

HEADTEACHER'S WELCOME

It is with absolute delight that I am writing my very first welcome in the OBHS Gazette as the new Headteacher. I know I have spoken to many students and parents in our recent assemblies and events, and I have written home to parents, but I thought I would tell you something about me.



My name is Claire Elliott. I love teaching because education has the power to change lives; I am always immensely proud hearing about the achievements of students I have taught (even though it makes me feel old when fully grown adults I taught in year 7 tell me about their new families and jobs!) I love reading. It is my escapism and I have been known in the past to sit down with a book and not get up until I had finished it. I also feel as if I should share my best joke (this will make more sense when you read the information about our new teachers): why do people in France only eat one egg for breakfast? Because one egg is un oeuf! (I apologise if that made you cringe!)

My first half term has reaffirmed in my mind what I had gauged when I visited the school before I was appointed: OBHS is a great community and I am grateful for the welcome I have received from staff, students and our families. The news you are about to read in the gazette is testament to the fantastic things that happen here.

We are proud of the recent achievements and awards won by the allotment team in the recent Old Buckenham Village Produce and Handicraft Show, see page 5 for their winning entries. Year 10 will be starting to think about where they would like to be for their work experience placement at the end of the school year and Divyan has shared an insight into his experience, which will be really helpful to our year 10 students on page 7. A huge welcome to our year 7 students who have settled in wonderfully. It is great to hear from Evie and Samuel about their experiences on page 4. Additionally, we recently held our Open Evening event, and I was pleased to see so many prospective students and their families - Summer's highlights of the evening are on page 11.

At OBHS, we aim to provide as many opportunities as possible for the students in our community as we hope to broaden their horizons and experiences. You will find a few detailed in the gazette, and I look forward to bringing you news of even more as we continue through the school year.

NEW STAFF AT OBHS

In September 2022, OBHS has welcomed some new teaching staff into our community. Jules and Summer (Year 10) have been finding out all about them:

MR COLLYER

Jamie Collyer is the new Maths teacher in school. He told us that he loves teaching because he feels that inspiring someone to *be the best they can be* is absolutely worth it. He likes to play golf in his spare time and also plays guitar and the drums.



MRS FULLER

Jessicca Fuller is the new food technology and textiles teacher. She told us that she loves teaching because the moment when children understand a concept is magical. Outside of school, Mrs Fuller is very musical and plays cajon, bass and viola in a local band.

Laura Bentley teaches design technology. She likes teaching because she enjoys seeing students' progress and helping them on this journey. As a keen musician, Miss Bentley plays the guitar and cornet and is a metal and rock music fan. When Miss Bentley was at school herself, she says she struggled as her ADHD was undiagnosed - but now having overcome these obstacles she is keen to support students who face similar difficulties.

MS BENTLEY



MRS CLARK

Louise Clark joins the MfL department. Many of you will recognise her as she completed her NQT year here in 2021.

MS RUSH

Ms Rush's favourite part about being a teacher is the feeling of coming to work every day and hoping you can make a difference in someone's life. Her favourite things to do in her spare time are spending time with her family; eating delicious food; baking and sewing. Ms Rush's best joke is *"A horse enters a bar, and the bartender asks, "Why the long face?"*



MS CROSS

Ms Cross loves teaching because she values being able to make a difference to people's lives. Ms Cross is very active and likes to do yoga in her spare time and charity runs. She also used to be a rugby coach (How cool is that?) An interesting fact about Ms Cross is that she has done mountain climbing (how scary) in 4 different continents. Her best jokes is: *2 packets of crisps were walking down the street, A man pulls up beside them and goes " Would you guys like a lift?" to which the crisps replied, " No thanks, we're walkers!"*

MS FORSTER

Ms Forster's favourite thing about teaching is how rewarding it is when someone learns something new and that every day is different. In her spare time, she likes to go to the gym; teaches circuits (she's a qualified personal trainer); sees her family and friends, and... watch Harry Styles (I can't argue to be honest!) Finally, her favourite joke is: *How do you make a cheese puff? Chase it around the garden.*

MS BENSON



Rachael Benson is the Head of Science and a Chemistry specialist. She said, she loves teaching because every day is different and always brings something new. Outside of school, Mrs Benson is getting into motorbiking and is studying towards her doctorate at the UEA. Another musical teacher - Mrs Benson also plays the saxophone and piano (when she finds time after caring for her 3 children and 15 pets!) and is a proud vegetarian.

