



# OBHS *Gazette*

*Be the best we can be*

## WELCOME

to the winter edition of the Gazette. As you know our Habits of Learning are at the core of our approach to teaching and learning, equipping our students for the skills that they will need to be successful after they leave us. One of the most important 'Habits' is resilience, and we have seen that in abundance in our students this term. Our curriculum, or the content we teach, is also very important. Our curriculum is planned to build knowledge over time and ensure all of our students can 'know more, understand more and do more' at the end of each lesson, term and year. The details of which are on the website and I would encourage all parents to become familiar with it.

We have tried to ensure this term has been as 'normal' as possible, but inevitably we have had to cancel and change some events. However, we have still managed to ensure lots of extra-curricular and enrichment activities have taken place and many thanks to all who have contributed so much to our school.

Have a very Happy Christmas!

*Andrew Fell*



*Be the best we can be*

## HEAD STUDENTS

Congratulations to our new Head Students Lillia Severn and Elena Murphy. They will be assisted by deputies James Neale and Liv Sercombe.

"As a student, you do so much more than learn a curriculum at school. You learn how to communicate, how to have confidence in who you are, and how to maximise your potential for the future. OBHS has instilled all of these traits in me, and more.

So far, the role of head student has enabled me to see this confidence and passion flourish throughout our family here at Old Buckenham High School. From our weekly mentoring scheme to the extensive extracurricular activities students frequently participate in, I feel proud to be an ambassador for the school and hope to inspire the younger years in doing so too.

As a member of the senior senate, I am extremely excited about the changes and ideas we are currently developing that will benefit every student at our school. We are focusing on wellbeing, extra study groups, and more interhouse competitions with bigger prizes up for grabs!

I look forward to seeing you all again during prefect duty."

**Elena M**

"Throughout my five years here at Old Buckenham High, I've always wished of making a difference and making our school a nicer, safer place for all its students. As I'm dyslexic I've struggled with many things linked to the curriculum but throughout my time here the teachers have constantly supported me and helped me to get to the place I am today. I'm now getting grades I never dreamed of getting and I've learnt so much more than just the government curriculum. I've learnt how to have confidence in my own abilities, how to communicate with people and how to go the extra mile to help someone. I've learnt not just who I actually am but who I want to be; not a career, not a label but a kind, considerate, ambitious, resilient being who won't give up when things get tough.

As I'm one of the head students here I can help to make that change and make a difference in our school. I'm in the process of getting our school award scheme sorted and clearer for both students and teachers and am also looking into extra-curricular activities which aren't necessarily sports related and can suit our students more.

Have a great Christmas and a very happy new year!"

**Lillia S**



*Be the best we can be*



# MENTAL HEALTH & WELLBEING

"One of my duties as head student is to focus on mental health and wellbeing within the OBHS community. We all have mental health, and when not cared for you can start to face challenges that are difficult to overcome. This is an isolating time for most people but for no fault of their own."



There is a lack of understanding within society of the severity of mental health problems, but I know as a school we can make sure each individual feels comfortable when reaching out for support. It's important that we encourage open conversations about how we feel – this is the first step needed to normalise speaking out about our struggles. I am proud to be part of the caring and compassionate family here at OBHS, and I am confident that these difficult but necessary conversations will happen in each and every classroom, as well as active engagement in our new ideas focused on wellbeing.

To finish, I just want to remind you that you're not alone. There is no shame in reaching out for help. There will always be someone at school who is able to help."

**Elena M**



# DUKE OF EDINBURGH AWARD

The Duke of Edinburgh scheme is a great chance to discover new interests, have fun, boost mental and physical health, gain essential skills and achieve a highly respected Award.



Well done to some of our amazing students who received their Bronze and Silver Duke of Edinburgh Awards this term.



"As a part of the DofE ran in school, many pupils are able to go to the neighbouring schools in Old Buckenham for their volunteering aspect of the award. One student said 'At Chapel green we get to interact and talk to children who have disabilities. Not only are the children very kind and thoughtful but the staff are a delight to work alongside with. The children are so cheerful, and it generally feels like a family. The amount of care that goes into the place is magical. It is a joy to go there once a week.'"

**A Year 9 Student**





*Be the best we can be*



# FOOTBALL AT OBHS



Our extracurricular clubs have started up again and we are proud of our pupils for both their excellent attitude and for positively representing the school.



We had our first year 7 and 8 girls football match against Archbishop Sancroft School on Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> November and the girls narrowly lost 1-0 and the year 9's also had their first match losing in an action packed 3-2 defeat goal scorers J Bowley and J Beard.



**Mr Scott, PE Teacher**





# Be the best we can be



The Year 10 football team who came back from 3-1 down at half-time to draw 3-3 in a match they dominated, playing some brilliant football. First away match in almost 2 years!

