



I can't quite believe we've come to the end of the first term already. It has been a pleasure to welcome our new year 7s and to see how well they have managed the transition to secondary school. It's been great to see so many students coming to breakfast club which really helps with a calm and positive start to the day. There have been so many other interventions happening this term as well such as Beat Dyslexia, Homework Club, Reading Buddies and 6th Form Mentoring.

This is only possible through the hard work and dedication of our Teaching Assistants. I would like to thank them so much for all of their work and to let them know they are greatly appreciated. We've also welcomed 4 new TAs to the team this term: Julie, Louise, Daisy and Megan. They've got straight on with supporting the students and are already making a difference to the SEN team.

Have a great Christmas break!

Leigh Drew SENCO

I've now completed my first term as Deputy SENCO and what a whirlwind it's been! I've really enjoyed getting to meet so many students and parents. I have also been so impressed by seeing the wealth of incredible activities, clubs and interventions that are going on to support our SEN students.



Karina, our SEN Admin support has been my lifeline in helping me learn the ropes! She continues to be the first port of call for many of our students and parents, as well as the teaching staff and teaching assistants. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Karina for all her hard work and support in the SEND department.

Carla Jones Deputy SENCO

Dyslexia Awareness Week



Our Dyslexia Stories

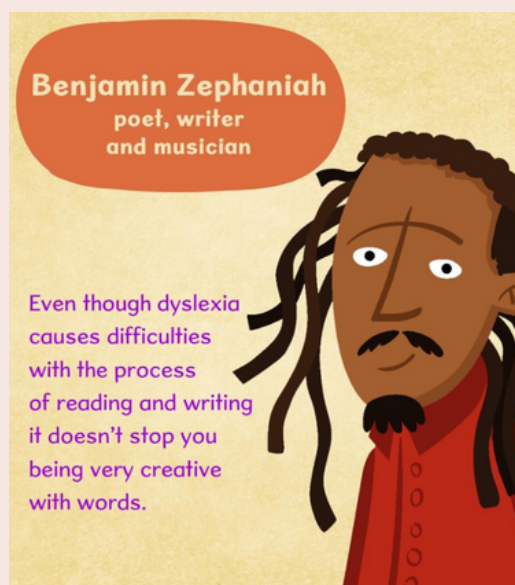
During Dyslexia Awareness Week, our staff shared their own experiences of Dyslexia. Miss Giles, our Food Tech Teacher, shared the story of her brother who has dyslexia. She is so proud of him! Thank you for sharing! Please read her story.

My younger brother really struggled with Dyslexia in school. He is 4 years below me so I always wanted to 'Mother' him... he was bullied because he had speech therapy, and had additional English lessons which resulted in him hating going to school, unlike me! He was so embarrassed that he started acting like the class clown, and then become the pupil who had some problems with behaviour in school. A lot of support from school, and home really helped him push through the stigma of, 'what he saw as, being different'.

Anyway... fast forward and he is now a serving member of the PSNI (police service of Northern Ireland), he has also been a fire fighter. For his dream of being in the police service in NI, he chose to take the support on offer at school; he secured a 'C' grade in his English, meaning he could move forward in his career. He also had help with recognising that having dyslexia is okay and doesn't have to hold you back!

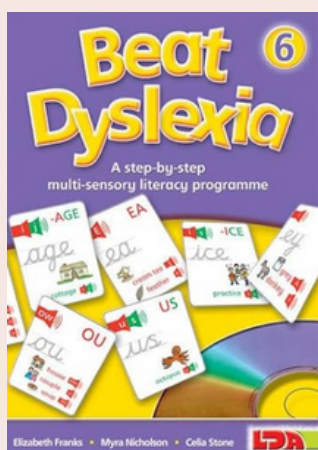


British Dyslexia Association - For information and latest news click [HERE](#)



Julie Wilderspin
Higher Level Teaching
Assistant

Beat Dyslexia Intervention



Beat Dyslexia is a step by step multi-sensory Literacy Programme for students who find learning literacy skills challenging.

The programme takes students from the earliest stages of letter recognition to developing their literacy skills. It uses imaginative visual and aural approaches to engage and motivate students. It is structured so that all goals are small and attainable.

Students are able to develop a sound understanding of spelling and grammar, gaining confidence through their success.

At OBA students are taught Beat Dyslexia in small groups of four, for one 50 minute session a week.

With support, the strengths and talents of dyslexic students can really shine!

Assistive Technology and Dyslexia

There are so many ways dyslexic students can be assisted by technology. Look at the links below to see how technology can empower!

