



OBHS *Gazette*

Be the best we can be

WELCOME

to the Winter Edition of the Gazette which is guest edited by our Head Boy and Head Girl, Dom and Alice. The last edition of the Gazette was dominated by the school closure, however, this time we are able to celebrate the work that has gone into re-opening our school. I have been extremely proud of our students and staff by the way they have stepped up to the challenge of the past few months. The quality of teaching and the work students have completed has been excellent some of which you will see in the following pages.

Andrew Fell





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HEAD GIRL & HEAD BOY

Head Girl

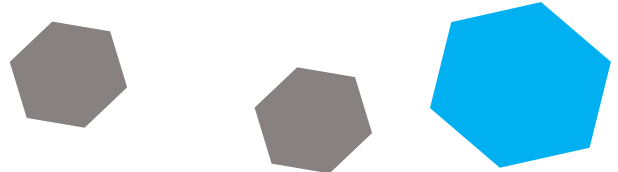
My name is Alice O'Hara and this year I am the Head Girl of Old Buckenham High School. Ever since I was in year 7, I looked up at the 'Role of Honour' board and thought 'wow wouldn't that be cool if I achieved something amazing like that', and ever since then I have always had this inner ambition to make that 11-year-old Alice proud. After lots of hard work and dedication I am so pleased to say that I really did that! Getting to represent the school that I have loved for the past five years as well as helping others to get to experience the most out of their time at OBHS. Being a part of organizing events that my peers and I will remember forever, such as Prom, is so special. I am so excited to see what's to come, and to really leave my mark as Head Girl.



Head Boy

My name is Dominic Hayward and I am your new Head Boy. From year 7 to year 10, I watched as the Head Girl and Head Boy stood on the stage and would deliver a presentation evening to a hall full of students and parents. As I sat there, I would think to myself, 'when I am in year 11, I would like to be the Head Boy on that stage,' and over the last five years, I have worked to make that dream a reality. I am looking forward to using the role to help my peers and future students to get the great experience that I have had.

OUR DEPUTIES



My name is Mariesha Blackwell-Florentin and I am one of the Deputies at Old Buckenham High School. From year 8, I decided that I wanted to change from a disruptive girl to someone that people could look up to. I wanted to show people that anyone can achieve anything, and that is why I decided to go for deputy. I wanted to show people that you can achieve anything if you put your mind to it and believe in yourself. I am looking forward to working within this role, and I hope that I can help people bring their ideas forward.

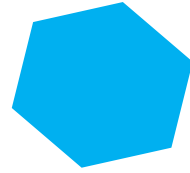
My name is Katie Mobbs, and I am one of this year's deputies. I have always dreamt of being in this role ever since the first year of high school. I am unbelievably happy that I have been given this opportunity, and I am looking forward to trying my best and working hard in this role. I strongly believe that it is so important for everyone's voice to be heard; and I can't wait to work with our school community so we can all continue to enjoy school. I really loved my time here at OBHS, and I have learnt truly valuable things and hopefully I can help to make experiences for others that they can treasure forever.



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SENIOR SENATE



The role of a Senior Prefect is to help, contribute and ensure the smooth running of the school and the community around it. There are many opportunities to develop personal skills and qualities such as leadership, responsibility, and a sense of togetherness.

There are four levels that create the Senior Senate, we have our Head Boy and Head Girl who are entrusted to lead the team, followed by our Deputies, then Senior Prefects and finally, Prefects.

These students are a vital part of school life and portray exemplary behaviour for all students to look up to! Being a part of the Senior Senate is a great opportunity and this year we are so pleased to have such a strong team aiming to make this academic year one of the best to come, despite the circumstances.

Charlotte Dobbin, Erin Dysart, Olivia Hartley-McLeod and Alice O'Hara



What are the Senior Prefects up to?

Organizing and editing the Gazette - Led by our Head Girl, Olivia Hartley-McLeod, Erin Dysart, Charlotte Dobbin and Elliot Stevenson.

Mentoring Well-Being and Mental Health in Year 10 and Year 11 and Student Voice, Led by our Head Boy, Riley Groom, Anya Johnson, Megan Richardson and Clodagh Lohan.

Notice Boards/Displays on Contemporary issues and Social Media – Led by one of our Deputies, Aleisha Blake, Isabel Nicolaou, Grace Gentry, Sophie Rumsby and Georgina Pearce.

