

Dame Alice Owen's School newsletter



Letter from the Head

Hannah Nemko

Dear All,

The new school year brought with it the excitement of a return to the un-bubbled Owen's we all knew and loved before the pandemic took hold. The extra-curricular timetable was planned in all its mixed-year glory and all was good, for the first few weeks at

least! Students enjoyed their Duke Of Edinburgh's Award Gold expedition in the Peak District and we revelled in watching the Year 7s, along with the Year 8s, discover the mysteries of the school campus for the first time, including where to find the most elusive rooms such as E1!

Staff spent the first days undergoing anti-racism training with Grace Barrett, as well as further training to prepare them for teaching the new Learning for Life programme. A little later in the term, during the INSET day, staff were further trained in how best to support our LGBTQ+ students.

As Covid started to rear its head at school, restrictions crept in. We were disappointed to amend our plans for the Upper School Visitation, as well as to have to reduce the numbers of guests invited to the opening of the Brewers' Education Centre but all these adaptations meant that school was able to remain un-bubbled and open to all students, a small victory.

As you will read in the pages that follow, there have been many opportunities for students as we have tried to keep school as busy and normal as possible. With your continued support we hope to be able to return to even fewer restrictions after half term.

SCHOOL DATES: CHANGE TO THE CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY



Please note that the school has been allowed to take an additional day of holiday to mark the Queen's Platinum Jubilee – as such, **we will be extending the Christmas holiday by one day and returning on Wednesday January 5th 2022** in place of Tuesday January 4th 2022.



Issue highlights...

Owen's celebrates Black History Month [page 3](#)



Brain training with top neuroscientist [page 8](#)



Sports successes and class highlights [page 12](#)



Could I take this opportunity to remind all students that the guidance dictates that we request students test twice-weekly over half-term and **take an LFD test on the morning of Monday 1st November, before their return to school after the half term break.** At the moment, Public Health England is still asking that all staff and students test themselves daily during term time in order that we keep as much of the virus away from campus as possible.

With thanks for your continued support and wishing everyone a healthy and restful half term.

Hannah Nemko

Richard Fuller opens the Brewers' Education Centre

It was a long time in the coming, but on Friday 17th September, it was our honour to welcome Mr Richard Fuller, Master of the Worshipful Company of Brewers, together with representatives of the Court, the Advisory Committee as well as key donors and other distinguished guests such as Cllr John Graham, the Deputy Mayor, to the opening of the Brewers' Education Centre.



The ceremony began with a fabulous music recital from our students which enthralled all who were listening before Mrs Nemko explained the trials, tribulations and triumphs endured from the block's initial plans to fruition. The school was able to publicly thank the Worshipful Company of Brewers for the generous donation that they made towards the block specifically as well as to the school more generally as well as to the Nicholas Barnes Trust, the OSA and a large number of alumni and parent donors without whom, the block would never have been built or furnished.

The celebrations continued with Mr Fuller unveiling a plaque to mark the occasion before the guests were invited to a small reception in the new building and offered the chance to visit some of the classrooms therein.

It was gratifying to welcome back our foreman, project manager and the managing director of the building firm who were able to see the block in use. Our thanks go to all parents and friends of the school who supported our building project and helped make our aspirations a reality.

BUY TICKETS FOR OWEN'S MEMBERS CLUB LAUNCH PARTY

Are you a current parent who attended Dame Alice Owen's as a student? If so, you are cordially invited to attend the "After Dinner Party" – the launch event for the new Owen's Members Club on Saturday 13th November, 9:00pm to 12:30am at the school.

Tickets are just £25 but the guest list is strictly limited, so please be prompt to avoid disappointment. Please email your full name, school leaving year and the names of up to three guests you would like to attend with to Anna Welsford, Alumni Relations Manager by 31st October at: alumnimembers@daos.uk

Entertainment will consist of performances from Owen's alumni professional musicians, including the incredibly talented Emma Skelly and Tyler Rix (right) and world class DJ, Mr Steve Green.



Dame Alice Owen's celebrates Black History Month

This year Black History Month kicked off with a celebration of Betty Campbell, Wales's first black Headmistress who was recently honoured for her services to education with a statue outside Cardiff's main train station. We were interested to learn that Betty played a part in establishing Black History Month but saddened to hear of the difficulties she had as a new teacher in Wales with her saying: "They hadn't seen a black teacher before. It was as if you could do a job, but if you're black you're weren't quite as good."

Ms Common then educated us about the history of Black History Month from its inception in the US to its transfer to the UK. She highlighted the very long and important history that black people and people of colour have had in the UK stretching back to Roman times.

