



OBHS *Gazette*

Be the best we can be

WELCOME

I am delighted to welcome you to the Spring Edition of the Gazette. The last year has been a challenging one for all of us, but I am very pleased with how the staff and students coped during this difficult time. This edition reflects the resilience and hard work of all our school community and coincides with the one-year anniversary of the first lockdown. Over the last year the school has faced many challenges, however, I have been very impressed by the way our school and community responded.

During the past year our School Council have undertaken a significant piece of work in terms of ensuring our House system reflects the diversity and interests of young people in the 21st Century. Our site continues to improve, the opening of the multi-use games area is a significant addition to our sporting facilities and the site staff have freshened up the paintwork throughout the school providing the finishing touch.

Andrew Fell





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WELCOME BACK

Covid Testing



Dr Dwight is our new COVID testing superstar! With lots of preparation and patience this was no easy task, but no task is too small for Mr Dwight and we wanted to ask him how he's found the return to school and handling the strange new part of our routine to make sure we are all safe. Here's what he had to say:



How did you feel about students returning to school?

"excited it's been a long time, we haven't seen you guys since Christmas, it was funny because in the week we were testing before the return I had students ask 'did you have a nice Christmas?' which seems like a long time ago now. I was really excited though to get back to normality, that's why we tested before to make sure you guys could come in as a whole school"

How did you tackle the challenge of the mass testing?

"To be honest myself and Mr Clark had the idea of what we wanted to do and because we've been doing it with small amounts of students and staff through this lockdown, we sort of knew what we were doing. The only difference was being able to time 260 students each day, but it's been okay just happened to work well."

How successful do you feel it has been?

"very, I think it has been successful I mean everyone's in school so that's the main thing. Those three days previous to starting on the 8th we managed to get 450 people through, so we were really pleased."

How did you find returning to school from a personal view?

"Great it's so nice to be back but it's weird because I don't feel a part of the school, I'm always walking around but so busy testing everyone I haven't had much time to see what everyone's doing! Yesterday was the first time I was out on duty and it was nice to have seen the students!"

Students and Staff Reflect on Lockdown 2

We asked a few other teachers and students how online teaching had been for them.

"I was in school every day and that helped me with the consistency from getting up for work and coming in however when you come into an empty school it's spooky and it's just so empty. There's no sound of laughter, chatter, friendships and just seeing all the children! It's weird coming back because now we can finally see the children after not for so long, but the school is full again! "

Mrs Wabe

"For me it was a big change as I wasn't in everyday but when we first got the news of lockdown 2 it was like here we go again. I think a lot of us found the first lockdown easier because it was the first time this sort of thing had ever happened and it was like okay we just got to deal with it, is a one-off thing it's never going to happen again and you kind of get through it. I think because it then happened again it's like it was different and it was hard in terms of wellbeing and motivation and just general daily happiness. After a few weeks of building up a structure with the live lessons etc I would say I enjoyed it, I got used to it and adapted to the new life and I found it kind of manageable. It's so nice to have everybody back and I think there are so many professions where you know you can translate to home and can be done from home, but school and teaching isn't really that easy so I think it's incredible that we kind of did it!" ***Mr Taylor-***

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"I'm really glad we've returned to school! I mean I found it difficult as I live on my own but also there was nice things about lockdown like doing things I enjoy like; gardening, cooking, and competing in Miss Fern's step challenge that was a highlight! I don't think I would have left my garden if it wasn't for that so there were some benefits to lockdown, but I do think it's been really hard on people's mental health. I think coming back together is really going to help with people's worries and confidence."

Miss Cooper-



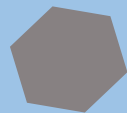
"I was at school throughout the second lockdown and didn't find it too bad, I had some friends who were in the same position as me at school so that made it easier. It's nice to be back properly and see everyone, I'm not too worried about GCSE'S next year as I still have a year left so fingers crossed, I pass everything!"