Mentoring Well-Being and Mental Health – Led by one of our Deputies, Emily Bartlett, Jasmine Cross, Maddison Lister, Ria Le-Tatam and Eve Bensley.

Prom and Leavers Day – Head Girl, Alice O'Hara and Head Boy, Dominic Hayward.





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LOCKDOWN

Student Experiences



My lockdown experience was very strange, being locked up in the house isn't the greatest. Although at the beginning of it the thought of not getting up and going to school was great, as time went on it was quite lonely.

Yes, I do have siblings, two actually, both brothers (one 14 and the other 2). As you can tell the 14-year-old is very moody so he stayed in his room most of the time. Sadly, during all of this my mum was not really there but that's not what I'm here to talk about.

The schoolwork part was fun: well only when my step siblings were there (one 10, one 6). It may sound weird but we would pretend we would be in a class room and act like we were at school. To be honest the rest of lock down was boring all I would do was eat, play, sleep. It wasn't like we could go out anywhere, so all I could do was entertain myself. When lockdown was announced this meant we couldn't see each other, it wasn't the best as at the end of the day that is my family so I got very sad.

I was quite happy to leave primary but most of the time me and my friends would wonder if we were going to do our SATs, most of us knew we wouldn't as there was a deadly virus going around. I can still recall how frightening it was knowing millions were dying – it wasn't the best feeling. At the time the government was stating that pubs, restaurants and school would be closed until December – this was in March meaning we could have been in lockdown for nearly 9 months. I think being in school is better because when you are at home I feel it makes me be lazy and I probably wouldn't end up doing any of my work (I'm just not very organised).



Roxy Powell 7T

"I found working at home so easy. It was great as I could finish work quicker and have more time on the PS4. Coming back to school felt like a weird experience as we only have 3 lessons in a day, when we used to have 5! Our lessons are longer but it's nothing too bad, I don't really like the fact of having to wear a facemask, but I understand the importance of wearing a mask and following the one-way system. I missed seeing my friends it's nice to be back."

Rickardo Pereira 9CO



"My lockdown experience was quite positive I enjoyed working from home, this meant I could finish my work quickly and go do whatever I wanted to. Although I missed seeing my friends during lockdown, I wasn't sure about how I felt about coming back to school. Now we are back, I am glad Lockdown is over! School is taking a bit of time to adjust to with wearing masks and the one-way system, but it is starting to feel normal, which is good!"

Toby Edmonds 9CO



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When I was in lockdown it was very boring. I didn't really like being in lockdown because it just doesn't feel like school but when I came to this school it was calm and everyone was kind to me, until I got used to the school so then I had many more friends and I knew many more teachers.

My baby sister was getting in my way a lot because she wanted to sit where I was sitting or something but I really didn't like it at home. I love school a lot, it makes me happy and excited I don't know why, ever since primary I've loved school. It is good to love school because you get educated and you get a good job.

Pyper Ward 7T



"When I found out that we would have to work at home and couldn't come to school, it was strangely quite exciting as none of us knew what it was like to 'work from home'. At first, we got given all our work through Go4schools and sent it back to our teachers, it was straight forward and there was lots of contact between our parents and the school to make sure we could work at home and we knew what was going on - this was really reassuring and helpful. As the weeks passed and we watched the headlines on the news it became clear that we wouldn't be going to back to school any time soon. This was quite a worrying thought - not being able to see my friends and not knowing how I was doing in terms of schoolwork. We started using Microsoft Teams and had some class calls on that, it was very strange to see our classmates through a computer! Normally I would have sports clubs to go to after school, instead I had to keep myself busy which was quite hard. I entered a few school competitions such as the OBHS Photography Competition and PE Challenges which kept me busy. After what seemed like a whole academic year, we broke up for the summer holidays. Keeping my fingers crossed we could go back in September! Finally, after months away from school we could go back! I was excited but a bit nervous because I knew it would be different to before and I hadn't seen my friends for a long time! Thanks to the school we settled down quickly and its nearly Christmas! This term has flown by and it feels great to be back to some kind of normality! Without the help of technology and all the staff at OBHS it would have been a lot harder for us during this pandemic - so all the staff deserve a big Thank you!"

Bethany Wilson – 9B



Teacher Experience

"In a strange way, for me, lockdown gave me an opportunity and more time to reconnect with friends and family, even if was on zoom! I took the opportunity to chat to friends across the world, have zoom gatherings and games with friends and to absolutely trounce my family in our weekly zoom quiz. It was lovely to spend lots of time with the lovely Mrs Helsdon, as we both usually work very busy jobs so lockdown gave us some more time together and for that aspect I am very grateful.