Over the month, there have been a wide number of learning opportunities open to us which taught us about a range of people throughout history from the black Tudors to Charles Drew, the African American doctor who pioneered blood banks; black artists including Donald Rodney who was instrumental in pushing for greater representation of black art in Britain; Otis Boykin who invented the pacemaker and Dr John Anthony Roberts QC, the first person of African ancestry to be made a QC in England and Wales amongst others.

In Drama, we explored black British artists and celebrated the success of Old Owenian Nari Blair-Mangat winning an award for the Best Supporting Actor at the Black British Theatre Awards. This was for his role alongside James McEvoy in *Cyrano de Bergerac*, which we fortunately were able to take a group of Sixth Formers to see just prior to lockdown.

The students in the Sixth Form have been exploring the work of black British playwright Bola Abaje whose play *Gone Too Far!* is now on the curriculum.

In Year 9, Drama Club students were introduced to the playwright Arinzé Kene who is famous for a number of plays including *Misty*. We also read the first scene from *Good Dog* which 'explores the everyday injustices, people and places that make us who we are. Set during the early noughties, *Good Dog* chronicles growing up in a multicultural community and the everyday injustices that drive people to take back control... 'because even the most patient among us can't wait forever'.

Year 11 Drama students, amongst other things, are studying *Black Maternity Scandal*, a documentary on Channel 4, where the 'presenter and mother-of-three Rochelle Humes explores the shocking fact that black women are four times more likely than white women to die during pregnancy and childbirth and up to six weeks after'.

Students in Year 9 have been using their library lessons to explore a wider range of black literature and to research black authors.

In Year 10 and 11, pupils have looked at articles on Malorie Blackman and Akala as a celebration of black role models. The department adapted two extracts about Akala and Blackman around the design of the GCSE Language non-fiction exam paper which opened up debates about challenges faced and positive role models.



Photo © Colin Prosser (cc-by-sa/2.0)

Year 13 are reading *Americanah* by Chimamande Ngozie Adichie as part of their NEA and they are looking at the black writers who inspired her work.

Over half term, we as a school would invite all our students and parents/carers to live up to the motto of Black History Month UK to "**dig deeper, look closer, and think bigger**" about the history of black people in the UK, perhaps by reading a book, going on a history walk, visiting an exhibit, or by watching one of the many excellent documentaries available on BBC iPlayer at the moment. Pictured right are a few ideas to get you started.



DAME ALICE OWEN'S SIGNS UP FOR ECO-SCHOOLS PROGRAMME

At Dame Alice Owen's School, the staff and pupils are passionate about environmental issues and are willing to do anything they can to make a difference to our planet. This is why the school has enrolled in the Eco-Schools programme. Eco-Schools is a charity that provides a framework for schools to drive positive change and improve environmental awareness. We have kicked off the new school year by electing student representatives to our new Eco Committee and are working towards earning the Eco-Schools green flag accreditation, an international award recognising environmental action from young people.

Eco-Schools brings students, teachers and the local government together to take part in a **7-step plan**:

- **Eco Committee** – setting up a group of students and teachers responsible for running the programme
- **Environmental review** – a set of questions to understand where work is already being done and where we can work to improve
- **Action plan** – a working document to help your Eco-Committee plan and manage actions for 3 Eco-Schools Topics of their choice
- **Curriculum links** – including environmental education in a variety of different curriculum areas
- **Informing and involving** – engaging the entire school and its wider community in eco-projects and actions related to the 3 Eco-Schools Topics
- **Monitoring and evaluation** – assessing the impact of the topic work in our action plan, addressing what worked well, what needed adapting and how our Eco-Committee could develop their eco-actions in the future
- **Eco code** – a whole school promise based around the work our Eco-Committee has completed in their Action Plan

Our thanks go to everyone who has already taken part by volunteering for the Eco Committee and we actively encourage anyone who is interested to get involved with everything we've got coming up.

We hope that by enrolling in this programme we can actively work towards making the school more environmentally sustainable and that we will be able to continue to make positive change for a long time.

DAOS Senior Team 2021-2022

Head boy and girl tackle local MP on climate change

By Zoe Gunasekera, Head Girl and Oliver Crofts, Head Boy

On Friday 24th September, we attended a discussion hosted by The Right Honourable Oliver Dowden (pictured right), the Conservative member of parliament for Hertsmere at St John's Methodist Church in Potters Bar to discuss the government's approach to tackling the climate crisis we are currently facing. Along with students from other local schools, environmental groups and representatives from Hertfordshire county council, we presented questions to Mr Dowden about how the government is dealing with climate change and its plans to deal with various issues from the reforestation of the UK to the production of hydrogen for hydrogen fuel cells.



