



# OBHS *Gazette*

*Achieving Excellence Together*

## WELCOME

to the second edition of the OBHS Gazette, I have received very positive feedback following the introduction of the Gazette. This term has been full and very busy and there have been many highlights. I am very pleased with the charity work that has been undertaken through fundraising and also the commitment of many of our students to anti-bullying, mental health support and helping the local community. This term saw the launch of our Habits of Mind and I have been encouraged to see this approach being adopted throughout the school. Developing the characteristics of Ambition, Resilience, Creativity, Independence and Collaboration is essential for our students in order that they take their place in a rapidly changing world.

The spring term is extremely important for our Year 11 students to focus on the preparations for their exams in the summer and much is being planned in order to ensure they all make the best of their time left with us. Before then, it is important that Year 11 and all our students take the opportunity to relax with family and friends over the Christmas holiday.

With very best wishes.

*Andrew Fell*





# SENIOR SENATE

This half term has been very busy for us, with a whole host of charity events and evenings to keep us busy! We both played a major part as hosts of our Annual Presentation Evening as you will see from the centre pages and Year 11 Highlights page of this Gazette.

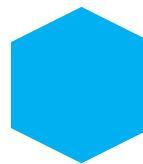


Following the success of Young Minds Day, we held another 2 events to raise awareness for important charities. The first was Children in Need - we had a bake sale and Assistant Headteacher, Mr Dwight, was kind enough to allow us to throw wet rags at him for the whole of lunch. Needless to say this went down very well with students, and perhaps not so well with Mr Dwight! The second event was for World Aids Day, where the school were encouraged to wear something red and "rock the ribbon" to raise awareness for people with this terrible condition. We also had another successful year for the Christmas Hamper Appeal. A van-load of dried goods were collected for the homeless. Congratulations to 10F who produced the best decorated box, judged by ourselves and special guests from the local Sainsbury's. Giving our support to charities is a policy the Senior Senate want to take forward into the new year.



That just leaves us to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a safe and productive 2019! We look forward to working with you more in the new year.

**George C and Rachel W**  
Head Boy and Head Girl



# CAREERS ADVICE

My name is Ellen Alexander and I have been the Careers Advisor at Old Buckenham High School since 2015. I come in to school every Wednesday to see pupils on a 1:1 basis. I help them identify how best they learn, the subjects they enjoy most and how they like to spend their time when they're not in school. We talk about their career ideas or, if they are unsure, I help them identify careers linked to their favourite subject(s). I also support with the work experience process, sometimes helping pupils find a placement if they are struggling. At the moment I am focussing on Year 11's, talking through their Post-16 options and helping them plan their next steps, be it sixth form, college or an apprenticeship. I offer follow-up appointments to pupils if they would like additional support with writing a CV, covering letter or the application process in general and am currently offering a lunchtime drop-in for Year 11's every Wednesday until Christmas (no appointment necessary).

If you would like to contact me to discuss your son or daughter's next steps or if you would like to accompany them at their careers meeting then do email me at [ealexander@beacon-east.co.uk](mailto:ealexander@beacon-east.co.uk)

