



# OBHS *Gazette*

*Be the best we can be*



## GOODBYE!

As you know I am leaving at the end of this term after 6½ happy years at OBHS and so this will be my last contribution to the Gazette. During the time I have spent as Headteacher I have been very grateful for the support from the staff, our parents and community which has made leading our school a privilege. I am very proud of our achievements along the way, becoming an Academy, celebrating our 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary with the improvements to the site and our response to the Covid crisis, but I am most proud of the achievements of the students past and present at OBHS. We are on course for the best results with our current Year 11s and I am extremely confident that all of our current and newly starting students will continue to make very good progress. OBHS has always had much more to offer, our extra-curricular offer continues to grow and the opportunities our students have for a school this size is tremendous. We are a welcoming and inclusive school, and I am very confident that the school will continue to flourish under the leadership of Mrs Elliott and I look forward to keeping in touch with all at this wonderful school.

*Andrew Fell*



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# MY TIME AT OLD BUCK!

My time at Old Buckenham was an adventure to say the least, full of ups and downs but overall, in a nutshell, a really amazing time. Here's a glimpse into my time at Old Buck.

When I first joined high school, I was the only person from my primary school moving up. It was terrifying being a 11-year-old moving into a school where you knew no one in your class. However, the school made it a lot easier for me by introducing me to my form tutor, teachers and by helping me to make friends, so I wasn't so lonely! Throughout my time at Old Buckenham, I've struggled with dyslexia but the team and support system around me was very beneficial in helping me to achieve my highest standards of work.

When covid hit it was a surprise for everybody, but the school made it easy on all the students by helping pupils to still achieve their highest potential but with the added pressures of remote learning and the difficulties that follow that. Old Buck made it accessible for everybody and through this made the most of the Covid lockdowns. It was greatly beneficial having willing and committed staff on the other end of your emails, especially because of where we were in our schooling and leading into our final years at Old Buckenham. During the last 2 years with GCSEs and the uncertainty that came with that, I know how much the 2022 leavers have really appreciated the pastoral team and senior managements support and guidance throughout these times helping us to achieve our maximum potential.

In closing, I just want to say a massive Thank You to all the staff and pupils who have made these past 5 years' worth it. You have all helped to mould me and shape me into the person I am today, and I cannot be more thankful. Sadly, it has now come for us to say goodbye to Old Buckenham, and it is sad to go but we can reminisce about the happy times that we have had here, knowing that the memories we have made throughout our adventures of Old Buckenham High School will never fade away.

Good luck in all that you do, stay safe and God bless.

**Lillia Severn – Head Student**



# CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION



The Certificate of Appreciation is awarded to formally acknowledge the contributions made by members of staff to the school. This term it has been awarded to 3 worthy recipients David Barwick, Angela Godfrey and Lisa Groom. Mr Fell personally congratulated them for all they have done for the school during his time in office. Angela, as Catering Manger keeping us all fed and watered David, for his volunteering his gardening expertise to transform the OBHS allotment and Lisa for her tireless efforts in fundraising and supporting extra-curricular events as she relinquishes her position as Chair of the Friends of Old Buckenham High School after several years of service.





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# SPORTS DAY 2022

Sports day took place on Wednesday 13th July this year. It was great to see so many students (approx. 200) taking part in the different events throughout the day. The afternoon was the track events and with 140 students out on the field competing. The students created a very positive atmosphere and cheered on the runners in their house. We witnessed some excellent performances, both the year 9 and year 10 boys 100m races were very exciting to watch with the year 10 boys all finishing within a second of each other. The event ended with the 3x100m relay, which is always a great event to watch. Well done to everyone who took part.



The top 5 scoring form groups are as follows: 5<sup>th</sup> - 9R 68 pts, 4<sup>th</sup> - 8R 69 pts, 3<sup>rd</sup> - 7P 70pts, 2<sup>nd</sup> - 7G 72 pts, 1<sup>st</sup> - 10B 75pts

The scores were very close and there was only 1 point between 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> place. The winners of Sports Day 2022 is RED Tie (Rashford).

Miss Cook





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# BACK TO THE 80s



In March 2022, having not produced a production since 2019, the Expressive Arts department were delighted to put on another outstanding show. We chose Back to the 80s, a slightly smaller production than previously done but one that still brought great delight to every after-school rehearsal.

Students from Years 7 to 11 were involved both in the cast and crew and it has been fantastic to see the talent amongst the younger members of our school.

Each night the performers transported us back to 1985, having learnt dance moves that staff can fondly remember whilst the audiences were treated to many memories of the fashion and hairstyles of the time.

In a time when school productions are coming back to the stage we are incredibly proud of all our students with their hard work and dedication to putting on another wonderful OBHS production.