Photo © [Richard Townshend](#)

The meeting was split into three sections. Mr Dowden began by discussing the government's plans for the next ten years and some of the issues facing the UK in regards to the environment and climate change. In second section he answered questions that had been submitted prior to the event. In the third and final section of the meeting, the floor was opened for further questions. We took the opportunity to ask follow-up questions about some of the issues brought up during the previous two sections that we felt needed expanding upon.

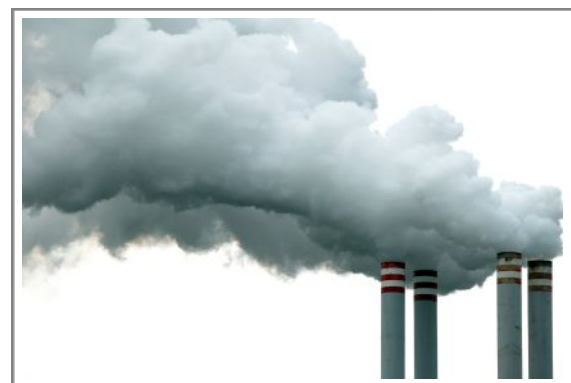
Mr Dowden spoke about the plans to terminate the production of diesel cars by 2030, and the UK scheme to plant 30,000 hectares of trees every year in order to negate some of the UK's carbon footprint, and reduce the environmental impact of the country. His explanations of the plans provided greater insight into the government's approach, which often seems to involve theoretical goals with little real world change.

Our main question to Mr Dowden was:

'It has been stated that the UK is halfway towards its goal of Net-Zero, citing a reduction of 51% since 1991 levels. This has been described as "a story we should celebrate" by Boris Johnson. However, this does not include emissions associated with UK consumption of goods and services imported from overseas, which are far from negligible. What steps will be taken to reduce not only our direct footprint but that of the goods and services we consume at a staggering rate?'

In his response, Mr Dowden described how these associated emissions are incredibly hard to pin down hence are not included in the figures. We found this an insufficient answer to our question, and felt that much of the achievement of reduction was but a shift in the place of origin of emissions. However, he did shine the light on ways in which the government has proved that it's willing to, and has begun, to make necessary changes.

Following the group discussion, we had an opportunity to speak directly to Oliver Dowden. The conversation



Students asked how the government plans to protect biodiversity while tackling climate change.

that ensued was informative and far more reflective of his passion to reach the goals that have been set. We discussed the relative impacts of keeping an existing combustion engine car compared to purchasing a brand new electric car, and agreed that despite the initial huge quantities of CO₂ emitted in its production, it is better for the environment considering it is used for a long period of time and not frequently replaced.

We also asked: *'Although the governmental plan to replant 30,000 hectares of trees per year in the UK that will aid in the removal of carbon dioxide from the atmosphere, acting as a carbon sink and benefiting the environment in this regard, will the replantation*

schemes be designed with biodiversity as a core principle? If the areas of replantation are monocultures, there is potential to do more harm than good, reducing the biodiversity of these areas, and increasing the risk of damage to the environment as a result. Is this being taken into account, and what steps are being taken to maintain the biodiversity of the UK?'

We were told about the local Heartwood Forest afforestation scheme which includes a variety of different species rather than the monoculture we had feared. We were unaware of the scheme and plan to visit the project soon to see its success.



Will planting more trees help tackle climate change?

Our questions were well received by those in attendance, gaining applause on multiple occasions and recognition for Dame Alice Owen's. It was a fascinating meeting, and provided a brilliant insight into the environmental plans created by the government for the next ten years. We thoroughly enjoyed the experience, and left more optimistic about the UK's relationship with the natural world than when we arrived.

'I am not alone' peer mentoring programme update

By Dominique Jones

In the last newsletter (July 2021) I outlined the shape of the new Peer Mentoring Program here at Owen's.

Since July, Mr Sykes and I have been busy training even more Year 12 and Year 13 mentors and getting started with the various peer mentoring activities.

Our 65 Year 12 and 13 Peer Mentors are now supporting pupils in all KS3 year groups. The main focus currently is working with the new Year 7 cohort as they make the transition to secondary school.

As part of our discussions on the training days, the mentors planned what they thought the shape of peer mentoring should be. And much of what they planned is now up and running.

The Year 12 are hosting a lunchtime drop-in room for Year 7 which has seen pupils attending to get involved in quiet activities or just enjoy a chat! Year 7 pupils reported:

'K7 has made my lunchtime better and more stress free. There are no labels and we enjoy having different mentors. I love this group and I don't have to worry about drama happening.'

'I like it (K7) because I feel safe and secure. It's so much fun and I hope to be a peer mentor when I'm older.'