YEAR 7 WELCOME

On Tuesday September 6th we welcomed 115 new Year 7s to OBHS. Our newest gazette reporters Samuel and Eviie give us their perspective on starting at Old Buckenham High School:



Samuel F (7G) Hi! I'm Samuel and I'm a new year 7, in Attenborough House which is green! Our form teacher is Mr. Collyer. Our first day was truly magical! The school was SOOOOO Big! It was like Hogwarts. Our head teacher is Mrs Elliot and the head of year 7 is Mr Alderson. I was worried about being bullied but I didn't need to worry because everybody is nice. My favourite lessons are English, science, music, and DT. I especially like English because my teacher is really helpful and kind. I have made a lot of new friends already. I really like the school and think that I am going to enjoy the next 5 years here.

Eviie W (7B) I am a new student in this school and so far, it is great. I first visited OBHS in an open evening in 2021. Two kind year 11s showed me around before we went to the main hall to learn more about the school.

In the summer term it was my transition day; I was so scared because the school was so big and I thought I'd get lost. The first thing we did was to go to the main hall where Mrs Morgan explained about the OBHS golden rules. We then took part in 6 mini lessons which gave us a flavour of what we could expect in September.

Very soon September arrived. I felt so scared on my first day, but now I feel that I've been here for years; I've made lots of new friends and my favourite lesson is DT because I am using tools that we never would have been allowed to use in primary school. I LOVE IT HERE!



Could you be our next
Gazette reporter?
Speak to Ms Cooper if
you want to get
involved!

ALLOTMENT CORNER

TALES FROM THE GARDEN SHED

OLD BUCKENHAM VILLAGE PRODUCE AND HANDICRAFT SHOW

After another fantastic growing season on the allotment, some of our produce was entered into the Old Buckenham Village Produce and Handicraft Show.

With the help of our local volunteer David, who selected and presented the produce, we came away with 8 first prizes, 2 second prizes and 3 third prizes.

Categories entered were cucumber, chilli pepper, sweet pepper, leek, onion, Jerusalem artichoke, runner bean, squash, tomatoes, courgette and potato. This reflects the huge range of vegetables we grow.



The second hand polytunnel that we raised money for has broadened our growing options; We now grow tomatoes, cucumbers and chillis in there.

The success of the village show is all down to the hard work the allotment club has put in over the last year. Continuing to build, repair and upcycle the infrastructure has given us the opportunity to add herbs, sweet peas and sunflowers to the allotment. A lot of effort has been put in by the club and in particular David, who, with his expertise has allowed us to grow a huge variety of vegetables that look and taste fantastic.

When the allotment first started up in 2020, it really was just some overgrown grass with nothing there, but with the huge help of the Papillon Project, it has now transformed into a proper allotment, with a polytunnel, a watering system and many growing beds. In just 2 years we have been able to sell produce to staff, win competitions and raise money to improve it.

In the next year we aim to further our growing success, broaden our knowledge, and focus on the wellbeing side of being on an allotment. However, we can't do it without your help. We would love for more people to get involved, there is so much to do on an allotment, and it is very rewarding. Even if you don't know anything about it, or don't have a huge interest, I encourage you to come along and enjoy it. Bring your friends and see what you can learn. Please speak to Mrs Allen (rm27) for further information regarding club times and to ask any questions.

Bethany W 11B

**ALLOTMENT
CLUB**

**MONDAY LUNCHTIME
ROOM 27
THE ALLOTMENT**

YEAR 10 WORK EXPERIENCE



Resilience is a 'habit' that we explore all the time at school, but during my time searching for and conducting work experience this habit was something I had to embed into my character. In the days of late 2021, every year 10 was tasked with finding a place to conduct a 3-day work experience placement. The school runs this program every year. Why? Well, the products of work

have, for most students, provided them with a greater understanding of what they want and might not want to do in the future, a greater sense of resolve, and newly attained understanding of the workplace and professionalism. For some it was quite an easy task, for some it was exciting, and for some it was a prolonged process of getting denied by various companies. Guess which group I was in?

Let us start at the beginning. During appointments with our career advisor, we would discuss not only what we wanted to do after we left OBHS, but also what we might be interested in doing for work experience. I was pretty set on doing something law related for my placement. We would take these discussions into our independent learning sessions where we would discuss work experience and some of the more fine details of it with our classmates and teachers. We were then tasked with finding and emailing companies and institutions, enquiring about the possibility of getting work experience with them.

On the 7th of January 2022, at 5PM, I was sitting there at my desk writing emails to several real estate agents and law firms in the area. After the hard months of covid, and the uncertainty of what was to come, I, and a few others, were unable to find a place to get our work experience.

It was a shame. But I would be lying if I said I did not expect this. Alongside the issues with covid, there were also confidentiality issues when considering the legal field. I did expect it, but I was gutted. At first what I was going to do was not clear. This is where the habit of resilience came in.