**Ellen Alexander**  
Careers Advisor





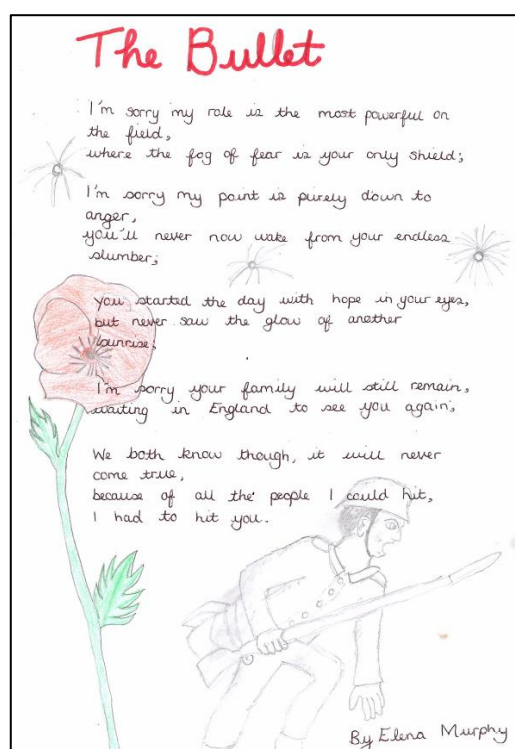


# ENGLISH

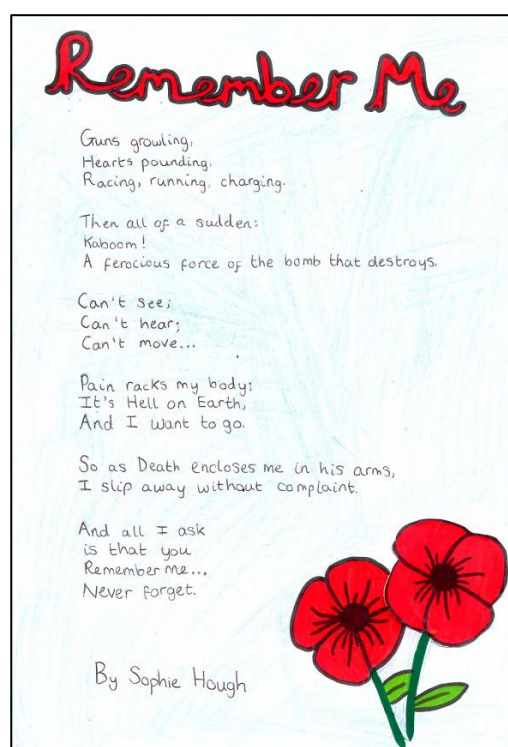
To mark this year's Centenary of Armistice Day, St Mary's Church in Banham invited OBHS to contribute some pieces of creative writing to be displayed as part of their exhibition, which ran from 5<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup> November.

This was a great opportunity for year 8 and 9 students studying War Poetry to try out some of the techniques they had explored in poems such as Dulce et Decorum est. Some really powerful pieces of writing were produced. Two notable poems were created by Sophie H and Elena M in Year 8.

Sophie makes effective use of caesura and listing in her first stanza to capture the fear and adrenaline experienced by soldiers in combat. Elena creates a haunting piece by personifying a bullet's point of view in battle.



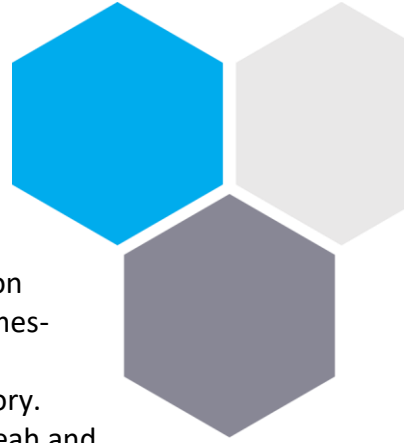
Both girls performed these pieces in the service held in St Mary's Church on Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> November. Listening to these poems amid the ghostly silhouettes commemorating the young men of Banham who fought in WW1 made their messages particularly poignant.



**Christie Greenacre**  
Curriculum Leader English



# HISTORY



Open Evening in September saw many Year 5s and Year 6s and their parents and carers visit the History department to engage in the variety of quizzes and games on offer. Parents and carers praised the Year 8 students-who ran the quizzes and games-for their interpersonal skills, particularly their encouragement and support of the younger students, and how eloquently and enthusiastically they talked about History. Thank you to Elena, Mia F, Sophie, Perry, Mia P, Jessica-Rose, Sophia, Poppy, Paisleah and Hannah who helped the evening run so smoothly.

In October we welcomed Year 6 students from Old Buckenham, Carleton Rode and Bunwell primary schools for a History and Geography transition morning, where they experienced Key Stage 3 lessons. In History, to commemorate the centenary of the Representation of the People Act of 1918, when some women got the right to vote for the very first time, we investigated the Suffragettes. Students inferred the militant methods of the Suffragettes from Mary Poppins' 'Sister Suffragette' song before comparing Suffragettes' methods of protest with C21st century methods of protest. This enabled them to make substantiated judgements on how extreme the Suffragettes' methods were in a human continuum. I was impressed with the students' enthusiasm, inquisitiveness and willingness to engage in all aspects of the lesson.