One-to-one walk and talk form-time sessions with Year 7, 8 and 9 pupils are also underway. Here is what mentees, mentors and guardians / parents have to say about it so far.

I really like my mentor, I want to be like her when I grow up

I can relate to her, she has been where I am

It's great, I really like having someone to talk to

Great to have a role model to relate to

Fantastic, it's really helping with confidence

Able to have different conversations, as a big brother rather than parent / teacher

Great that she has that big sister influence in school

Might give a different peer perspective when making decisions about engaging in certain behaviours

I think the one-to-one sessions during form time are really beneficial for both myself and my Year 7 mentee.

They are really engaging and we just can have a stress-free conversation about how school is going

Coming up!

Mentors will be running some Year 7 form-time activities and starting some small group form-time groups as well as continuing what they are already doing as we work towards embedding peer mentoring into the everyday life of Owen's. It is who we are and what we do and all pupils should have the opportunity to work with the Sixth Form mentors in some way as they travel through KS3.

Myself and Mr Skyes are so proud of all the Year 12 and Year 13 pupils who are working with our younger pupils. We are lucky to have such incredible peer mentors and seeing them in action is such a joy.



I think this quote from a Year 13 mentor sums up what we are trying to achieve perfectly:

"Peer mentoring is so great because it is a chance to really get to know someone and become a friend. It helps remove barriers to asking for support. I hope it is a lot less awkward and scary asking for support when there is someone who has already got to know you and who you know is eager to help talk things through. And I think having structures like that is what naturally erodes the stigma around mental health, hopefully working towards making both conversations and needing help much more normal."

I really hope that it will work towards making the school a place where people from across years are looking out for each other."

NEWS FROM THE PSYCHOLOGY DEPARTMENT

Cognitive neuroscientist Dr Guy Sutton visits school

The Psychology Department was pleased to welcome back the cognitive neuroscientist Dr Guy Sutton from Nottingham University on Thursday 14th October.

He enthusiastically gave the Year 13 Psychologists a university-style lecture in three parts. The first session was on the history of mental illness; its diagnosis and treatment around the world. The students then had the opportunity to watch a brain dissection; while some shied away from holding the sheep brain others literally got to grip with a hippocampus and a cerebellum! The final part of the morning was on schizophrenia and students gained up-to-date knowledge beyond the scope of their textbooks.

The Year 12 session was focused on recent developments in cognitive neuroscience such as the impact of zero gravity on astronaut's brains, the science behind phantom limb syndrome and students got to consider the question 'to what extent is a criminal's biology responsible for their actions?'. They too were fortunate enough to see a brain dissection and gained knowledge which will equip them for the biopsychology unit of the course.

Student feedback included:

Student feedback included:

I found that it was a very interesting talk on a side of Psychology that is not covered in as much depth. I found that it further developed my knowledge in the world of Psychology and made links within the A-Level course.

I found that he talked about up-to-date and modern techniques in an interesting and engaging way. He was well spoken and very clear when explaining and answering

our questions. It was

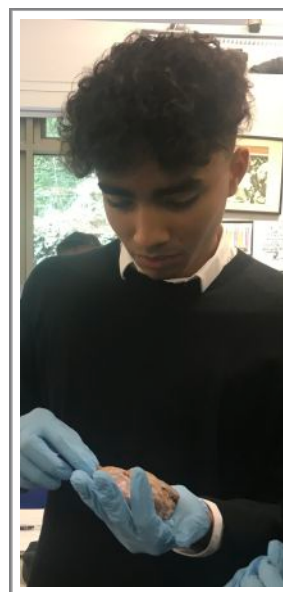
really interesting to

see how neuroscience

can change our future practically. The videos were cool, especially the chap singing opera while having a brain tumour removed!

It was interesting and informative. I found out so many new things like the history of mental health treatment, through to modern treatments. It was very captivating, I was never bored.

What a guy!!



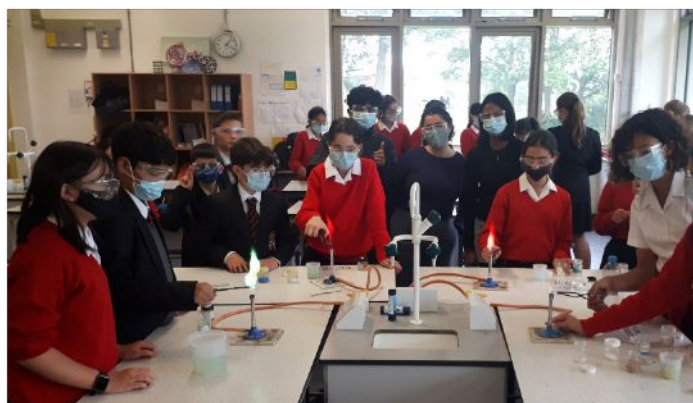
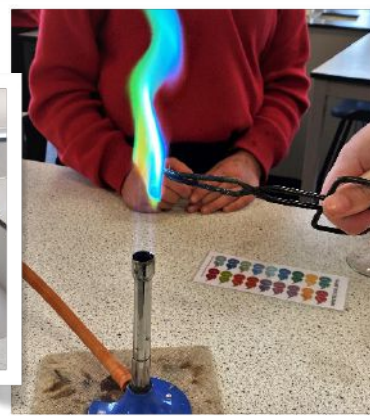
NEWS FROM THE SCIENCE DEPARTMENT