I remembered at a meeting with our career advisor she mentioned an online platform where you can undertake a course which had elements of work experience embedded into it. I signed up. I got the placement. So, during the Easter holidays, for a couple of hours each day I would be completing this course.

In July, whilst the others went off to their placements, some of us that did not get a placement came into school and worked at school. Half of us in the canteen, the other half helping in the library and English department. It was fun. As bland as it may sound, it was an eventful 3 days. In record-setting 40-degree weather, we had fun working in the library. Whilst maintaining some sense of professionalism we managed to have fun. We put on the radio, chit-chatted, and worked. Even though we were rejected at every turn in the winter, we were resilient, and we thrived in summer.

Divyan R IIY

ENRICHMENT 2022



For enrichment this year at old Buckenham High School, all KS3 students were fortunate enough to go on a school trip to either Hollywood bowl and Gravity Trampolining or paintballing at Combat Paintball.

Even though it's a distant memory now, July 2022 was scorching, so we were all prepared for the hot weather with appropriate clothes and lots of water. It didn't stop us from feeling very excited to be taking part in such a fun end of term activity and to make memories that we'll never forget.

Thank you to all the staff involved and those who went on the trips for helping us have such a fantastic day!

Lily R 10R



LONDON TRIP



Our journey started at Attleborough train station where we caught the train to Cambridge. After a quick 5 minute turn around, we then caught the train to London. London was very busy when we arrived and we had to be careful to stick together in our small groups so that no one got lost.

During our time in London, we visited nearly all the sights! We started off with a walk around Leicester Square and Covent Garden before heading on the London Eye. The London Eye was an incredible experience - it was amazing seeing London from above and picking out all the famous landmarks.

In the evening, we watched Mama Mia - for me, this was the highlight of the whole trip. It was phenomenal! (We even caught Mr Scott signing along at one point!)

The following day we managed to see even more of the sights: The Science Museum; the Natural History Museum, Hyde Park, Harrods food hall and Buckingham Palace. We also got to go shopping in Oxford Street, Carnaby Street, Piccadilly and China Town.

On the last day, we enjoyed an amazing trip to London Zoo and although the heat may have been getting to us by this point - it was nothing that a well deserved ice-cream couldn't fix.

Thank you to Mrs Daynes, Miss Washington and Mr Scott for organising such a wonderful experience.

Summer P 10B



OPEN EVENING

In September, OBHS were proud to open our doors to welcome prospective students and their families to our open evening.



Visitors were greeted by the sound of our lovely school choir and directed to explore the various activities and events running across the school, and to hear a speech by Mrs Elliott. Here are just a few of the highlights:

Drama- Students were acting in a short play where a group of different characters entered an elevator and got stuck, they used a minimalistic set and made good use of all the space showcasing the excellent drama that happens at OBHS.



History- Ms Dawson and her student helpers had set up some fun activities and displays, including an activity involving guessing the historical period that some of our best loved sweets originate from. There was also a beautiful display of handmade castles that families could admire.

Geography- The geography department held some cool events, one being a display of a DofE camping setup; this was carefully displayed beside the classroom for everyone to explore. Inside the classroom even more fun was to be had, with many visitors immersed in placing the names of countries correctly on their spaces on a map.



Food and Nutrition- This was definitely the most popular classroom of the evening! Families could have a go at icing biscuits - there were lots of creative designs and students were showing off their talents baking meringues and bread.



It was a really fun evening, and it was lovely to see the school alive with so many students and their families experiencing all that OBHS has to offer!

Summer P 10B

RESULTS DAY 2022

Our best ever!



It's a nervous time for any students awaiting examination results, but none more so than for the 2022 cohort who were the first students post pandemic to sit examinations. OBHS are immensely proud of these students' achievements. with 73% of students securing a Grade 4 or higher in both Maths and English.

One of the highlights of results day is hearing about the wonderful next steps students are now taking; from A levels, vocational courses; and apprenticeships, we wish all our OBHS 2022 alumni the best of luck in their new adventures, and we can't wait to welcome them back for our Presentation Evening on the 6th December.



PREFECT CLUBS

EVERY FRIDAY

This half term students have been enjoying the Lunchtime Friday Fun clubs led by our fantastic team of Year 11 Prefects. All students are welcome to attend any of the clubs and will receive a warm welcome from our prefect team.

Girls' Football - MUGA
Chess - Library
Football - Field
Crochet - Room 18
Maths Club - Room 19
Book Club - The Library
Table Tennis - The Gym
Revision/Homework - Room 4