My new hobbies during lockdown were fairly typical. I tried to learn the guitar (thanks Mr Jay!), spent time reading, doing YouTube workouts, going for long walks, spending far too much time doing a 1000 piece Pokémon jigsaw and eating far too much takeaway pizza.

What I've learnt from my lockdown experience is to appreciate the little things in life."

Mr Helsdon - Teacher of Science





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PAPILLON PROJECT

The Papillon Project works with secondary schools all across Norfolk to inspire young people and aid teachers to create and develop school allotments.

Since September, Old Buckenham High School has been working with Matt Willer from the Papillon Project to create an allotment in the grounds of the school. This has been made entirely from former rubbish, recyclable items and reclaimed wood.

We spoke to Matt, Projects Lead and Founder, and he shared with us, "our main purpose of this allotment is to inspire the next generation to learn how to grow their own food."

The Papillon project has inspired the whole school, who have been actively working, to create a quiet space that all year groups can use.



Matt explained to us, "it can be nerve wracking turning up in somebody else's school, however I have been made to feel incredibly welcome by all of your students. It is a privilege to be working here with so many of your pupils."

This allotment has truly given some light to the students, and the school, during this unprecedented time. Thank you The Papillon Project!

Erin Dysart 11F

As part of my bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award I have been volunteering on the school allotment, I started working on this in early October, since then it has really transformed. To start with we had an overgrown piece of land (where the old swimming pool used to be) and it needed lots of work doing to it. Matt (who works for the Papillon Project) has been helping us and others to build our new allotment on it. We have been using a range of skills such as carpentry and gardening. So far, we have helped build raised beds, fences, and a hut out of pallets and old fences. Its looking great! We have been filling the raised beds with manure and covering it with hay bales. It's hard work but it means they are ready for winter. Recently we have started thinking about what we want to grow, and I have written a letter to a local garden centre asking if they could donate a fruit tree. Everyone is having great fun and there is a real buzz around when we are there. It's exciting and I am really looking forward to next year to continue the amazing work we are doing.

Bethany Wilson 9B





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We have been doing gardening for our Duke of Edinburgh volunteering. Since October we have been volunteering after school and in school hours to help turn the old swimming pool area into an allotment. I have been doing carpentry – building the shed- gardening and laying down straw on the beds that year 11 and other year 9s had already made. I feel like it has been really good for learning new things, like putting cardboard over the weeded area to stop weeds growing through and other things about how to care for the allotment. I have enjoyed it.

Amelie Taylor 9CO



The Papillon project has had such a positive impact in our school. Several of the year 9 students have volunteered at the allotment at lunch time and after school as part of their volunteering section of their Duke of Edinburgh award. It has been so lovely to see students in a completely different environment to the classroom and to see them developing a completely new set of skills. The leaders of our environment council are also taking a leading role in running the allotment. It is a really exciting project for the school, and I can't wait for the spring and summer when the growing begins!

Miss Washington- Teacher of Geography





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SCHOOL IMPROVEMENTS

Library

Over the last term, the OBHS Library has been transformed. The shelving has been reorganised to make it easier for students to find books they will enjoy and the displays have been updated. Students can now browse our large selection of fiction books by genre as well as reading ability, and access copies of our KS4 revision materials. Students have one library lesson a fortnight with their English teacher to read, discuss literature and change/renew their reading books.

Next term, we are launching our Accelerated Reader programme which will enable us to reward students for their engagement with reading and help students to make sure they are choosing books that they will not only enjoy, but also books which will challenge them and expose them to new genres or authors that they may not have previously considered. Look out for the rewards in the new year!

Laura Cooper

Senior Curriculum Leader of English



Veranda & Memorial Garden

Improvements around the rest of the school site continue with the complete replacement of the Veranda and the memorial garden has been transformed with the addition of artificial grass.



MUGA

Excitement has filled the air at Old Buckenham High School as soon we will have access to an amazing new Multi-Use Games Area. It's been a little weird with all noise but soon it will be worth it!