Year 7 Science club is back!

We are delighted to share the news that our popular Year 7 Science club is back up and running. This term, we have been carrying out many experiments, including flame tests and learning how fireworks produce different colours.

In groups, students have made various paper aeroplane models and raced them to investigate the best aerodynamic model. Students have also carried out the famous 'elephant's toothpaste' reaction!

A huge thank you to our fantastic and enthusiastic Year 12 students who have been running the weekly experiments and activities. Next half term we look forward to lunchtime Science Lectures commencing. Thank you to all the parents and volunteers who have offered their time to come into school to speak to our students.



NEWS FROM THE MUSIC DEPARTMENT

CLOSE HARMONY GROUP PERFORM AT TOWER OF LONDON

In August, the Close Harmony Group was invited to perform at the Tower of London, as part of the 'Project Get Singing'.



This was an initiative to celebrate choirs being able to sing again after more than a year of enforced silence.

Some former members of the Close Harmony Group joined with present members to sing together a range of classic numbers, and visitors were treated to performances in a range of picturesque settings in the grounds of the Tower.

NEWS FROM THE DRAMA DEPARTMENT

Drama Department news roundup

This term the Drama Department has been studying Konstantin Stanislavski with our Year 10s as their introduction to influential theatre practitioners. As part of their learning, we study a play alongside the practitioner so that the students can put their understanding into practice. The play we study is 'A View from the Bridge' due to its astute exploration of the themes of family, immigration and the American Dream.

We were contacted by alumni Jack Fox who was keen to run a workshop with our students, so we arranged for him to come in and teach a workshop on units and objectives. Jack is studying at the University of Westminster and is thoroughly enjoying his course, he found the content of his first year really enjoyable despite much of it being in lockdown. His workshop was truly professional and the students in Year 10 responded incredibly well to his learning style, demonstrating a really strong ability to imagine the world around them based on the extracts they worked on.



Mrs Nicolaides has been running a playwriting club for a number of years, working with both New Views in affiliation with The National Theatre and more recently with Tamasha. Last year she had huge success with three of the group whose work will be included in their forthcoming collection of plays. Here are some comments about their experience from our playwrights whose mini bio and headshots will appear alongside their work:

Mia Dacosta: *"In the midst of a COVID lockdown, the Tamasha Playwriting competition was a great opportunity for me to detach from the outside world and develop my creative assets."*

Eliza Hogermeer: *"Participating in the Tamasha Playwriting competition has been a wonderful experience, I have received useful feedback from the creatives and gained valuable insight into the playwriting process."*

Sasha Ramtohul-Akbur: *"I've always loved writing creatively, and through Tamasha's process of receiving invaluable feedback, having eye-opening discussions and continually redrafting, I created characters I felt I knew."*



This year Ms Govier is running the New Views playwriting course and is already impressed with the creativity of the students who have been attending. We will also receive a visit from a published playwright and the opportunity to go to The National Theatre to watch one of their forthcoming productions. It will be more than exciting to be able to go to the theatre and see a live production after 18 months of only being able to watch anything online with our students.

The lower school drama clubs are up and running again and students have the opportunity to put their improvisational skills to the test and learn about how to create theatre from a variety of stimuli. The Year 7 and 8 clubs are run by

enthusiastic Sixth Form A-Level Drama and Theatre Studies students, a bit of a tradition at Owen's as it gives them the opportunity to put into practice all the skills they learnt in class and onstage. The Year 9 Drama Club are working with Ms Govier on their GCSE skills, including reading plays which allows for them to appreciate

the variety of style and structure that contemporary playwrights are producing. They have also been putting their playwriting skills into practice, trying out new ideas both inspired by the plays they are reading and through improvising their own ideas.

It will be great for group to perform something pertinent to current issues in the same way that the Year 9 club (who are now in Year 13) created a powerful piece in honour of the Holocaust Memorial Day which was held at Owen's.



