

Old Owenians Careers Talks Week 2017

Speaker and Student Feedback

Thank you for your support for our 7th Old Owenians Careers Talks Week 2017 – we've had some great feedback and thought we'd share some of our speaker and student comments below (also on display in the foyer) - Carol Whiter and Mandy English:

Monday 6th March

Photo L-R: Joanna, Orlando, Samantha, Martin

Joanna Wallis (Class of 2005, Career as a Geophysicist):

Joanna really enjoyed her visit and is often nostalgically reminded of DAOS when she sees our "train" at Kings Cross station!

Our students said:

Good insight into the loads of jobs from Geophysics – Emily Prior 11KM

Very useful – described and gave information on multiple areas – Julia Dickinson 12PS

I found it useful to hear about the various options and pathways in the industries and what they entail – Korina Chapman 11LC



Orlando Gibbons (Class of 2005, Career in Structural Engineering) said: *I think that the school provides a great opportunity for the students by getting in speakers to talk about their careers. It was really well organised and the staff showing us around were really friendly. I'd be more than happy to do a talk again next year. A very enjoyable return!*

Our students said:

Speaker offered good perspective, showed other benefits and relatable as went to Owen's – Dom Griffin 12AH

Good speech, good knowledge on gap year and university projects – Thomas Vimpany – 10NEG

Has helped inspire me into a career in engineering – Max Castiglione 12KDO/SNL

Very good speaker and had very interesting things to say – definitely worth my time – Andrew Cabreza McGraith 10LN

It was really interesting to see the path he took to do what he's doing now – Annabel Hall 9MAP

Samantha Gutteridge (Class of 1989, Career in Psychology) said: *I very much enjoyed coming back to the school. I was inspired by the interest and enthusiasm of the pupils. I would like to continue my involvement with Dame Alice Owen's especially after engaging with the Careers week, meeting staff and pupils.*

Martin Sugg (support speaker for Samantha) said: *I felt very welcome; your students were thoughtful in their questions and were a credit to the school and themselves.*

Our students said:

Very well explained, helpful to understand different types of psychology, good tips about psychology careers and what they involve. How to get into degrees was very helpful. Gave me an insight into the career – Anna Pascoulis 9ARK

They were very passionate and informative - Priyanka Mukerjee 11JPF

It was very easy to understand and informative – Caitlin O'Connor 9OCG

I learnt a lot of new information about the career – Ami Fudeuchi 11TD

I thought this talk was very interesting and gave me a clear understanding of the process to become a psychologist and what is included in the overall career – Abigail Naughton 10BFW

Tuesday 7th March

Photo L-R: Chris, Mark, Aniket

Dr Christos Michaelides (Class of 2004, Career in Pharmaceutical/Biotech Industries) said: *It was great to see how many students were interested in a career in science, and it was wonderful to see how much the school has changed.*

Our students said:

Very well prepared, really good comprehensive presentation, really helpful – Millie Wright 11TD

Gave me loads of information about the BioTech industry and very interesting – Sasha Little 11MHJ

Very informative and thorough explanation – Kavindu Rathnayake 12KDO/SNC

Very interesting, covered all areas in a lot of detail – Abi Peel 9OCG



Mark Bevis (Class of 1994, Careers in Publishing, Training, Restaurant Management and Furniture) said: *120 minutes of hair-raising nostalgia just didn't quite seem enough time. I had to leave to join a work call, so regrettably had to cut the tour short, therefore I would jump at the chance to spend more time revisiting the old haunts and so many new ones. It's 23 years since I was last on the hallowed ground and the memories came flooding back. Thank you for the invitation, the lunch, the face-time with DAOS futures and the bucket of flash-backs. My 400th mug has now taken pride of place in the Coffee room at Cambridge. Colleagues are well-jel!*

Our students said:

Enjoyed how interactive it was and how presentation was done through pictures of his own life – Maya Kotecha 9MAP

Less focussed on the specific varied careers but more on how to use school in the future and how to live – Cammy Nguyen 9IK

Inspiring and accessible – not as focussed on career obligations and background as expected but delivered with delightful energy and feeling – Isobel Nendrick 11TD

Aniket Sandana (Class of 2001, Career as a Vet/Zoologist/running a tour company) said: *It was a great pleasure to visit the school again, part of my own up-bringing of which I am very proud. The careers talks were very well organised and I was made to feel very welcome on arrival and throughout my time at the school.*

Our students said:

Very interesting and informative. Very inspiring. Caterina White 10LN

It was a very interesting talk, I thoroughly enjoyed listening and learning about the job opportunities should I wish to be a vet in the future – Anne Ranasinghe 11LC

Answered questions with lots of detail, gave honest personal views, very informative – Anna Adrian 12RT

Covered lots of topics – Emily Burgess 12AH

Wednesday 8th March

Photo L-R: Simon, Steve, Andrew, Peter, John

Dr John Pizzy (Class of 1974, Career in

Neuroscience) said: *First time visiting the new school and there was an energy, friendliness and industry about the place that was a delight. Very nostalgic to see some familiar sights such as the portraits of head teachers, the statues - and even some of the furniture in the Old Library. It was wonderful to see that these have survived the trip from Islington, when I was last at the School! I was looked after exceptionally well and I certainly intend re-visiting. Many thanks to all involved.*

**Our students said:**

It was very informative and well structured – in addition it was very interesting to see how neuroscience can be applied – Irene Karderinis 12PS

