselves to you:



## **Bethany W 11B**

My name is Bethany and I am one of this year's Head Students. Outside of school I am very sporty, competing in both running and swimming, I also have an interest in wildlife, and I am involved in the allotment at school. I have always had the ambition to become Head Student and it is a role that I take with an immense amount of pride. For me, Head Student is a role that comes with a lot of responsibility, we are the people that younger students look up to and it is important we are good role models. I have always been proud to represent our school, so presenting this year's Presentation Evening with Divyan was a real honour. After Christmas we are looking forward to forming the school council and hopefully adding to the school in different ways. We are looking forward to building a strong link between students and staff and make sure everyone's voice is heard.

## **Divyan R 11Y**

My name is Divyan and I am excited to have recently been appointed as one of the Head Students at Old Buckenham High School. My interests lie in both academia and extracurricular activities, with a particular passion for music. In my role as Head Student, I am looking forward to working with the rest of the senior senate, staff, and other students to improve student voice by re-establishing the student council and implementing other measures. I am committed to making our school 'the best we can be'.

## **Imogen F 11G**

Hello! My name is Imogen, and I am deputy head student here at OBHS. My favorite hobby is figure skating. I find that is a brilliant way to look after my physical and mental health. I also like to play piano, do crochet, draw, and bake. I wanted this role so that I could be an advocate for not only the students but also the teachers which would create a larger sense of community. I hope that students will feel comfortable to approach me about any issues they might have, and I will try my best to make everyone feel welcome in our amazing community.

## **Rueben S 11B**

My name is Rueben and I'm a deputy head student at OBHS. My hobbies are athletics – sprinting, and football. I am a very hard working and creative student who endeavours to find many solutions to any challenges/issues. This is why I was suitable for the deputy head role. As part of the senior senate, we are already working well to not only develop on the previous improvements achieved by last year's wonderful head students, but to also make school a happier and inviting place to be.

# KS4 CAREERS AND GUIDANCE EVENING



The post-16 options evening was a great insight into the opportunities that were ready for us when we leave OBHS. The hall was packed with stands and guidance towards our options after high school.

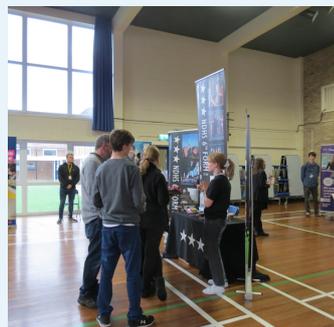
There were students from previous years, representing their new college or sixth form. It was eye opening to speak to the teachers and former students about what A-level subjects and other courses they recommend for what you're interested in.

Wymondham College provided an amazing level of knowledge towards the A levels they run, and it was great to speak to former head girl Alice O' Hara.

Members from the armed forces were there as well showing us the fantastic range of opportunities they offer and provide.

It was a real eye opener towards the courses I may want to consider and a great insight into what further education involves.

**Molly K 10G**



# PRESENTATION EVENING

At the start of December, Old Buckenham High School held its first Presentation Evening since 2019.

It was an honour and a privilege to host so many of our families and wider community who wanted to show their support for the students receiving awards



The evening was led by our head students Divyan and Bethany who announced the winners and introduced our guest of honour, Ellie-Jean Royden, who handed out many of the awards for current students.



Ellie-Jean Royden was a student at Old Buckenham from 2012- 2017, who has since gone on to establish her own 6 figure business alongside her full-time studies at UCL. Ellie spoke about the importance of taking every opportunity that came her way and bouncing back from failures to carve her own path.



The evening also featured musical performances from Divyan on the piano and Kitty who sang a moving rendition of Keane's *Somewhere only we know*.

In total, 33 awards were given to our current students, 26 special awards and countless GCSE certificates to the 2022 Year 11 cohort. A wonderful evening was had by all.

# CHRISTMAS CONCERT

On Tuesday, which was a very cold and wintry evening, the spirit of Christmas was felt throughout the hall of OBHS.



The audience were treated to musical performances by so many of our students: The school choir and Rock Band; solo performances on the piano by Diyvan and Oliver; Luke on the flute, and many, many more.

Thanks to Mr Jay for organising the many rehearsals to make this fabulous concert possible, without his help the Christmas cheer wouldn't have been felt and thanks to the wonderful tech crew who managed the sound and lighting.



We would like to thank everyone who attended to support our talented OBHS students.

Merry Christmas  
Everybody!

**Evie F 10B**

# MENTORING

Mentoring is a system within the school that pairs up year sevens with older years, so they have someone to talk to and become friends with if they need any help or guidance when they begin life at OBHS.

Starting at high school can be very daunting and worrying for some, so having an experienced student who can support them in this transition can be beneficial for many students.

We meet every Wednesday during Base time and talk about life in and out of school as well as answering any questions they may have.

My partner has a lot to say and many questions about what it's like here and what happens during the next few years. It is nice to help them and see them develop over their first few months at OBHS. It is important that they have someone they feel safe to talk to and can come and find if they have any concerns or questions during the day. Being a mentor is an important role at OBHS and it really helps the younger years settle in.

**Bethany W 11B**



# SPORTING NEWS



## Boxing

I have been doing boxing for about a year now and I really enjoy it I have achieved so much like fitness, discipline, self-defence and confidence. I have had 2 skills bouts and I have travelled to Liverpool, Islington, Leeds, Manchester and Kent in November. I go to Attleborough boxing club (ABC Attleborough Boxing Club) I love boxing because it makes me happy and it feels right. My goal is to box for England and one day do the Olympics.

**Keira I 9G**

## South Norfolk Partnership Sports hall Athletics Competition at the UEA

At the end of November, a few selected year 7s went to a sports competition at the UEA to compete against 4 other schools. The indoor athletics challenges varied, and the whole time we were there, a race was going on. The races went from obstacle and normal relays to 4 lap races, 6 lap races and an 8 lap Paarlauf run (a paired relay). The vertical jump, long jump and triple jump were all done on the sidelines, along with various other sporting activities.



We all had to arrive at school in our PE kits and bring packed lunch and snacks. We met up at student reception after our first lesson at 11:30am to see Mr Taylor who took us to the hall. Then we left on the bus to go to the UEA (University of East Anglia) in Norwich. We were due to come back at 4pm but got lucky and ended up getting back in time for the buses home.

I competed in the long jump and triple jump, both were enjoyable but my favorite part of the day was watching everyone else do their races and cheering them on. Everyone pushed through even if they had injuries or issues, and persevered so they could do well for the school. Although we didn't come first, it was a great experience and I enjoyed seeing all the schools compete. **Erin M 7G**