And finally, rehearsals are underway for a production of *'The Merchant of Venice'* which has been adapted by Ms Govier for performance in December. This will be our first full-scale production in front of a live audience since last term when our Year 7, 8, 9, 10 and 12 Summer Showcases took place in the Main Hall to a masked audience.

You can read about these performances in more detail on the school website Drama page where the images from this article are taken from.



NEWS FROM THE ART DEPARTMENT

Owen's A-Level artists try their hand at architectural modelling

Congratulations to Oliver and Alaiya for completing the Architectural Model Making workshop in collaboration with The Creative Dimension Trust and Allford Hall Monaghan Morris.

They were two of three students to learn the art of architectural modelling in an exciting and creative environment, with uninterrupted guidance from one of AHMM's senior in-house model makers.

Their wonderful models will be used as part of their A-Level Art portfolio and will be exhibited in our A-Level exhibition in the summer term. Well done Oliver and Alaiya!

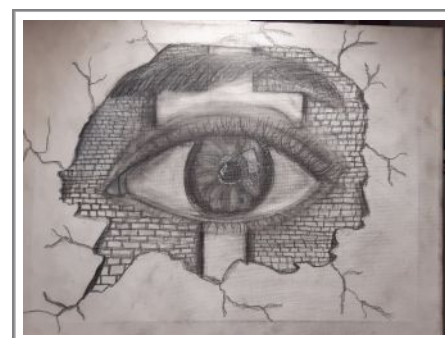


Year 8 pupil wows judges in national art competition

Year 8 student Perla Mattias entered an art competition in her church in which contestants had to draw a piece that fits the criteria 'Christ is our Life'.

Her drawing portrays the biblical verse: "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life." John 8:12.

Perla's beautiful charcoal drawing won the first round at her local church and was entered for the national finals in which she came second against all the Orthodox churches in the UK! Well done Perla!



NEWS FROM THE PE DEPARTMENT

BOYS FOOTBALL

Year 7 – Our Year 7 football team have had a fantastic start to the year, winning their first ever fixture 1-0 vs Sir John Lawes. They have also progressed with wins in both the County and National Cup, with the next rounds yet to be played. They are yet to compete in the District Cup, where we will aim to progress to the latter stages of the competition after half-term.

Year 8 – Having not played any matches last year due to coronavirus, this was the first time we played together as a team. Our hopes were high at the start but the first game wasn't one to remember as we lost 9-5 to Sir John Lawes school. Next was our first home game against Dr Challoners School and with a couple key players missing we lost 4-3. We had a lot to learn from the first couple of games. We had a Bielsa masterclass from Mr Cotton and we were playing better as a team and listening to our manager. We are currently on a four game unbeaten run, winning the first round of the County Cup and the National Cup. All the boys are looking forward to hopefully progressing in the rounds with Bielsa (Mr Cotton) who will lead the way.

Year 9 – The team has played five matches so far this season but even with some great performances, they haven't had a win yet. Hopefully that first win will come in the near future. Congratulations to Luca Bell Lara who was selected to represent the Mid Herts District Team and Alfie Meekin who currently has made the final round of trials for the Herts County squad.

Year 10 – We opened the season with a really tight game against Sir John Lawes losing 1-0 in literally the last kick of the match. The team then rallied to fight out 2-2 draw in their second game before their best performance of the season against a strong Parmiter's School side winning 2-0. We play them in the County Cup just after half term and hope for the same outcome again. A really positive start to the season from the squad in which the boys have played better with each game. Looking forward to the next half term of matches.

First X1 – The First XI Football Team started this season's campaign with the annual Ian Breeze Cup – a 120 year old fixture between Dame Alice Owen's School and Old Owen's Football Club which the school has never won. The school started brightly, scoring early to take the lead. Following an equaliser from Old Owen's, the First XI put in a brilliant second half performance. Old Owen's applied pressure but could not break down the school's valiant defence, as Dame Alice Owen's added two more goals. Dame Alice Owen's defeated Old Owen's 3-1 with a goal from Ben Roberts and two from Rhys Skene to win the Ian Breeze Trophy for the first time. This was a great result for a group of players which hadn't all previously played together.

Owen's followed this fixture with a couple of friendlies against Enfield Grammar and Latymer School, losing 5-2 and 3-1 respectively in hard fought battles. The First XI soon returned to winning ways in the National Cup. A great performance away at Freman College resulted in a resounding 7-0 win (including four goals from Sam Meakes), taking Owen's to the third round of the National Cup. A positive start to the season has given the First Team confidence heading into the rest of the season.

GIRLS FOOTBALL

Under 12 – The Year 7 girls have been training hard in preparation for their district tournaments which begin next half



term. With an excellent turn out for practice the girls have shown great improvements in their skills and play. Well done girls and keep up the good work!