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REMEMBRANCE DAY



This year for Remembrance Day we at OBHS reflected on the previous world wars that have been fought and the people currently serving our country around the world. On the 11th of November at 11am it marked 102 years since Armistice day, we held a two-minute silence, separately this year, to remember the people who have fought and died in the wars. This year, like most things, Armistice Day was a little different due to the Coronavirus. Previously, we stood in year groups listening to the Last Post and having two minutes silence together. However, this year we held our two minutes silence in our forms and listened to our music teacher, Mr Jay, perform the Last Post by trumpet on the field.

The first two-minute silence in Britain was held on 11th November 1919, when King George V asked the public to observe a silence at 11am. We still do this tradition today, over 101 years later, to show our gratitude and appreciation. OBHS students sent in photos of their relatives who are currently serving our country around the globe and those who previously served in both WW1 and WW2.

We at Old Buckenham High School take pride in remembering the soldiers that fought so bravely for our country.

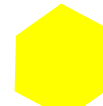
Charlotte Dobbin 11F



CHILDREN IN NEED

Although it was a little different this year due to the COVID19 restrictions, students and teachers at OBHS came together to raise money for Children in Need, where we held a non-school uniform day and had the option to dress up as superheroes! We are proud to say we raised an amazing £462 for Children in Need, which we know is going to go towards helping so many people.

Olivia Hartley-McLeod





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ACHIEVEMENTS

During lockdown competitions were held by the school to encourage students to get creative.

The Great Old Buck Bake-Off where students were asked to design and make a cake on the theme: "what I am most looking forward to after lockdown" produced some fantastic creations. The overall winner was **Ella A**



"I was thoroughly delighted with the pupils' engagement in the competition. The pupils were so creative and innovative plus the skills and techniques involved were very impressive."

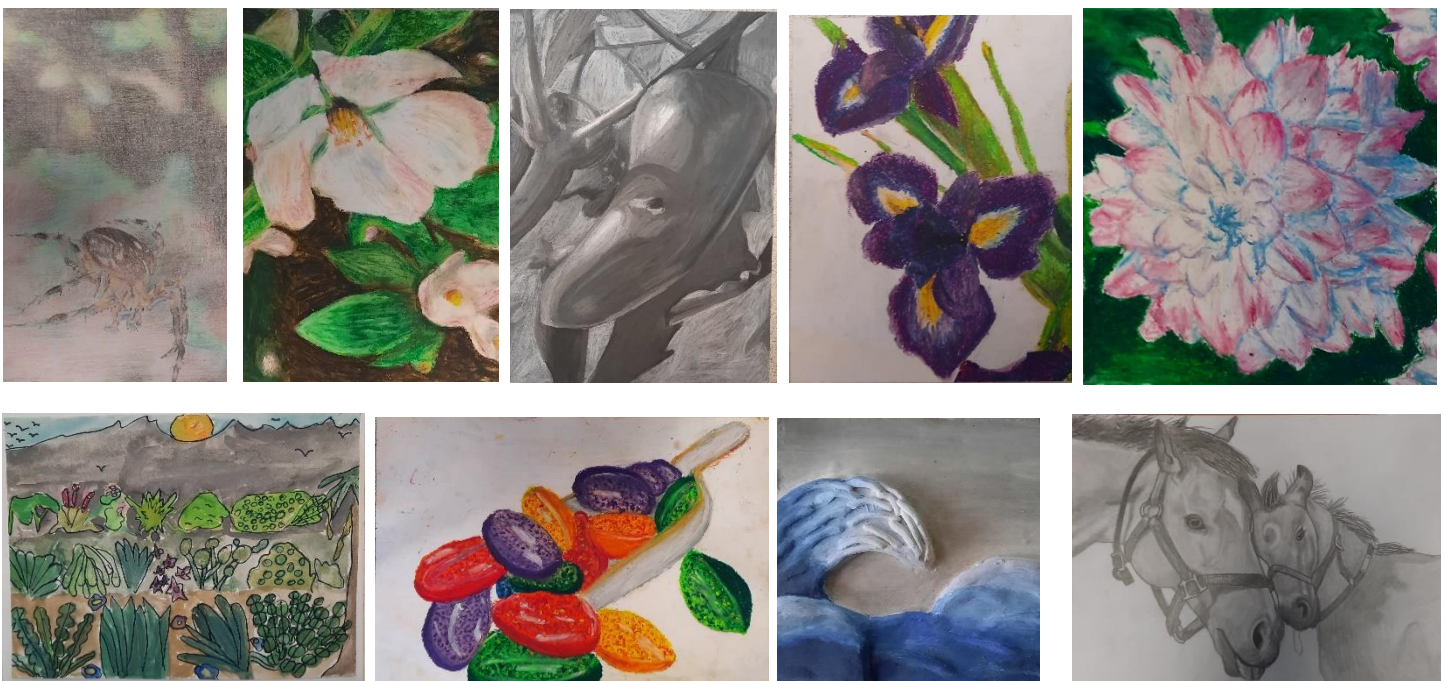
Miss C Read – Teacher of Food & Nutrition