Ryan B 10T-



"Lockdown 2 was an odd time but hearing the news in January wasn't a surprise however the cancelling of exams with little information on what to expect did put a strain on home-learning for me. Unlike the 2020 lockdown this one felt more structured and was easier to adapt to, I also found the weather being not as nice as before made the work easier to get on with as you didn't have the sunshine distracting you from staying inside studying. Coming back to school has helped a lot on mine and many others mental health and the new structure on exam's is a lot clearer and promising for our sixth form and college start in September."

Alice O'Hara – Head Girl-



MUGA

We are delighted to now have use of the new Multi Use Games Area funded and project managed by Sapientia Education Trust.

"I feel the new MUGA will enhance our PE lessons and allow us to progress our skills." **Chloe B, Y11**



"It's nice to finally have some professional facilities and I'm really pleased the younger years get the opportunity to use it more" **Aleisha B, Y11**

"This new facility will help get more enthusiasm into sport!" **Mr Bond**



"more variety for sports as well as allowing sport to take place in foul weather" - **Mr Taylor**



"football GCSE will be more enjoyable" - **Leo P, Y11**



"It was nice to return to school and have the MUGA especially for my last 2 years completing my GCSE PE course" **Mia P, Y10**





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WORLD
BOOK
DAY

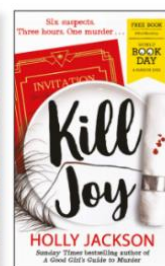
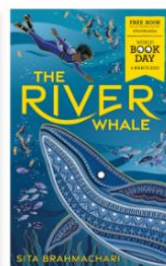
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WORLD BOOK DAY

Guess the Teacher Shelfie

World Book Day was a little different this year, as students were learning remotely. However, that didn't stop the staff and students from celebrating all things books and reading! Students have had the opportunity to take part in our Reading Challenge throughout this half term, and on World Book Day all forms took part in a *Guess the Teacher Shelfie* competition!

On students' return to school, they were issued with their £1 World Book Day voucher, which can go towards the purchase of any book (at participating retailers) or can be spent on one of the specially produced for World Books Day £1 books:

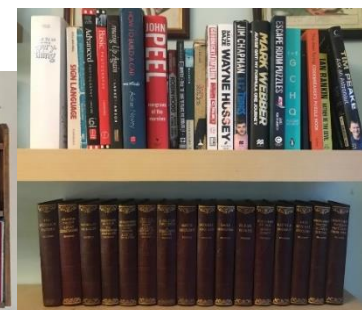
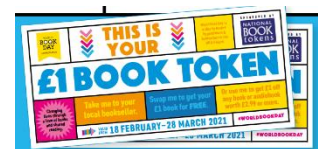


Here are some of our favourite *Teacher Shelfies* from the competition. Can you guess which teachers they belong to?

Miss Cooper – Curriculum Leader English



World Book Day



Reading Challenge

Last half-term the English department launched their first 'Read to Succeed' Library Challenge. Students completed a range of activities such as reading poetry, sharing recommendations with friends, and even reading to a pet! Each activity linked to one of our five habits. We received some fantastic entries including book reviews, front cover designs and short stories. Well done to Sophie H, Ellie R, Sophie R, Nicole F, Isabelle C and Isabell P for completing the challenge!

Miss Greenland, Teacher of English



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PANCAKE CHALLENGE

The pancake challenge encouraged students to use their culinary skills to design pancakes with a twist!

There were 2 challenges set:

- the first was to design and make a creative sweet or savoury pancake using at least two fruits or vegetables in its design and
- the second was to design and make a 3D pancake object or scene using either sweet or savoury pancakes.

A very well done to all those who took part!

Miss Read – Teacher of Food Technology



Challenge 2
1st Prize
Madison McC 8CO



Challenge 1
1st prize
Isabelle C 7B



CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION

I am very pleased to announce the staff who will be awarded the Certificate of Appreciation for the Spring term.