## Miss Balmer and Mr Jay





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# LEAVERS DAY

Friday 24<sup>th</sup> June 2022 was Leavers Day. We started off the eventful day with the leaver's assembly, where people were awarded specific awards either voted by the students or from their form tutors. We saw a slideshow of horribly cringey pictures that have been taken of us throughout our time Old Buckenham. Following on from this, we all got changed into either own clothes or dress up and there were some interesting costumes to say the least. We enjoyed inflatables and a chip van, spending time together, chatting and signing shirts.

**Lillia Severn – Head Student**





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# ALLOTMENT



Our second ever growing season is in full swing now, which is very exciting! After learning what was successful and what was less so after last year, we have made some adaptations. As well as the firm favourites such as potatoes, we are also trying something new, with strawberries, sweetcorn and lettuce being added. All of which are rapidly approaching harvest time and we are looking forward to seeing what we have produced later in the year.



We are also taking steps to increase the biodiversity on our allotment, with our 'no mow' zone, sweet peas and planting buddleia as well as lots of wildflowers in the hope of attracting lots of wildlife and pollinators!

My favourite change since the winter has been finding a use for the bath, toilets, and sinks. We now have a herbal bath, mint sinks and toilet thyme. It looks and smells incredible!



**Bethany Wilson, 10B**



*Bethany W presents Mr Fell with a surprise leaving gift of a basket of produce as a thank you for being a supporter of our wonderful allotment.*



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# SILVER DofE AWARD

After completing Bronze Duke of Edinburgh in year 9 under covid restrictions, I was really looking forward to silver, especially the camping. For the practice expedition we spent two days walking around the Suffolk countryside. It was a great taster to what the real expedition would be like, and we learnt a lot from it. Putting up a tent, map reading and what food to bring all helped us for the real expedition. After getting a soaking during the practice, the rain held off for our real expedition around Rutland Water. It was a beautiful place to walk around with lots to keep us busy and lots to see. Our group aim was to make a vlog, we filmed the walk, camps, cooking and putting up the tents. It was certainly hard work with lots of effort going into it, but we all managed and had a great time. DofE was a great experience, something so different to normal school life. I am certainly going to do gold!

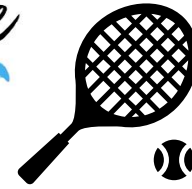


Bethany Wilson 10B





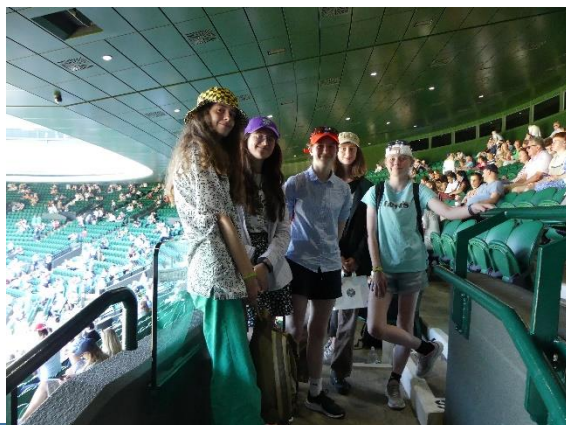
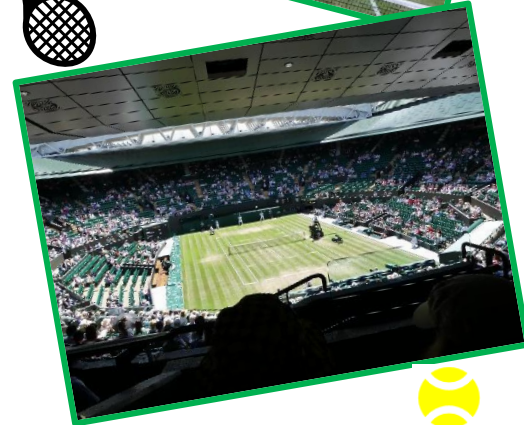
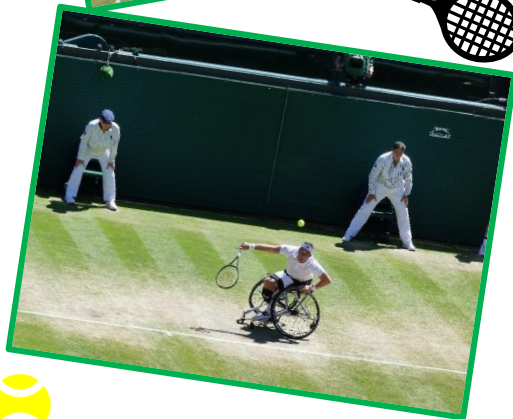
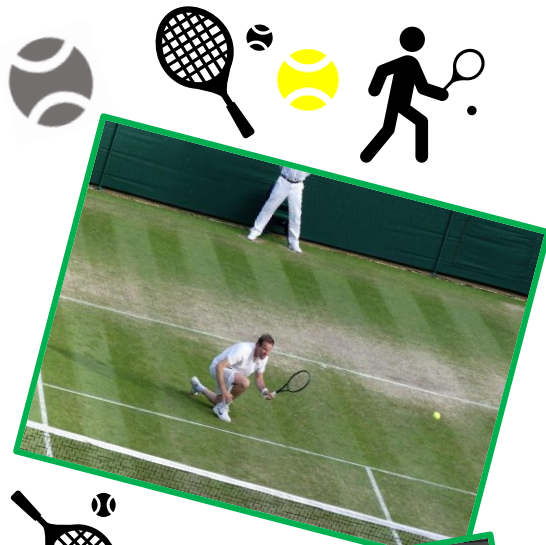
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# TRIP TO WIMBLEDON