Under 13 – The girls played Barclay Academy in the first round of the County Cup competition. The team performed superbly and came away as 12-1 winners with goals from Ellie Johnson (5), Emilie Moudart (3), Mia Phillips (2), Elina Saha (1) and captain Eva Leahy (1). Ellie Johnson was selected as player of the match by the opposition. We now await the result of the match between Nicholas Breakspear and John Warner to see who the squad will face in the next round.

Under 14 – The Year 9 football squad received a bye in the first round of their County Cup competition and are due to play John Henry Newman in the second round after half term.



Under 16 – The Under 16 squad were defeated by a very tough Queens' School side in the first round of the County Cup. The girls battled well and should be proud of their performance. Sophie Whitman was the player of the match.

Senior Team – The girls have played one game so far this season against Haileybury where they came out 8-5 winners, the game was a very enjoyable game to watch and gave the girls the opportunity to play some football. They will have further games to play this season with Sandringham up next after half term.

NETBALL

Year 8 – The team has played their first and only match for the school, playing against a very good Herts and Essex side. They are looking forward to playing many more in the coming months.

Year 10 – The team played their first game against Herts and Essex, unfortunately the team narrowly lost but played well as a team. The second game of the season was a great win against Chancellors, the girls showed their talents as a team and they look forward to playing many more games.

Year 11 – The girls had their first match against Chancellors which they unfortunately lost due to being down to only 7 girls a-side with no substitutions to make, the final score was 17-19.

Seniors – The senior squad had their first match in the county league against a very tough side, St Albans, the girls communicated well as a team and worked well in their new combinations. The girls have a very strong side and they are looking forward to netball season to begin.

County Tournament – On Saturday 9th October, the girls were out all day at the County Netball tournament where we had three teams representing the school in the U14, U16 and U19 age groups. The girls all put up a great fight against some difficult opposition and played well in new team combinations. A particular well done to the U14s who won two of their group matches at their first tournament for the school.

RUGBY

On Wednesday 13th October, the 1st XV welcomed Roundwood Park to Owen's to start their season off. The match was a really enjoyable game of rugby. Both sides were fully committed and played the match in the right spirit. The team won the game 26-5 playing some superb rugby and scoring 4 high quality tries.



SWIMMING

On Friday 24th September and 8th October, the school competed in the East & South East Secondary Teams Qualifying round. The boys swam first and we entered the Inter and Senior sections where they performed well on the night with some great individual swims.

The girls were up next where we entered the Junior and Inter section, for some of these girls it was their first opportunity to swim in a gala. We had a very young team but all girls swam well and enjoyed the night fully.



HOCKEY

Year 7 – With many of the girls not having played hockey before this half term, the Year 7s have had a steep learning curve. Those who have regularly attended training, both at lunchtime and after school, have made rapid improvements in both their knowledge and skills and this has been reflected in both the A and B teams performances in matches.

In their first ever fixture, the A squad lost to a very strong Hockerill Anglo-European College 3-0. They subsequently defeated Aldenham School 2-1 and followed this up with a 10-0 victory over Sandringham School in the County Cup competition.

This week they had their County tournament. Finishing in 4th place, their performances showed how much they have improved, especially as they drew 0-0 with Hockerill whom they had previously lost to.

In each of the games played to date captain Riya Goyal has been named as player of the match. The girls should be extremely proud of the improvements and progress they have made both individually and as a team.

The B team were defeated 4-0 by Hockerill Anglo-European College but went on to defeat Aldenham School 4-0 in their second game and Sandringham School in their latest match. Emily Diener has been voted as player of the match in each of the B team fixtures. This squad has also shown huge improvements in their performances.

Well done girls!

Year 10 – The Year 10 squad played against a very strong Brentwood School side and performed exceptionally well to win 4-0 courtesy of goals from Dyllen Bramble (2) and captain Amba Parmar (2). Amba Parmar also received the player of the match accolade.

Under 16 – The Under 16 squad, comprising mostly of Year 10s and a few year 11s, were unfortunate not to qualify for the semi finals of their County tournament, missing out only on goal difference. They drew 1-1 with the Hertfordshire and Essex High School, lost 1-0 to Mill Hill School and defeated the Royal Masonic School 2-0. Amba Parmar was the player of the day.

Senior – With a very young squad, the seniors faced some extremely tough opposition at their County tournament. The team's performances improved dramatically as the day progressed and the girls should be very proud of how they played, finishing 4th. Erin Heritage was selected as player of the day.

CROSS COUNTRY

On Wednesday 13th Oct, the school hosted the First round of the English School Cross Country Cup.