Mr Dwight

During the school closure Mr Dwight, or Dr Dwight as he became known, made a significant contribution the well-being and safety of staff and students. His work was noted by many as being exemplary.

Miss Draper

Miss Draper has gone above and beyond her role in terms of the support she has given to students, particularly during the school closure. Her kindness and support have been recognised by both staff and parents, particularly her willingness to go the extra mile.

Andrew Fell





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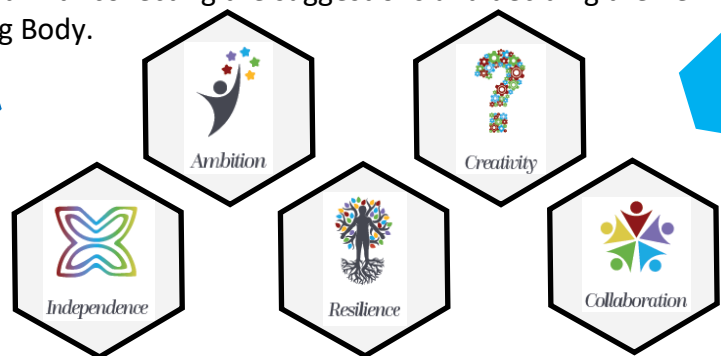
OUR NEW HOUSE SYSTEM

On our return to school in September 2020, a shift in timetable opened up an opportunity for us to review some school history. In the new lesson 'base time' we were tasked with researching the people whose names represent our school houses. Following the Black Lives Matter movement in 2020, it was decided that the people who represent our houses had historical links that no longer represent our values and views, and therefore, it was time for a change.

During the research, we discovered who these people were, what they did and why they were chosen to represent our houses. After our findings, it was decided that it was time for a change. The next task was then to discuss what should replace the current names. All the form groups came up with a range of suggestions. The senior senate was then tasked with collecting the suggestions and deciding the new names to present to Mr Fell and the Governing Body.

After much discussion, we chose:

Sharman to replace Borrow (blue)
Attenborough to replace Townsend (green)
Malala to replace Fry (purple)
Rashford to replace Crome (red) and
Turing to replace Coke (yellow).



Many of these names were suggested by form groups or individuals but some we decided as they were more relevant to who would better represent the houses. By changing the house names, we hope that students will be more interested in who represents the houses and that the new names will portray our values and views better than ever before.



Our discussion group consisted of Dominic Hayward (Attenborough), Alice O'Hara (Sharman), Katie Mobbs (Malala and Turing) and Mariesha Blackwell (Rashford)

Dominic Hayward – Head Boy





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BLUE TIE

Sharman

- Named after Helen Sharman
- To replace Borrow
- Chosen for breaking gender boundaries and creating a platform for women in astronomy
- She was the first British astronaut into space which broke gender boundaries at the time, leading to women having more opportunity in astronomy
- Suggested by the form group 9B
- Blue as she was suggested by blue



Why should we name a house after Helen Sharman? Who is Helen Sharman? That's probably the most important question. After receiving a bachelor's degree in Chemistry from the University of Sheffield, Helen Sharman went on to smash gender boundaries and make history.

After responding to a radio advertisement Helen was one of 13,000 astronauts who were chosen to undertake project Juno, not only was she the only British astronaut in space she was also the first woman to visit the MIR space station. Whilst on this amazing journey in space undertaking different tests her main priority was to still make sure she was connecting with schools and young people to really inspire and make these children, especially young girls, never to let someone else tell you

that your dream cannot be reached. Without Helen

who knows how respected women would be within the space industry and without women breaking these gender boundaries young girls for years would have felt that they could not achieve something that they are very much capable of just because of what body they were born in.