Year 8 recently completed the annual Tudor homework project. This complements their study of the Reformation and Counter-Reformation and lays the foundations for the more detailed study of the issues of religion in the GCSE unit on Early Elizabethan England. Students either submitted an application form for 'This Tudor's Got Talent', requiring more in-depth research of a monarch of their choice, or created the inside of a Protestant or Catholic church in a shoe box, to reflect their understanding of the differences in the appearance of their churches. There were some incredibly creative examples, including battery-operated light installations to represent the candles. The department looks forward to seeing the forthcoming entries in the Year 7 castles competition (see the challenge tasks on the Year 7 Autumn 2 part 2 homework sheet or ask your teacher for details).

**Philippa Dawson**

Curriculum Leader History



# PHSE

Since September in our Personal Development lessons 7B have been working closely with students and staff from Chapel Green School. We have been studying Religious Founders and Leaders and exploring how many of the major religions started. For our most recent lesson looking

at the Prophet Muhammad (pbuh), 7B worked in groups supporting students from Chapel Green to design a storyboard reflecting the most significant events throughout his life.

Students from Chapel Green have been completing activities in the classroom alongside 7B and students from both schools are benefiting from interacting, engaging and learning from one another. We thoroughly enjoy our inclusive lessons and it has become one of our favourite elements of the timetable adding a new dynamic to the learning environment.



## MORE TO LIFE CLUB



The More2Life Club runs every Tuesday lunchtime led by a team from Integrate Youth For Christ. The group is open to all students at OBHS and provides a safe haven and somewhere to discuss issues from a Christian perspective. It gives the students a chance to spend more focused time with people of a similar mindset whilst also including lots of games, quizzes and fun! Each week there is a different philosophical or ethical theme which is brought to life through an interactive activity. Open discussion is encouraged and students from all beliefs are encouraged to share their thinking and question each other's ideas.

Integrate YFC Centre Director Steph says:

*"We are very excited for the opportunity to bring these teams to our schools and youth groups and for the opportunity to engage young people in*

*exploring aspects of faith in culturally relevant ways. We are encouraged that local churches are working together to help us by acting as hosts for the teams and supporting us in other ways."*

**Rebecca Taylor**

Curriculum Leader PHSE





# PRESENTATION

Our annual Presentation Evening took place on 29<sup>th</sup> November 2018 and it is the highlight of our year as we celebrate the achievements of our students, both past and present. To begin the evening the audience was treated to music played by Luke D before

Mr Fell welcomed everyone and started the proceedings. Awards for progress and achievement were handed out followed by GCSE examination certificates which were distributed to last year's Year 11 cohort. Then followed special awards for each subject which were given to students whose enthusiasm and



determination shone through and finally the special awards for 'Exceptional Contribution to School Life in Year 7' which went to Niamh D, the 'Award for Special Achievement' which was presented to Emily H, the 'Award for Contribution to School Life' which was given to

Olivia O and the 'Headmaster's Award for Outstanding Achievement' which was received by Imogen U.



Our hosts for the evening were the newly appointed Head Boy and Head Girl – George C and Rachel W who did an excellent job assisted by their deputies – Isobel H and Mitchel S. The guest speaker was David Peel, who intrigued everyone with his interesting career and his insight into life as a Downing Street press advisor. There were also musical items performed by Holly J and Alice O, with some of the cast of Hairspray.





# EVENING 2018

Well done to everyone who received awards on the evening.



**Contribution to School Life in Year 7**



**Headmasters' Award for Outstanding Achievement**



**Award for Special Achievement**



Thanks go to everyone involved with the planning and preparation of the evening, especially Mrs Skipsey who organised this wonderful event, and Nicki Thurgar for taking the photographs (visit her website [nickithurgar.zenfolio.com](http://nickithurgar.zenfolio.com) to order copies).



**Contribution to School Life**

*Nicki Thurgar*  
Photography



YEAR

7

# YEAR 7

## *Football Team*

The Year 7 football team before their 4-3 win vs Diss High School. The team will go into the new term unbeaten, with a 5-a-side competition followed by the remaining league fixtures.



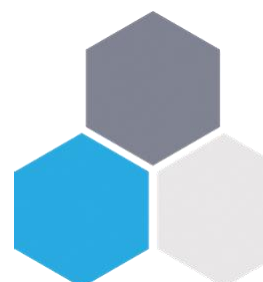
Congratulations to Aston J, who as well as shining for the Year 7 school football team, is also in the Ipswich Town FC Academy. This term, Aston has been selected for day release, which means spending an afternoon a week training at the Academy.

Congratulations to Bethany W in Year 7, pictured here with her swimming medals from a recent competition with Thetford Dolphins and also her gold medal for winning the U13 3K cross-country competition with Thetford AC.