[Reading Rockets](#)

[This is Dyslexia- assistive technology](#)

[British Dyslexia Association](#)



TECH
TOOLS

FOR
STUDENTS

WITH
DYSLEXIA

Meet the team!

Our team consists of teaching assistants who have been here for over twenty years to those who have more recently joined us. They are the beating heart of the team.

Thank you for all that you do!

In September we celebrated National Teaching Assistants' Day to honour the hard work and dedication of our teaching assistants and the support they give our students.

Please check out this website and if you would like to nominate a TA who has gone above and beyond, we would love to hear about it. Read about it [here](#).



The Role of a new TA



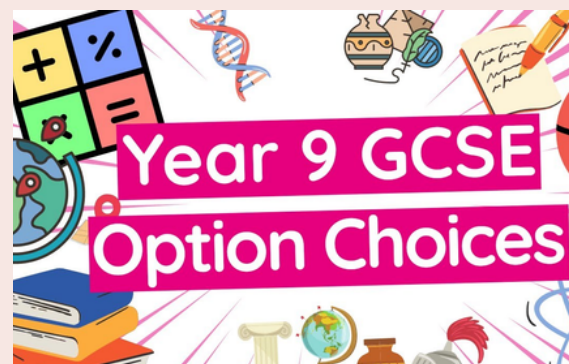
Hello! My name is Daisy Desborough and this September I joined OBA as a Teaching Assistant- I will be here for one year during my gap year before university. Starting this role has been pretty different for me as just last academic year I was a student at OBA myself. So it's safe to say being in this role feels slightly strange, with the students now calling me "Miss"! Let's just say calling my old teachers by their first names hasn't become normal yet...

Even though it feels a bit odd walking around the building that I have been in for 7 years, I am loving being on the "other side" just as much. The community of both staff and students is so positive- I had rarely come across the TAs before working here, and they are the perfect group of people- such a pleasure to work with and they're absolutely brilliant at their job. I'm in awe of them every day, and the students absolutely love them. The students I work with are so kind and full of life and it makes my heart full seeing them smile- especially students who face significant challenges at school. I didn't expect this job to be as rewarding as it is; it's a joy supporting the students and being a part of their school life. As you could expect, some days can be quite a challenge, but if you have one breakthrough it overrides that completely. It will be so hard to leave all of their sweet faces next September!

So far, being a TA has been a great experience. I had never worked with SEN children before this, and I'm learning something new every day. It's been really interesting working with children with different needs, from learning difficulties to ADHD and ASD, and when I become a teacher in the future I will look back on this role and be so grateful that I had this opportunity to be in the company of such lovely students every day.

YEAR 9 INTO 10 TRANSITION

Choosing options for GCSE is an exciting but daunting time. This year we are putting extra support in place to help our SEN students make considered and thoughtful decisions about their future choices, where they are at the centre of the decision.



Mrs Bartlett will be meeting with students to explain the Options process. Year 9 Options Evening takes place on 25th January 2024. After this date, Mrs Bartlett will meet with students to help support them with the process. This will involve:

- helping students identify and rank subjects
 - support in reading and accessing the options form
 - supporting to use the options software to make options
 - help with understanding and identifying exam boards so that parents understand what support and revision material is available.
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POST-16 TRANSITION



Our first post-16 transition event of the year was a visit by Rosie from the Inspire Education Group (Peterborough and Stamford Colleges) who talked to a group of students about their post-16 options. Similar to the Mythbuster sessions which we've run in previous years, Rosie explained the different qualifications available at the colleges, and then answered lots of questions from our students.

We are looking forward to taking some of our students for a visit to Peterborough College next term to help them familiarise themselves with the college environment. This is really important in helping our students feel as confident as possible about their post-16 journey.

Click [here](#) if you want more information about the colleges and upcoming open evenings.

Breakfast Club

Breakfast Club is one of our most popular provisions. It is a warm and welcoming club open to invited students who sometimes need additional support to help them with a positive start to the day. Students come into school at 8.15 and have a breakfast of juice and toast. Students can discuss any concerns they might have about the day ahead or just enjoy spending some time with other students.