All the students who took part ran very well and for some of them it was their first time at such a large competition. Our Senior Boys and Girls have qualified for the Regional round next month.



NEWS FROM THE OSA

Year 7 parents Cheese and Wine Party – In early October, the OSA organised a party for Year 7 parents who were delighted to meet the class teachers and parents of new friends. It was well attended with people able to spread out across the hall and dining room. Parents were welcomed by the head Hannah Nemko and Kate Scheer from the OSA who explained the objectives of OSA and invited new parents to participate in organising activities. Nearly new uniform was also available for purchase at the event.



Supper Quiz – After a long absence we are now delighted to be planning the next Supper Quiz which will probably be at the end of November. More information to follow when we have it.

Nearly New Uniform Sale – Following last term's hugely popular online sale of nearly new uniform, we are planning to run another online 'pop-up' shop in this autumn term. Further details will follow after half term but we are targeting on or around 19th November. We hope to be able to run a live sales event in the Spring term too.

Auction – Following the hugely successful inaugural DAO Online Auction last year, the OSA are delighted to confirm that this will be an annual autumn event to be held in December.

This year's auction will take place on **Friday 10th December**. The timing has been carefully planned, as much of last years' success was based on your enthusiastic feedback that many of the donations made excellent Christmas gifts.

We can auction anything that has a perceived value, from products to services to weekends away. If you are able to, please begin to contact local companies in your area to ask them for a donation of, for example, a voucher for a meal or service they provide.

We are now ready to start receiving details of your donations via email to: auction@theosa.org.uk. Please send 1 or 2 images of each item (up to 2MB per photo), together with a detailed description (this is what 'sells' it) and the name of the donor (this will be displayed on the auction platform unless you advise us otherwise). Do also advise of the estimated value of the item so that we can set an appropriate 'Starting Bid', or you can suggest one yourself.

The auction will go live once we have enough donated items. A link to the auction site will then be sent out to everyone where you will find everything you need to know. Further details to follow after half term.

Nearly New Uniform – The OSA provide an excellent service to the school by selling **GOOD QUALITY, FAIRLY PRICED** nearly new uniform at various events and via online 'pop up' shops throughout the year. The following are key benefits for buying uniform from the OSA:

- Parents make significant cost savings
- Sustainable benefits to the environment by recycling good conditioned uniform

- The OSA raises important funds which Match Funders can match.

Parents and carers are encouraged to recycle and donate items. To make it easy for your students, containers are located through the main Reception doors on the right hand side walkway, labelled OSA Nearly New Uniform.

As the school relies on funds raised by the OSA to provide many extra resources to pupils, we are unable to offer refunds on any items purchased.

This service is run by two parent OSA volunteers Mbalu Koroma and Patricia Doyle and the school are very grateful to them for providing this much needed service.

In addition, at the end of each academic year, uncollected items of lost property stored in the school office are passed on and included in the Owen's Nearly New sale events.

For further information about the OSA Nearly New, or if you would like to volunteer to help, please email uniform@theosa.org.uk.

Match Funding – Are you an Owen's parent who works for a blue-chip or multinational company? Many companies offer a Matched Funding scheme as a perk for employees who volunteer their time for charities like the Owen's School Association. We look forward to hearing from you! Please contact Tabitha on: contact@theosa.org.uk

Easyfundraising – Shopping online via the easyfundraising website is a great way to make money for the school without any extra cost to yourself.

Please remember to use easyfundraising when you do your Christmas shopping this year.

Over 4,300 shops and sites will donate to the OSA – Owen's School Association – for FREE when you use easyfundraising to shop with them. This means you can raise donations for us when you buy anything from holidays and insurance to gifts like toys, jewellery, tech, experiences and more!

These donations really help us and all you have to do is use easyfundraising when you're ordering the things you'll be buying anyway. See this [link](#).

Refreshments – This has currently been suspended but if you would like to get involved in the future please email Sharon on refreshments@theosa.org.uk.

Book Covers – We are glad to announce that due to unprecedented demand, the OSA have SOLD OUT of book covers for now. But please do email us and we will order more when we get suitable numbers.

200 Club – The OSA operate a Lottery style 200 club with two £50 prizes drawn per month, often with an extra draw taking place in December. Annual membership is £12 per number. For further details, please contact Deepika via 200club@theOSA.org.uk

OSA website – www.theosa.org.uk. The OSA continues to add content and make improvements. We welcome your feedback. If you have any comments, suggestions or can help in any way please get in touch at contact@theosa.org.uk.

Facebook – Don't forget to follow us on [Facebook](#).

OSA Committee – These are currently held on an ad hoc basis. If you would like to join the OSA committee, you would be most welcome, please email: contact@theosa.org.uk.