Many congratulations to Divyan R and Mille R, the first students in Year 7 to achieve an impressive 50 positive points... and all in their first term at OBHS.

**Mr Ed Taylor**  
Head of Year 7





# YEAR 8

As we approach Christmas, it seems such a long time since we had such a glorious summer. I think back to the Mersea Island trip that so many of the year group went on.(see photographs below).

Year 8 continue to rack up the positive points. The total is now at 4941. There are 7 students who have exceeded 90 points. James N and Maddi-Mae H have managed to get over 100 points. They are 8<sup>th</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> in school respectively for the number of positive points. A great achievement, keep it up!

Seven of our year group have succeeded in becoming student librarians. They are Sophie H, Lily-Emily D, Mia F, Niamh D, Finley B, Erin K and Maddi Mae H. I am sure will do an excellent job.

I was pleased that several students from 8F were part of the winning Fry team in the Inter House Music competition. Elyse McC, Darcy J, Rose W and Leah B all took part and were able to celebrate Fry winning for the first time.

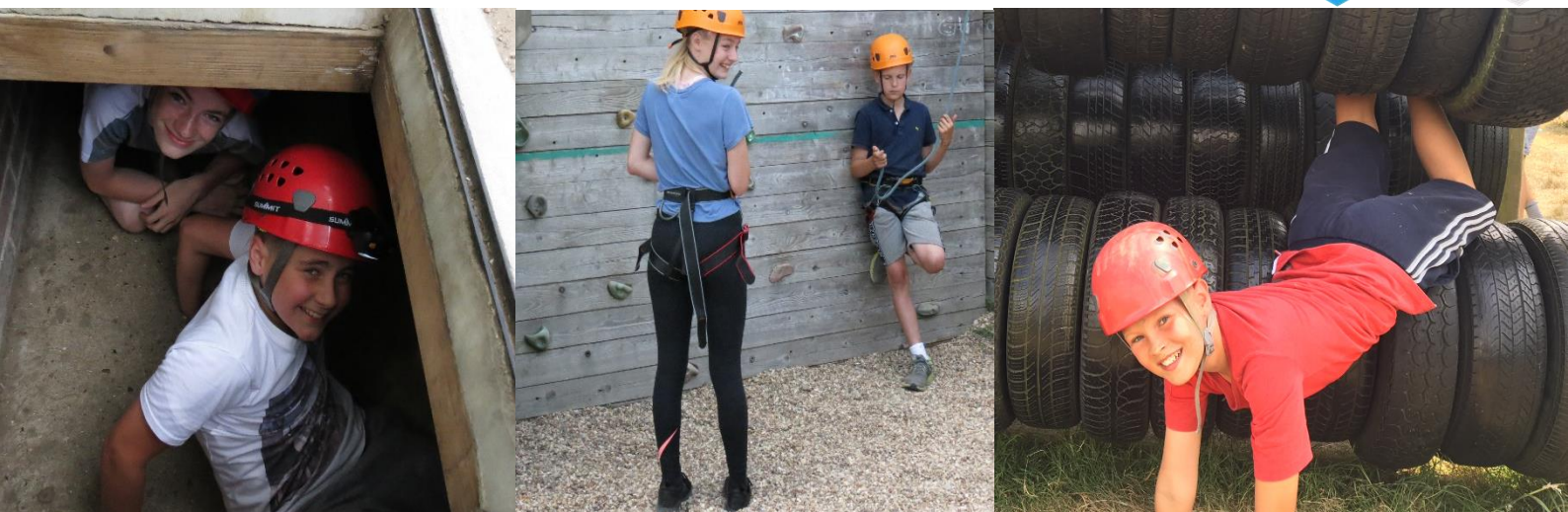
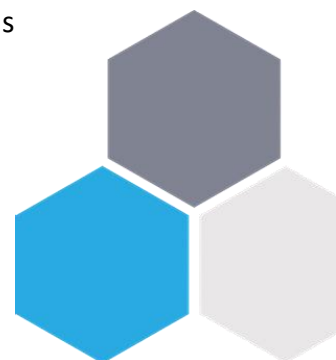
There was a very competitive bridge building and structures task. This was won by Portia B and Cicely W who pipped Mia F and Erin K to victory. Mr Reid pulled no punches when he commented that 'these were impressive results and incredible feats of design engineering'.