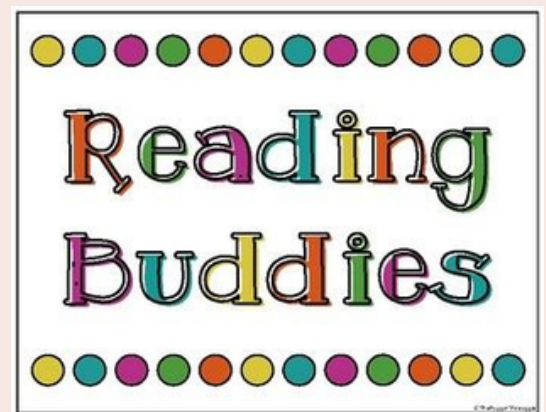
6th Form Mentors

This term some of our 6th form students have become mentors to some of our younger students. They meet once a week to play games, draw or just chat! The feedback from the students has been overwhelmingly positive. One year 7 student said, 'It is my favourite day of the week and I love spending time with my mentor.'



6th Form Reading Buddies

We have recently started a programme where 6th formers support some of our year 7 students with their reading skills. This programme will continue to be developed in the new year.



Reading Focus



Click on the link [here](#) to explore a world of incredible books and resources to help reluctant readers and dyslexic children.

Our Design

- Unique, dyslexia-friendly font to make reading easier.
- Accessible layouts and spacing to stop the page from becoming overcrowded.
- Off-white, heavier paper to help reduce visual stress.

Our Stories

- Unpatronizing content matched to the age of the reader not their reading level.
- Expertly edited to ensure comprehension and accessibility.
- Short books and chapters to help build confidence and stamina.

Our Authors

- Award-winning authors and illustrators ensure fantastic stories across all genres.
- Bestselling names that readers will recognise.
- A perfect stepping stone to other books from the same authors.

NEW FROM TOM PALMER



As the brutal Second World War stretches on with no end in sight, life for ordinary Dutch people in the Nazi-occupied Netherlands is perilous and full of hardship. There is very little to eat and they face the constant threat of arrest and enslavement.

After the murder of her beloved uncle and the capture of her brother by the Germans, Edda is determined to do anything she can to help the resistance fight back. But how much risk is one teenage girl willing to take?



"Superbly written ... Another essential Tom Palmer masterpiece" – Jon Biddle

Autism Youth Club



Romsey Mill is a Cambridgeshire-based charity supporting children, young people and families. Aspire is Romsey Mill's project with autistic children and young people who are in mainstream schools.

Romsey Mill are excited to announce that we will soon be launching our autism youth clubs in Peterborough, beginning with autism youth clubs in the Hampton area. We would love to invite autistic students from Ormiston Bushfield Academy to be part of these youth clubs. Our aim is to have two youth clubs initially, one for years 7 to 9 and one for year 10+

Aspire runs weekly, term time youth clubs (1.5 hours per session) for autistic children and young people. Our youth clubs have a variety of activities including card and board games, craft, Lego, and games consoles. Youth club members are supported in social interactions by youth workers and volunteers.

Alongside our youth clubs, we aim to offer one to one mentoring, advocacy, and bespoke support to the child or young person and their family where we can. This may include attending meetings and supporting families to apply for disability benefits. This is available for students attending Ormiston Bushfield Academy and who have a diagnosis of Autism. Click [here](#) for more information.

Special Educational Needs and Disability in Peterborough



SEND Update



Peterborough SEND Newsletter - Autumn 2023 Families

Please see below the Autumn 2023 issue for the SEND Update which is aimed at families (parents/carers). There is so much information in this newsletter. Please take the time to have a look through.

[Peterborough SEND Update - Autumn 23](#)

LOCAL OFFER



A guide to the Local Offer can be found [HERE](#)

For more information about the SEND Provision in Peterborough City Council and the Local Offer click [HERE](#)

PETERBOROUGH POST 16 OFFER

For more information about the Post 16 SEND Provision in Peterborough click [HERE](#)

FAMILY ACTION



Family Action recognises that (SEND) information for parents can often be hard to find or difficult to access so have brought together key topics, links and resources. To access this information please visit Family action click [HERE](#).

SEND INFORMATION ADVICE AND SUPPORT SERVICE

The Parent Partnership Service providing Cambridgeshire's SEND Information, Advice and Support Service (SENDIASS) offers impartial and confidential information, advice and support to parents and carers who have a child or young person with special educational needs (SEN) or a disability or have concerns that their child has special educational needs. They also offer impartial and confidential information, advice and support to young people and children with special educational needs (SEN) or a disability or who have concerns they may have special educational needs. For information click [HERE](#)



SEND REFERRAL



Please remember that a parent/carers, teacher or any other educational professional at OBA, plus of course any child themselves can request an SEND assessment. Should you wish to refer a child for an SEND assessment then please contact our SENCO Mr Leigh Drew on SEND@bushfield.co.uk