I liked the use of case studies to explain the way the brain works and they were very interesting – Jemima Atputharatnam 10AL

Confident (you can tell he's a lecturer!), interesting and helpful – Xane Safdar 11KM

I like how he explained the field of neuroscience fully and also covered his experiences as well as the qualifications needed and pathways to get into the field – Zara Guppy 11JPF

Very informative and helpful in terms of next steps to take – Holly Cole 11GAS

Simon Maine (Class of 2005, Career in Public Relations) said: *It was great to see the enthusiasm of the pupils for current affairs and the issues affecting society. The buildings change but the ethos stays the same!*

Our students said:

Interactive, personal and interesting. Very willing to discuss specific career path - Lore Sturmy 12LV

Very engaging and also some very funny moments – William Merrett 12FS

Really interesting – Livia Barreca 12KDO/SNL

Very broad and accessible, thought provoking about “the mercer barrier”, with great interview tips and talks – Isobel Nendick 11TD

Lt Andrew Ward RN/Peter Ward (Class of 2006/2008, Join the Navy/Army – see the World) – Peter

said: *It was fascinating to return to the school after 9 years. It was encouraging to see that the school is as vibrant as ever and the students are as enthusiastic and motivated as I remember. Seeing so many teachers I recognised was also a pleasant surprise and it was good to catch up with how they were getting on. The new buildings that have been built were also very impressive and the school certainly feels more modern than when I was there!*

Our students said:

Very well done, really well timed and interesting while addressing any thoughts I had, plus, had an F35 picture! - Oliver Greenwood 11GAS

Lovely guys – very engaging and funny – Amelia Georgiou 12RAM

Really informative and interesting. Definitely intrigued by the idea. Looks really fun and useful.

Sammy Winder 10NEG

Really interesting and provided lots of extra info that was from an honest point of view – Claire Coomey 12JJ

Really insightful into military life and they were engaging and helpful – Eliya Ojji 11MHJ

Steve White (Class of 1999, Career in Digital Visual Effects (VFX) Industry) said: *Students all very attentive and engaged, I was asked some very specific questions which made me feel they were all taking a genuine interest.*

Our students said:

The speaker had a very good resume and clearly had a lot of experience – Harri Jones 12AV

Very motivational and a good insight into the computer animation industry – Nico Coles 11GAS

Very engaging and interesting – I enjoyed it very much – Rhys Leung 9MHP

Inspiring and informative – Joseph Yianni 9OCG

Thursday 9th March

Photo L-R: Howard, Tabatha, Robin, Chris

Tabatha Mossman (Class of 1998, A Legal Career Journey) said: *It was wonderful to be able to come back to Owen's and to talk to your inspiring and driven students about my journey since leaving in 1998. Mandy and Carol were incredibly welcoming (thank you both) and I was overwhelmed by the number of students willing to give up their lunch break to come and listen to what I had to say. The school has not changed as much as I thought it would have - it all still felt incredibly familiar despite being nearly 20 years since I last walked through those doors as a student. I certainly got a real "buzz" reading such lovely feedback from the students so thank you for sharing that with me.*



Our students said:

Gave lots of information and showed us what work in law is really like, very interesting, also lots of tips – Abi Peel 9OCG

Very well explained and told us the process in getting a job in the legal profession and what jobs are available – Hannah May 9AJ

Really informative – liked the fact that it covered a broad range of aspects – very realistic which was helpful – Niamh Griffin 12FS

Felt more clear about decisions and more confident with my deciding for future – Alannah Smith 11LC

Howard Levy (Class of 1978, Career in Banking and dealing in Corporate Markets) said:

I thought it was a time well spent. I certainly enjoyed returning to the school but more importantly I hope the students who attended found the session to be of value to them.

Our students said:

Good examples of who he's worked with. Informative and personal – Mineli Cooray 10BFW

Explained well, concise – Cammy Nguyen 9LK

Very interesting and full on. Good detail and relevance – Christopher Gerrard 11MHJ

Very informed about banking. I'm aware now of what's involved and its relation to the world – Year 10

Chris Riley (Class of 1971, Career in Engineering) said:

It was great to visit the school as it was all new to me (Islington boy). The campus is very impressive and the facilities are wonderful - very jealous. The students were very polite and, as far as I could tell, were interested in what I was saying. The feedback I received afterwards was useful and I could improve the talk if I give it again.

Our students said:

I liked the focus on finding spaceships in industry – Daniel Nolan 12RM

Good to hear about personal choices and pros and cons – Korina Chapman 11LC

Very interesting insight into electrical engineering – Ben Marcus 12PS

Very insightful – Annabel Hall 9MAP

Robin Gupta (Class of 1986, "Eat when you can, Sleep when you can, and Don't play with the Pancreas!" - how to train as a surgeon) said:

Many thanks for inviting me to speak at the Careers Week. Thoroughly enjoyed visit and was immensely impressed with the current standard of facilities and future plans for development.

Our students said:

I found the talk vivid, interesting and clear. It's made me seriously consider a career in surgery and research more in terms of the field – Anahitha Vijay 9AJ

Learnt a lot – very helpful. I want to be a surgeon now – Tulsi Dave 10AL

Best talk I have attended during my time at Owen's - Christian Colletta 12LL

Good detail when answering questions – Urvi Kataria 12HW

Valuable knowledge in terms of medicine – Evra Unal 12RTM

He used several anecdotes which I really enjoyed. It was very informative and he bought to me a vivid picture of the life of a doctor – Irene Karderinis 12PS