It was good to see so many students involved in the Banham Centenary. Louis J and Esther G both had work displayed. As well as having work displayed, Elena M and Sophie H actually represented the school on the day. Well done!

Finally, a special mention should go to Lily Emily D. I was very proud to hear that she was an integral part of a group that raised over £1000 for charity. Along with students from another school, Lily Emily took part in several activities, including a sponsored walk.

Well done Year 8 on a successful half term and I wish you all and your families a very merry Xmas and a happy new year.

**Steve Cowan**  
Head of Year 8



# SPORTS LEADERS

We began our sports leaders course in September 2018, at the start of the course Mrs Fearn taught us how to support, encourage and lead a group in a sports activity. As a high school we have a cluster of primary schools that we hold sports events for, these schools are, Old Buckenham, Banham, Kenninghall, Carleton Rode and Spooner Row. In October our cluster of primary schools competed in a cross country event on our school field. We all had a different role to help out in the event, such as, marshals, front and back runner of the race and scorers.

In November, half of the sports leaders went to Framingham Earl High school to be shown how to teach and run a mini tennis tournament. Valuable skills were learnt on this trip and we will put them to use next summer when we will hold our own mini tennis tournament. Being a sports leader comes with its benefits, some examples are, leadership, being able to communicate and give instructions clearly and developing our independence.

**Beth C 10F & Ruby W 10F**

# ANTI-BULLYING AMBASSADORS

We are the Anti-bullying Ambassadors. We are doing our best to stamp out bullying. We were specially trained to deal with physical, verbal, indirect and even cyber, bullying. We have people in years 11, 10, 9 and 8 to help students who don't feel comfortable talking to a teacher. We want students to feel comfortable talking to us and not feel like they are ratting people out. Reporting something is nothing to be ashamed of. If anything, you are doing the best thing possible.

We try to help in anyway they feel comfortable. Whether it be we tell a teacher or try to sort it out ourselves.

We know that we have started to make a difference and with time we can make our school a better place to be.

***Anti-Bullying Ambassadors***





# HIGHLIGHTS

Well done to all students for participating in the first round of mocks! Results will be on the system as I write. Don't forget, PROGRESS EVENING on Thursday 13th December 4.30 to 7.

Presentation evening was a great success and it was a pleasure to see so many returning students from last year. The evening ran very smoothly thanks to the fantastic organisation of Mrs Skipsey ably assisted by a team of Senior Prefects. A special mention must be made to George and Rachel who MC'd the show unforgettably well (!) and to the calmness of 'trophy sorters' Isobel and Mitchel. Well done.



This week Mr Alderson and Mr Dwight are interviewing another round of potential prefects. The successful candidates will be announced on Monday at the Christmas Awards Assembly.

Year 11 Challenge. This week saw the launch of a new challenge for a select group of students. In teams of four, they have to accrue points for positivity. This initiative will run for 6 weeks. Every two weeks the most successful team will win (edible?) prizes leading to a grand prize of something more substantial! Watch this space.

**Sean Alderson**  
Head of Year 11



# FRIENDS OF OBHS

## Our fundraising:

You will see us attending concerts and the annual production, selling food and refreshments and running raffles. We also organise pop up sales in school where we sell sweet treats and hot chocolate. We are currently focusing our fundraising efforts on supporting the music department for some much-needed equipment and instruments.



The aim of the **Friends of Old Buckenham High School** is to raise funds through supporting and organizing events within the school community.

These funds are then donated back into the school to purchase resources or finance projects to further the educational experiences of the students.

### Some of our recent purchases:

£350 towards GoGoHare and resources – Art department

£300 for 3 x keyboards – Music department

£250 donation towards Year 11 prom

£140 for 2 x sewing machines – Technology department

£380 for 2 x exam reader pens for use by students in examinations

Whilst doing your Christmas shopping online, can we remind you to go via 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 will be at all performances of 'Hairspray' in March where we will be organising raffles. If you have any items you would like to donate or have any contacts who may be willing to offer a raffle prize, we would love to hear from you! These can be dropped off in school reception to be passed on to us or you can contact us by email: [groom551@btinternet.com](mailto:groom551@btinternet.com).

*Thank you to all those who have supported us and we look forward to more successful fundraising – every penny really does benefit our children.*

***The Friends of Old Buckenham High School***



OLD BUCKENHAM  
HIGH SCHOOL

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