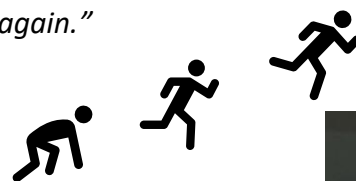


## ATHLETICS



*"On Monday 29<sup>th</sup> November, 14 of us hopped in the minibus and drove to UEA. The first event for Josh, Ruben, Harry and I was the team obstacle course relay. We had fun and did ok. Then Lewin and I took part in the standing long jump. When I did it, I got past the 30 marks. Then Arthur and me did two lap races. I came last but to cheer myself up I knee slid. Then me, Josh, Harry and Ruben all did a 4-lap relay race. We had loads of fun and hope we can do it again."*

**Noah W, 7G**



Year 7 Boys and Girls Sports Hall Athletics Teams had a fantastic afternoon at the UEA. Students were chosen to represent the school because of their fantastic attitude and effort in PE.

**Mrs Fearn, PE Teacher**



**SOUTH NORFOLK  
SCHOOL SPORT  
PARTNERSHIP**



*Be the best we can be*

# OBHS ALLOTMENT



“Back in October 2020, we were just getting going on the allotment, starting to transform an unused space into a fully-fledged allotment! It’s been hard work but we’re getting there now, after a very successful summer of growing, we have now experienced every season on the allotment and adapted our jobs to keep the allotment going throughout the year. We harvested so much produce over spring and summer that we were able to hold 2 sales for teachers and staff to come and buy a selection of fruit and veg and come and look at what we have been doing.



Now the nights are drawing in and growing season is over we have begun work on building and repairing the infrastructure, the polytunnel has been taken down for the winter to stop it blowing away and we have improved our valuable compost bins. We have begun to create new beds inside of the polytunnel to increase our yield next year. We have started to plan for next year and with the Morrisons grow tokens we have been able to get lots of seeds and some new equipment!



If you are interested in helping on the allotment, please do come along or speak to Mrs Allen or Miss Washington. The Allotment Club will be starting back next spring but if you want to come along on Monday lunchtimes feel free – it would be great to get more people involved to share the experience.”

**Bethany W**



“Over the last year, the allotment has become a very important part of the school community. Many students from all year groups have enjoyed helping out at lunchtime and after school, and the produce sales we held for staff began to show the rest of the school how much the allotment has come along.



One thing I really enjoyed doing at the allotment was coming in to keep it running over the summer. Here, we worked on the veg beds, and we even built a wooden structure for the runner beans. I did this with Bethany and Lillia. Recently, the Papillon Project, who run the allotment, presented the three of us with an award called the Young Environmental Stewardship Award, or the YES Award.

It has been amazing to watch the allotment grow and become more important to the school, and, in the future, it would be great to see even more students getting involved.”

**Sophie H**



*Be the best we can be*



# CHAPEL GREEN SCHOOL

As part of their course in Health & Social Care some year 11 students were invited to visit to Chapel Green School.



*"We watched them sing a morning song and they showed us their Christmas jumpers and they got a bag and played in and out and took turns getting inside the bag and under it. They also played in front or behind and all took turns once again, then we looked through some of their literacy books to see what they do and what they learn about, some of them were communicating with us which I really liked and enjoyed."*

**Lisa L**

*"In Chapel Green, I joined a class with younger children about age 6 with one other. We watched videos that taught words and phrases to the children while also showing them sign language. The sessions were short to keep their attention. After we joined them for swimming (only observing). The children were supervised by adults at all times, some being supported by them and floaties, while some were more independent. We mainly took notes while also asking some questions."*

**Leigh-Ann N**



*"In Chapel Green, I joined a secondary student's class with two others. We watched a video explaining how to wrap a gift getting the students excited for Christmas. The teachers signed along and got them to participate asking multiple choice questions. After this, we helped make Christmas cards giving the student a choice of colours. It worked on fine motor skills and in particular encouraging a student to use her right hand."*

**Rosie W**



*"This morning my Health & Social Care Class were offered to go to Chapel Green School to help our coursework on creative activities and the equipment that is recommended for students and their needs. I learned about a variety of creative activities that are beneficial towards students such as painting, concealed in a bag (avoids mess), this is fantastic for hand movement. A bag of materials and sensory toys, and physical equipment such as balls to bounce and throw. I have a great deal of respect for the staff who have their hands full 24/7."*

**Matilda L**





*Be the best we can be*



## PERFORMING ARTS

After a two-year hiatus due to Covid, the Expressive Arts have been immersed in rehearsals for our production of Back to the 80's. Students from Years 7-11 have been getting into characters that have brought fond memories back to staff, whilst learning some of the classic songs of this era. Every Monday and Tuesday students have been creating both scenes and dances courtesy of Miss Washington and it has been lovely to see a lot of our new students in Year 7 being involved in this. We are thoroughly enjoying the rehearsals for another OBHS production, and these will continue after the Christmas break with the production to be performed at the end of March.