Alice O'Hara





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GREEN TIE

Attenborough

- Named after Sir David Attenborough
- To replace Townshend
- Chosen for his work on protecting the environment
- Uses his documentaries to educate people about the world that we live in so that they are inspired to protect the environment around us
- Suggested by 8B, 9B and some year 11 form groups
- Green for his links with the environment



Who do you think of when someone mentions the environment? For me, it's David Attenborough. He has not only entertained me with his documentaries but has also educated me about the environment and how to look after the planet we live on. He is best known for his documentaries on the environment through documentaries such as Blue Planet and Planet Earth. These documentaries are an attempt to promote the beautiful environment to people with the hope that they will be interested and protect it. One of his famous quotes is: "No one will protect what they don't care about, and no one will care about what they have never experienced."

David Attenborough is an inspiration all over the world and is respected highly, having been knighted by the Queen and meeting former President Barack Obama to talk about clean energy. At age 94, David Attenborough is still winning awards for his amazing work, most recently the 2020 Outstanding Narrator for the 3rd year in a row. We hope that by having his name representing one of our houses he can inspire students to collaborate to take care of their environment around school, in their communities and around the world. Attenborough was a common suggestion, with the forms 8B, 9B and other students suggesting him. Due to his link with the environment, we chose Attenborough to represent green tie.

Dominic Hayward





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PURPLE TIE

Malala

- Named after Malala Yousafzai
- To replace Fry
- Chosen for her work campaigning for women in education
- She wasn't afraid to voice her opinions and fight for what she believed in to help improve education for women around the world
- She was the youngest recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize
- Purple as we wanted an inspirational woman to replace the only current woman Fry



There are countless reasons for choosing Malala to represent a house at our school. First and foremost, she is a hugely inspirational figure to everyone, everywhere. Malala is a Human Rights Activist who is continuing to campaign for women around the World with a focus on access to education. When she was young, extremists took control of Pakistan, where she lived, and enforced laws such as women not being allowed to vote or work, as well as the shutting down of all girl's schools. At the age of only 11, she decided to voice her opinions and started a blog gaining her a wide following. She began public speaking and talked about the belief that everyone deserves an education - this gained her a lot of support, but also opposition. In her life Malala had to face a huge amount of hardship, but what I want to focus on is one of our OBHS habits - resilience. Malala grew even stronger. This is demonstrated by the many

honours she received, over 40, including being the youngest winner of the Nobel Peace Prize at 17. Despite her success, she never stopped fighting for her cause. She released a best-selling book, received a Doctor of Civil Law degree, and became a UN Messenger of Peace. Overall, she continued to show bravery, persistence, and determination. She demonstrates that it's possible to overcome adversity, and is a positive role model, not only for girls, but for anyone experiencing inequality. Malala reflects challenges that some still have in life today, she is current and has had issues that many can still recognise - representation and diversity are extremely important in all aspects of life and school today. Malala is from our generation, she is a Muslim, and a woman, and that is so significant. She illustrates that anybody can do anything that they put their mind to, and some things are worth fighting for. Finally, Malala radiates optimism and has no bitterness for her situation, shown in her famous quote, "I don't want revenge or violence on the Taliban, just peace and opportunity for all."

Katie Mobbs



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RED TIE

Rashford

- Named after Marcus Rashford (MBE)
- To replace Crome
- Chosen for his work on campaigning to provide 1.3 million school children with free school meals over lockdown
- Uses his platform as a footballer to address real issues such as racism and free school meals in a professional manner
- Suggested by individuals that we spoke to
- Red as his football team wears red



We decided to put forward Marcus Rashford to represent a house at OBHS. We would like him to represent a house because of his campaign that has made a positive impact directly on schools within the UK.