Wimbledon was a once in a lifetime opportunity for many of us and it didn't disappoint. We had a fantastic day, walking around and seeing games on the smaller courts, visiting the museum and shop, playing some tennis themed games, and of course watching some amazing tennis on Court 1. After watching Wimbledon on TV, it's amazing to be there in real life, standing on Henman Hill and seeing centre court from the outside was great. We saw the men's wheelchair semi-final where Alfie Hewett (from Norfolk) took victory in a very close battle. It was inspirational to watch as they never gave up even in almost 30-degree heat. We also saw women's and mixed invitation doubles, seeing some ex-stars still performing at a very high level! My favourite part was seeing Greg Rusedski play in the mixed doubles, he was a great sport and played some awesome tennis! We had an incredible day, and I am thankful for the opportunity.

*Bethany Wilson, 10B*







# YEAR 7 FOOTBALL



The year 7 football team ended the season on a high with 4-3 victory with Noah D 7B, scoring a headed goal from a corner with the last touch of the game. The team has made great progress throughout the year and are already focusing on next year's matches.

Mr Scott



# YEAR 10 FOOTBALL

The year 10 football team were congratulated earlier this year for their sportsmanship against tough opposition.

Mr Scott



# YEAR 7/8 CRICKET



This summer term has seen the return of softball cricket fixtures. With half the team made up of first-time cricketers it's been great to see fellow pupils inspire others to take up a new sport. The leading batting pair with the highest amount of runs from both games combined are Noah W 7G, and George M 8B: and the best bowlers with the most wickets/lowest run rate went to Charlie McL and Mason F both 8G.

Mr Scott



# THIS GIRL CAN

On the 16th of June, some year 9 students attended a 'This Girl Can' event at Long Stratton leisure centre. The students had previously completed some work with Mrs Fearn around the This Girl Can initiative and this was

a opportunity for them to continue developing their work. They got to experience various activities including Spin Class, Zumba, Pilates, and circuit training. They had great fun with most of them finding the Spin class most enjoyable.



Miss Cook



This Norfolk Girl Can.



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# YEAR 11 PROM



In the evening of Friday 24<sup>th</sup> June 2022, we went to Barnham Broom Country Club for our Prom, where we danced, ate, talked, and took pictures. Overall, just spending an amazing time and a few last precious moments with people who we've spent the past five years but potentially may never see again. We're so thankful for the schools' contributions and for letting us to do this. It was a great way to say goodbye.

*Lillia Severn – Head Student*



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# THE FRIENDS OF OBHS

Thank you to all who have supported us at our events this year especially at the brilliant Back to the 80's Production. It has been wonderful to be able to be back in school again, running our raffles and sweet treat days! This year, sales of refreshments and of raffle tickets have generated £827.62.



Our Bag2school collection raised £116.00, and we plan to arrange another one in September. So, get sorting out any old clothes over the summer holidays!

It is great to have some new supporters using Easyfundraising, which continues to generate funds for us. Don't forget if you are not already signed up to this, it is very easy to do. 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>



We have recently contributed £325 towards the successful Year 11 prom. We were delighted to be able to help with this event. So far, this academic year, we have not been able to support any bids from departments for the purchase of resources or financing projects. However, now that we have had a more successful fundraising year, we look forward to supporting the school with bids going forwards.

Should anyone wish to donate to the Friends of OBHS this can be done easily via Wisepay and for those that who have already kindly done so, we are very grateful.

We are extremely pleased to have recruited some wonderful new members to the Friends team! However, we always need extra helpers, so if you are interested in joining our friendly team, please use the following email address: [friendsofOBHS@outlook.com](mailto:friendsofOBHS@outlook.com) or contact the school office at [office@obhs.co.uk](mailto:office@obhs.co.uk). It is good fun, really rewarding and a great way to connect with other parents. We are really looking forward to building on this year and to fundraise for vital school resources and the benefit of all students.

**The Friends of Old Buckenham High School**



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