**Miss Balmer and Mr Jay**



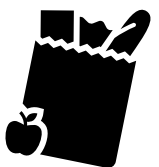
“This year's musical is ‘Back to the 80s’, I play one of the main characters called Tiffany and there is roughly about 25 people taking part. At the moment we have completed the whole of Act 1 and after the Christmas holidays we will be starting Act 2. The rehearsals are enjoyable, and we have a good time learning the ins and outs of the musical. There are plenty of great songs and dances, as well as cringy ones which we have fun learning but we have a great time and its an amazing experience.”  
**Charlotte S**



## THETFORD FOODBANK APPEAL

We were delighted with the response to our appeal for the Thetford Foodbank. Your generous donations will make a real difference to the vulnerable households in our community who have been impacted by the pandemic.

The award for the Best Decorated Hamper goes to 10G with the Best Contribution going to 9G. Thanks to Ms Leavold for organising this event.



*Be the best we can be*



## CHILDREN IN NEED

Students were allowed to wear footwear other than school shoes as part of our fundraising event for Children in Need. 50p donations were collected from students as they entered the school.

At lunch time each form held a fund-raising stall, where they sold cakes and ran competitions. It was an enjoyable event and over £400 was raised.



## CHRISTMAS JUMPER DAY

On Friday 10<sup>th</sup> December students and staff were encouraged to wear a Christmas Jumper to school and asked to donate 50p to Save the Children. A total of £56.50 was raised.



## FRIENDS FESTIVE TREATS DAY

On Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> December, the Friends once again came into school to sell their famous hot chocolate and other Christmas treats at their stall inside the Hall at break and lunchtimes. This was a great success with the students and staff and made over £150 for the Friends of Old Buckenham High School.



## CHRISTMAS RAFFLE

The sales of raffle tickets went well for our Christmas Chocolate Prizes for students. A total of £95 was collected in aid of the Friends of OBHS.





*Be the best we can be*

# AWARDS FOR YEAR 7 & 8



We are very proud of our students who have received awards this year.

## AWARDS FOR PROGRESS IN YEAR 7



Jamie N  
Sophia R  
Kennedy L  
Lacey C

## AWARDS FOR ACHIEVEMENT IN YEAR 7

Jasmine G  
Sofja U  
Olivia D  
Charlie McL



## AWARDS FOR PROGRESS IN YEAR 8



Sam C  
Dasha K  
Khyra V  
Getana S  
Amelia D

## AWARDS FOR ACHIEVEMENT IN YEAR 8

Mia McC  
Scarlett S  
Alexander C  
Ellie R  
Molly K



### The Award for Exceptional Contribution to School Life in Year 7 was presented to Charlie McL.

He has demonstrated an all-round commitment to school and the wider-school life in Year 7. He has shown excellent effort and attitude in all lessons and around school. He has been a positive role model to other students and approached every situation with a positive outlook.



*Be the best we can be*



# AWARDS FOR YEAR 9 & 10



We are very proud of our students who have received awards this year.

## AWARDS FOR PROGRESS IN YEAR 9

Rueben S  
Aiden F  
George B  
Anastasija I



## AWARDS FOR ACHIEVEMENT IN YEAR 9

Bethany W  
Divyan R  
Sophie C  
Charlie J



## AWARDS FOR PROGRESS IN YEAR 10

Cicely W  
Logan F  
Effie K  
Darcy J  
Skye B



## AWARDS FOR ACHIEVEMENT IN YEAR 10

James N  
Matt F  
Elena M  
Finley B  
Maciej B



Our remarkable students who achieved early GCSE success – Sophie C in French in Year 9 and Sophie H in Astronomy in Year 10.



*Be the best we can be*

# 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 two members of staff, Mrs Daynes and Mrs Fraser, who were nominated by colleagues for their continuing and outstanding support to the school.



## FRIENDS OF OBHS

Our usual fundraising efforts continue to feel the impact due to the pandemic. Covid has affected our attendance in school this term and sadly meant that our Tropic pamper evening and mini-Christmas shopping event had to be cancelled. Fingers crossed you will see us attending events next year including the Back to the 80's Production.

Since the last school Gazette, we contributed £300 towards the remarkably 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. We really look forward to being able to support the school again in this way once our depleted funds are restored!

The bags2school clothing collection raised £96.00 – thank you to everyone who donated old clothes. Thanks also to those that support us by way of using 'Easyfundraising' when doing their online shopping. 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 is really easy. We have received £150 over the last year via Easyfundraising.

Should anyone wish to make a donation to the Friends of OBHS this can be done easily via Wisepay and for those 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! This has meant we can continue going forward. However, we always need extra helpers, so if you are interested in joining our friendly team, please use the following email address: [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 be able to fundraise for vital school resources and the benefit of all students in 2022.

**Lisa Groom – Chair of Friends**



OLD BUCKENHAM  
HIGH SCHOOL

*Be the best we can be*

Old Buckenham High School  
Abbey Road,  
Old Buckenham,  
Norfolk, NR17 1RL

01953 860233  
[office@obhs.co.uk](mailto:office@obhs.co.uk)