At just 22 years old Marcus Rashford has shown a great amount of resilience and respect as he used his platform as a footballer to campaign for the government to provide around 1.3 million children with free school meals over the lockdown during the coronavirus pandemic. After having grown up in a similar situation to many of the children that he campaigned for, he has used his hard work that he put in to get where he is to make a change. Not only has he done this, but has also tried to tackle racism on and off the football pitch, which shows how much of an inspiration he is for battling for what he believes in. In October

2020 he was awarded a Member of the Order of the British Empire (MBE). We believe here at OBHS that resilience and respect are important habits and traits to have.

As he plays for Manchester United who wear a red kit, we thought that he would be suitable to represent red tie.

Mariesha Blackwell





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YELLOW TIE

Turing

- Named after Alan Turing
- To replace Coke
- Chosen for his work during World War 2
- He was a key part of the group at Bletchley Park that helped created the 'Enigma' codebreaker which helped save lives during the war
- Suggested by individuals that we spoke to
- Yellow as we wanted Turing to inspire students to achieve their best in all tie colours



Alan Turing was a British Mathematician who made major contributions in the fields of computer science and Artificial Intelligence. He was well-known for breaking the Enigma Code in World War II which saved hundreds of lives. This made him a British hero and was awarded an OBE. He worked hard to get to that position and wrote many papers which earned him a first-class honours degree and a PhD in Mathematics. After he cracked the Enigma Code, he travelled to America to work on the German naval Enigma which he also decrypted. He then became involved in the Peace Movement via the Anti-War Council. However, he was unjustly arrested for being a homosexual shortly after this. He experienced huge amounts of discrimination and the arrest gave him a criminal record which meant that he lost his job. However, he persisted, worked harder, and achieved so much. He made massive advancements in computers, built the Turing Machine, wrote the first manual for programming, designed the first blueprint of a digital computer, and became director of Manchester University's computing laboratory. He made all these life-changing discoveries whilst experiencing terrible things, and his work paid off. He became celebrated and since 1966, the Turing award is given out every year, which is the computing equivalent of the Nobel Prize. Turing should be made a house name because his discoveries made a true difference. It is also vital that in today's society, we do everything we can to represent everyone, including those who are part of the LGBTQ+ community, and treat everyone equally and create a space where people can feel accepted for who they are. Turing defied boundaries, he pushed what the current knowledge was and understood that there are no limits, a mentality we should always try to instil into the students of OBHS.

Katie Mobbs



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FRIENDS OF OBHS

Our usual fundraising efforts continue to be hit hard due to the pandemic. A whole year has passed without us being able to attend concerts, the annual production and other school events. A donation was made to us from the proceeds of the Save the Children Christmas Jumper Day and we continue to be supported by some parents and carers using easy fundraising when making online purchases. We want to remind everyone that you can continue to raise vital funds for us in this way. If you do not use it already, please sign up to this. Whilst doing your shopping online, go to the 'Easyfundraising' website. If you click to support FOBHS then we receive donations from the retailers at no extra cost to you! Go to <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/obhs>. It's really easy.

We desperately need new members in order to be able to continue

HELP!!

Why not get in touch and help the Friends raise thousands for the school?



We were delighted to be able to contribute £1000 recently, towards the purchase of a pair of rollaway portable aluminium goals, which can be used on the new MUGA pitch as well as on the field at school.



In the 12 months prior to the pandemic, we raised almost £3000 – every penny was donated back into school to support various departments with the purchase of resources or financing projects and we really look forward to being able to support the school again in this way, when restrictions lift. Unfortunately, after being in existence for over 35 years, and raising thousands and thousands of pounds for the school, the Friends are in **real danger of folding**. We desperately need to recruit some new members. Following the resignation of several committee members (some had remained on the Friends even after their children had left the school!), we need others to come on board to sustain the Friends going forward. It is good fun, really rewarding and a great way to connect with other parents. All of the current members really enjoy it, but we need a minimum number to be able to continue, as we are a registered charity. If you would like to contact the Friends or are interested in joining our friendly team, please use the following email address: office@obhs.co.uk. It would be devastating to the school if we were unable to continue.

The Friends of OBHS



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