Year 8 Design & Technology have really engaged with this CAD/CAM project where they designed an abstract keyring on a computer. The mould was laser cut so Pewter could be melted and cast. Students completed this by sawing off the spere, filing down rough edges and drilling a hole.

Miss H Hickey – Teacher of Art & Design Technology



As always, some excellent examples of creativity in the Art Department.



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OLD BUCKENHAM PRIMARY SCHOOL



'I would like to introduce myself as the new Headteacher at Old Buckenham Primary School & Nursery. Originally from Harrow, London, I relocated to Norfolk at the start of the summer holidays so that I could undertake my current position. I have always worked in primary schools since graduating from the University of Cambridge. I have a passion for education and strongly believe in providing a learning experience that covers a broad range of subjects for all pupils. Everybody has many talents; it's just about discovering what these are. I believe that as an educator it is my job to ensure that children are provided with experiences that allow them to discover their talents and shine in these areas. I look forward to collaborating with Old Buckenham High School, providing opportunities for the primary and high school to work together in a range of different ways.'

Mrs H Mitchell – Headteacher Old Buckenham Primary School

OBHS AWARD



The OBHS award is to recognise students' effort and achievement in three areas:

- Academic progress
- Contribution to the life of the school & community
- Extra-Curricular activities

There are four levels students can work towards: Bronze (20 points), Silver (60 points), Gold (150 points) and Platinum (300 points)

Students are awarded positive points in Go4Schools and these accumulate to make the total. Once students have achieved the required number of points they receive the relevant OBHS Award. Bethany Wilson recently became one of the few students to receive the Platinum Award in only year 9, a huge congratulations to Bethany! Very well deserved! A list of winners of our Silver and Bronze Awards is attached.



CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION

I have introduced a Certificate of Appreciation to formally acknowledge the contributions made by a member of staff to the school. Staff have had the opportunity to nominate a colleague who has gone 'above and beyond' in terms of helping other staff or students.

This term's winners are: **Miss Dawson & Mrs Grunbaum**





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FRIENDS OF OBHS



Our fundraising:



Usually, you would see us at concerts, the annual production and attending other school events. Unfortunately, none of this has happened in 2020 and we are disappointed we are not able to come in to school with our popular Festive Treat Friday pop up sale this year. As with many charities, we have been hit very hard in terms of fundraising. However, our Bags2School initiative was well supported and we raised £150 from this – thanks to all who donated old clothes.

Following a recent successful bid to Waitrose Community Matters scheme, we have been lucky enough to receive a donation of £333.

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.

In these uncertain times we are limited to what we can do, but there is another way you can support us to continue to raise vital funds for OBHS. 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>. Use it now whilst doing your online Christmas shopping – it's easy!

Serious Plea:



We are currently looking to recruit some new members. Several have been in office for longer than they should and are stepping down. We need others to take on the roles to sustain the Friends going forwards and to continue our good work. 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. We desperately do not want to see the Friends fold.

Wishing you all a Merry Christmas and a happy new year from the Friendly Friends!



Some of our more recent purchases:

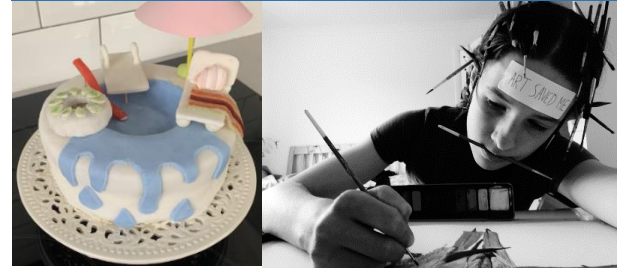
£1190 for 3 x keyboards, 10 guitars and a new drum kit - Music

£168 for a Water fountain

£100 for competition prizes - English

£240 for Etching/Printing press - Art

£50 for prizes for Old Buck Bake Off and photography competition run during lockdown



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